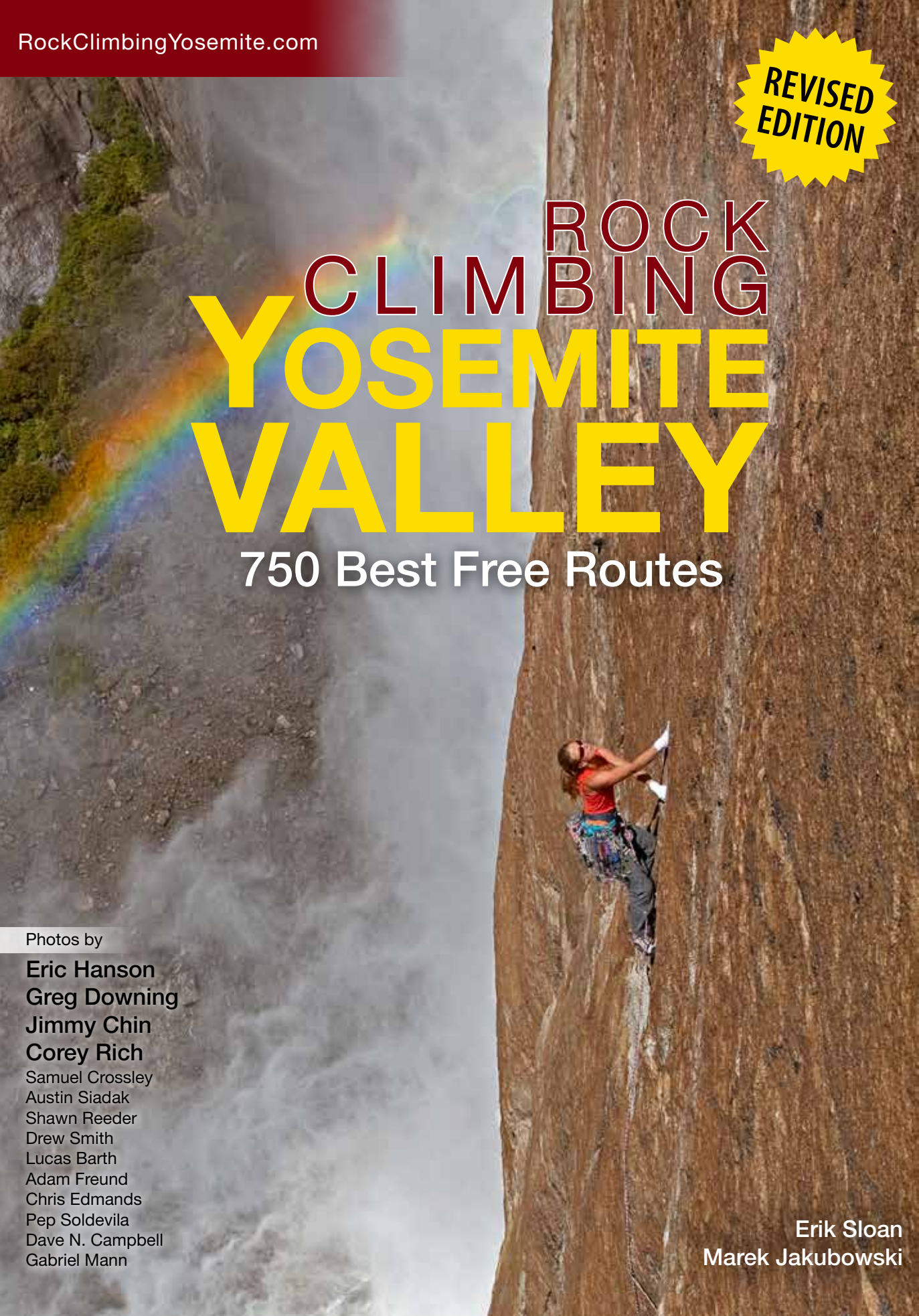
RockClimbingYosemite.com

REVISED EDITION

ROCK CLIMBING YOSEMITE VALLEY

750 Best Free Routes



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When reading the gear beta in this book...
.3" means 0.3 inches/7.6mm crack—it takes
Black/Blue Alien or Black Diamond Red X4 "0.1"

Scan QR codes with your smart phone for driving directions to the parking

Parking

Number of the route on topos
Route name
How good?
How difficult?
What gear to bring?

1) Greatness ★★★ 10c. Pro: 2ea .4 - 2" ← *Traditional route*
2) Sport Route ★★ 5.8. 17 bolts ← *Sport or slab route*
3) Pie ★ 10a. Pro: mostly fingers ← *See chart on pg. 8 for gear*
4) Route with Aid ★★ 11a, 10b A0. Pro: 1-2ea .4 - 4"

Multi-pitch — *Aid section on 2nd pitch*

In Yosemite, always bring one set of offset nuts.
They are not included in the gear descriptions ("Pro").

35 m = 115 ft
40 m = 130 ft
60 m = 200 ft
70 m = 235 ft
80 m = 260 ft

Topo Abbreviations:
lb: lieback
thin: to 1½ inches
finger: ½ - 1 inch
hand: 1 ½ - 2 ½ inches
fist: 2 ½ - 3 ½ inches
ow: offwidth; 3 ½ -12 inches
chim: chimney; >12 inches
awk: awkward
exp: expanding
var: variation
KB: knifeblade piton
LA: lost arrow piton
incl: including

left-facing corner

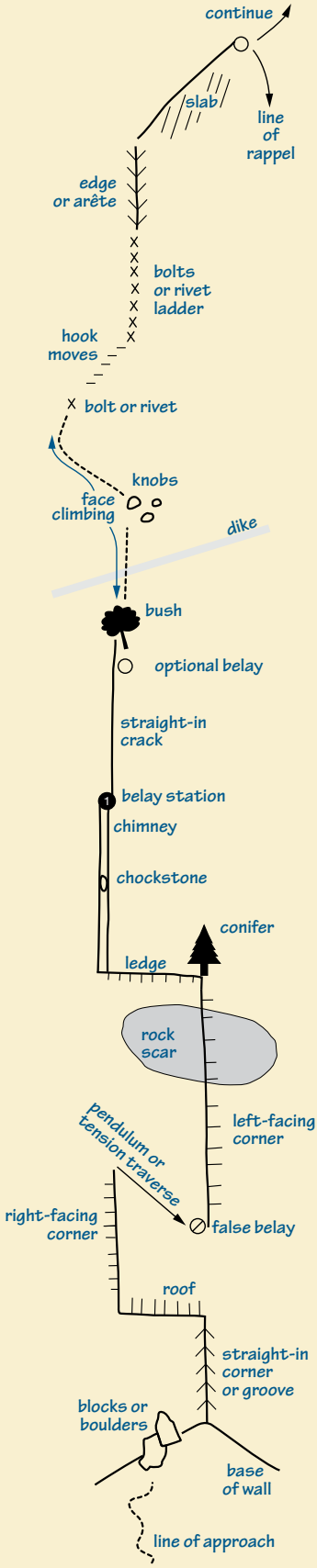
right-facing corner

roof

ledge

groove

arête



ROCK CLIMBING YOSEMITE VALLEY

REVISED EDITION

Art: Renan Ozturk

Yosemite Climbing Areas

Formation	Page	Sun/Shade	Num Routes	≤5.8	5.9	5.10	5.11	5.12	5.13	5.14+
Valley West										
FiFi Buttress	30	Mostly Shady	18	1	1	1	8	6	1	
Wall of Ages	36	Mostly Shady	15	2	3	4	4	2		
Leaning Tower	37	Mostly Shady	3						3	
Cathedrals										
Lower Cathedral	46	Mixed Sun/Shade	1			1				
Lower Cathedral - Mecca	50	Mostly Shady	25			4	14	6	1	
Lower Cathedral - ToeJo	54	Mostly Shady	11		1	6	3		1	
Middle Cathedral	56	Mixed Sun/Shade	23	2	6	8	5	1	1	
Higher Cathedral	72	Mostly Sunny	9	1	2	1	4	1		
Lower Cathedral Spire	77	Mostly Sunny	2		1		1			
Higher Cathedral Spire	77	Mostly Sunny	2		1				1	
Southside Crags										
Sentinel Creek	82	Mostly Shady	14	1	3	8	2			
Sentinel	88	Shade until mid-afternoon	7			1	2	3	2	
Chapel Wall	98	Mostly Shady	24		1	3	9	9	2	
The Terrace	104	Mostly Shady	24		1	6	9	7	1	
The Couch	108	Mostly Shady	4			1	2	1		
Glacier Point	110	Mixed Sun/Shade	37	14	10	5	7	1		
Valley East										
Liberty Cap, Mt. Broderick	124	Mostly Sunny	4	1				3		
Half Dome - S Face	132	Mostly Sunny	5	1	1	1	1		1	
Half Dome - NW Face	140	Shade until early afternoon	3			2		1		
Quarter Dome	150	Shade nearly all day	1					1		
Mount Watkins	154	Mostly Sunny	2		1			1	1	

Num Pitches (Typical)	Approach	Description
1-13 (5)	Strenuous 30-40 min	Epic steep, clean 5.11-5.13 routes. Also many bolted 5.11 single-pitch base routes.
1-9 (2)	Strenous 20-30 min	Cragging. Awesome spot by Bridalveil Fall. *The Thief*, a perfect splitter hand crack, is the classic.
3-9 (7)	Strenous 40-60 min	Super steep, technical face and crack climbing to a classic summit. Descent can be loose.
11	Easy 15-25 min	An adventure cliff, Lower has more features, but also more loose rock than Middle Cathedral.
1-8 (1)	Easy 15-20 min	Many pure/smooth slab routes. *Jungle Boogie*, and the hard routes above it are more featured. *Giblit is the mega classic*.
1-2 (1)	Easy 15-20 min	Good selection of moderates (5.9-5.11). One of the most popular summer crags.
1-20 (6)	Easy 15-20 min	Beautiful, featured rock with awesome friction and varied cracks. Many fun, mixed trad/sport single-pitch routes along the base.
3-11 (7)	Strenuous 60-90 min	Steep, top-notch routes. Very popular.
6-6 (6)	Moderate 45-60 min	More loose rock than Higher Spire – more of a location climb.
5-11 (8)	Strenuous 60-90 min	Incredible, featured rock. Possibly the best summit in Yosemite!
1-5 (2)	Easy 15-25 min	Stellar cracks, mostly in the 5.10 range.
11-15 (12)	Strenuous 60-90 min	Old-school long crack climbs with a strenuous approach and descent. Super classic!
1-5 (1)	Easy 15-20 min	Popular for good quality 5.11-5.12 sport climbing, with a couple, popular, 5.10 cracks. Has one of the only multi-pitch sport routes in the Valley, the *Great Escape, 11c****.
1-2 (1)	Moderate 25-40 min	The most popular 5.11-5.12 bolted sport routes in the Valley. Amazing rock quality, and amazing view!
1 (1)	Easy 10-20 min	Short, toprope-friendly 5.11 finger cracks. Awesome views!
1-23 (3)	Easy 15-25 min	Can be hot much of the day. Old-school area with bold, smooth slabs and low-angled cracks.
8-15 (9)	Moderate 60-80 min	Bold, adventure climbing with beautiful splitter cracks mixed in. Very beautiful spot.
8-21 (12)	Strenuous 2.5-4 hours	Beautiful smooth slabs and incredible views. Very popular. The walk down from Half Dome is 8 miles–bring a headlamp!
11 (11)	Strenuous 3-5 hours	Beautiful cracks in an idyllic setting. Can be very crowded June-Oct. Cool, adventurous way to approach the HD cables on a rest day!
14	Strenuous 5-9 hours	Cool, adventure climbing on lower angled, somewhat grainy rock.
18-19 (19)	Strenuous 4-6 hours	Clean, splitter cracks but the rock is more slick than its bigwall neighbors. Amazing spot!

Yosemite Climbing Areas

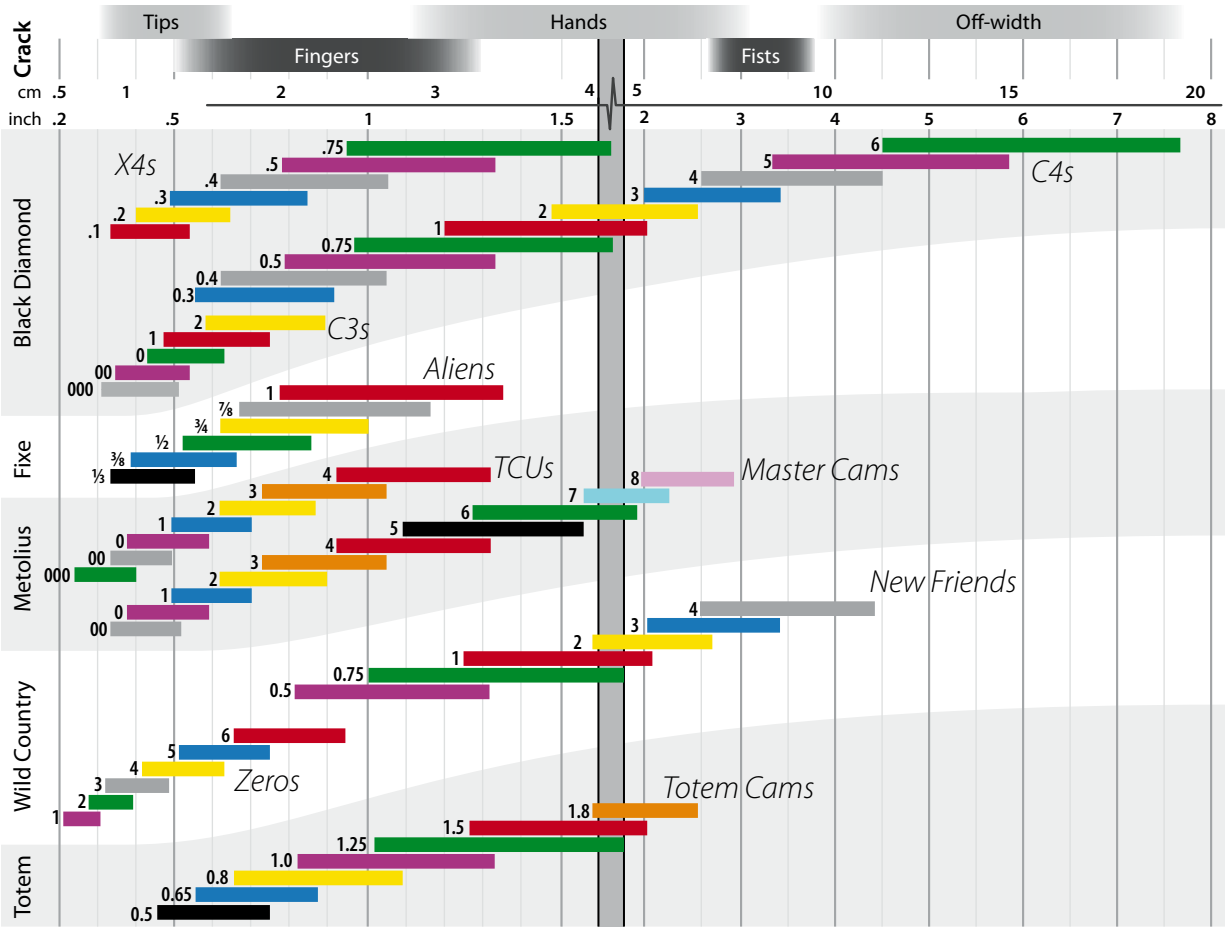
Formation	Page	Sun/Shade	Num Routes	Grades (≤5.8 / 5.9 / 5.10 / 5.11 / 5.12 / 5.13 / 5.14+)
Northside Crags				
Washington Column	160	South Face Sunny/ East Face afternoon Shade	5	1 / 1 / / 1 / / 2 /
North Dome	174	Mostly Sunny	3	1 / / 2 / / /
Arches - Arches Terrace	178	Mostly Sunny	9	2 / / 4 / 2 / 1
Arches - Royal Arches	180	Mostly Sunny	19	2 / 1 / 13 / 3 /
Arches - Serenity Crack	188	Mostly Sunny	6	/ / 3 / 1 / /
Arches - Super Slide	190	Mostly Sunny	5	/ 2 / 1 / 2 /
Church Bowl	192	Mostly Sunny	19	6 / 2 / 5 / 4 / 1 / 1
Arrowhead Arête	196	Mostly Sunny	2	1 / 1 / / /
Yosemite Falls Wall	198	Mostly Sunny	9	2 / 1 / 4 / 2 /
Sunnyside Bench	210	Mostly Sunny	5	1 / 2 / 2 / /
Lower Falls Amphitheatre	214	Afternoon Shade	10	3 / / 5 / 1 / 1
Five Open Books	216	Mostly Sunny	12	6 / 2 / 4 / /
Swan Slab	222	Mostly Sunny	15	9 / 3 / 2 / 1 /
Camp 4 Wall	226	Sun till mid - afternoon	24	2 / 4 / 7 / 8 / 3
Lower Brother	230	Mostly Sunny	6	1 / 2 / 1 / 2 /
Ranger Rock	234	Mostly Sunny	14	4 / 6 / 4 / /
The Moratorium	240	Sun till early afternoon	5	/ / / 3 / 1 / 1
Shultz's Ridge	240	Sunny mornings (winter)/ morning shade (summer)	12	/ 1 / 9 / 2 /
El Cap / Ribbon Falls				
El Cap Base	244	Mixed Sun/Shade	32	8 / 3 / 9 / 10 / 2 /
El Capitan	244	Mostly Sunny	22	/ / 1 / 2 / 1 / 14 / 4
Ribbon Fall	296	Mixed Sun/Shade	5	/ 1 / / 2 / 1 / 1

Num Pitches (Typical)	Approach	Description
10-16 (12)	Moderate 50-75 min	East Face gets afternoon shade. Beautiful crack climbing. Can be windy in the afternoon. Perfect first bigwall climb.
4-10 (7)	Strenuous 3-5 hours	Most approach via *Royal Arches, 5.7 A0*. Perfect, smooth granite slab in one of the most spectacular settings. Incredible location! Bring a headlamp!
1-8 (4)	Easy 20-25 min	Clean slabs and lower-angled cracks similar to Glacier Point. Somewhat bold, old-school area.
1-16 (2)	Easy 15-20 min	Many, super-classic moderate climbs (mostly 5.7-5.10).
1-14 (4)	Easy 5-15 min	Great moderate climbs (mostly 5.10). *Serenity Crack (10d)* to *Sons of Yesterday (10b)* is the most popular multi-pitch 5.10 in the Valley. Incredible!
1-5 (2)	Easy 15-20 min	Many, classic moderate climbs (mostly 5.9 and higher). Good first multi-pitch trad climb area.
1-2 (1)	Easy 1-5 min	Good selection of moderate climbs (5.7 – 5.10) right by the road and bathrooms. Nice picnic spot!
2-7 (5)	Strenuous 1.5-2 hrs	An adventure climb, a little loose and meandering, in a stellar location.
4-15 (9)	Strenuous 2-4 hrs	Beautiful cracks in a stellar location. Not too crowded. The waterfall can be very loud and make communication difficult in the spring.
1-3 (2)	Easy 15-20 min	Beautiful, moderate climbs. Good swimming above/below Lower Yosemite Falls when the water is lower, generally after June.
1 (1)	Easy 15-20 min	Splitter cracks and mixed trad/sport climbing right next to Lower Yosemite Falls. One of the most popular summer crags.
1-5 (3)	Easy 15-25 min	Great introduction to multi-pitch trad climbing. Protection-friendly, lower-angled cracks and awesome views. Careful of loose rocks at the topouts.
1-3 (1)	Easy 5-15 min	Very popular beginner spot, close to Yosemite Lodge with store/bathrooms. *Swan Slab Gully* is a mega-classic!
1-15 (2)	Moderate 15-25 min	Old-school area with popular wide cracks and a few, lower-quality bolted slab routes. Great, shady, afternoon spot in the summer.
1-5 (2)	Easy 15-20 min	Mega classic cracks right by the road, a 20 min hike or a 5 min bike ride from Camp 4!
1-6 (3)	Easy 5-15 min	Classic, multi-pitch trad climbing in the 5.7-5.9 range. Amazing summit views. Can be good late afternoon in the summer.
1-6 (4)	Moderate 30-50 min	Classic 5.11 (lieback) crack climb that can be combined with *East Butt of El Cap* for an awesome, long day.
1-4 (1)	Easy 15-20 min	Super fun sport and trad climbing. Good shade in the summer mornings, and lots of sun in the winter.
1-4 (1)	Easy 15-45 min	Classic, single-pitch trad routes at the most famous rock on earth. Most popular area, just to the left of the Nose with classics like Moby Dick, La Cosita, etc. gets morning shade till about 11am in the summer, and gets lots of sun in the winter (sun is to the south). The Footstool gets all day sun. Wear a helmet in case small rocks fall from above!
2-39 (24)	Easy 15-45 min	The Finest. The cream of the crop–classic splitter cracks for miles! Mostly sunny, though the West Face gets shade till early afternoon.
9-13 (10)	Strenuous 1-1.5 hrs	Splitter cracks in a stunning, remote setting. *Gates of Delirium* gets morning shade.

Yosemite Climbing Areas

Formation	Page	Sun/Shade	Num Routes	≤5.8	5.9	5.10	5.11	5.12	5.13	5.14+
Down Canyon: Hwy 41 & 120										
Highway Star	304	Mostly Sunny	1			1				
The Rostrum	306	Mostly Shady	2				2			
Killer Pillar	309	Mostly Shady	4				2	2		
Reed's Pinnacle	310	Mostly Sunny	35	8	4	15	5	2	1	
Five and Dime	310	Mostly Sunny	16	4	1	7	3	1		
Knob Hill	322	Mostly Sunny	5	4		1				
Above the Cookie / Cascade Fall	324	Mostly Sunny	4			1	1	1	1	
Down Canyon: Hwy 140										
New Diversions	328	Mostly Sunny	13	2	3	4	3	1		
Generator Station	329	Mostly Sunny	2			2				
Cascade Falls Left	330	Sunny - Afternoon Shade	7	1	2	1		3		
Pat and Jack	332	Mostly Sunny	27	2	1	14	4	6		
Jungle Gym	338	Mostly Shady	15		2	5	3	5		
Knobby Wall	340	Mostly Shady	8			1	1	5	1	
Elephant Rock	342	Mixed Sun/Shade	5		1	1	2	1		
Cookie Cliff	344	Mostly Sunny	55	2	4	14	21	11	3	
Cookie Sheet	352	Mostly Sunny	5	5						
Sugar Cookie	352	Mostly Shady	9			1	3	4	1	
Roadside Attraction	355	Sunny	2					2		
Finger Lickin'	356	Mostly Sunny	14		1	8	4	1		
Arch Rock	356	Mostly Sunny	26		3	7	11	5		
Short Circuit	356	Mostly Shady	2				1	1		
USGS	364	Mostly Shady	7			1	2	3	1	
Parkline Slab	366	Mostly Sunny	44	13	11	14	5	1		

Num Pitches (Typical)	Approach	Description
1	Easy 15-20 min	Popular “first trad lead” or toprope, crack climbing practice spot.
3-8 (6)	Easy (rappelling)	All-time classic 5.11 multi-pitch trad climbs. Can be crowded.
1 (1)	Easy (rappelling)	Classic, steep 5.11-5.12 sport routes in a stunning, top-of-the-Valley location. Committing because you rap into the climbs.
1-7 (2)	Easy 5-20 min	The most popular, moderate crag in the lower canyon. Many classic single- and multi-pitch trad routes.
1-2 (1)	Easy 15-20 min	Awesome single-pitch trad and sport climbs, right by the road. Most climbs can be easily toproped.
1-2 (1)	Easy 15-20 min	Great beginner (5.7-5.9) trad climbing area. Great first trad lead spot.
1 (1)	Easy (rappelling)	The most classic 5.11-5.12 single-pitch cracks in Yosemite.
1-2 (2)	Easy 15-20 min	Nice mix of single-pitch, 5.9-5.12 climbs on featured, friction-friendly rock.
1	Instant	Super classic OW crack, toprope-friendly, right next to the Merced River.
1-6 (2)	Easy 15-20 min	Home to popular 5.12- single-pitch cracks, and a couple good moderate routes. Awesome swimming below Cascade Falls.
1-7 (1)	Easy 10-15 min	Unusually jug-featured face and crack climbs. Great selection of 5.8-5.12 climbs. Very Popular. Picnic area and bathroom at the parking lot.
1-2 (1)	Easy 15-20 min	Unusually jug-featured face and crack climbs, like Pat and Jack, but in the shade all day. One of the best ‘heat of the summer’ crags.
1 (1)	Easy 10-15 min	Featured face climbing on an overhanging boulder. Unusual for Yosemite. Rarely crowded, and stays dry in the rain. Toprope-friendly.
1-6 (3)	Strenuous 30-45 min	Splitter, old-school crack routes. The Elephant rock approach involves crossing the Merced River which can be treacherous/impossible in the spring.
1-5 (2)	Easy 10-15 min	Home to the most famous 5.10-5.12 single-pitch trad climbs in Yosemite. Some famous sport climbs, like *Cookie Monster (12a)*, too.
2 (2)	Moderate 30-50 min	Many moderate, but runout, slab climbs.
1-2 (1)	Moderate, 30-50 min	Many great sport climbs in the 5.11-5.13 range.
1 (1)	Easy 10-15 min	Great hard crack climbing practice crag, toprope-friendly.
1-2 (1)	Easy 10-15 min	Many great crack climbs in the 5.10-5.11 range, some topropes. Popular, sunny spot.
1-4 (2)	Easy 15-35 min	Many classic, old-school 5.10 and 5.11 crack climbs, right above the Hwy 140 entrance station.
1 (1)	Easy 10-15 min	Neat, oasis-like boulder island in the Merced River. Quick approach and toprope-friendly.
1 (1)	Instant	Practically curbside, quality sport routes (one stellar crack) on a toprope-friendly crag.
1-8 (2)	Easy 15-25 min	Dozens of trad and sport slab climbs in a beautiful setting, right above the Merced River canyon. Perfect winter spot!



Warning!

Use this book at your own risk (assumption of risk):

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Brad Gobright (RIP) on the first free ascent of the Heart Route, El Cap 5.13c V10
Photo: Ben Ditto

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Photo: Lucas Barth

For me, Yosemite has always been so much more than climbing's Mecca. Sure I love the endless, towering routes, but even more I love all of the awesome people you meet here, and the mind-blowing experiences, both on and off the cliffs, that we share. Yosemite transforms everyone who visits!.....and for sure we are all just visitors in this glacial, hundred-million-year-old landscape. The vibrant climbing community, the amiable weather, the endless recreational activities here and nearby, the verdant meadows beneath the cliffs.....Yosemite *is* the best!

For this revised edition, I want to thank everyone who wrote me feedback, or reviewed our book online. We listened, and have included significantly more approach and descent beta, written descriptions of the popular climbs, new and improved photo overlays of the cliffs, and even several new, quality, climbs. Please keep the feedback and suggestions coming!

As always, special thanks is due to the dozens of community members who generously supported this project – it takes a village!

Please email me with suggestions / corrections!

Erik Sloan, owner
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Marek slowly migrated west across the globe, from Poland, to the east coast, until he finally discovered the permanent place for his heart–Yosemite. Marek received his PhD in Environmental Science, Policy & Management from UC Berkeley. You're likely to run into him by a friendly Valley campfire, or climbing around the peaks in the deep Sierra Nevada. His Favorite routes are Royal Arches, The Rostrum, and the RNWF of Half Dome.

Erik is an Alaskan native who has lived and worked in and around Yosemite since 2002. More of a moderate long route and bigwall climber, Erik has climbed El Cap over 100 times. His favorite routes are Royal Arches and The Nose.

Erik is the co-author and publisher of Yosemite Bigwalls: The Complete Guide, as well as a website for Wawona climbing, wawona.yosemitebigwall.com. Contact Erik at erik@yosemitebigwall.com

Goofing around in the Valley with my son, Austin, age 6

Welcome to

Yosemite Valley is a tiny village nestled within the massive Yosemite National Park—a forested sea of granite monoliths and domes, interspersed with idyllic lakes, meadows, and rivers that sits deep in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Geographically, Yosemite Valley is located right about in the middle of California.

While just a few hours from cities and airports, Yosemite is still a mountainous, isolated place. Don't count on your cell phone working on your way to, or inside, Yosemite (as of 2020, Verizon–best and AT&T–spotty in most areas within Yosemite Valley). Hotels and restaurants are concentrated to just a few areas.

With most of the four to five million annual visitors crowding into the iconic Yosemite Valley, it's hard to believe that when visiting you will experience a deep peace and serenity unique to Yosemite—but you will! It's a magical spot! More of a scenic vista park than a wildlife watching park (except for viewing climbers!), Yosemite is known for more than just its towering cliffs.

Thousand-year-old giant Sequoia trees call Yosemite home, as do a myriad of mountain dwellers like bear, mountain lion, bobcat, deer, and sooty grouse, to name a few. You will be amazed to find that just a short hike from your car or bicycle can lead you to an alpine lake,

Paradise

Photo: The Valley From Tunnel View Gabriel Mann

an unidentified but remarkable vista point, or a blissfully empty meadow. Yosemite is a paradox—traffic jams right next to empty, idyllic meadows and perfect river beaches. Bring a carefree, loosely structured attitude and plan to the park, and you will be rewarded with the perfect adventure.

If anything, remember to slow down and relax. Riding a bike around the Valley is a great way to get around and experience the views in a more intimate way than from your car window, plus has the added benefit of helping you get acquainted with the various cliffs. Don't plan every minute of your stay—there is more than you could possibly explore in several lifetimes. Everyone who visits enjoys watching the sunset from Half Dome (a 17 mile hike or seven-pitch climb Snake Dike, 5.7), or Sentinel Dome (1 mile hike), or Glacier Point (right next to the parking lot). There are a decent amount of amenities: three hotels, four campgrounds, five restaurants, a grocery store, two snack shops, two swimming pools, as well as bike rentals, and amazing, kid-friendly rafting; but remember, Yosemite is isolated, so things generally cost more than they do in larger, nearby cities.

General

Visit Yosemiteconervancy.org/webcams to view current conditions

Weather

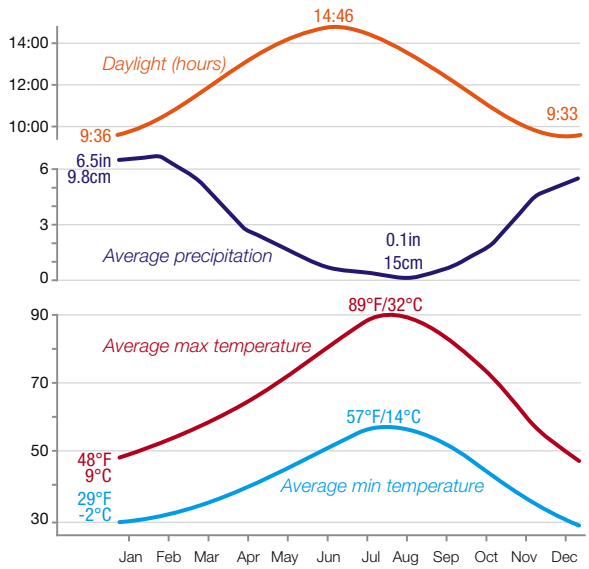
Dec/Jan/Feb: Often snowy, short days. Stunning scenery, camp is empty. Down Canyon climbing, in the sun, is often perfect. The Northside crags can be warm in the sun, from 10am - 3/4pm. Hard climbing is prime now, when the weather permits.

Mar/Apr: Days are getting longer. North side crags can be very warm in the sun, from 9/10am - 4/5pm. Unpredictable weather, either warm and sunny or snowy, but very beautiful and the rock dries fast after storms. Down Canyon is still great.

May: Can be buggy early depending on the winter snowfall, but generally very blissful time to be in the Valley. Crowds don't arrive until June. Northside Crags are getting warm. Lots of climbers in camp—awesome vibe.

June: Perfect weather but more crowds on the Valley floor. It often takes till late June or July to really heat up, but varies a lot from year to year. All the Valley crags are perfect—depending on if you like it warm or cool. Camp is very crowded, but everyone is stoked.

July/Aug: Hot by American climber standards, though very manageable with half of the Valley being in the shade, and the river being close and refreshing. Families crowd into camp, with many climbers heading up to the higher country of Tuolomne and High Sierra. Stick to the Southside Crags on these hottest months. Visit Tuolomne!



Sep/Oct: Crowds of tourists leave and crowds of climbers arrive. Awesome times in camp! September can stay pretty warm, even in the 90s, though the nights start to cool down.

Nov: Perfect the first half of the month, with the second half being hit or miss with the arrival of the first cold storms. Camp thins out considerably, but those projecting harder climbs welcome the crisp temps.

Check for accurate weather at **www.YosemiteForecast.com**

Getting there

Hotels in many cities around Yosemite advertise that they are only a few miles from the park, but that number is just the distance to the entrance station, which in the case of the south and west entrances, is over an hour from the Valley. Check the list of distances below from Yosemite Valley carefully.

Nearby towns and cities

All distances to Yosemite Village

From west (Hwy 140)
El Portal - 15 mi/ 24 km (30 - 45m)
Mariposa - 44 mi/ 70 km (1h - 1h30m)
Merced - 80 mi/ 129 km (2h - 2h30m)

From south (Hwy 41):
Oakhurst - 47 mi/ 75 km (1h30m - 2h)
Madera - 89 mi/ 143 km (2h30m - 3h)
Fresno - 92 mi/ 148 km (2h30m - 3h)
Los Angeles - 318 mi/ 511 km (6 - 8h)

From west (Hwy 120)
Groveland - 48 mi/ 77 km (1h15m - 1h45m)
Oakdale - 90 mi/ 145 km (2 - 2h30m)
Sonora - 72 mi/ 116 km (1h45m - 2h 15m)
Modesto - 119 mi/ 191 km (2h30m - 3h)
Sacramento - 162 mi/ 260 km (3 - 3h30m)
San Francisco - 189 mi/ 305 km (4h - 5h)

From East (Hwy 395)
Reno - 249 mi/ 400 km (5h - 6h)
Lake Tahoe - 199 mi/ 320 km (4h - 5h)
Mammoth - 318 mi/ 511 km (6h - 7h)
Bishop - 353 mi/ 569 km (6h30m - 7h30m)

Airports in order of distance: Fresno, Oakland, Sacramento, San Jose, San Francisco, Reno (summer only), Los Angeles.

Public bus to the park is available via YARTS **(www.Yarts.com)** but seriously limited from Fresno, Merced, Sonora, and Mammoth Lakes. From further away (Los Angeles and the Bay Area) public transport is available through Amtrak and Greyhound. Check out **www.nps.gov**/yose/planyourvisit/publictransportation.htm for more information.

Public bus "Valley Shuttle" within Yosemite Valley is free. Limited, fee based, shuttles are available to other areas within the park. As of 2016, it is difficult to travel within Yosemite National Park, outside Yosemite Valley, without a car. The bus system is very limited at this time. **www.nps.gov**/yose/planyourvisit/publictransportation.htm

Staying there

Bivying is the crux of many a climber's trips to Yosemite because space is limited and reservations go fast. Camp 4 has awesome camaraderie, and the bouldering is right there, but it can also be very loud.

As of 2019, NPS got rid of all walk-in campground reservations during the peak season, April 15 - Sept 15; you *must* reserve via www.recreation.gov.

That means from April - 15 to Sept 15 you can only make reservations for Camp 4 online (during off season times you can still make reservations by waiting in line at the kiosk, and the same 30-day limit applies to off-season reservations).

The Pines campgrounds (Upper, Lower, and North Pines) are more comfortable with 6-person, private sites which you can reserve, but they cost four times as much as a single person's night stay in Camp 4 ($6 and $28, respectively, in 2018). With a *free* Wilderness Permit you can hike into the backcountry and camp for free, but you have to hike a few miles outside the Valley. One perk of getting the Wilderness Permit is that you are allowed to spend a night before and a night after your hike right in the Valley, for $6/night, at the Backpacker's Campground right across from North Pines Campground.

Wherever you stay, there is a 30-night camping limit within Yosemite National Park per calendar year; from May 1 - September 15, the camping limit in Yosemite is 14 nights, and only *seven* (7) of those nights can be in Yosemite Valley.

Reservations for campsites are available up to 5 months in advance and usually book as soon as they are available. Make reservations at **www.recreation.gov** or call **877-444-6777**. Visit **www.nps.gov**/yose/planyourvisit/camping.htm for more information.

Lodging options in the Valley are also available, from on-the-river family bliss/mayhem at Housekeeping Camp, tent and wooden cabins at Curry Village, basic/standard hotel rooms at Yosemite Lodge, and $500-$1,500/night digs at the ritzy Awhahnee Hotel.

Pets are generally not a good idea in Yosemite. They are not allowed more than a 100 feet (30 meters) off the pavement, or in camping areas like Camp 4. Bringing your pet to the crag is *not an option*.

Yosemite is a wild place where the bear, deer, and squirrel roam freely. *Please help* to keep them wild by *not feeding them*, either on purpose or by leaving food unattended at the base of a route or in your car/camp. You also do not need to be afraid of the wildlife. If you respect them and give them distance, they will generally ignore you.

Important Phone Numbers

Emergency? Fire? Accident?
Call **911**. The Park dispatch will answer and direct your call to the appropriate department for help. Don't be afraid to ask for help!

Pizza Deck or Mountain Shop Open?
209-372-1001 (24hrs) Aramark Dispatch

Weather/Road Conditions
209-372-0200 (24hrs - recorded message)
Live webcams (good weather resource):
www.YosemiteConservancy.org/webcams

Campground Reservations Message (how many spaces are left at campgrounds?)
209-372-0266

Campground Reservations
877-444-6777 and **www.recreation.gov**

Wilderness Permit Reservations
209-372-0740 and
www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/wpres.htm

Lodging Reservations
801-559-4884 and **www.TravelYosemite.com**

Pooping There are many restrooms and pit toilets in Yosemite Valley. Use them if you can! However, if you had a few too many cups of coffee and find yourself at the base of a route with the pre-climb jitters or skitters, have a strategy. Find an area at least 100 feet (30 meters) from trail, water, or camping area and bury your waste in hole at least 6 inches (30 cm) deep. *Pack out your toilet paper!* Or don't use any (use smooth sticks or stones). Many areas are rocky and do not have adequate soil to dig a hole. It's a good idea to have a WAG bag or two at the bottom of your pack. It's the worst feeling in the world to find yourself half way up a 10-pitch climb with climbers below, get that feeling like you gotta go, and not have a back-up plan.

Permits are not necessary for climbing in Yosemite. A free Wilderness Permit (available at any of Yosemite's Wilderness Centers) is required to camp anywhere in Yosemite's Wilderness (for example, at the base of RNWF of Half Dome or other backcountry walls). Camping in the Valley is allowed only in campgrounds. When camping, all food, drinks, toiletries, and other scented items must be stored in a bear canister at all times to protect Yosemite's bears and other wildlife. See **www.nps.gov**/yose/planyourvisit/wpres.htm for more information.

Hungry? Thirsty? Weed?

Groceries are available at Yosemite Village, Curry Village, and the Yosemite Lodge, with the Yosemite Village Store offering the largest selection. However, selection is limited and everything is more expensive than outside the park. It's wise to do most of your shopping on your way into the park.

Eating out There are many options, but not a lot of good food. Cheaper options include Degnan's Deli in Yosemite Village, the food court at the Yosemite Lodge, and the pizza deck and buffet at Curry Village. More expensive and classier options include the Mountain Room at the Yosemite Lodge, and the Awhanee Hotel.

Drink at the Curry Village Pizza deck bar with beers on tap, inside the Mountain Room Lounge while looking at classic Yosemite cimbing photos from the 1960s, in style at the Awhahnee Bar, or just grab something from the store and head down to the river or out in the meadow. It is legal to drink in public in Yosemite. However, it is illegal to have a blood alcohol level of .08 or above, so drink in moderation.

Marijuana is legal in California, but it is illegal in Yosemite National Park. Fines for smoking pot are $175 - $275 / person.

Environmental Impact

With 4+ million visitors each year coming to Yosemite, it goes without saying that it is important that you be mindful of your impact on the land. Here's what you can do:

1. **Use existing trails.** Most crags have well-established trails. Take the time to find them and don't make shortcuts that cause erosion.
2. **Be respectful at the crag.** Not everyone wants to hear your ghetto blaster on high.
3. **Pack it in, Pack it out!** Leave the crag as clean or cleaner than you found it.
4. **Bike, walk, or use public transport.** Traffic can be intense! Bypass it by powering yourself to the crag or taking the bus.

Climbing related

Anchors There are many forms of anchors in Yosemite from the standard two-bolt and rap-ring anchor to fixed pitons and nuts, trees, rock horns, and boulders. Fixed protection can loosen and corrode, and webbing and slings quickly become weakened from the sun. Always inspect your anchor before trusting your life to it. If in doubt, back it up. It is a great idea to bring extra webbing/rap rings with you. Bring a knife too so you can remove old worn webbing.

The Peregrine Falcon is a fully protected species in California and a special status species in Yosemite due to its sensitivity to disturbance during the nesting season.

Peregrine Falcons have called Yosemite home longer than any climbers have. Please respect climbing closures during the nesting season. Yosemite is very progressive in their closure system in that they open cliffs as soon as possible by maintaining a full time field biologist to monitor where the birds nest, and when they leave. If the birds feel threatened by climbers they will abandon their nest and any young in it. Let the bird live!

Climbing closures due to Falcons typically last from March 1st - July 15th. However, closures are sometimes lifted early if the park biologists determine that a nest site was not used or the young birds have fledged.

www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/climbingclosures.htm has the latest information.

Typical closure areas in Yosemite Valley include:

Arch Rock Area: Lower Merced River Gorge. Closure includes all routes with the following exceptions: routes west of and including Later and northeast of and including Juliette's Flake remain open.
B.O.L.T. Wall: Immediately southwest of Leaning Tower. Closure includes all routes on the B.O.L.T. Wall.
El Capitan, Southeast Face: Closure includes all big wall routes between and including New Dawn, Reticent Wall, Wall of Early Morning Light, and Mescalito. The first 10 pitches of the closed routes, from the base of El Capitan, remain open.
El Capitan, Southwest Face: Closure includes all routes between and including Aquarian Wall east to Cosmos. The closure also includes the portion of the Thanksgiving Ledge between Aquarian Wall to Cosmos. All other portions of the Thanksgiving Ledge and the first 5 pitches of the closed routes from the base remain open. The Salathé Wall remains open.
Half Dome, Northwest Face: The route Queen of Spades is closed. All other routes remain open.
Lost Arrow Spire: Closure includes all routes on Lost Arrow Spire (Lost Arrow Spire Direct, Lost Arrow Tip, and Lost Arrow Spire Chimney). Slacklining is prohibited at the summit and the top of the adjacent cliff.
Rhombus Wall: Above Ahwahnee Meadow. Closure includes all routes west of Super Slide to the Ahwahnee Ramps, including all routes on the Rhombus Wall.
The Rostrum: Lower Merced Canyon. Closure includes climbing routes on all sides of the Rostrum formation. Super Nova and the Jungle Gym area remain open. Slacklining is prohibited at the summit and the top of the adjacent cliff.
Yosemite Point: Closure includes all routes between and including Yosemite Point Buttress and Yosemite Point Southwest Face, Min-Ne-Ah. At the base, the first 5 pitches remain open.

Bears

While not a daily occurance, there is a good chance you could see a bear during your visit. Yosemite's bears are not dangerous (they eat primarily berries and vegetation), and tend to be very skittsh, and run away, if they see humans. Bears are awesome! They need our help, through securing our scented items, to ensure their species' future.

What is food?

Food & drinks
(including unopened cans & bottles)

Toiletries & other scented items
(including toothpaste, soap, wipes, sunscreen, etc.)

Trash & recycling

How should I store my food?

Keep all food in a food locker at all times unless you are using the food.

Keep your food locker closed and completely latched at all times.

Keep your food within arm's reach if the

Store Your Food Properly - Give Yosemite's (Black) Bears A Chance!

Organized - Good!

Messy/Unlabeled - Not So Good!

Don't Leave Scented Items In Your Car!

Don't Leave Scented Items Near Your Car!

Don't leave food at the base of climbs.

Help Keep Bear Boxes Clean - Date Your Food
www.nps.gov/yose/planyourvisit/bears.htm

Do you think your kids would like to climb in Yosemite?

Check out the Herson family of Emerald Hills, CA, who regularly take the whole family up climbs that muscled hardmen/women dream of climbing.

"You can't make your kids like climbing. You can only make them not like climbing." Jim Herson

The Herson family, after topping out the North Dome.

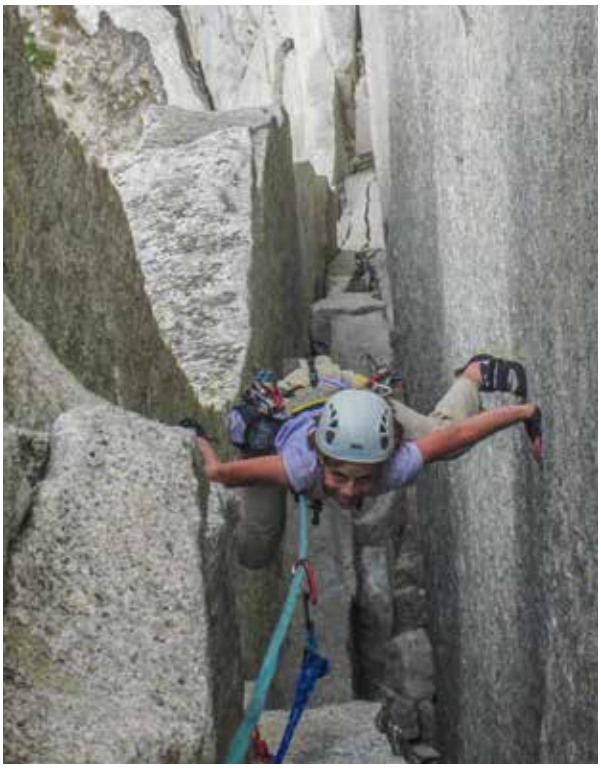
Jim Herson, Anne Smith and their awesome kiddos Kara and Connor, are bay area climbing legends. Jim made the second free ascent of the Salathé Wall, 5.13b, on El Cap. Jim and Anne can often be found in the Sierras climbing up things with multiple kids and parents in tow.

Jim and Anne have climbed a ton throughout their lives. Now, with two kids in the mix, it seems from the outside that Jim just effortlessly added them onto his roster of partners–seemingly regardless of the length or difficulty of climb.

Beth Rodden: ***How old were Kara and Connor when you started taking them to the crags?***
Jim Herson: Like Theo, they were dangling at the crags well before they could crawl. They also spent a LOT of time at the climbing gym. However, it was by no means smooth sailing. When Kara was a year-old we went on a climbing trip to Spain. Not catching that Kara had an ear infection the entire trip was not our proudest parenting moment. After that painful adventure, my wife Anne wouldn't go back to the climbing gym for a year. The point is, be prepared for setbacks.

On the other end of the spectrum are our friends the Scotts who take their kids climbing or skiing every weekend. That got rather irritating during our climbing hiatus.

Kara, age 14, styling up the Boot Flake, The Nose, 5.10c. She followed the whole climb with no ascenders! (big deal!)



Kara, age 11, halfway up on her first attempt to climb Regular NW Face, Half Dome, 5.9 C2 or 5.12c.

BR: ***How have you balanced your own climbing with taking the kids on adventures?***
JH: I haven't. My climbing is over. I haven't climbed a project in 10 years. Fortunately, 5.10 and 5.13 are equally fun. Climbing is unique in that not improving, or my case rapidly declining, is as fun as when first learning. If you're a lousy ping pong player, you spend all your time picking the ball up off the floor. Not so much fun. But in climbing, if your belly is too large for the overhanging finger pockets, you can just go thrash up a grimy off-width and have just as much fun.

The whole Herson clan, high above the Valley, romping up Crest Jewel, a 10-pitch 5.10a.

BR: ***Have there been times when they haven't wanted to climb? Have you always let them lead the way with their interest in climbing? Or have you pushed them at all?***
JH: Surprisingly, some, if not most, kids do not like to climb. Although those that do, really do. Kids just have different interests and, like I said, you can't make them like climbing. Plus it changes with age. Kara was lukewarm about climbing until age 7. Connor was not at all interested until age 8. Slowly they got more and more interested. We never pushed them. It was more a war of attrition. They were stuck at the crag anyway so why not climb! Just kidding. Kind of.

There's a fine line between pushing your kids and exposing them to the sport. A six-year-old has no idea what climbing a mountain means. She'll never ask to be scared silly dangling off a cliff while really hungry and thirsty. But if you slowly take them up bigger and bigger mountains so they learn what it's all about, they might just like it.

BR: ***What are some of your tricks or advice for parents out there climbing and traveling with kids?***
JH: Make it fun. Kara started climbing in the mountains with her little climbing buddies Ian and Elizabeth. The key was keeping them engaged on the hikes. The kids were so lost in their gruesome storytelling that they would never notice the approaches.

Carry the pack. Recommended for getting any new climber into multi-pitch routes. It's not uncommon to see couples with the experienced climber leading and the inexperienced climber following with the pack. You're playing the long game here. Take the pack and invest in the new climber's fun and the return will be huge.

The rest is parenting 101. Keep their tummies filled and bladders empty. Kara climbed Cathedral Peak in Tuolumne at age 6. She cruised it and then on the last pitch suddenly, out of nowhere, burst into tears. Turns out she had to pee. Badly. Doh! On the other end, getting enough calories in them can be a challenge as they lose their appetite at altitude. Stock up on M&Ms.

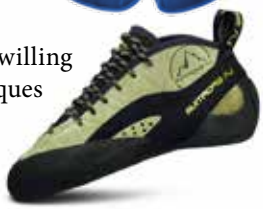
Finally, have them lead (age appropriate climbs). I regret not having them lead more. Leading gives them ownership of the climb and makes it more fun. They're much more proud of a climb they've led.

BR: ***Do the kids ever cry on climbs? If so what do you do about it? (this could also be a self-help marriage question)***
JH: Only when I blow it. I had the kids on the Lost Arrow Tip Tyrolean traverse at sunset in winter. We were rushing and Connor got his coat jammed and cried. That was my fault. I should have made sure we had plenty of time as they had never done a Tyrolean. Like I said, the other tears were the usual food, sleep, or bathroom thing. Deafening thunder and lightning on exposed ridge lines also seems to elicit tears. No biggie.

Beth Rodden, Randy Puro and their son Theo live part time in Yosemite. Beth, a professional climber her whole life, established the hardest single pitch route in Yosemite, Meltdown (5.14c). She was also the third person to ever free climb The Nose of El Cap (5.14a), as well as the first woman to free climb three different El Cap Routes. Randy has been one of the most active Yosemite boulder developers of the last two decades. Beth writes an amazing blog with topics like climbing with kids, climbing pregnant, food, travel, climbing, etc! Check it out! This section is excerpted from BethRodden.com.

Harness:
Good News! The harness you already have is probably perfect for climbing in Yosemite. That said, if you are in the market for a new one, it should fit you well, and be really comfortable to hang in. You may wear your harness for a couple hours in the gym, but in Yosemite you often have to literally hang in it at a belay for thirty minutes or longer.

Climbing Shoes:
The best climbing shoes for Yosemite are those that are most comfortable—one's that you are willing to wear all day. Climbs in Yosemite tend to be long and punishing on your feet, with techniques ranging from near featureless slabs to straight-in toe jams.



Sticky Rubber Approach Shoes:
These shoes make approaches and descents much more secure and enjoyable. Yosemite is full of talus, treacherous boulder fields, and 4th/5th class descents, which is where approach shoes really shine. Unfortunately, these shoes tend to wear out fast, so look for sales and get the cheapest pair that fits well.

Climbing Pack:
A small climbing backpack is essential in Yosemite, so you can keep your food and water with you at all times (and other essentials like your headlamp and a lightweight rain jacket). Yosemite's bears have started opening, not always gently, any pack left at the base of a cliff with food or scented items. Usually one pack is shared, and is worn by the follower.

Helmet:
A helmet is absolutely essential in Yosemite. Like a good pair of jeans, find the brand and model that fits you best. Different styles of helmets offer different protection and durability. Injection molded helmets, like bike helmets, are a good start, but once you're doing any real climbing you'll want to get a helmet that offers more protection. Twigs, pebbles, fumbled gear from parties above you, and of course rocks are constantly falling in Yosemite. Bring your helmet!

Headlamp:
A high-lumen waterproof headlamp is essential in Yosemite on all multi-pitch routes. Most first-time Yosemite climbers move far slower than anticipated and are forced to climb and descend (or retreat) in the dark. A rechargeable headlamp is a good backup, and is good for use around camp. Keep the headlamp accessible while climbing.

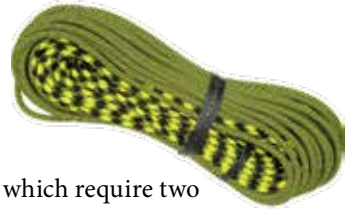
Personal Anchor Chain:
It's nice to have a personal anchor chain (daisy chains are made differently, and are not ideal for this purpose), girth-hitched through your harness, so that you can quickly clip into an anchor.

Chalk Bag Webbing/Rope Strap:
Replace the lightweight strap that came with your chalk bag with 6-8mm cord or webbing. In a pinch, you can use this rope or webbing to replace aging rappel slings, or to retreat.

Webbing and Rappel Rings (for descending):
Bring 4-6 feet of thin rope or sturdy webbing to replace slings on trees that are used for rappelling. Always inspect webbing and rappel rings before hanging your life on them.

Safety biner:
Stay safe out there! Always carry some athletic tape, a knife, and two prussiks to ascend a line in case of an emergency. Don't know how to use them? Look up instructional videos online or take a self-rescue safety course.

Lead Rope:
9.2 - 10.2 mm, 60-70m ropes are standard in Yosemite.



Trail Rope:
7 or 8mm trail ropes, 60-70m in length, are mandatory for many routes in Yosemite which require two rope rappels to descend. Don't worry if you do not have a dedicated trail rope—you can always use another lead rope. A dynamic half rope is a good choice here because when not using it as a trail rope it has other uses (e.g. ice climbing).

Cams:
Cams were invented in Yosemite for the deep parallel cracks here. Today's cams have come a long way, and offer more range, durability and ease of use than the first ones. Totem Cams work the best, bar none. Black Diamond and Fixe Aliens are tied for 3rd behind the Totems. All the other brand cams are much less ideal than these three.

Offset Cams:
These cams are excellent for flared placements and Yosemite's abundant pin scars. With Totem cams, because of their unique design, you get an offset cam and a regular cam in one. There is just one kind of Totem cam, and it works best for both regular and offset cam placements— it's like getting two cams in one. Genius! Black Diamond Offset X4s and Fixe Offset Aliens are tied for third place behind the Totem cams.

Nuts:
The only nuts you need to buy for Yosemite climbs are offset nuts. Their offset design works well with the wavy nature of most small cracks. Offsets nuts come in micro size (made of brass), and standard size (made of aluminum). One set of each is needed for most routes.

Nut tool:
Any nut tool will work. It is a good idea to practice cleaning nuts before coming to Yosemite. Efficient nut cleaning is an art form. A nut that an inexperienced cleaner leaves behind after 15 minutes of frustration is often cleaned in less than 15 seconds by an experienced multi-pitch trad climber. As with all climbing, communication is paramount. Talk to your leader if a nut is difficult to clean. They should be able to tell you how it was placed and this will guide you in removing the nut. For difficult -to-remove nuts, look at the process as you would a puzzle—the nut was placed and this means it can be removed.

Quickdraws:
Standard quick draws work well, but you want to complement them with runners for pitches where rope drag is a concern, or in situations where the rope could move the gear placement.

Long Slings (or "Alpine Draws"):
Most Yosemite climbers use alpine draws—a shoulder length dyneema runner with two carabiners and folded to a third of its length. You need 5 - 10 alpine draws (60cm) for climbing in Yosemite.

Length of climb

How many pitches? You have to walk before you can run, so consider starting out with single pitch trad climbs to get a feel for the unique rock (sometimes slick, sometimes rough) and cracks of Yosemite. Swan Slab is one of the best areas for single pitch, beginner, trad climbs and topropes, but it is also right near Camp 4 and the road so can be crowded.

How long of a rope do I need? This is important for both the climb and descent, if you have to rappel on the descent. Yosemite's climbs are older, so they tend to have shorter 25 – 40m pitches. So 60m ropes work fine for most beginner routes. That said, the newer routes are often established with 35m rappels, or half a 70m rope, so it can be nice to have a 70m rope sometimes too (on the Royal Arches rappel route, for instance, where the rappels are set up for a single 60m rope but a 70m rope gives you extra rope and makes you feel more safe).

Approach / Parking

How clear is the trail? Is it marked? Do I know how to get there? Where do you park? Should I bike? Where do I lock my bike? Parking is only getting more difficult in Yosemite, so having a plan for a couple places to park is a good idea when the park is busy. Always ride your bike when possible, it's so fun! Locking your bike is never a problem in Yosemite, as there are always trees / street sign posts, etc near the climbing areas / trailheads. Often just locking two bikes together (in

the forest) is adequate. Bikes are rarely stolen in Yosemite.

Study the approach info in the book, and look online to make sure you know where the trail starts. Forest approaches can be described a lot of different ways, and can become less-defined quickly when leaves or tree branches fall, so give yourself extra time when approaching a climb for the first time. A great rest day activity in the Valley is to do the approaches to your future climbs, so you can checkout the way, and also check out the route.

Racking up

Am I coming back to the base? If so, do I leave my pack? If not, am I bringing a pack or just racking up at the car? Generally people leave their packs, without any food or scented items, at the base of climbs in Yosemite. For climbs close to the road, like Royal Arches, Super Slide, and Absolutely Free, or the routes at Ranger Rock, it can be nice to just rack at the car.

What pro do I need? Should I bring extra of certain sizes to feel comfortable? Thankfully many of the easiest trad climbs in Yosemite take a variety of sizes of cams and nuts, so they tend to be forgiving to beginners that do not have several of a particular size cam. If you're worried, read the online comments about a route. Often beginners have posted up tidbits about what gear they felt was best.

Other Parties on Route?

What will we do if there are already several parties on route? What do we do if a faster party climbs up to us and wants to pass? Beginner climbs can be crowded, so always have a backup plan for what you will do if there are too many parties on your route. Consider single-pitch climbing near your route, cimbing a variation to the first pitch or pitches of your route, or climbing a different route. Work together if a faster party climbs up and wants to pass - they could end up getting some awesome pictures of you, or showing you were the descent is after you top out. Always let a soloist pass.

At each anchor

Will there be bolted belays? How will I be making my anchors? Do I have enough gear and slings for extending gear and for trad anchors? Unfortunately there are very few beginner climbs in Yosemite with bolted anchors, so studying and practicing trad anchors is a must for any new Yosemite climber.

What's my personal safety system at each belay (PAS, slings, etc)? While sport climbers just use a couple quick draws to clip into an anchor briefly, say to thread their rope for rappelling / lowering, Yosemite climbers spend a lot more time at belays. So having a system of attaching yourself to the anchor, which allows you to move around, is crucial.

How will my partner and I be communicating when it's safe to be off belay, to climb, etc? Also have a plan for if it is too difficult to hear, say if it is really windy or you are near a waterfall.

Am I in the right place? Beginner climbers often worry about whether or not they are belaying in the right spot. On the beginner Yosemite climbs, there are many variations, and many places to belay, so better to focus on what is the best climbing and anchor spot for your party.

Partner

Am I ready for an adventure with this person? Does my partner have a nut tool? Have we decided how we are going to communicate if we can't hear each other? What are our signals for off belay, on belay, climb, etc? How do we want to hand off gear at each belay station?

Weather

Yosemite climbs, even if on the sunny side of the Valley, can have incredibly varied weather. Always tie a warm/wind layer around your waist, as you might find yourself belaying in the shade of a tree or behind a protrusion of rock (or baking in the sun on a climb that you thought would be shady).

Actual Climbing

Am I linking pitches? Do I need to consider my follower when making placements? For example, is my follower petite and won't be able to reach placements, or does the pitch traverse so the follower will need to be protected while traversing?

Descent

What's the descent? Rappel or walk off? Do I need two ropes? In general, it is much better to walk off a multi-pitch climb instead of rappelling. Walking is much faster than rappelling, and you get to do it together, and there is less chance for accidents when walking compared to rappelling. An exception is Royal Arches, where a long, complicated walk off is often skipped for fifteen or sixteen rappels which take you right back to the base of the climb (one minute from your car!). Bring your shoes to walk off!

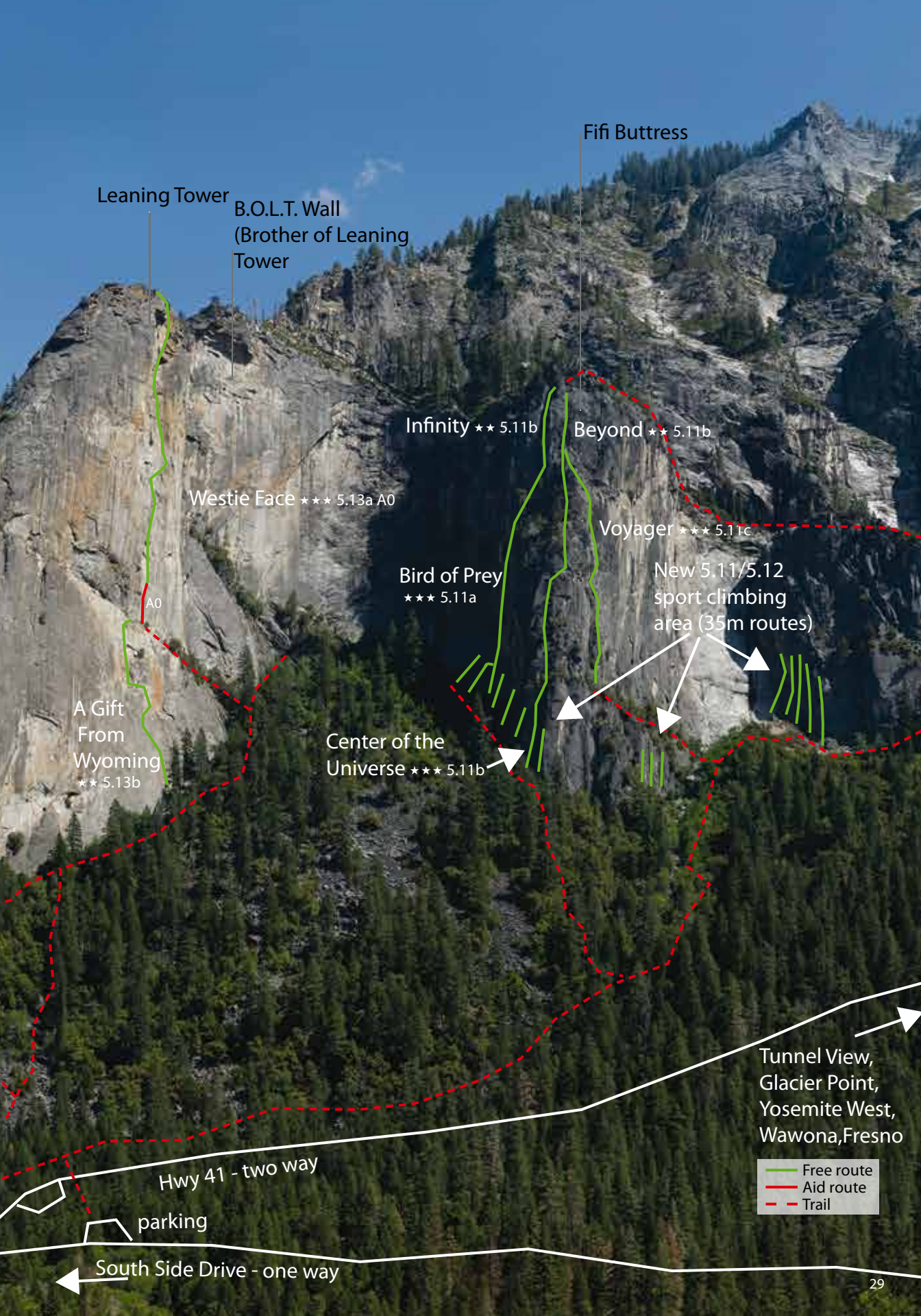
If rappelling, how many ropes do I need? 60m or 70m ropes? Do I know how to tie the ropes together for a double rap rappel if needed? How many raps?

Freddie Brewster on the Decathalon (11b) start to his route Bird of Prey, 5.11b, Fifi Buttress, pg 32
Photo: Dan McDevitt

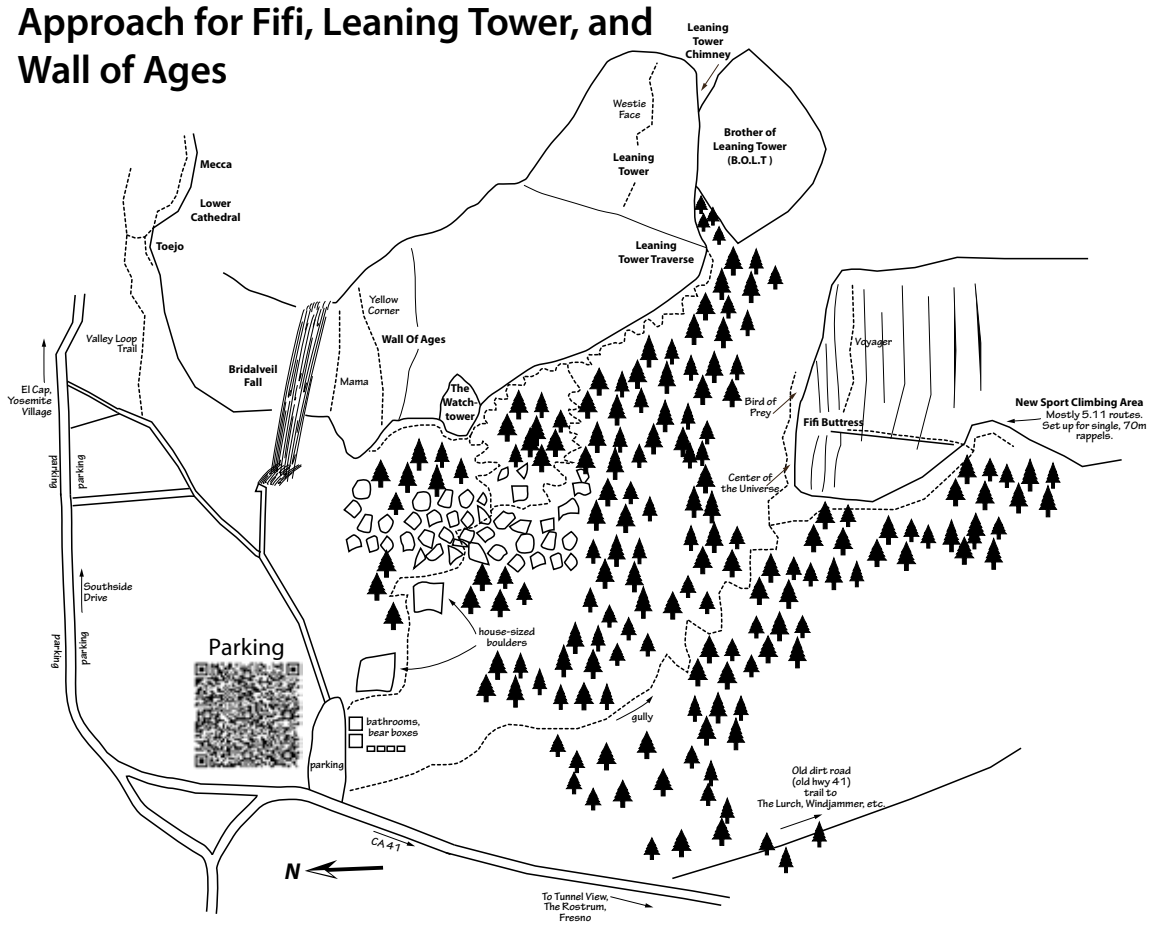
Matt Stasiak on Grant's Crack, Swan Slab. Photo: Yuri Shibuya

Fifi, Leaning Tower, Wall of Ages

In this book, the topos are in the order that the cliffs appear as you drive around the Valley. Fifi Buttress, an area with mostly difficult climbs, happens to be the first topos you come to - because it is the first cliff to appear above Southside Drive (one-way road) as you enter the Valley. Parking and approaches can be difficult in the Valley, until you get the hang of the one-way roads, and a feel for the types of terrain that are common on approaches - down trees, boulders you walk around, tons of leaves making the approach trail vague, etc. Always check online to see if anything has changed about the route, or approach / descent, that you are going for.


Fifi Buttress
Leaning Tower
B.O.L.T. Wall (Brother of Leaning Tower
Infinity ★★ 5.11b
Beyond ★★ 5.11b
Westie Face ★★★ 5.13a A0
Voyager ★★★ 5.11c
Bird of Prey ★★★ 5.11a
New 5.11/5.12 sport climbing area (35m routes)
A0
A Gift From Wyoming ★★ 5.13b
Center of the Universe ★★★ 5.11b
Tunnel View, Glacier Point, Yosemite West, Wawona,Fresno
Free route
Aid route
Trail
Hwy 41 - two way
parking
South Side Drive - one way

Approach for Fifi, Leaning Tower, and Wall of Ages



Introduction

Fifi Buttress has become the 5.11–5.13 splitter crack and well-bolted sport climb mecca. The topos provided here are to the mega-classic, multi-pitch routes. This area also has tons of new, high quality, single-pitch (mostly 5.11) sport climbing. There are sport routes on the cliff below this main wall (see pic on page 29). All single pitch routes are 35 meters or less. Developed by long time El Portal local Dan McDevitt and friends, Fifi is in the shade until late afternoon!

Fifi Approach

30 - 50 minutes. Starting from the western most parking space in the Bridalveil Fall parking lot (~200' west of the bathroom), head south on a trail. This trail climbs up a hill and enters a gully that leads to the Fifi Amphitheater. The long routes are on the left side of this amphitheater. Additionally, here are many single pitch, bolted, 5.11 routes on the back wall of the amphitheater.

Fifi Descent

Most parties rappel their route to descend. Double check the topo to see if your route requires one or two ropes to rappel. If walking off, walk west of the approach amphitheater and down the first major gully, rappelling a couple of times near the bottom.

Leaning Tower / Wall of Ages Approach

45 - 60 minutes. From the bathrooms at the Bridalveil Fall parking lot walk toward a house sized boulder with a good trail heading up the hill beside it. Follow the trail uphill for a few hundred feet until you reach a boulder field (slick when wet). Angle up and right through the boulder field. Be patient, and look for the cairns that mark the path. The Wall of Ages trail heads up and left halfway through the boulder field. For the Leaning Tower continue until you come to the base of the wall where the trail continues up and right to a nice flat spot right before the traverse ledge which the routes start off of.

Wall of Ages Descent

Most parties rappel their route to descend.

Leaning Tower Descent

From the summit anchor, wandering 5.5 downclimbing or two, 50m rappels brings you to the flat area above the Leaning Tower Chimney. Rappel the chimney with one 60m rope to avoid dislodging loose rocks. The rappels lead to the base of the wall 250' above where you left the trail to head out on the Leaning Tower Traverse Ledge. Continue down the approach trail.

Fifi Buttress

1) Center of the Universe ★★★ 5.11a/b
2) Voyager ★★★ 5.11c
3) Final Frontier ★★★ 5.13a/b
4) Romulan Warbird ★★★ 5.12c
5) The Vortex ★★ 5.12d
6) The Next Generation ★★ 5.13a

Photo: Ryan Kirtland

NEW CONTENT

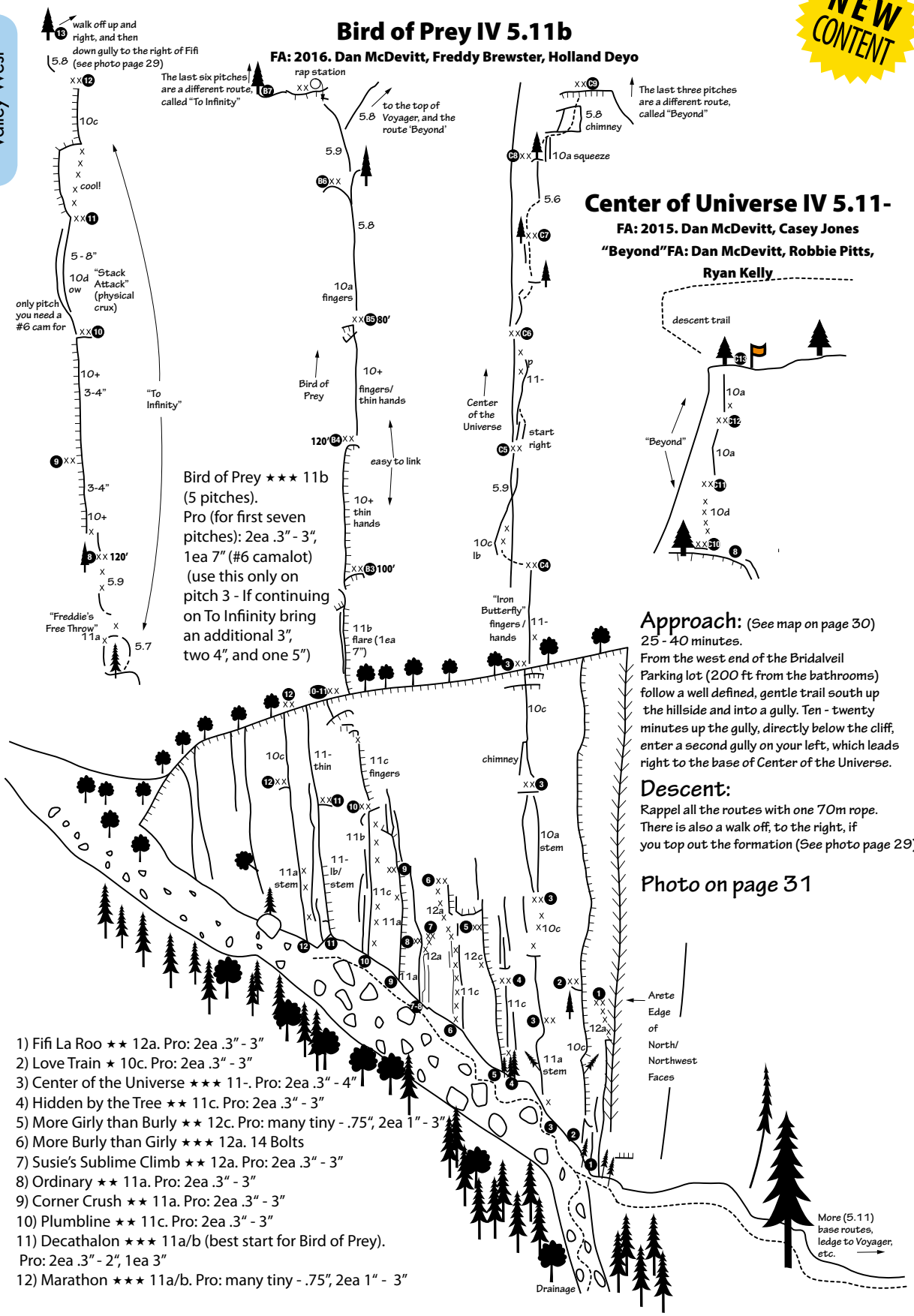
Bird of Prey IV 5.11b

FA: 2016. Dan McDevitt, Freddy Brewster, Holland Deyo

Center of Universe IV 5.11-

FA: 2015. Dan McDevitt, Casey Jones

"Beyond"FA: Dan McDevitt, Robbie Pitts, Ryan Kelly



Bird of Prey ★★★ 11b (5 pitches).
Pro (for first seven pitches): 2ea .3" - 3", 1ea 7" (#6 camalot) (use this only on pitch 3 - If continuing on To Infiinity bring an additional 3", two 4", and one 5")

Approach: (See map on page 30)

25 - 40 minutes.
From the west end of the Bridalveil Parking lot (200 ft from the bathrooms) follow a well defined, gentle trail south up the hillside and into a gully. Ten - twenty minutes up the gully, directly below the cliff, enter a second gully on your left, which leads right to the base of Center of the Universe.

Descent:

Rappel all the routes with one 70m rope. There is also a walk off, to the right, if you top out the formation (See photo page 29)

Photo on page 31

1) Fifi La Roo ★★ 12a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"
2) Love Train ★ 10c. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"
3) Center of the Universe ★★★ 11-. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4"
4) Hidden by the Tree ★★ 11c. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"
5) More Girly than Burly ★★ 12c. Pro: many tiny - .75", 2ea 1" - 3"
6) More Burly than Girly ★★★ 12a. 14 Bolts
7) Susie's Sublime Climb ★★ 12a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"
8) Ordinary ★★ 11a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"
9) Corner Crush ★★ 11a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"
10) Plumbline ★★ 11c. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"
11) Decathalon ★★★ 11a/b (best start for Bird of Prey). Pro: 2ea .3" - 2", 1ea 3"
12) Marathon ★★★ 11a/b. Pro: many tiny - .75", 2ea 1" - 3"

Voyager IV 5.11c

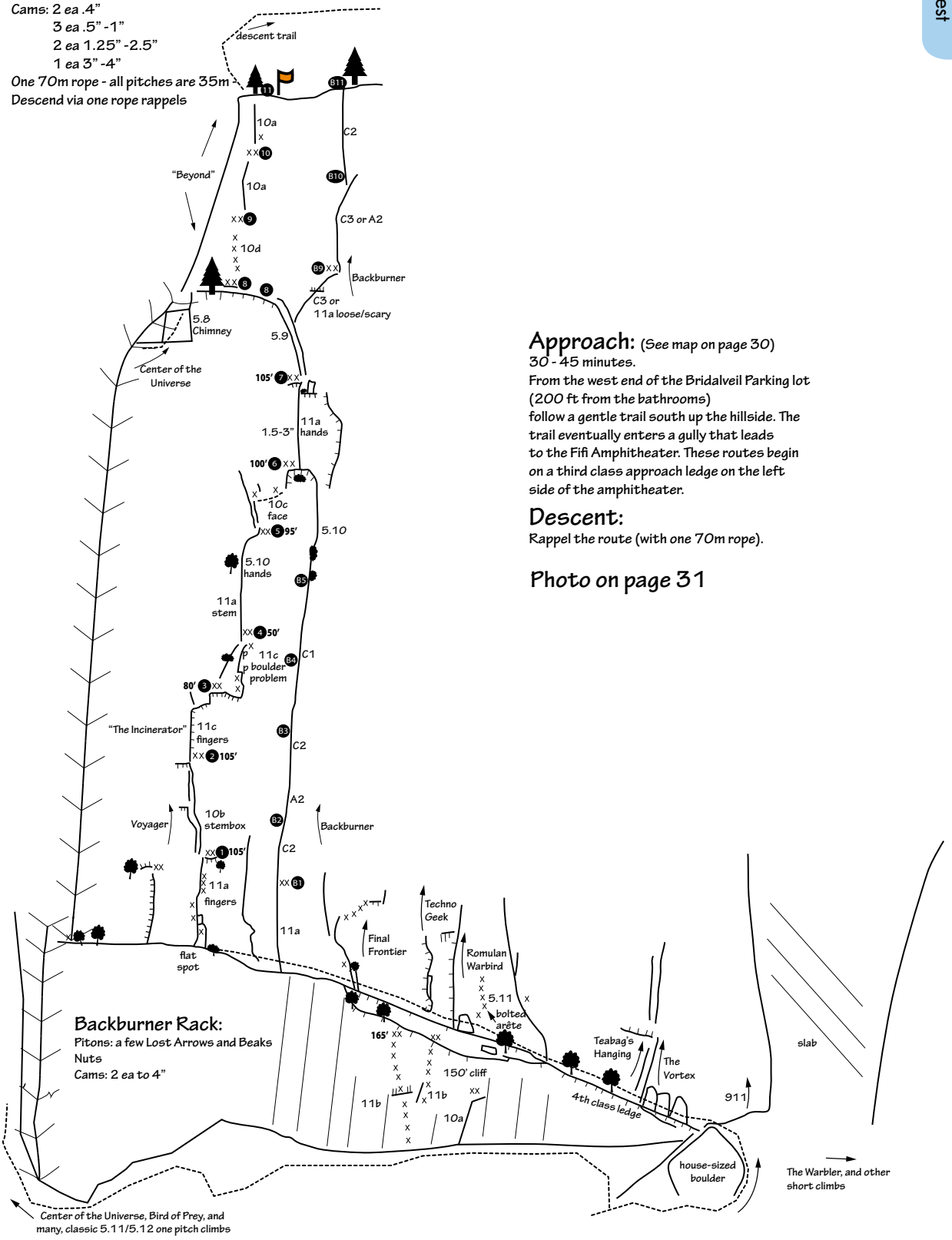
FA: October 2013 - Dan McDevitt, Ryan Kelly, Robbie Pitts, Steve Hordley

Backburner V 5.7 C3

FA: October 2013 - Dan McDevitt, Ryan Kelly, Robbie Pitts, Steve Hordley

Voyager Rack:

Nuts
Cams: 2 ea .4"
3 ea .5" -1"
2 ea 1.25" -2.5"
1 ea 3" -4"
One 70m rope - all pitches are 35m -
Descend via one rope rappels



Backburner Rack:

Pitons: a few Lost Arrows and Beaks
Nuts
Cams: 2 ea to 4"

Approach: (See map on page 30)

30 - 45 minutes.
From the west end of the Bridalveil Parking lot (200 ft from the bathrooms) follow a gentle trail south up the hillside. The trail eventually enters a gully that leads to the Fifi Amphitheater. These routes begin on a third class approach ledge on the left side of the amphitheater.

Descent:

Rappel the route (with one 70m rope).

Photo on page 31

The Final Frontier V 5.13b or 5.7 A3

FA: 1999 - Dan & Sue McDevitt, Penny Black, Brittany Griffith.
FFA: May 2013 - Nik Berry, James Lucas

Romulan Warbird V 5.12c or 5.9 C2

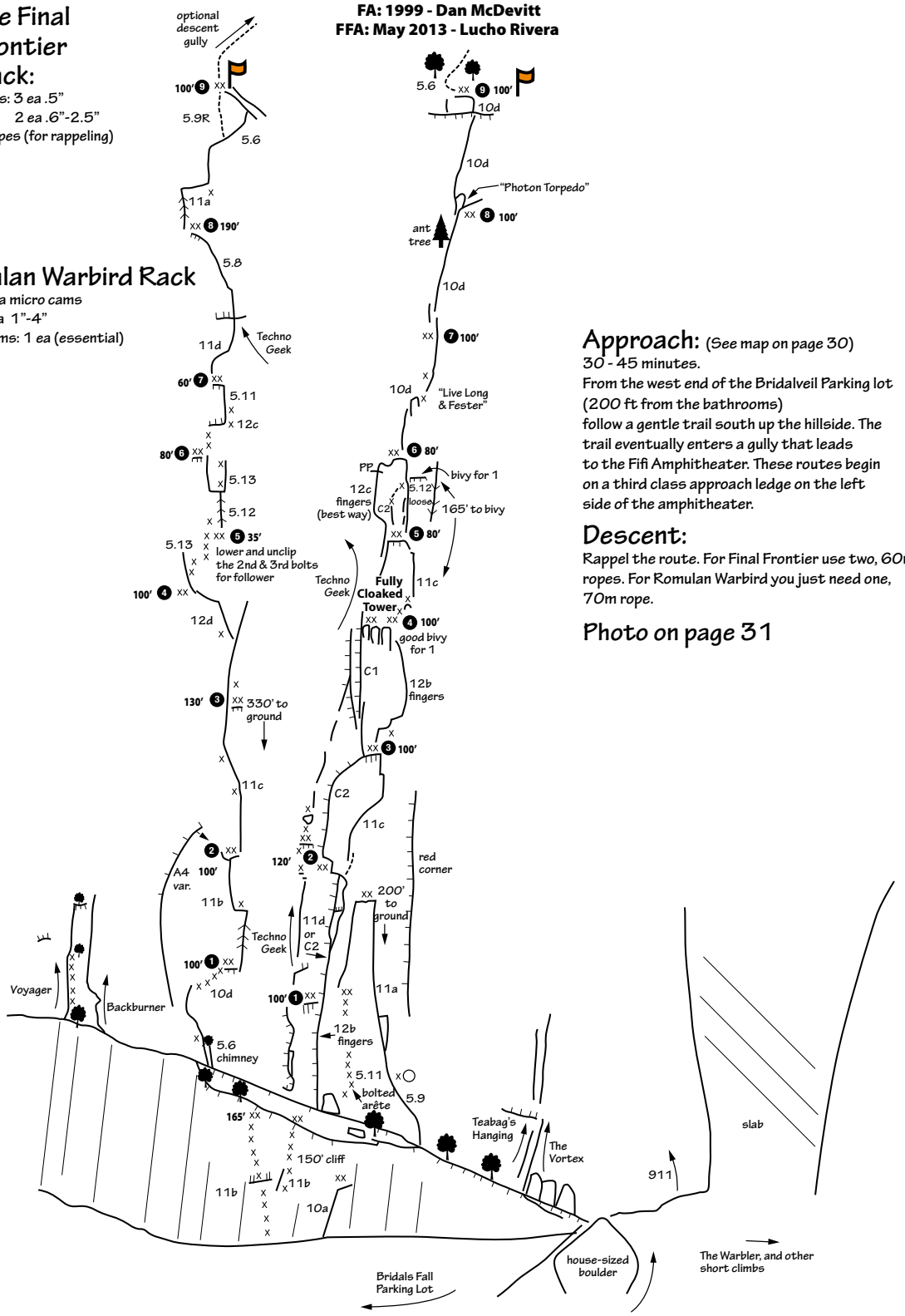
FA: 1999 - Dan McDevitt
FFA: May 2013 - Lucho Rivera

The Final Frontier Rack:

Cams: 3 ea .5"
2 ea .6"-2.5"
2 ropes (for rappeling)

Romulan Warbird Rack

Cams: 3 ea micro cams
1 ea 1"-4"
Offset Cams: 1 ea (essential)
70m rope



Approach: (See map on page 30)

30 - 45 minutes.
From the west end of the Bridalveil Parking lot (200 ft from the bathrooms) follow a gentle trail south up the hillside. The trail eventually enters a gully that leads to the Fifi Amphitheater. These routes begin on a third class approach ledge on the left side of the amphitheater.

Descent:

Rappel the route. For Final Frontier use two, 60m ropes. For Romulan Warbird you just need one, 70m rope.

Photo on page 31

NEW CONTENT

The Vortex IV 5.12d

FA: October 1980 - Chick Holtkamp, Randy Russell FFA: May 1982 - Chick Holtkamp, Eric Zschiesche

The Next Generation (aka The Dream Team) V 5.13a

FA: November 2019 - Lucho Rivera, Cedar Wright

Approach: (See map on page 30)

30 - 45 minutes.
From the west end of the Bridalveil Parking lot (200 ft from the bathrooms) follow a gentle trail south up the hillside. The trail eventually enters a gully that leads to the Fifi Amphitheater. These routes begin on a third class approach ledge on the left side of the amphitheater.

Descent:

Rappel the route. (two ropes required)

Photo on page 31

Vortex Rack:

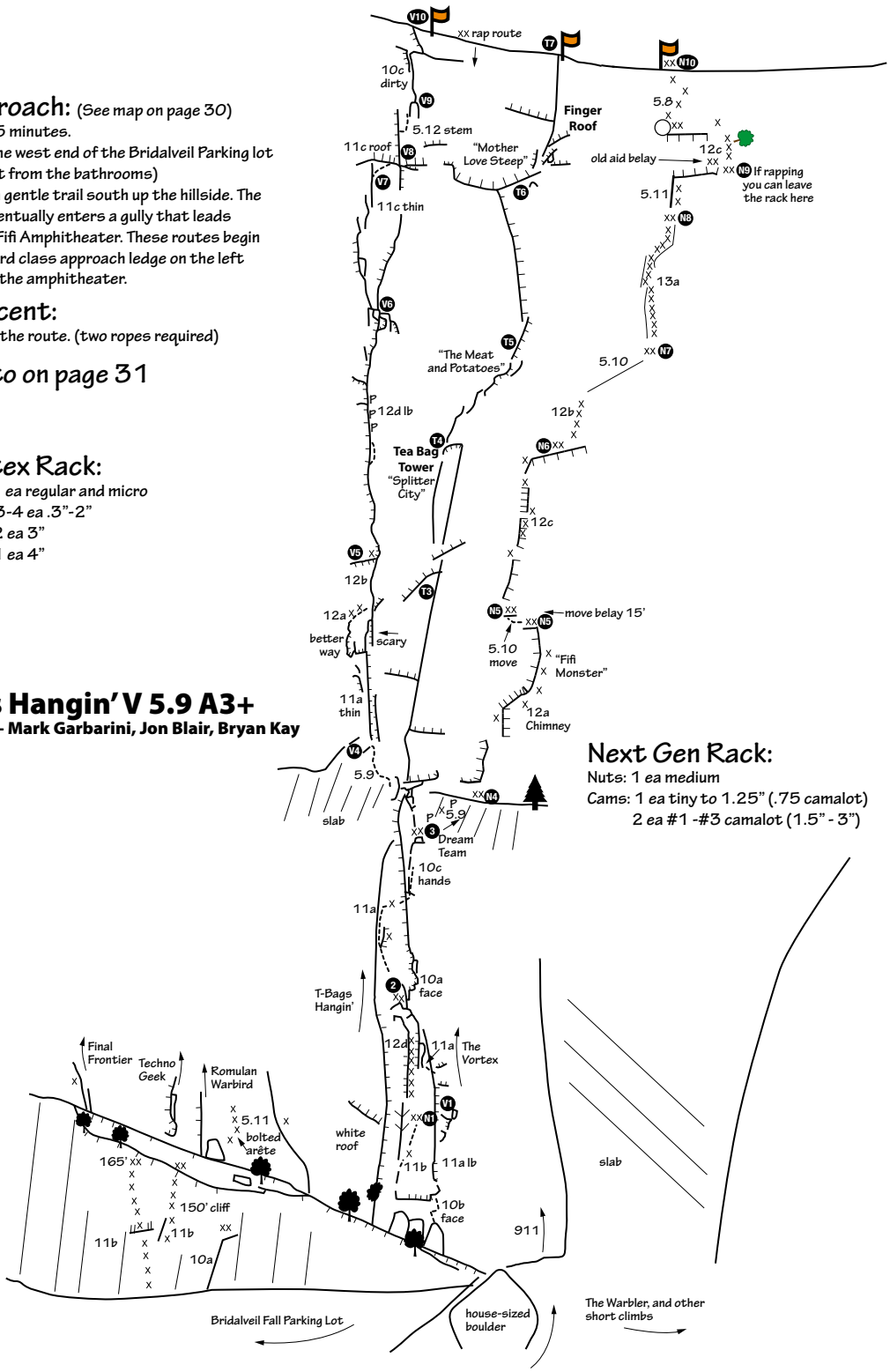
Nuts: 1 ea regular and micro
Cams: 3-4 ea .3"-2"
2 ea 3"
1 ea 4"

T-Bags Hangin' V 5.9 A3+

FA: August 2000 - Mark Garbarini, Jon Blair, Bryan Kay

Next Gen Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea medium
Cams: 1 ea tiny to 1.25" (.75 camalot)
2 ea #1 -#3 camalot (1.5" - 3")



Wall of Ages

Wall of Ages/Leaning Tower Base is an up-and-coming area with a couple older classics and plenty of space for new routes. The approach is shorter than Fifi and there are more 5.8–5.11 routes, but there is also more loose rock. The Watchtower, with the mega-classic, *The Thief* (5.10d), is a cool hang.

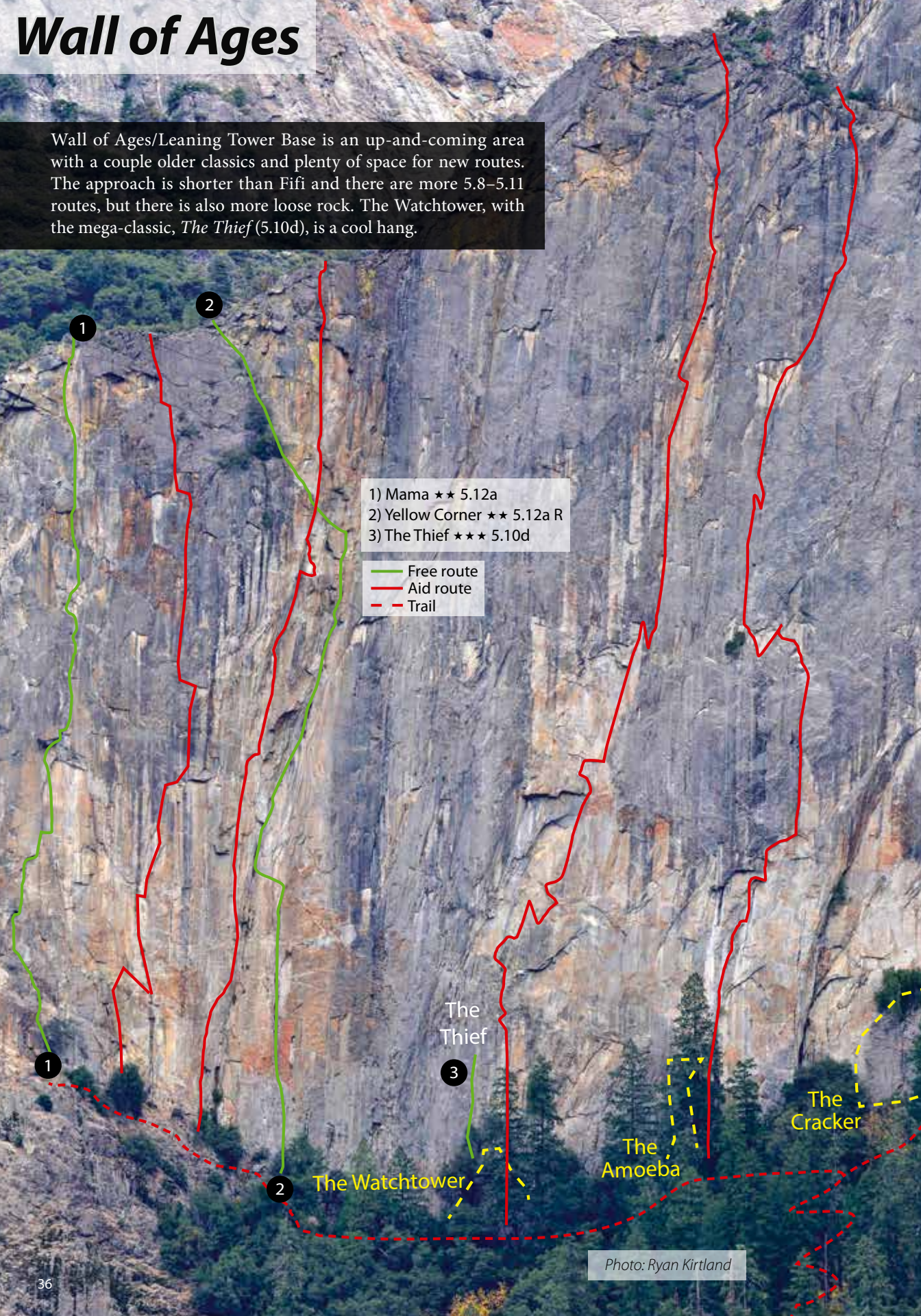


Photo: Ryan Kirtland

Leaning Tower

1) A Gift from Wyoming ★★ 5.13b
2) Wet Lycra Nightmare ★★★ 5.13d A0
3) Westie Face ★★★ 5.13a A0
4) Leaning Tower Traverse 5.8 - no topo

Free route
Aid route
Trail

Photo: Tom Evans

Mama (Free Voices of the Drowned) IV 5.12a

FA: 2006 - Sean Jones, Jake Jones

Mama is steep, well-protected climbing in an outrageous position, right next to Bridalveil Fall. This route faces west, so gets shade until afternoon.

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .3"-3"
1-2 ea 4"
1 ea 5"
1 ea 7"

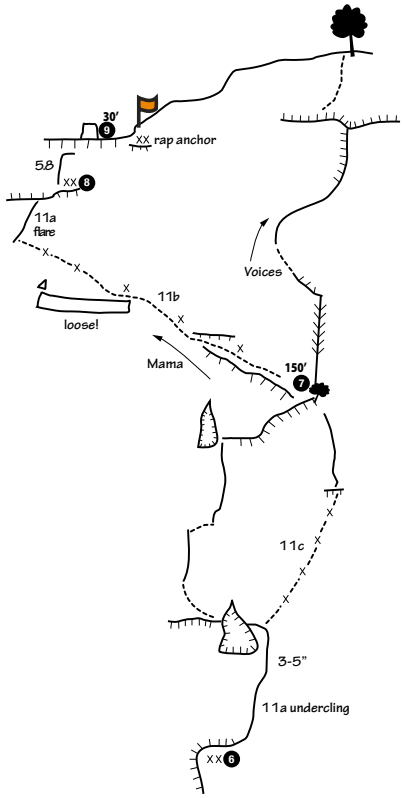
Approach: (See map on page 30)

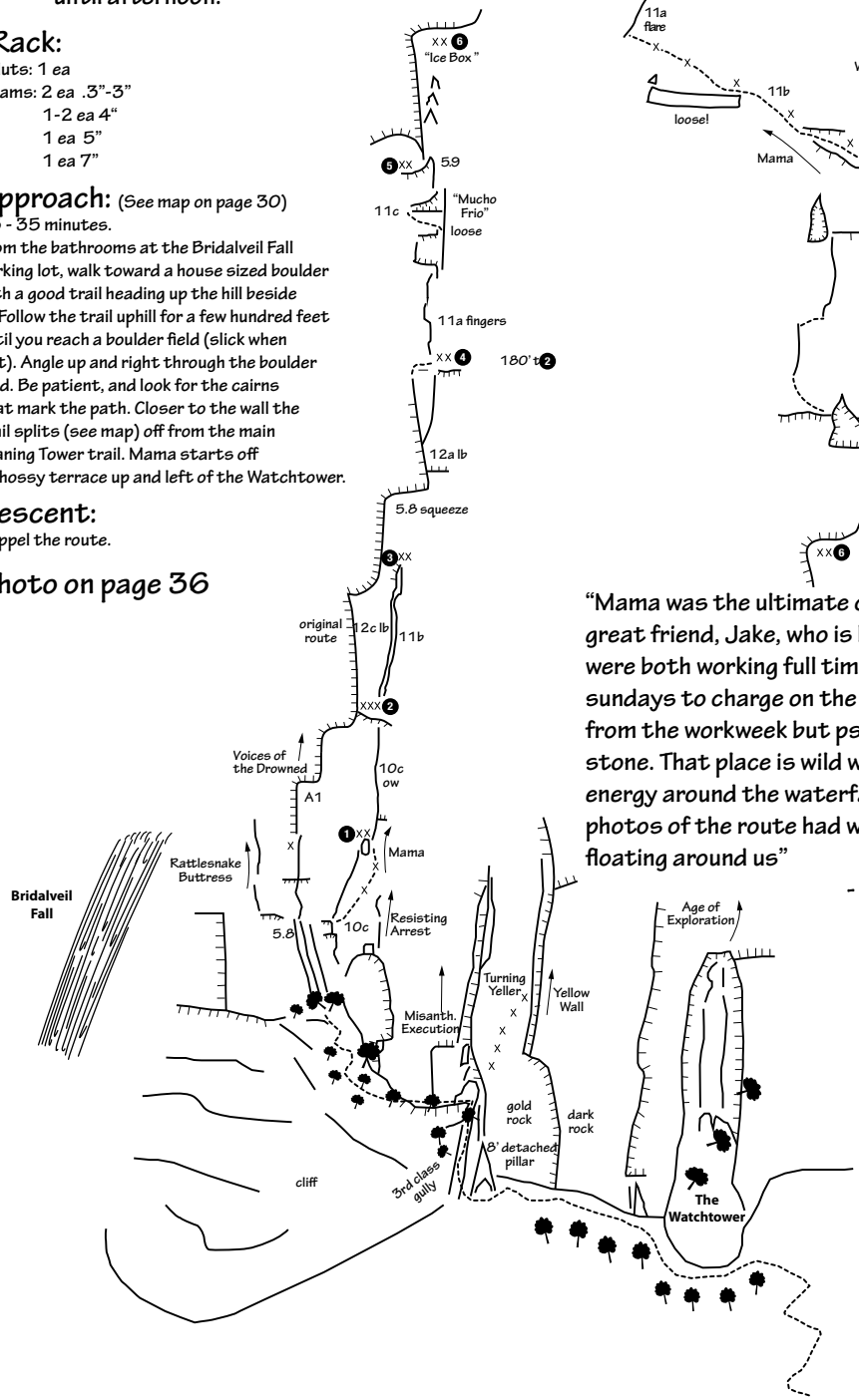
25 - 35 minutes.
From the bathrooms at the Bridalveil Fall parking lot, walk toward a house sized boulder with a good trail heading up the hill beside it. Follow the trail uphill for a few hundred feet until you reach a boulder field (slick when wet). Angle up and right through the boulder field. Be patient, and look for the cairns that mark the path. Closer to the wall the trail splits (see map) off from the main Leaning Tower trail. Mama starts off a chossy terrace up and left of the Watchtower.

Descent:

Rappel the route.

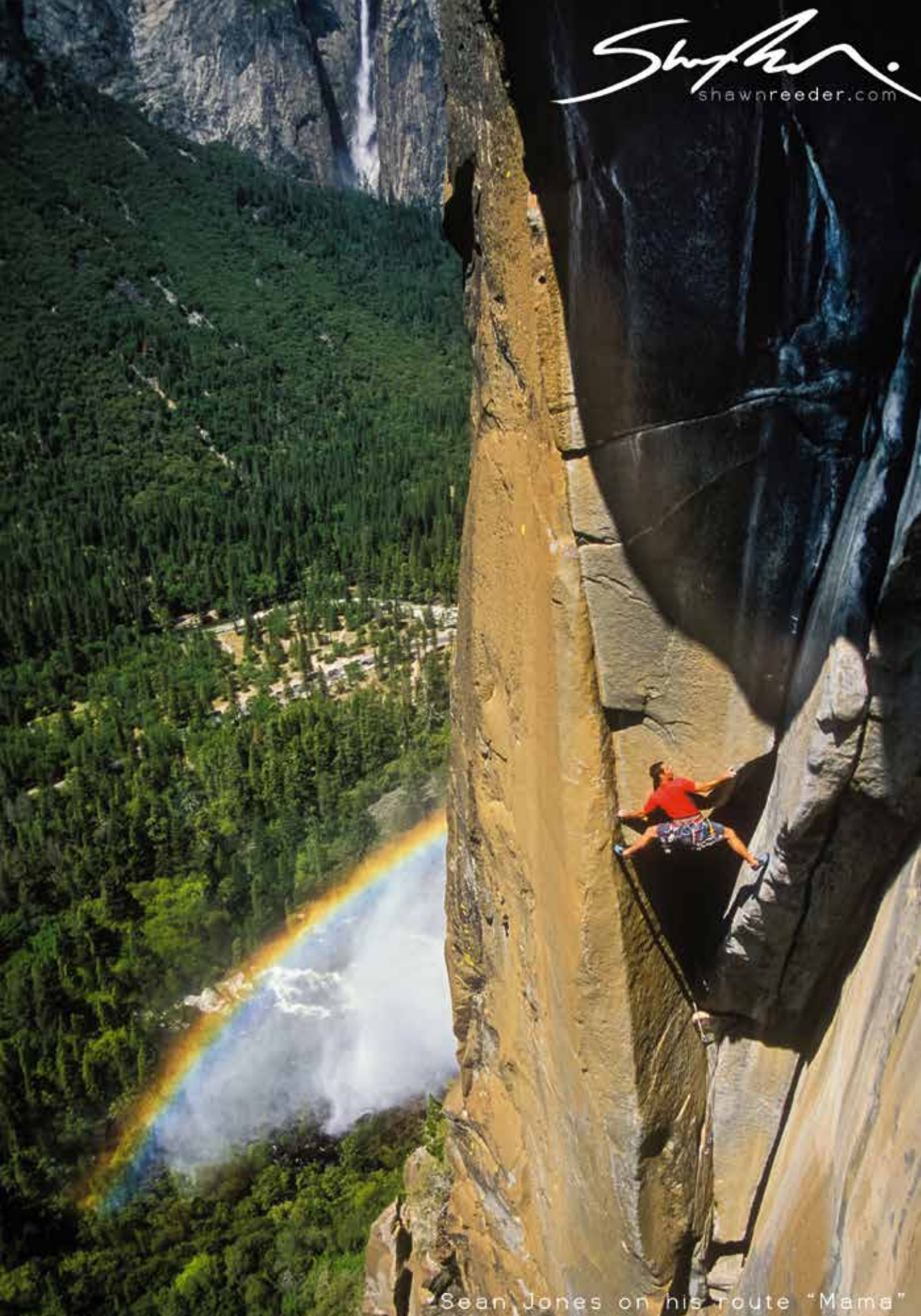
Photo on page 36





"Mama was the ultimate collaboration with a great friend, Jake, who is like my brother. We were both working full time, and just had sundays to charge on the mission, beat up from the workweek but psyched to be on the stone. That place is wild with all the swirling energy around the waterfall - some of the early photos of the route had what looked like ghosts floating around us"

- Sean Jones



Sean Jones on his route "Mama"

Beta: Other than the few, multi-stared routes, these climbs are 'diamonds in the route'. They could be good, but likely will require some cleaning, or will have some looser rock.

1) Yellow Corner ★★ 5.8, 11d, 12a, 11b, 12a R, 5.9 . Pro: 3ea to .3" - 3", 1ea 4." An old school, burly route.
2) The Princess ★ 5.9. Pro: 1ea .3" - 4." Dirty, but otherwise decent warm up for the The Thief.
3) The Joker ★ 10b R. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"
4) The Thief ★★★ 10d. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3." A short, dirty 5.5 pitch leads to a nice belay ledge in the Watchtower corner. Splitter hands with a thin hands crux at the end. Mega classic!....and shady until afternoon when it's hot.
5) Megaforce ★ 11a R. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"
6) Barefoot Servants ★ 5.9, 11a. Pro: many to 5"
7) The Amoeba, Left ★ 5.8.
7) The Amoeba, Right ★ 11c.
8) The Cracker, Left (Rycrisp) 5.9. Pro: .5" - 3.5"
9) Beat The Clock 10c.
10) Drop-out ★ 10a.
11) The Chosen Few 5.9. Pro: 2ea .5" - 6"
12) Machine Head 11c.
13) The Cracker, Right 5.7.

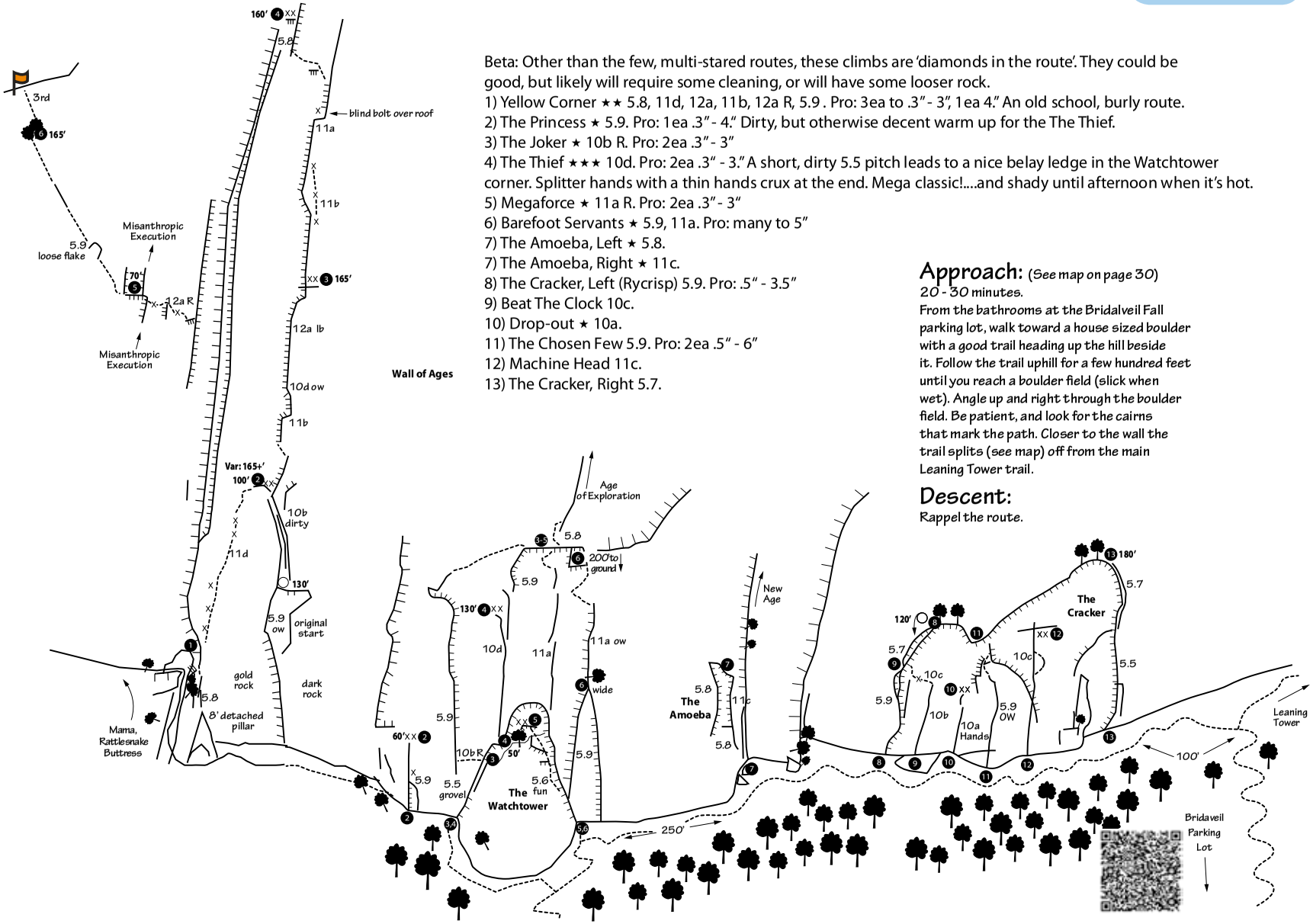
Approach: (See map on page 30)

20 - 30 minutes.

From the bathrooms at the Bridalveil Fall parking lot, walk toward a house sized boulder with a good trail heading up the hill beside it. Follow the trail uphill for a few hundred feet until you reach a boulder field (slick when wet). Angle up and right through the boulder field. Be patient, and look for the cairns that mark the path. Closer to the wall the trail splits (see map) off from the main Leaning Tower trail.

Descent:

Rappel the route.



Alex Honnold at the crux of Wet Lycra Nightmare, 5.13d
Photo: Chris Noble

Wet Lycra Nightmare (Free Wet Denim Daydream) 5.13d A0

FFA: 2004 - Todd Skinner, Jim Hewett

A Gift From Wyoming IV 5.13b

FA: 2013 - Alex Honnold

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2-3 ea .3"-1"
2 ea 1.25"-2.5"

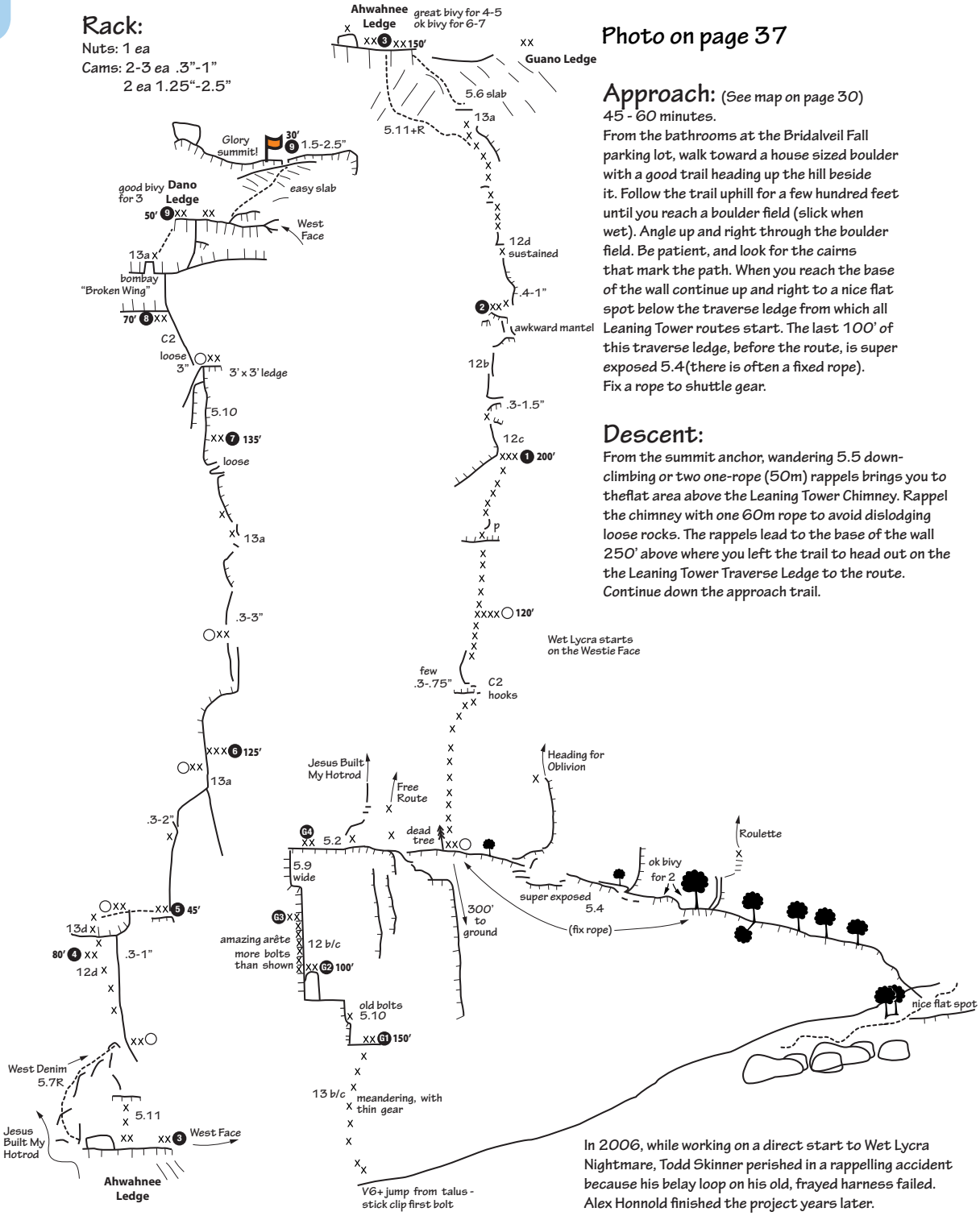


Photo on page 37

Approach: (See map on page 30)

45 - 60 minutes.
From the bathrooms at the Bridalveil Fall parking lot, walk toward a house sized boulder with a good trail heading up the hill beside it. Follow the trail uphill for a few hundred feet until you reach a boulder field (slick when wet). Angle up and right through the boulder field. Be patient, and look for the cairns that mark the path. When you reach the base of the wall continue up and right to a nice flat spot below the traverse ledge from which all Leaning Tower routes start. The last 100' of this traverse ledge, before the route, is super exposed 5.4(there is often a fixed rope). Fix a rope to shuttle gear.

Descent:

From the summit anchor, wandering 5.5 down-climbing or two one-rope (50m) rappels brings you to theflat area above the Leaning Tower Chimney. Rappel the chimney with one 60m rope to avoid dislodging loose rocks. The rappels lead to the base of the wall 250' above where you left the trail to head out on the the Leaning Tower Traverse Ledge to the route. Continue down the approach trail.

In 2006, while working on a direct start to Wet Lycra Nightmare, Todd Skinner perished in a rappelling accident because his belay loop on his old, frayed harness failed. Alex Honnold finished the project years later.

Westie Face (Free West Face) V 5.13a A0

FFA(skipping first two pitches): May 2001 - Leo Houlding, Jason Pickles

Westie Face is widely steep by Valley standards. The aid, or french free, climbing is easy because of abundant fixed gear, so this is an easy route to check out. Shady till late afternoon, make sure you bring a tarp to sit out the heat of the day on the palatial Ahwahnee Ledge.

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 3 ea .3"-1"
2 ea 1.25"-2"
1 ea 3",4"
Offset Cams: 1 ea

Approach: (See map on page 30)

45 - 60 minutes.
From the bathrooms at the Bridalveil Fall parking lot, walk toward a house sized boulder with a good trail heading up the hill beside it. Follow the trail uphill for a few hundred feet until you reach a boulder field (slick when wet). Angle up and right through the boulder field. Be patient, and look for the cairns that mark the path. When you reach the base of the wall continue up and right to a nice flat spot below the traverse ledge from which all Leaning Tower routes start. The last 100' of this traverse ledge, before the route, is super exposed 5.4. Fix a rope to shuttle gear.

Descent:

From the summit anchor, wandering 5.5 down-climbing or two 50m rappels brings you to the flat area above the Leaning Tower Chimney. Rappel the chimney with one 60m rope to avoid dislodging loose rocks. The rappels lead to the base of the wall 250' above where you left the trail to head out on the the Leaning Tower Traverse Ledge to the route. Continue down the approach trail.

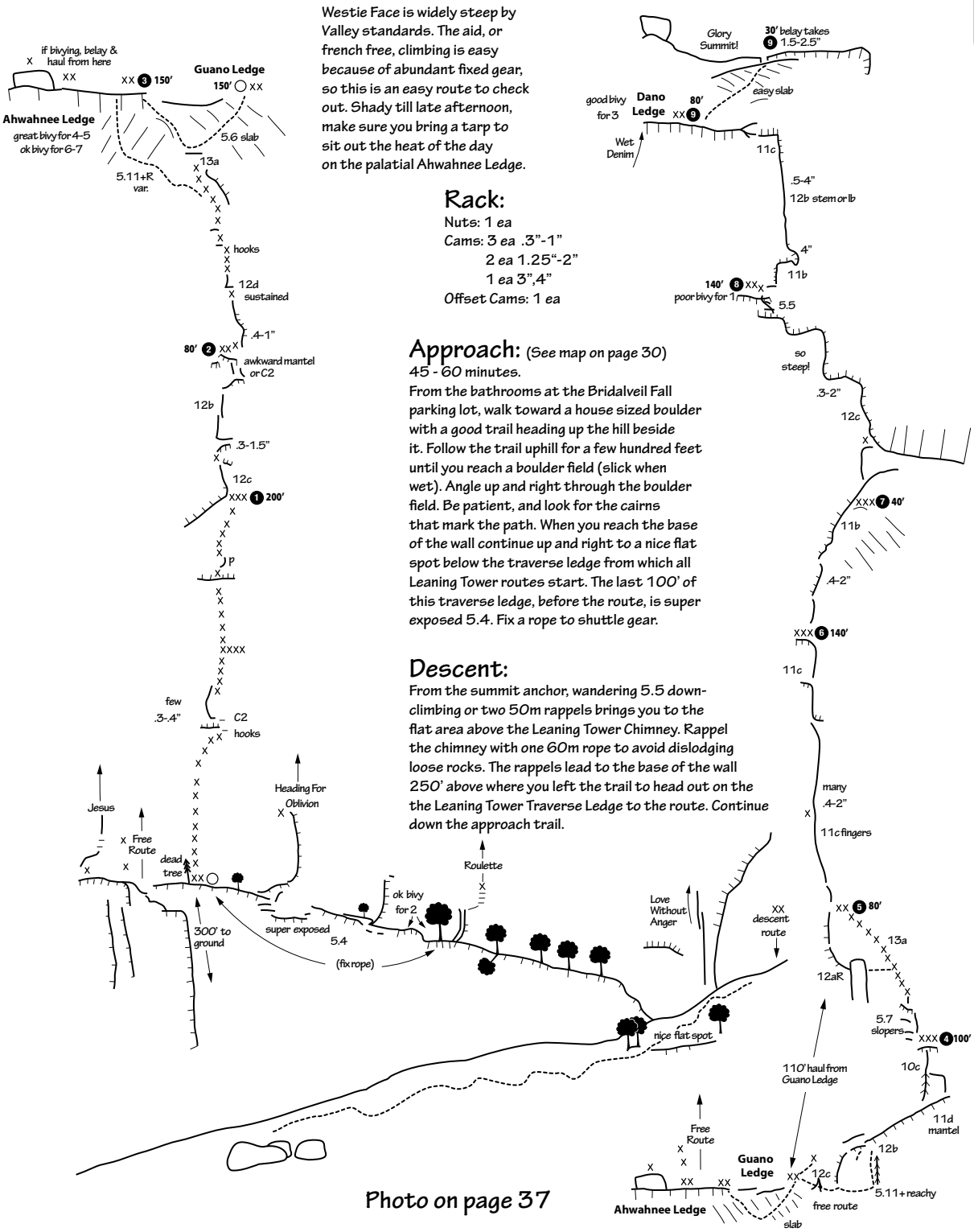


Photo on page 37

What does this mean?

V Grade V means a climb that generally takes two days, including an overnight on the cliff. This makes it a bigwall climb.

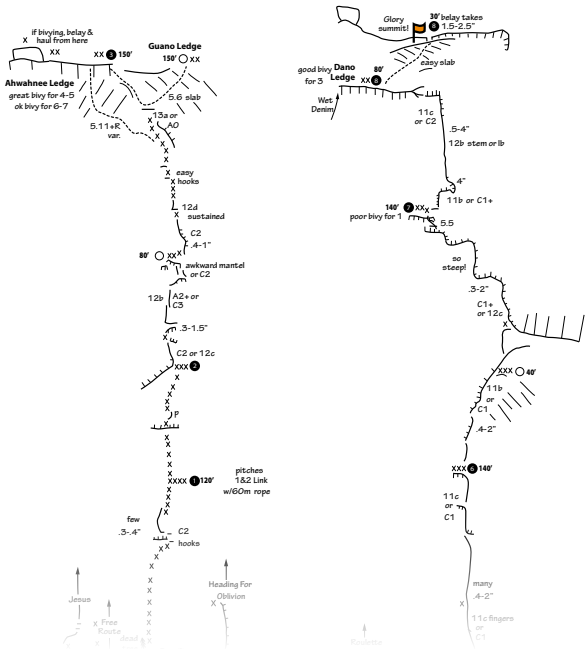
5.7 when you see free climbing and aid climbing ratings together, the free climbing rating (in this case 5.7) is the hardest free move you are required to do on the route. If you are only climbing at a 5.7 level, you will have to aid climb A2 as well.

A2 or C3 means the aid climbing will be A2 (on a scale of A1 - A5) *if* you use a hammer (i.e. nail pitons into the mountain). On the other hand, the aid climbing will be C3 if you aid climb "clean," (i.e. not use a hammer and rely only on nuts, cams, and hooks).

C1-C5 denotes the clean climbing rating. You can see that this route is more difficult if you climb clean (C3 instead of A2) than if you use a hammer. This is common and means that the clean climbing requires hooks or other insecure pieces that, unlike pitons, might not hold a fall.

5.13a A0 means if you are free climbing at the 5.13a grade, you barely have to use any aid. A0 is the easiest grade in aid climbing; it refers to climbing up a blank section of rock via bolts. In this case a blank bolt ladder starts the climb, so the climbers pull on the bolts, or "A0" their way up to the climbing above.

West Face V 5.7 A2 or C3 or 5.13a A0
FA: October 1966 - Warren Harding, Al MacDonald, Glen Denny



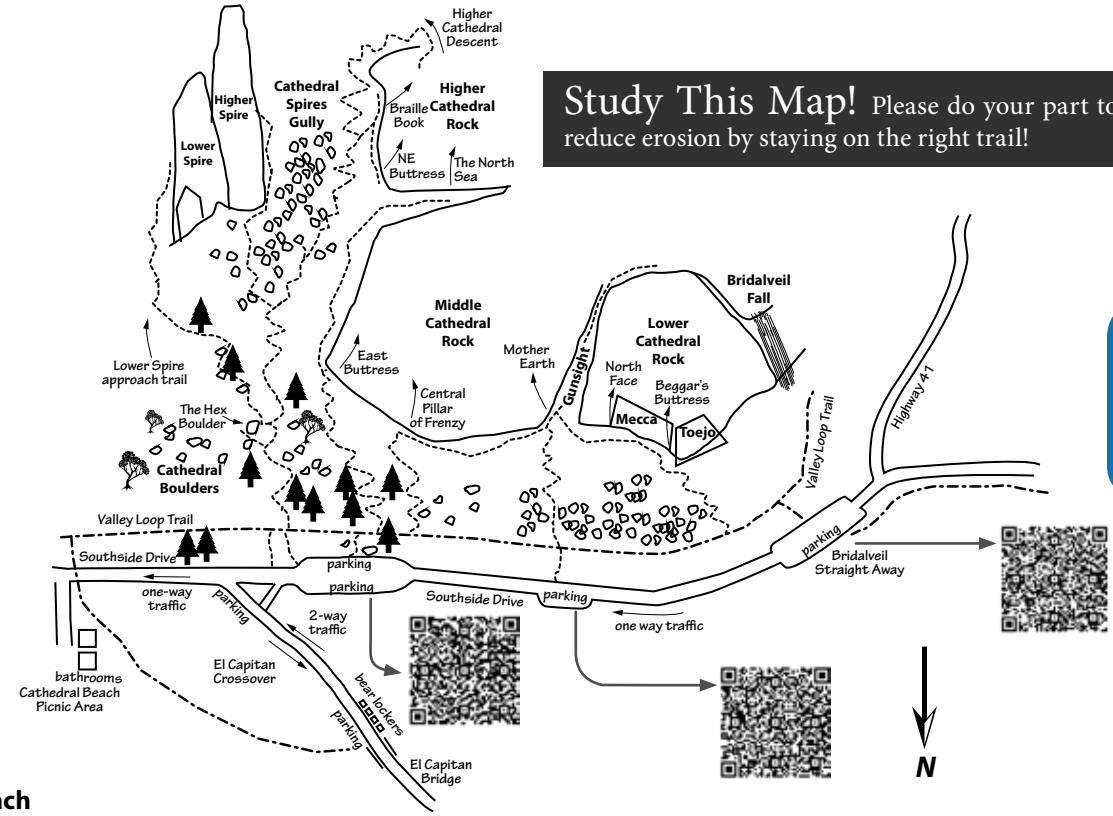
Leo Houlding and crew beating the heat on the spacious Ahwahnee Ledge, during the first free ascent of the Westie Face, 5.13a A0.

Madaleine Sorkin on pitch 3 (5.13a) of the Westie Face, 5.13a A0
Photo: Mikey Schaefer

Cathedrals Area

The Cathedrals offer everything from close-to-the-road, short trad and sport climbs to mega classic, multi-pitch outings. Popular!

Sarah Halas on the Regular Route 5.9+, Higher Cathedral Spire, pg 81
Photo: Dave N. Campbell



Approach

Cathedral Spires and *Higher Cathedral Rock:* Park at the intersection of El Cap Crossover and Southside Drive. Walk south on an informal trail to the Valley Loop Trail. Take the Valley Loop Trail left (east) for a few hundred feet to a trail that switchbacks up Cathedral Gully.

Middle Cathedral Rock: Park at a turnout on the left side of Southside Drive ~0.5 miles east of Bridalveil Straight (see map on page 31). Take the informal trail to the base of the North Apron of Middle Cathedral Rock.

Lower Cathedral Rock: Park at Bridalveil Straight. Join the Valley Loop Trail on the south side of the road. Hike east until just before the trail crosses a talus field. Take an informal trail to the base of the climbs.

Descent

Cathedral Spires: Rappel the popular free climbs on the north side of the formations.

Higher Cathedral Rock: Walk south to the gully between the Valley Rim and Higher Cathedral Rock. Continue down this gully to rejoin the approach trail.

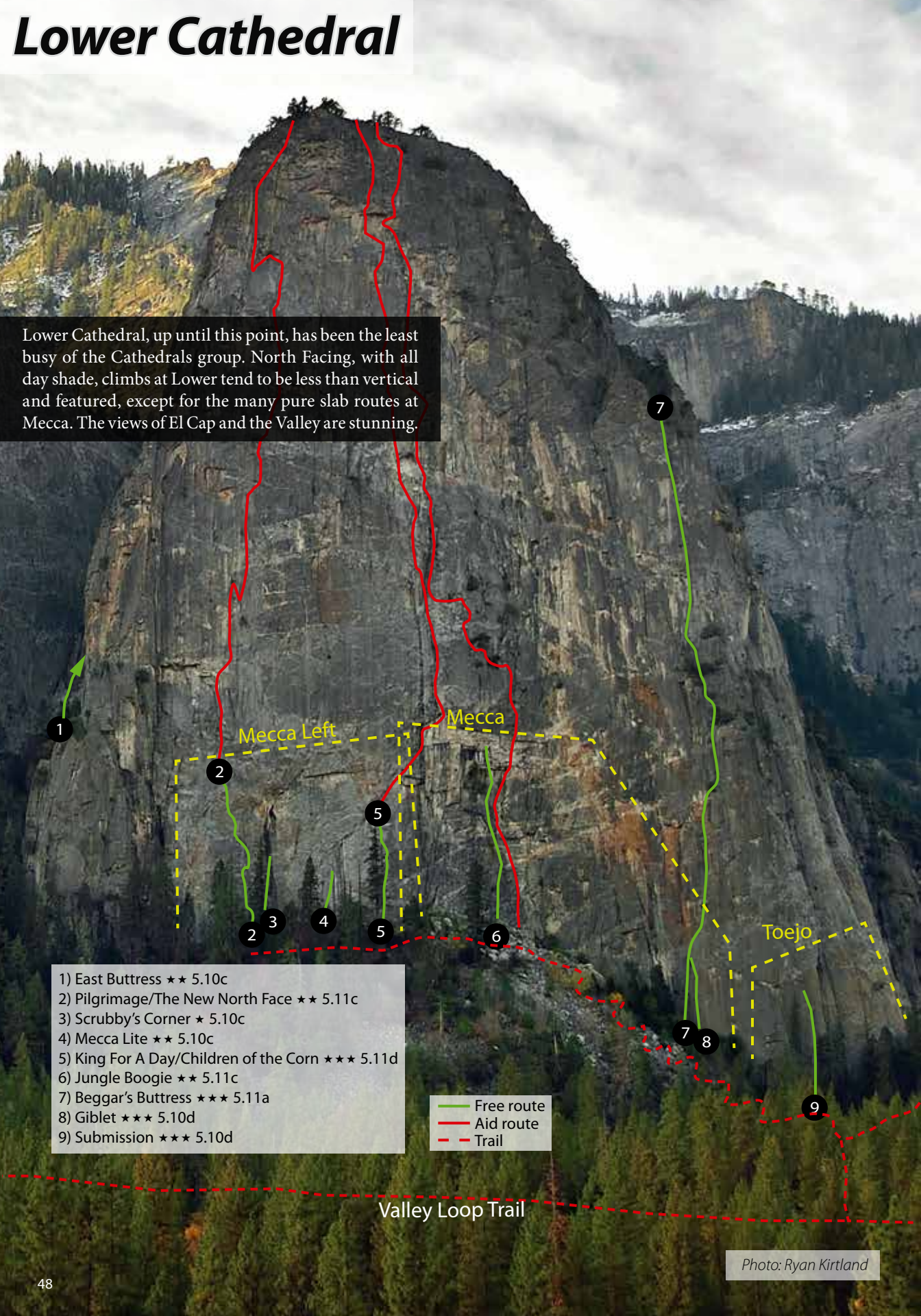
Middle Cathedral Rock: For the E. Buttress, either rappel with a single 60m rope from the belay at the start of the last pitch (see topo), or walk off from the last belay by heading up and right for about 50 feet, then up and left on 3rd class. After about 250 feet, head down and left through dense trees. Continue on the trail for about 250 yards of exposed easy walking until it ends at the gully separating Middle and Higher Cathedral. Scramble down this with two single rope rappels (or 5.5 downclimbing) until you join the higher cathedral approach trail. Head down the main Spires Gully, keeping a lookout to the left for cairns, if you need to go back to the base of the route.

For routes between the E. Buttress and the N. Buttress descend via the Kat Walk, a tricky and exposed ledge system that leads to the E. Buttress' descent. From the top of the DNB head up and left on 3rd class to a large tree marking the start of the Kat Walk. Follow a downward trending ledge to the east (left) for 200-300 feet. When you reach a pillar, go up it and down the other side through small trees and brush. About 100 feet after the pillar cross an exposed sloping ledge. About 200 feet past this you will see the trees and brush of the E. Buttress walk off. Contour down and descend via the E. Buttress descent.

For routes west of the North Buttress descend via the Gunsight, a 5.5 gully (often has fixed ropes for the 5.5 sections) that connects Middle and Lower Cathedrals.

Lower Cathedral Rock: Either rappel the route or scramble down to the Gunsight, a 5.5 gully (often has fixed ropes for the 5.5 sections) that connects Middle and Lower Cathedrals.

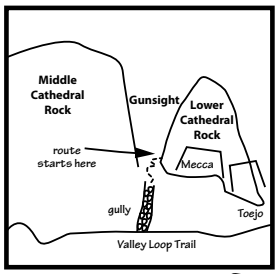
Lower Cathedral



Lower Cathedral, up until this point, has been the least busy of the Cathedrals group. North Facing, with all day shade, climbs at Lower tend to be less than vertical and featured, except for the many pure slab routes at Mecca. The views of El Cap and the Valley are stunning.

1) East Buttress ★★ 5.10c
2) Pilgrimage/The New North Face ★★ 5.11c
3) Scrubby's Corner ★ 5.10c
4) Mecca Lite ★★ 5.10c
5) King For A Day/Children of the Corn ★★★ 5.11d
6) Jungle Boogie ★★ 5.11c
7) Beggar's Buttress ★★★ 5.11a
8) Giblet ★★★ 5.10d
9) Submission ★★★ 5.10d

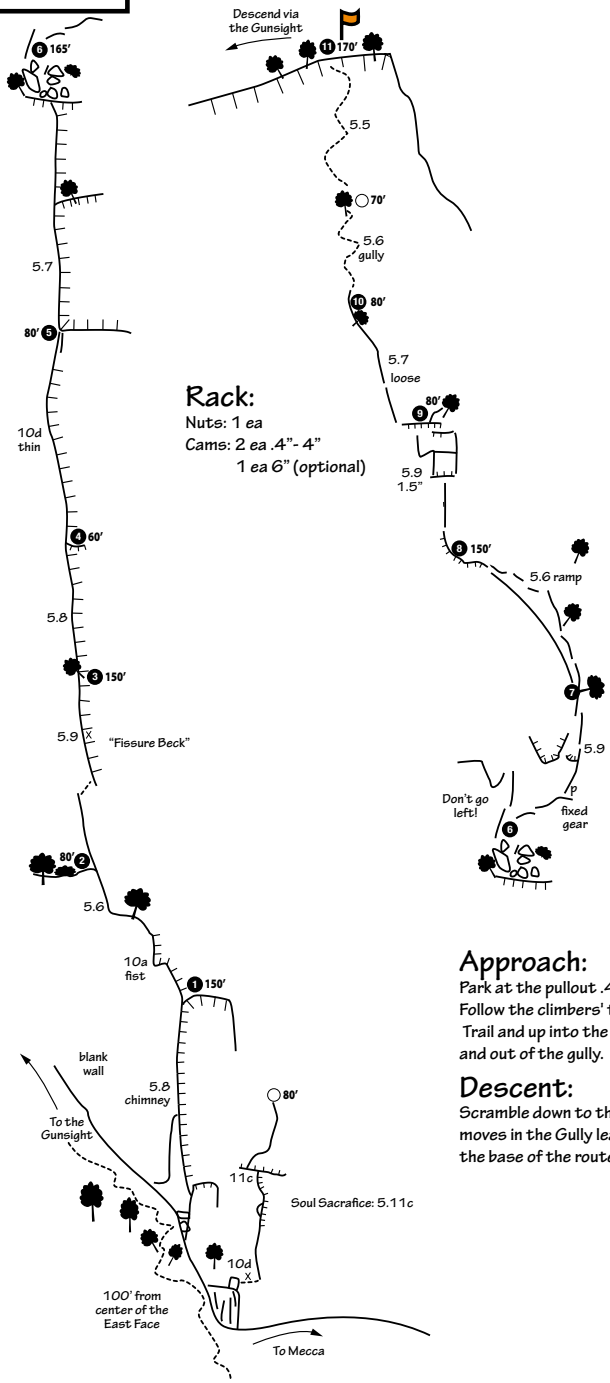
Photo: Ryan Kirtland



East Buttress IV 5.10d

FA: June 1956 - Mark Powell, Jerry Gallwas, Don Wilson
FFA: 1965 - Steve Thompson, Chris Fredericks

East Buttress is soft for 10d, with just one short crux section. That said, this is a scrappier climb, where even the easier pitches can be sustained, have circuitous route finding, and /or loose rock. An awesome adventure!



Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .4"- 4"
1 ea 6" (optional)

Approach:

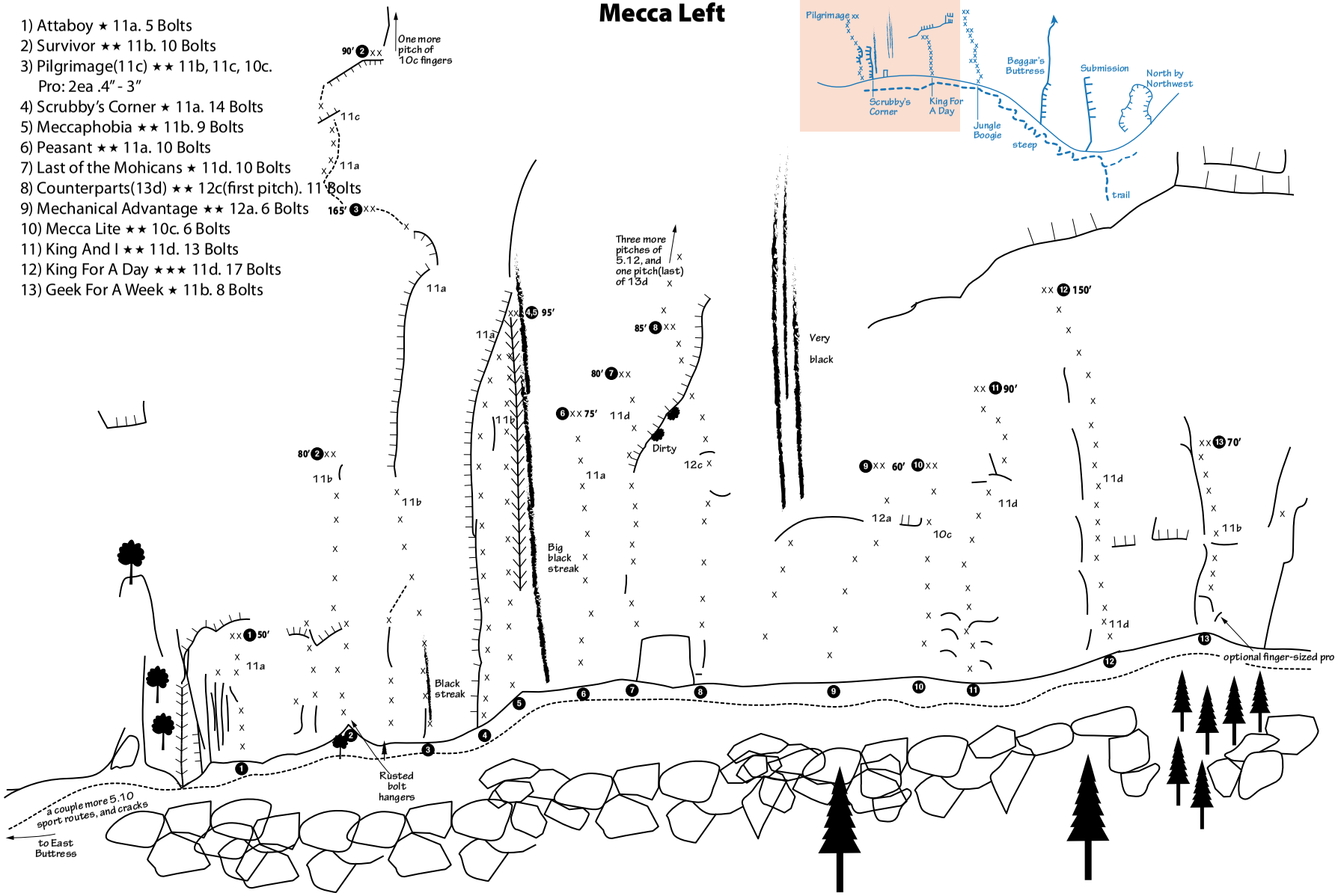
Park at the pullout .4 miles past Bridalveil Straight. Follow the climbers' trail which crosses the Valley Loop Trail and up into the Gunsight Gully. The trail weaves in and out of the gully.

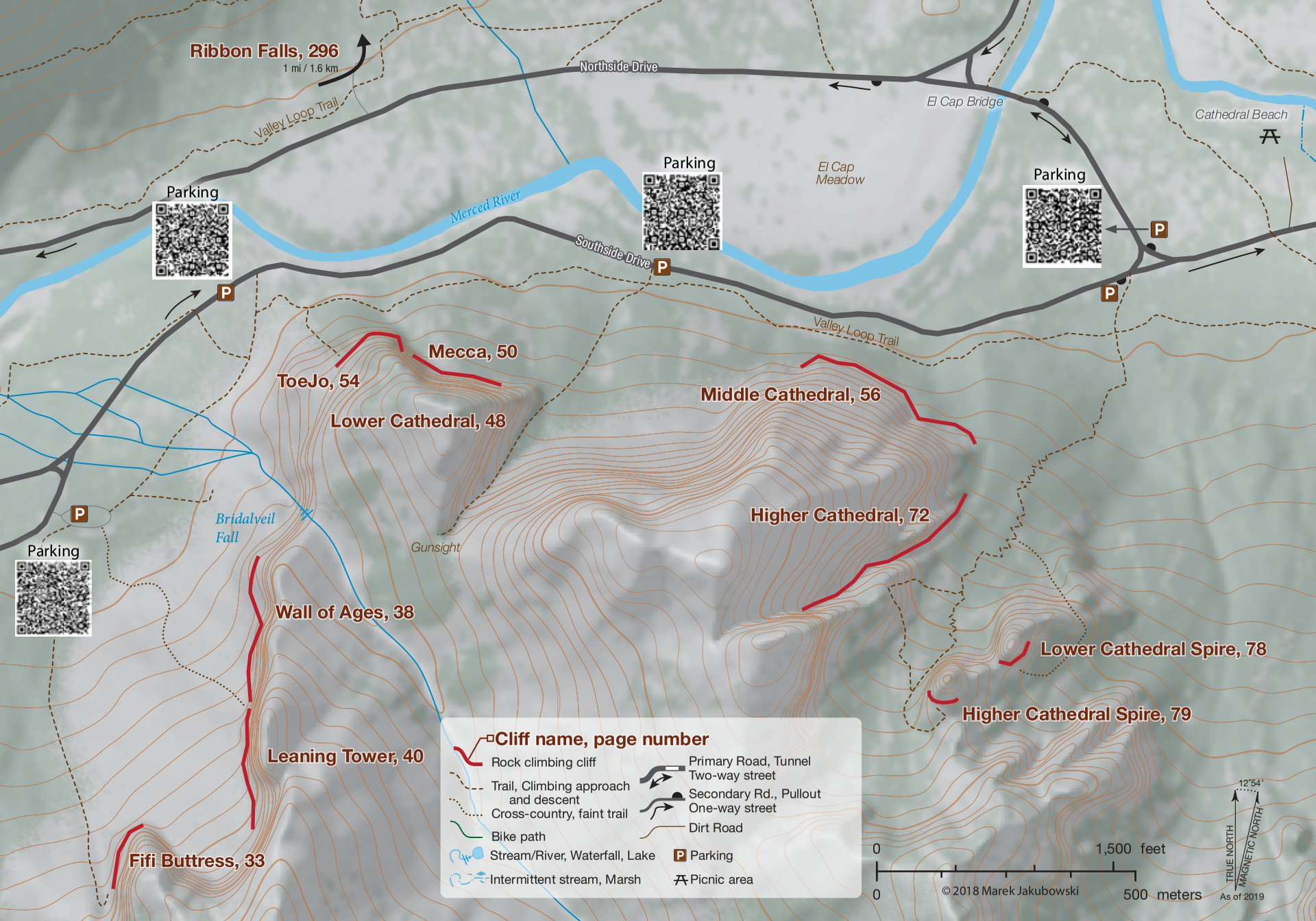
Descent:

Scramble down to the Gunsight Gully. A few low fifth class moves in the Gully lead to easy hiking, and bring you back to the base of the route.

Mecca Left

1) Attaboy ★ 11a. 5 Bolts
2) Survivor ★★ 11b. 10 Bolts
3) Pilgrimage(11c) ★★ 11b, 11c, 10c.
   Pro: 2ea .4" - 3"
4) Scrubby's Corner ★ 11a. 14 Bolts
5) Meccaphobia ★★ 11b. 9 Bolts
6) Peasant ★★ 11a. 10 Bolts
7) Last of the Mohicans ★ 11d. 10 Bolts
8) Counterparts(13d) ★★ 12c(first pitch). 11 Bolts
9) Mechanical Advantage ★★ 12a. 6 Bolts
10) Mecca Lite ★★ 10c. 6 Bolts
11) King And I ★★ 11d. 13 Bolts
12) King For A Day ★★★ 11d. 17 Bolts
13) Geek For A Week ★ 11b. 8 Bolts




Ribbon Falls, 296
1 mi / 1.6 km
Northside Drive
Valley Loop Trail
El Cap Bridge
Cathedral Beach
Parking
Parking
Parking
El Cap Meadow
Merced River
Southside Drive
Valley Loop Trail
Mecca, 50
ToeJo, 54
Lower Cathedral, 48
Middle Cathedral, 56
Higher Cathedral, 72
Bridalveil Fall
Gunsight
Parking
Wall of Ages, 38
Lower Cathedral Spire, 78
Higher Cathedral Spire, 79
Leaning Tower, 40
Fifi Buttress, 33
Cliff name, page number
Rock climbing cliff
Trail, Climbing approach and descent
Cross-country, faint trail
Bike path
Stream/River, Waterfall, Lake
Intermittent stream, Marsh
Primary Road, Tunnel
Two-way street
Secondary Rd., Pullout
One-way street
Dirt Road
Parking
Picnic area
0
1,500 feet
0
500 meters
© 2018 Marek Jakubowski
12°54'
TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
As of 2019

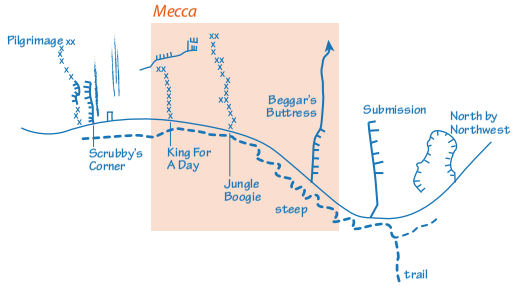
Mecca

Approach:

15 - 25 Minutes.

Park on the long straightway in front of Bridalveil Fall (not in the Bridalveil Fall parking lot! - Park on Southside Drive where there is parking on both sides of the street). Walk east until you get to the last trail to Briadalveil before the parking ends. Take this trail a hundred feet and then turn left onto the Valley Loop Trail. Follow this trail for five minutes until the trail has come closest to the cliff, and there are many boulders and talus around the trail. Look for a cairn which marks the short approach trail to the cliff.(there is also a distinct boulder with a huge pine tree growing out of it (see map) right above the start of the trail). When you reach the cliff (a few minutes), hike left and up a couple hundred feet.

Mecca is one of the few sport climbing area in Yosemite Valley. Many of these routes are pure/smooth slab.



1) Mechanical Advantage ★★ 12a. 6 Bolts
2) Mecca Lite ★★ 10c. 6 Bolts
3) King And I ★★ 11d. 13 Bolts
4) King For A Day ★★★ 11d. 17 Bolts
5) Geek For A Week ★ 11b. 8 Bolts
6) No Way 11d.
7) Hooligans ★ 12a. 7 Bolts
8) Jungle Boogie(11c) ★★ 10a, 11c, 5.8.
9) Superstition ★★★ 12d. 9 Bolts
10) A Trick of the Tail ★★★ 12c. 9 Bolts
11) Shock the Monkey ★★ 10c. 8 Bolts
12) Rock Monkey Rebellion ★★ 10d. 7 Bolts
13) Eye Of The Hurricane ★★ 11a. 8 Bolts
14) The Empire ★★★ 13a. 10 Bolts
15) Beggar's Buttress(1st and 2nd pitch) ★ 5.8.
16) Giblit ★★★ 10d. 7 Bolts
17) Velvet Elvis ★ 12a. 12 Bolts

Very black
60'
90'
150'
70'
50'
75'
open project
awesome white overhangs
cave
ramp
route missing because of rockfall
dirty crack
bent, rusted, bolt hanger
Bright white rock
House sized boulder
old rope
Beggars Buttress five more pitches - topo on following pages
100'
5.8 loose
fist
11a
"Tidbit" fingers
5.8 flare
80'
70'
100'
11b var.
Toejo
"Sub-Mission"
"The Mission"

Beggar's Buttress IV 5.11c

FA: May, 1976 - Kevin Worrall, Mark Chapman

Approach:

15 - 25 Minutes.
Park on the long straightway in front of Bridalveil Fall (not in the Bridalveil Fall parking lot! - Park on Southside Drive where there is parking on both sides of the street). Walk east until you get to the last trail to Briadalveil before the parking ends. Take this trail a hundred feet and then turn left onto the Valley Loop Trail. Follow this trail for five minutes until the trail has come closest to the cliff, and there are many boulders and talus around the trail. Look for a cairn which marks the short approach trail to the cliff. (there is also a distinct boulder with a huge pine tree growing out of it (see map) right above the start of the trail). When you reach the cliff (a few minutes), hike left and up a couple hundred feet to the base of the route.

Descent:

From the last belay, follow cairns to the southwest to a bolted rappel station. After four single-rope rappels (two bolted and two tree anchors) you will be at the start of the Overhang Bypass route, a short scramble from the base.

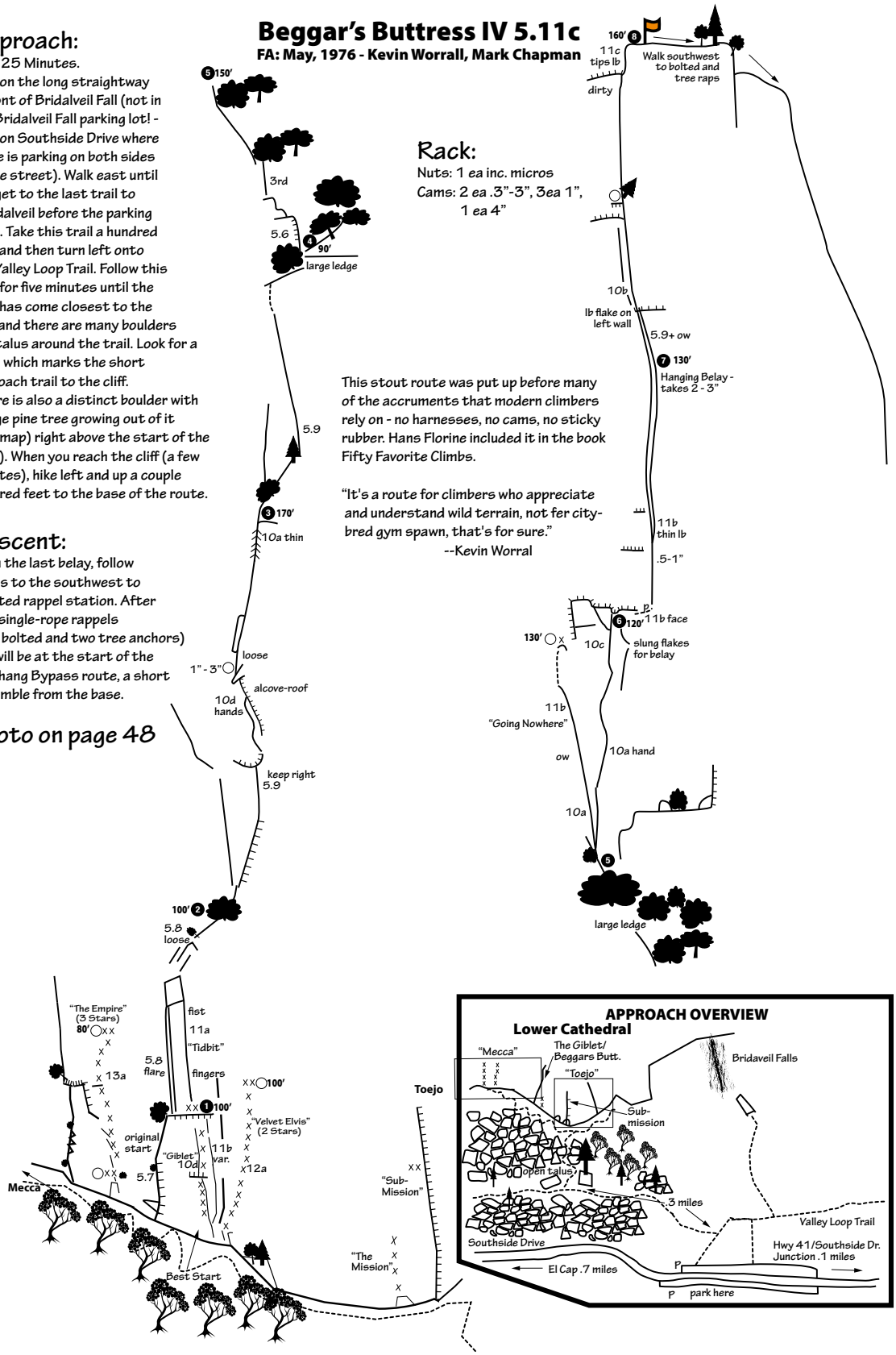
Photo on page 48

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea inc. micros
Cams: 2 ea .3"-3", 3ea 1", 1 ea 4"

This stout route was put up before many of the accruments that modern climbers rely on - no harnesses, no cams, no sticky rubber. Hans Florine included it in the book Fifty Favorite Climbs.

"It's a route for climbers who appreciate and understand wild terrain, not fer city-bred gym spawn, that's for sure."
--Kevin Worral



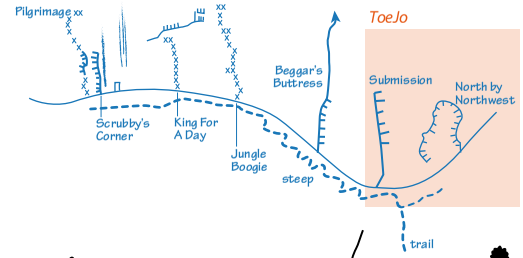
"The ToeJo" Toe of Lower Cathedral

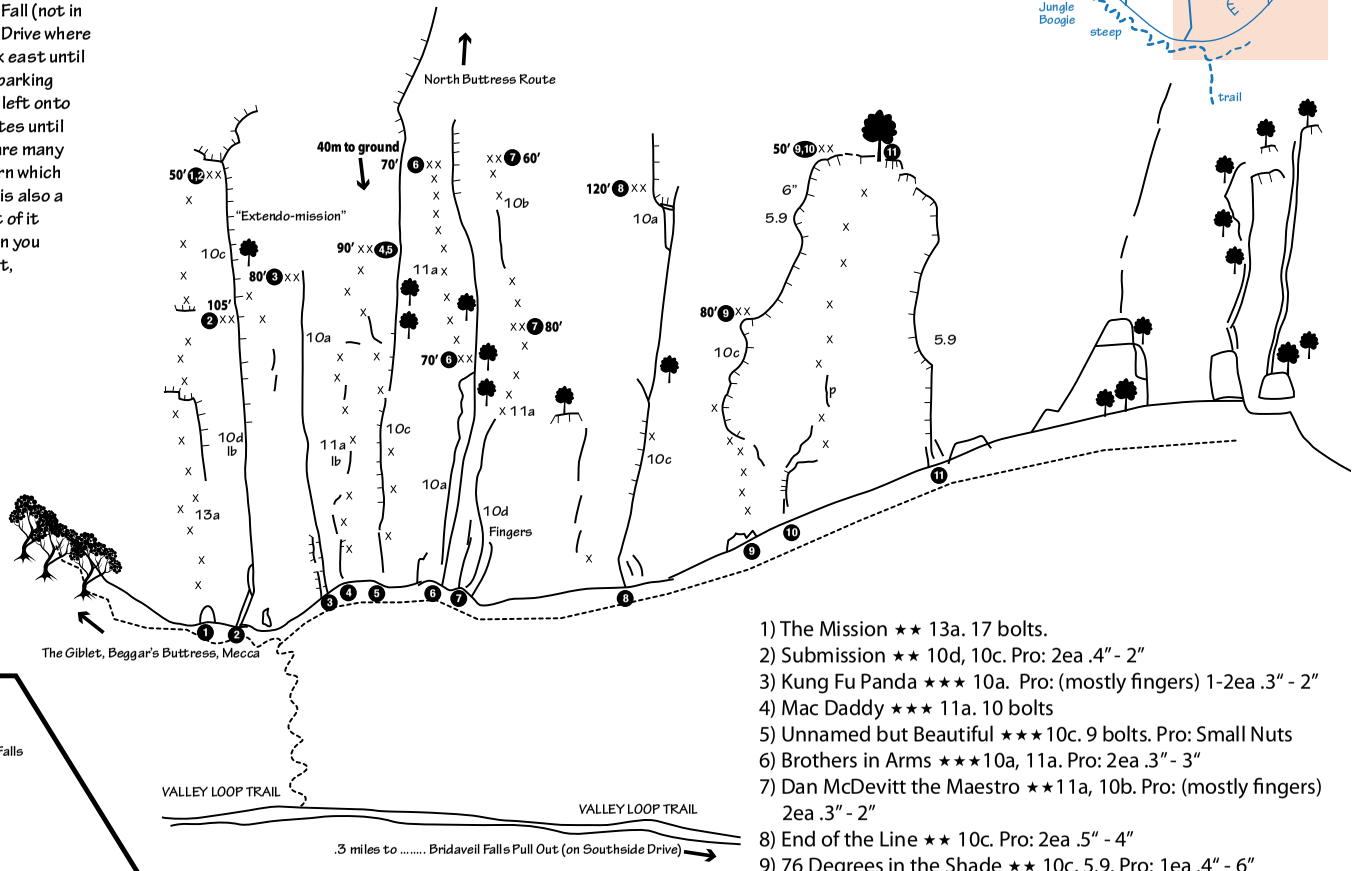
Approach:

15 - 20 Minutes.

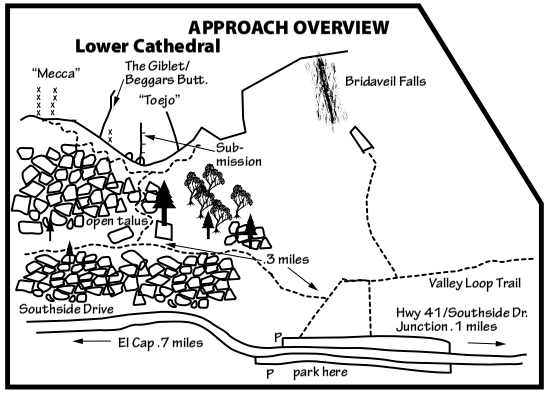
Park on the long straightway in front of Bridalveil Fall (not in the Bridalveil Fall parking lot! - Park on Southside Drive where there is parking on both sides of the street). Walk east until you get to the last trail to Briadalveil before the parking ends. Take this trail a hundred feet and then turn left onto the Valley Loop Trail. Follow this trail for five minutes until the trail has come closest to the cliff, and there are many boulders and talus around the trail. Look for a cairn which marks the short approach trail to the cliff.(there is also a distinct boulder with a huge pine tree growing out of it (see map) right above the start of the trail). When you reach the cliff (a few minutes), Toejo is to the right, Mecca is up and left.

Toejo is a shady, right by the road, crag with stellar moderate climbs on featured rock.





1) The Mission ★★ 13a. 17 bolts.
2) Submission ★★ 10d, 10c. Pro: 2ea .4" - 2"
3) Kung Fu Panda ★★★ 10a. Pro: (mostly fingers) 1-2ea .3" - 2"
4) Mac Daddy ★★★ 11a. 10 bolts
5) Unnamed but Beautiful ★★★10c. 9 bolts. Pro: Small Nuts
6) Brothers in Arms ★★★10a, 11a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"
7) Dan McDevitt the Maestro ★★11a, 10b. Pro: (mostly fingers) 2ea .3" - 2"
8) End of the Line ★★ 10c. Pro: 2ea .5" - 4"
9) 76 Degrees in the Shade ★★ 10c, 5.9. Pro: 1ea .4" - 6"
10) Compass Rose ★ 5.10.
11) North By Northwest ★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea 1" - 4"



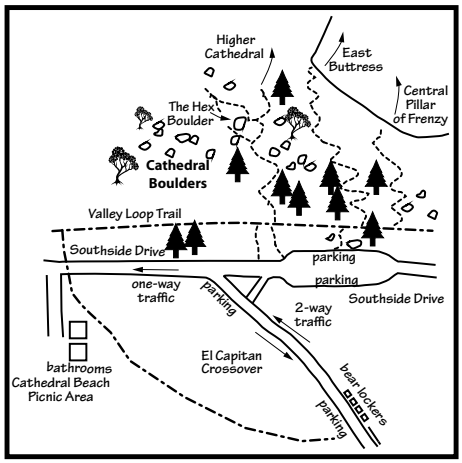
Chris Smalling on Unnamed But Beautiful, 5.10c
Photo: Samuel Crossley

Middle Cathedral

Middle Cathedral is the mellower cousin of El Cap, which sits directly across the Valley. It's so featured with flakes, ramps, and jugs that you often find yourself doing face climbing moves on the crack climbs. Still, there is much more loose rock than on other Valley formations, and the harder climbs tend to see less traffic, and can be runout. Climb carefully at this right-by-the-road, two thousand foot crag. *Central Pillar of Frenzy* (5.9), *East Buttress* (5.10c or 5.9 A0), *DNB* (5.11a R), *Border Country* (5.12c), and *Father Time* (5.13b) are the mega-classics.

Photo: Ryan Kirtland

Central Pillar Area



Central Pillar is a short approach, fingers to offwidth, crack testpiece. Slick rock on the first pitch, and a sustained nature, make this a stout, amazing climb. CP used to be nine pitches, but the upper pitches have lots of loose rock, so are no longer climbed.

Central Pillar of Frenzy III 5.9

FA: 1973. Jim Bridwell, Roger Breedlove, Ed Barry

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .4"-3"
1-2 ea 4"

Approach:

10 - 20 Minutes.
From the long pullout right below the cliff on the right side of Southside Drive (right before the El Capitan Crossover) follow a wide path slightly west for a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right, and continue until you are directly below the wall. A short trail leads up to a bear box, and the base.

Parking

Descent:

Rappel with two ropes down the Bircheff - Williams route. (folks who rappel the Central Pillar route often get their ropes stuck, because of the long splitter-crack nature of the climb).

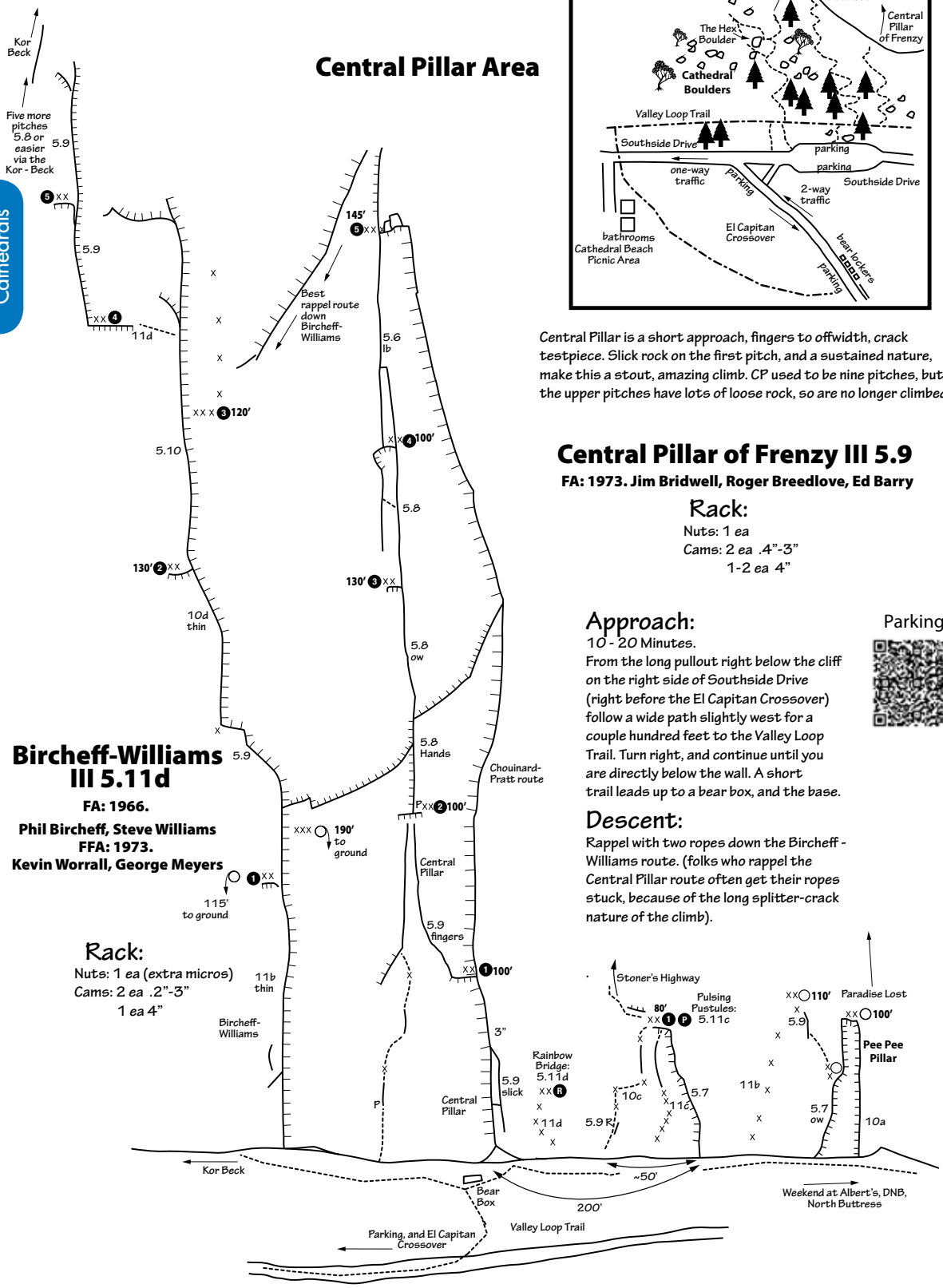
Bircheff-Williams III 5.11d

FA: 1966.

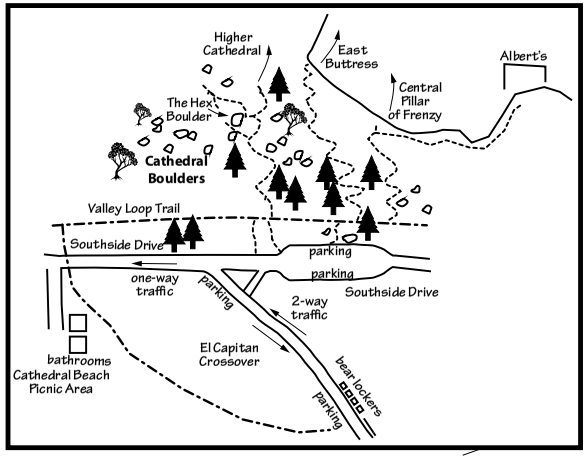
Phil Bircheff, Steve Williams
FFA: 1973.
Kevin Worrall, George Meyers

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea (extra micros)
Cams: 2 ea .2"-3"
1 ea 4"



Gara Villalba on Bircheff-Williams, 5.11d
Photo: Pep Soldevila



Weekend At Albert's

Weekend at Albert's is a shady, mixed trad and sport climbing area. The rock is a little less clean, so this area is a little less popular than Toejo or Mecca, but still very good.

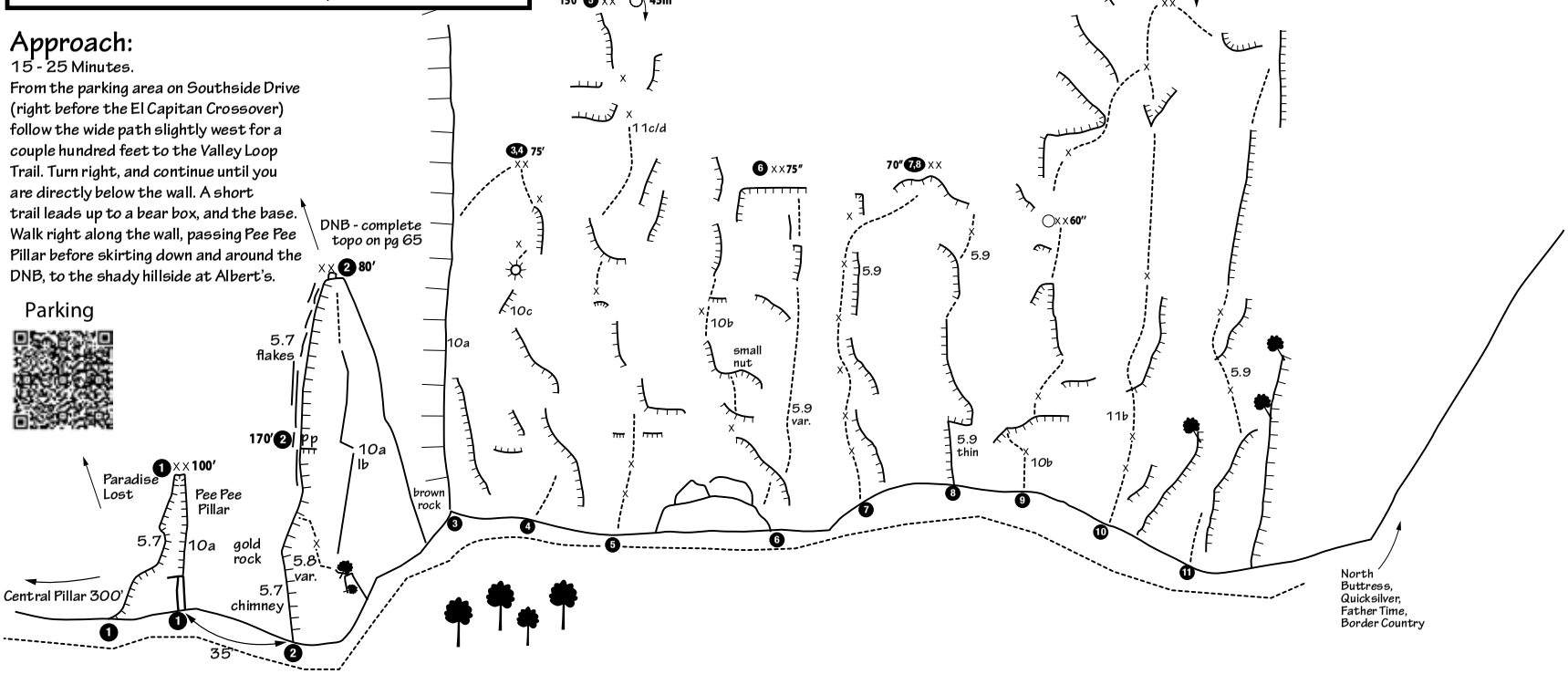
1) Pee Pee Pillar, Left ★ 5.7. Pro: 2ea .5" - 3"
1) Pee Pee Pillar, Right ★★ 10a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2"
2) Direct North Buttress(first pitch) ★ 5.7. Pro: 2ea .5" - 3"
3) Hater Albert 10a. Pro: 2ea .5" - 5"
4) Bunghole of the Universe ★ 10c. Pro: 1-2ea .3" - 1.5"
5) Monogamish ★★★ 11c/d. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.5"
6) Punny People ★★ 10b. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.5"
7) Slip on Slime ★★★ 5.9. 6 Bolts
8) Together Forever ★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.5"
9) Lap Lobster ★ 10b. Pro: 1-2ea .3" - 1.5"
10) Coffee Snob ★★ 11b. Pro: 1ea .3" - 1"
11) Scorpion Tale ★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"

Approach:

15 - 25 Minutes.

From the parking area on Southside Drive (right before the El Capitan Crossover) follow the wide path slightly west for a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right, and continue until you are directly below the wall. A short trail leads up to a bear box, and the base. Walk right along the wall, passing Pee Pee Pillar before skirting down and around the DNB, to the shady hillside at Albert's.

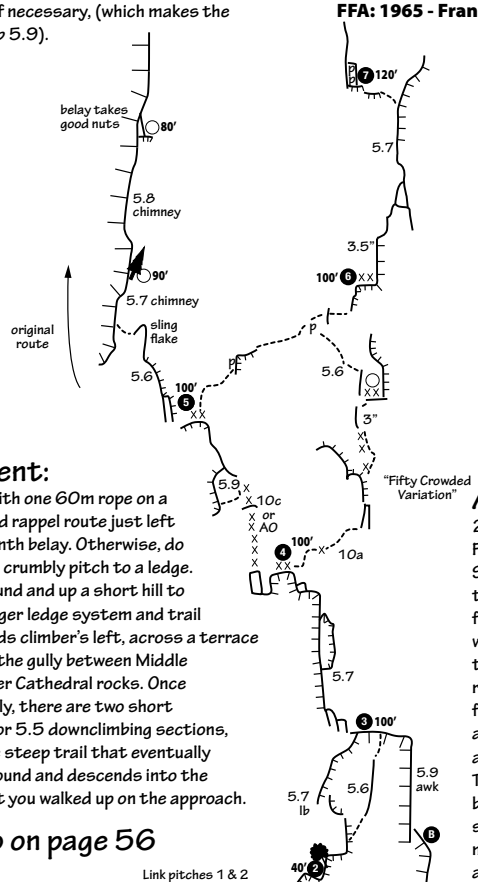
Parking



East Buttress is one of the more classic multi-pitch, moderate routes in Yosemite. Mostly 5.6 - 5.8, and with barely any wide cracks, East Buttress is incredible. The 5.10c pitch is closely bolted, so folks can just pull on the bolts if necessary, (which makes the whole climb 5.9).

East Buttress III 5.9 A0 or 5.10c

FA: 1954 - Warren Harding, Jack Davis, Bob Swift
FFA: 1965 - Frank Sacherer, Ed Leeper



Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .4"-4"

.

Parking

Descent:

Rappel with one 60m rope on a dedicated rappel route just left of the tenth belay. Otherwise, do one more crumbly pitch to a ledge. Walk around and up a short hill to gain a larger ledge system and trail that heads climber's left, across a terrace and into the gully between Middle and Higher Cathedral rocks. Once in the gully, there are two short rappels, or 5.5 downclimbing sections, and more steep trail that eventually winds around and descends into the gully that you walked up on the approach.

Photo on page 56

.

Approach:

25 - 45 Minutes.
From the long pullout on Southside Drive (right before the El Capitan Crossover) follow the wide path slightly west for a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right, and walk a couple hundred feet until you see a post with a carabiner, and the well defined approach trail leading up a gully. The approach to the East Buttress breaks out right from this gully, so look for cairns after 10 - 15 minutes in the gully, when you are almost to the wall.

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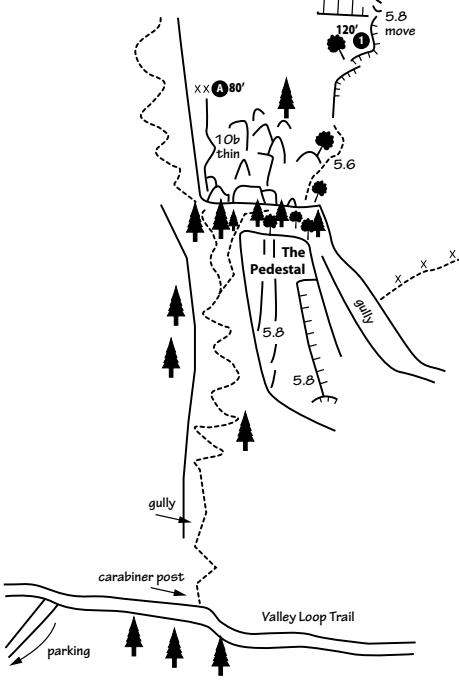
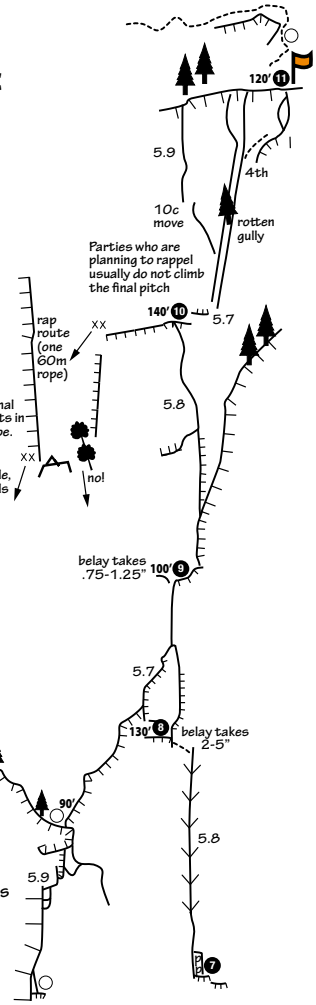
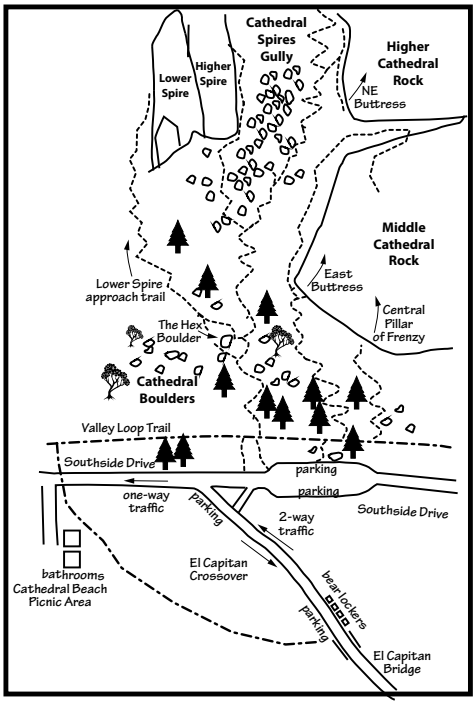


A: No Butts About It: 5.10b
B: Critical Path: 5.11a





Kor - Beck IV 5.9

FA: April 1963 - Layton Kor, Eric Beck
FFA: 1966 - Eric Beck, Mark Klemens

Approach:

10 - 20 Minutes.

From the parking area on Southside Drive (right before the El Capitan Crossover) follow the wide path slightly west for a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right, and continue until you are directly below the wall. A short trail leads up to a bear box, and the base of Central Pillar. Walk left along the base until the trail moves away from the wall because of a short cliff. Atop the cliff you come back to the wall a the U - shaped bowl. The climb starts up and right on a pedastol / ledge.

Parking

Descent:

Rappel with two ropes from the top of pitch five, or continue to the top and scramble left across the Kat Walk. The Kat Walk trail leads you into the gully between Middle and Higher Cathedrals, which has two short rappells or 5.5 downclimbing sections and a nice trail (snowy in winter / spring) that leads down and around, eventually bringing you back down the gully that has the approach trail for the East Buttress, to the Valley Loop Trail.

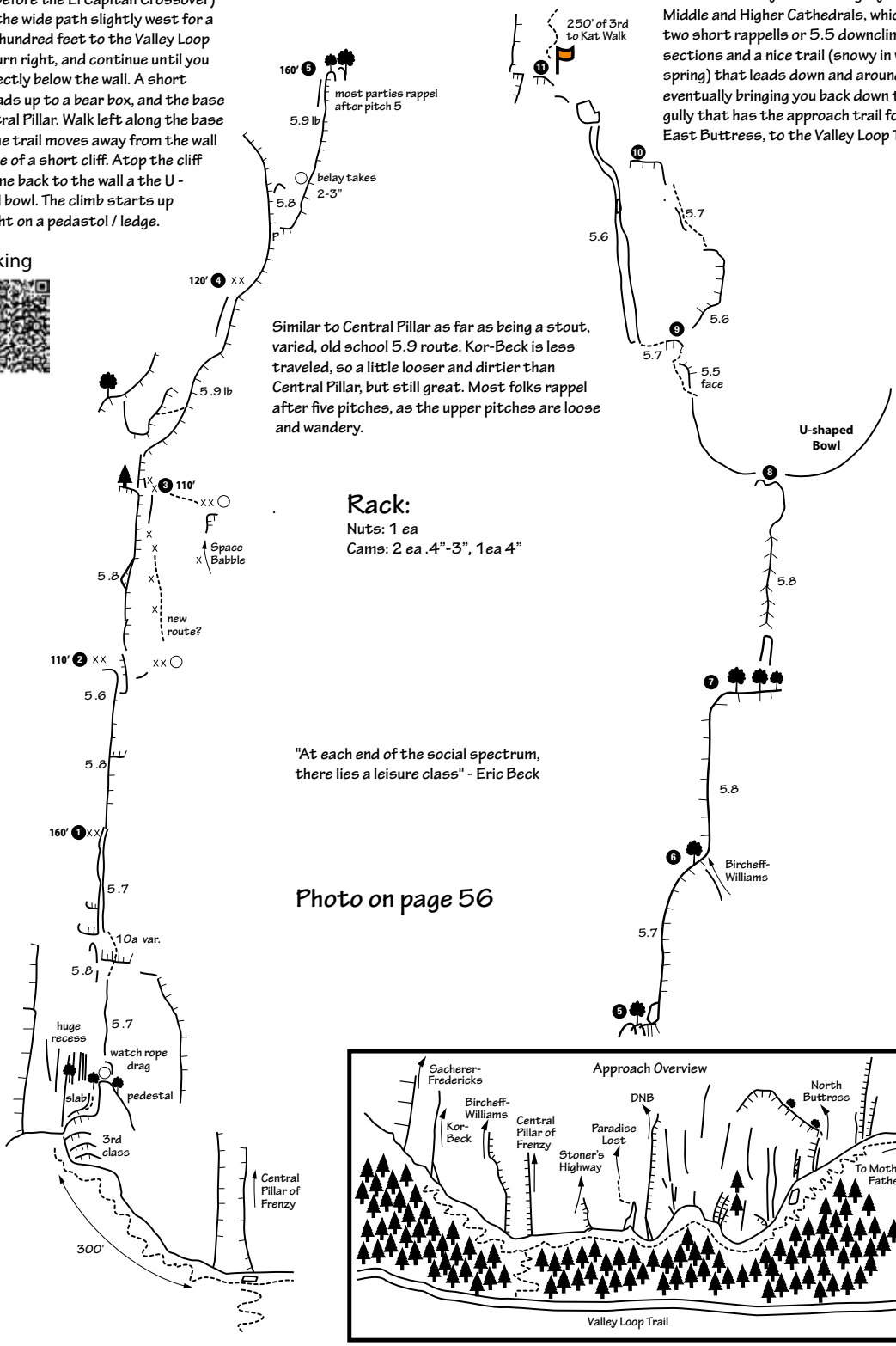
Similar to Central Pillar as far as being a stout, varied, old school 5.9 route. Kor-Beck is less traveled, so a little looser and dirtier than Central Pillar, but still great. Most folks rappel after five pitches, as the upper pitches are loose and wandery.

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .4"-3", 1 ea 4"

"At each end of the social spectrum, there lies a leisure class" - Eric Beck

Photo on page 56



Stoner's Highway IV 5.10c R

FA: 1973 - Kevin Worrall, John Long, Ed Barry, Peter Barton, Vern Clevenger

Stoner's Highway is a 5.10 testpiece, and is mega classic. Known for being circuitous, but never dangerously runnout (runnouts are on easier terrain), Stoner's has a little bit of everything.

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea micros
Cams: 2 ea .3"-.4" (offsets helpful)
1 ea .5"-2"

Parking

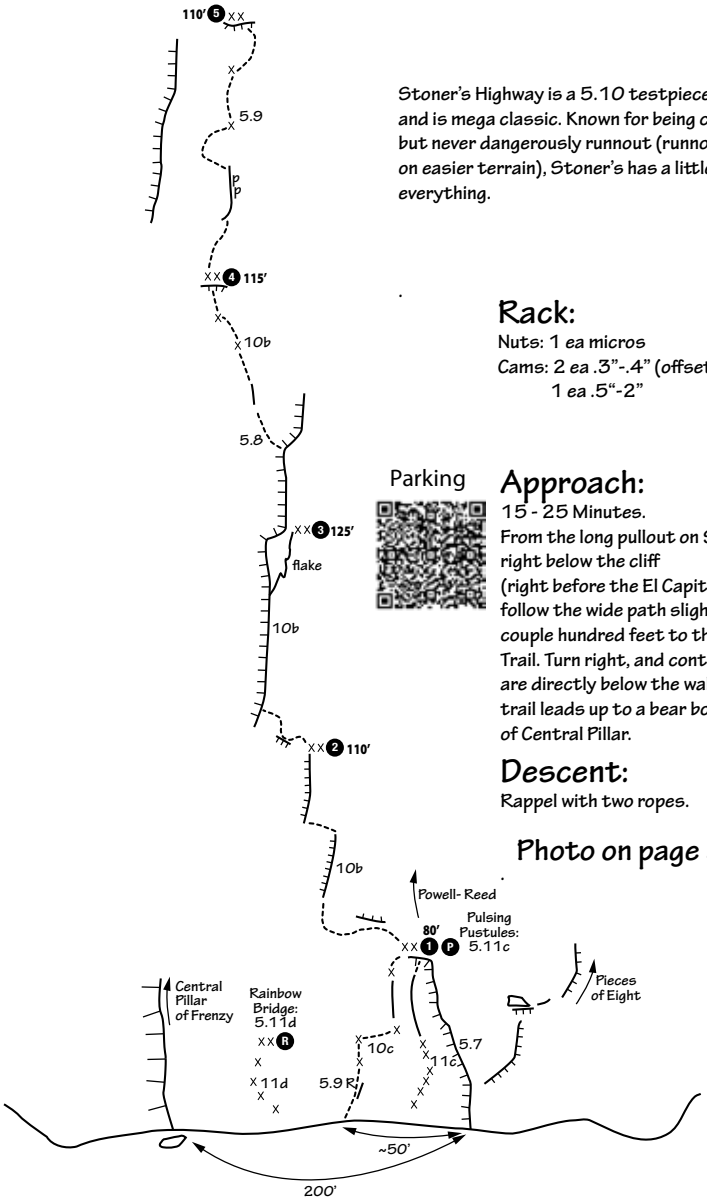
Approach:

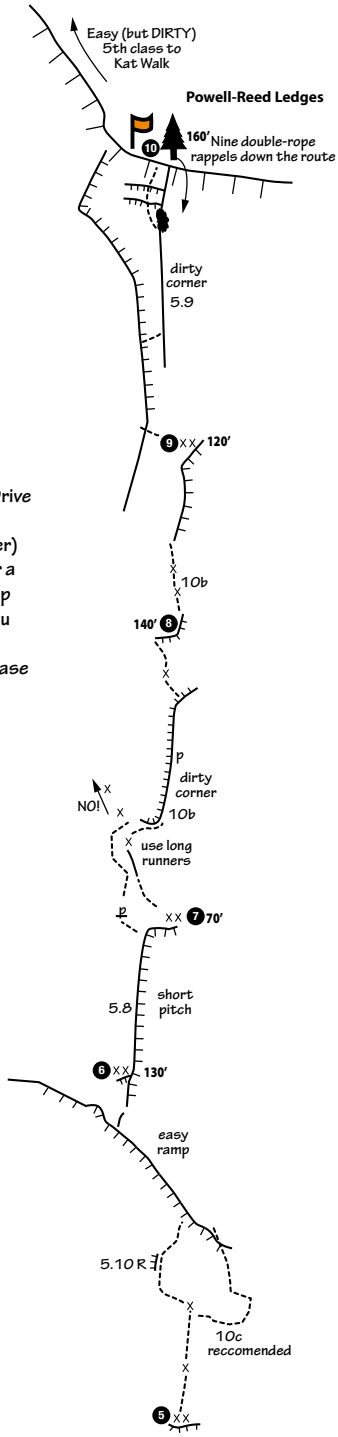
15 - 25 Minutes.
From the long pullout on Southside Drive right below the cliff (right before the El Capitan Crossover) follow the wide path slightly west for a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right, and continue until you are directly below the wall. A short trail leads up to a bear box, and the base of Central Pillar.

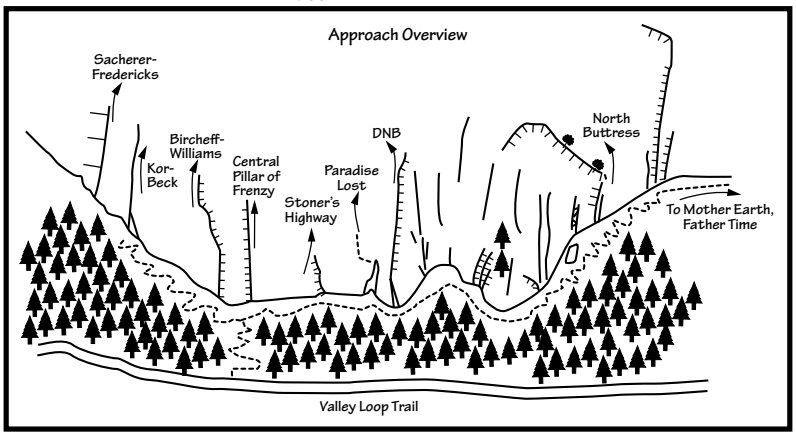
Descent:

Rappel with two ropes.

Photo on page 56







Paradise Lost is a mellower Stoner's Highway. Cool, and wandery, it is runnout enough to be a solid 5.10 climber's route. It's not for someone just breaking into the grade. Topping out can be a good way to practice the upper pitches of the DNB.

Paradise Lost IV 5.10a R

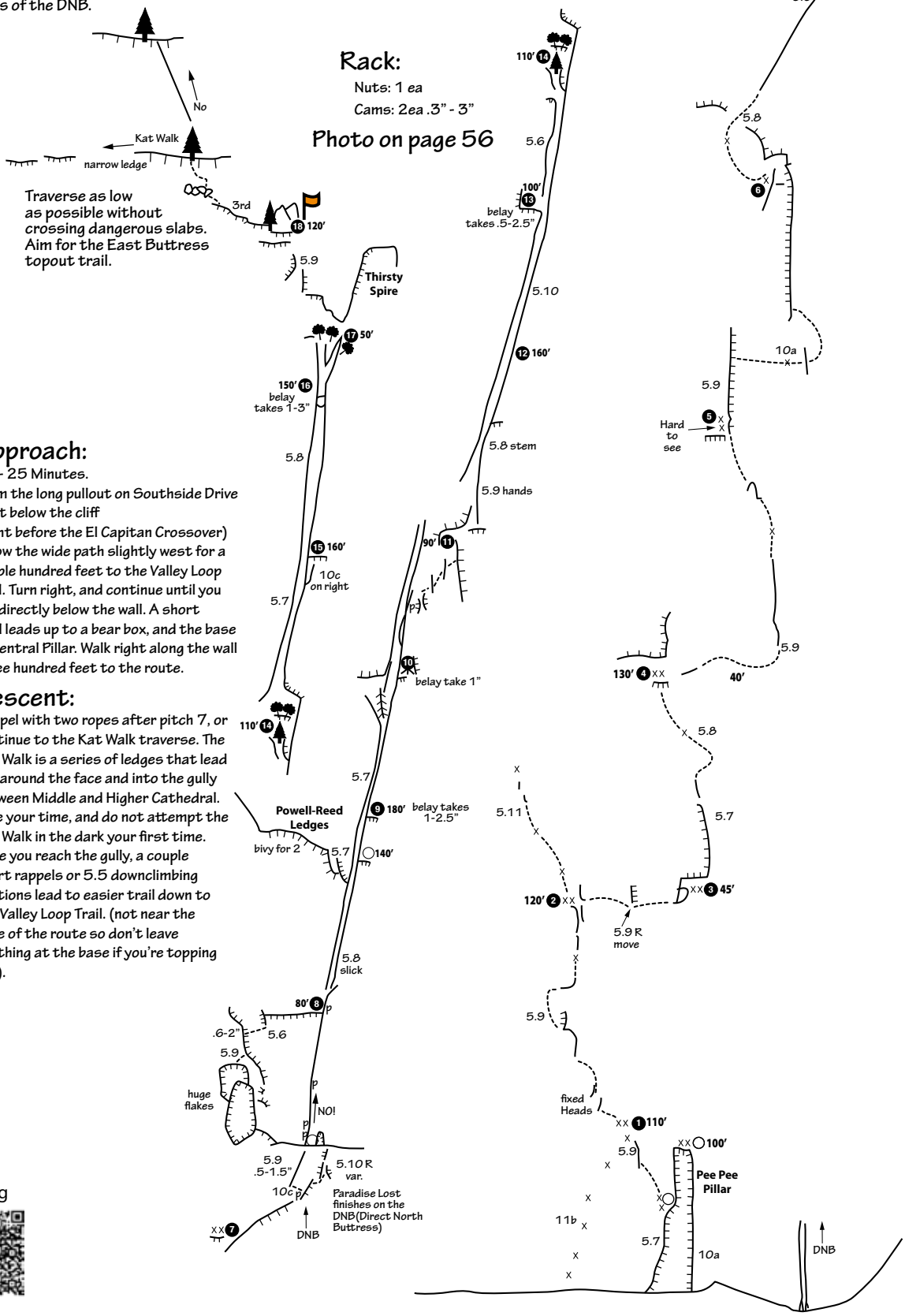
FA: June 1972. Ray Jardine, Rik Reider

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea

Cams: 2ea .3" - 3"

Photo on page 56



Approach:

15 - 25 Minutes.

From the long pullout on Southside Drive right below the cliff (right before the El Capitan Crossover) follow the wide path slightly west for a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right, and continue until you are directly below the wall. A short trail leads up to a bear box, and the base of Central Pillar. Walk right along the wall three hundred feet to the route.

Descent:

Rappel with two ropes after pitch 7, or continue to the Kat Walk traverse. The Kat Walk is a series of ledges that lead you around the face and into the gully between Middle and Higher Cathedral. Take your time, and do not attempt the Kat Walk in the dark your first time. Once you reach the gully, a couple short rappels or 5.5 downclimbing sections lead to easier trail down to the Valley Loop Trail. (not near the base of the route so don't leave anything at the base if you're topping out).

.

The DNB is a stellar, burly, Valley classic. The wandery / runnout climbing on the first half, the wide climbing on the second half, and the long, complicated descent make the DNB one of the hardest routes at it's grade.

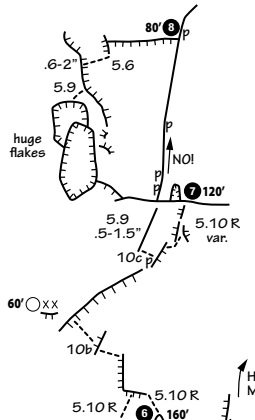
Direct North Buttress V 5.11a R

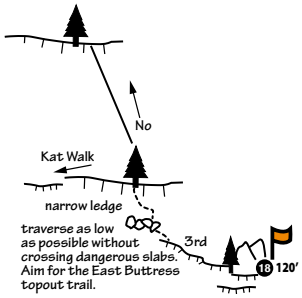
FA: June 1962 - Yvon Chouinard, Steve Roper
FFA: 1965 - Frank Sacherer, Eric Beck

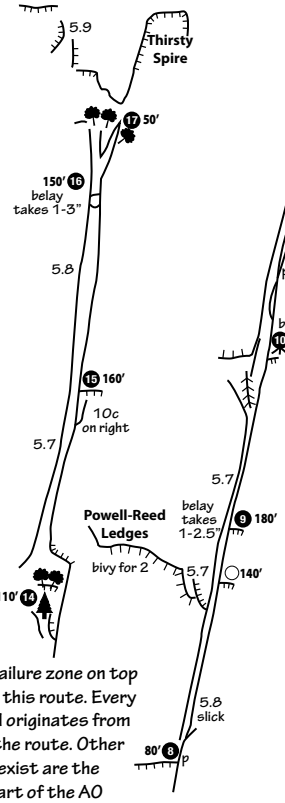
Rack:

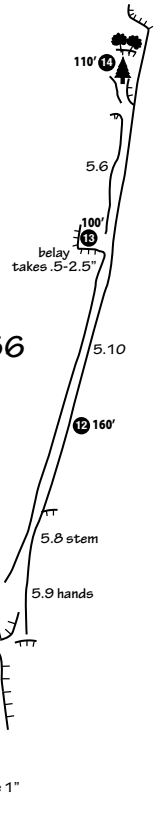
Nuts: 1 ea inc micro
Cams: 2 ea .3"-1"
1 ea 1.25"-5"
many long slings

Photo on page 56





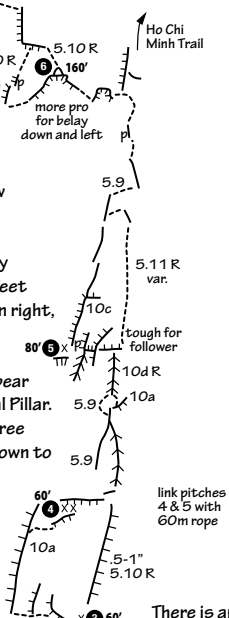




Approach:

15 - 25 Minutes.
From the long pullout on Southside Drive right below the cliff (right before the El Capitan Crossover) follow the wide path slightly west for a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right, and continue until you are directly below the wall. A short trail leads up to a bear box, and the base of Central Pillar. Walk right along the wall three hundred feet and slightly down to the base.

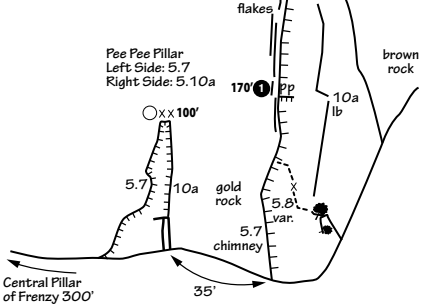
Parking

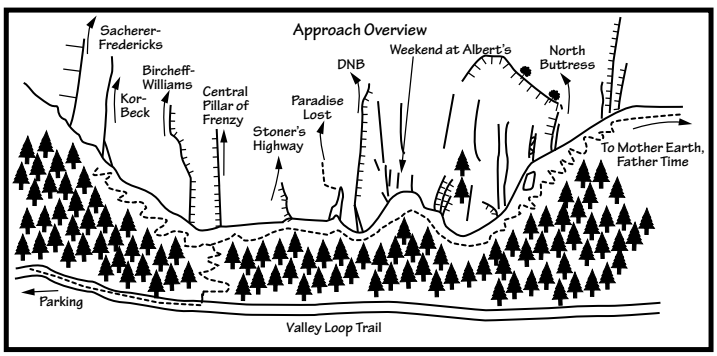


There is an evolving rock failure zone on top and slightly to the left of this route. Every few years, a small rockfall originates from this zone and falls down the route. Other places where such zones exist are the Rhombus Wall and the start of the AO Wall on El Cap.

Descent:

Rappel with two ropes after eight pitches, or continue to the Kat Walk traverse. The Kat Walk is a series of ledges that lead you around the face and into the gully between Middle and Higher Cathedral. Take your time, and do not attempt the Kat Walk in the dark your first time. Once you reach the gully, a couple short rappels or 5.5 downclimbing sections lead to easier trail down to the Valley Loop Trail. (not near the base of the route so don't leave anything at the base if you're topping out).

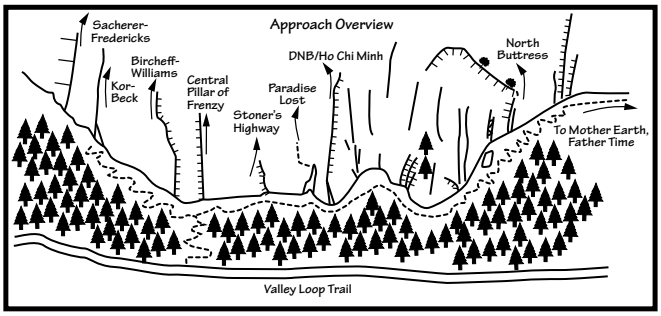




Ho Chi Minh is a more sustained, (but more loose / dirty), finish to the DNB, avoiding the notorious chimneys at the end of the DNB. Burly!

Ho Chi Minh Trail V 5.10c A0 or 5.11a

FA: May 1989 - Joel Ager, Clint Cummins



Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea inc micro
Cams: 2 ea .3"-1"
1 ea 1.25"-5"

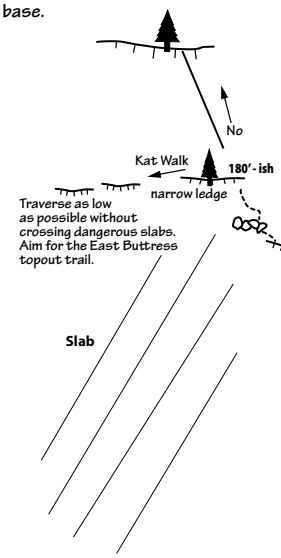
Photo on page 56

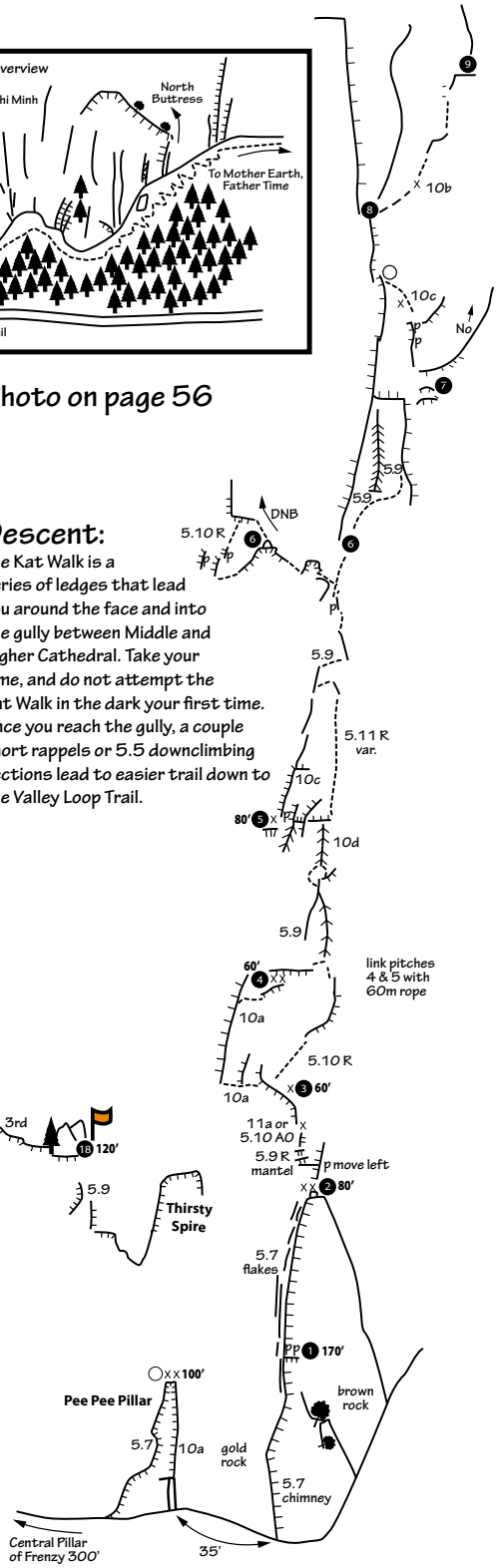
Approach:

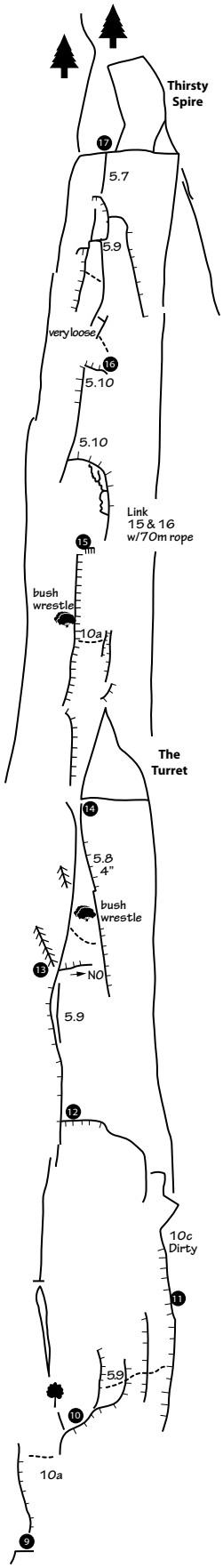
15 - 25 Minutes.
From the long pullout on Southside Drive right below the cliff (right before the El Capitan Crossover) follow the wide path slightly west for a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right, and continue until you are directly below the wall. A short trail leads up to a bear box, and the base of Central Pillar. Walk right along the wall three hundred feet and slightly down to the base.

Descent:

The Kat Walk is a series of ledges that lead you around the face and into the gully between Middle and Higher Cathedral. Take your time, and do not attempt the Kat Walk in the dark your first time. Once you reach the gully, a couple short rappels or 5.5 downclimbing sections lead to easier trail down to the Valley Loop Trail.







Parking

North Buttress IV 5.10a/b

FA: May 1954 - Warren Harding, Frank Traver, Craig Holden, John Whitmer
FFA: 1964 - Frank Sacherer, Jim Bridwell

The North Buttress is the scrappier cousin of the DNB. Though substantially easier, NB is a route for the solid 5.10 climber, not for the budding 5.10 leader. This climb requires many short, bouldery cruxes with plenty of wandery route finding. Start early!

Approach:

25 - 40 Minutes.
From the parking area on Southside Drive (right before the El Capitan Crossover) follow the wide path slightly west for a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right, and continue until you are directly below the wall. A short trail leads up to a bear box, and the base of Central Pillar. Walk right along the wall for five to ten minutes, including skirting down and around two buttresses (see map), to a series of short corners that lead to tree covered ledges, which is the start of the route.

.

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea inc. micros
Cams: 2 ea .3"-3"

Photo on page 56

Descent:

The Kat Walk is a series of ledges that lead you around the face and into the gully between Middle and Higher Cathedral. Take your time, and do not attempt the Kat Walk in the dark your first time. Once you reach the gully, a couple short rappels or 5.5 downclimbing sections lead to easier trail down to the Valley Loop Trail.

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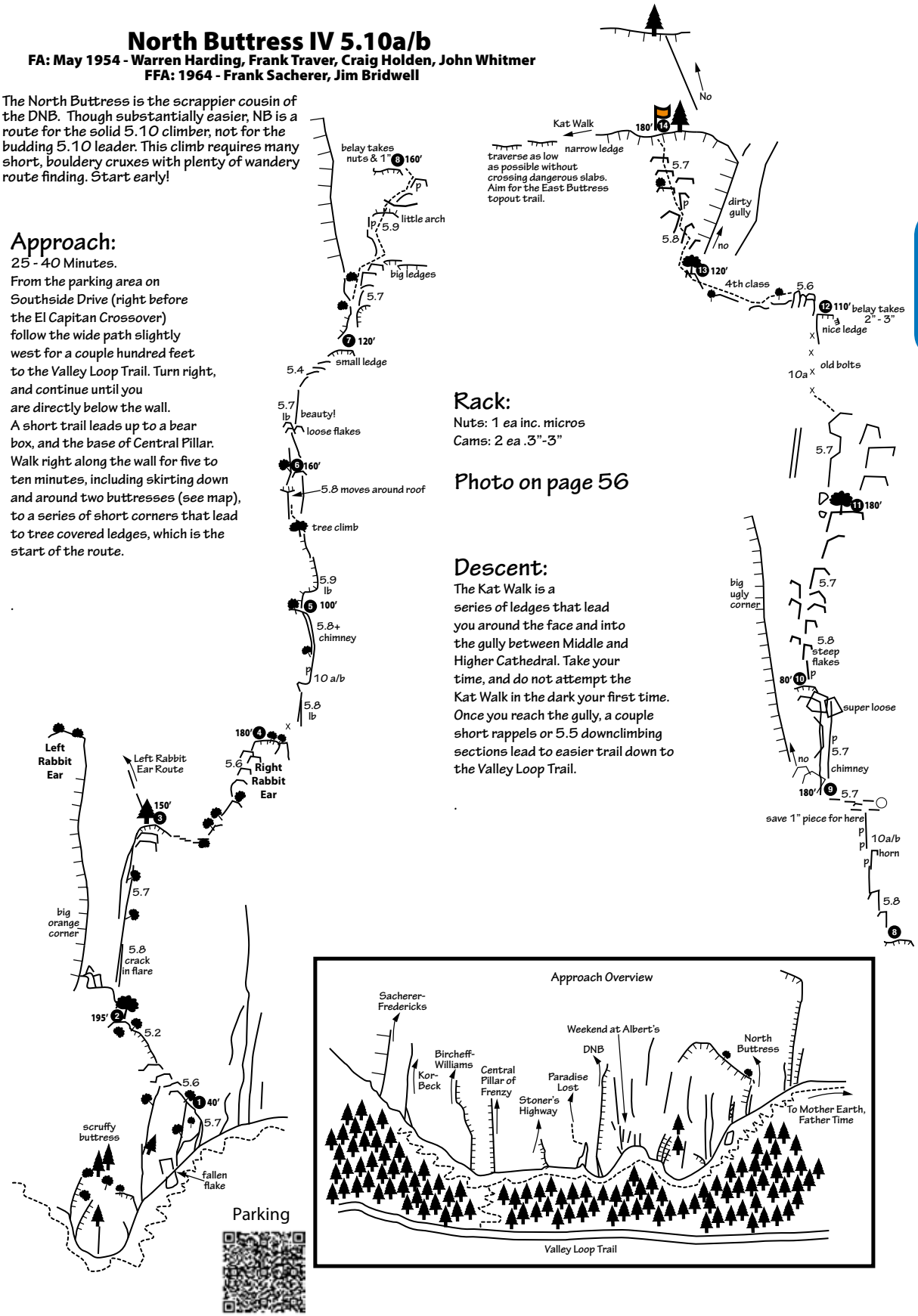
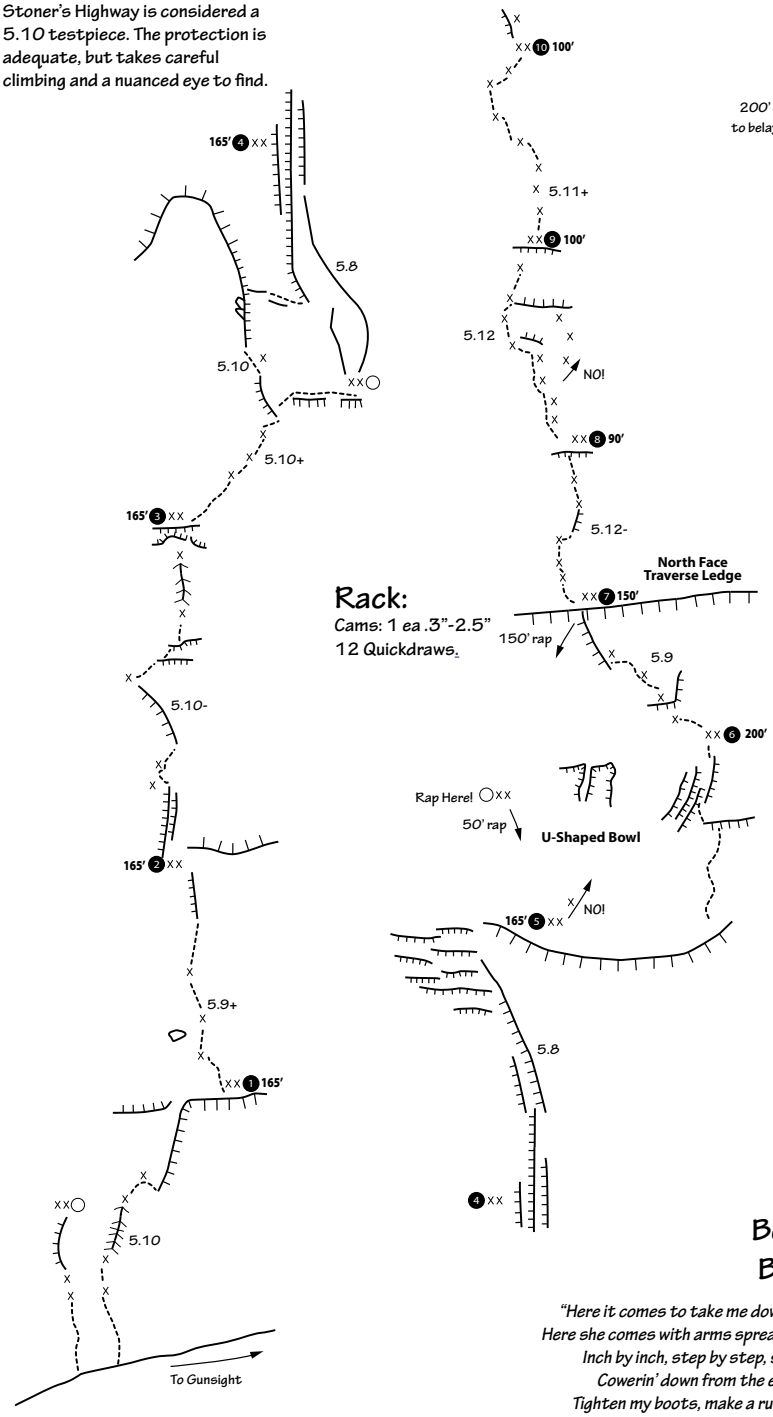


Border Country V 5.12

FA: September 2009 - Jeremy Collins, Dana Drummond, Mikey Schaefer

Border Country has become a 5.12 testpiece in the same vein that Stoner's Highway is considered a 5.10 testpiece. The protection is adequate, but takes careful climbing and a nuanced eye to find.



Rack:

Cams: 1 ea .3"-2.5"
12 Quickdraws.

Approach:

Park at the pullout .4 miles past the Bridalveil Falls straightaway on Southside Drive. Follow the climbers' trail which crosses the Valley Loop Trail and up into the Gunsight Gully. The trail weaves in and out of the gully.

Beyond the East Buttress of Lower Cathedral, the trail to Father Time and Mother Earth leaves the gully and heads east towards the North Face of Middle Cathedral.

Descent:

Rappel the route with two 60m ropes. Important: Rap from 7 to 5 by using the mid-pitch anchor, to the left. Otherwise you will not be able to pull your rope, or you will dislodge many loose blocks.

Photo on page 57

Jonny Copp and Micah Dash, beloved Yosemite climbers, were killed in an avalanche while climbing in China.

Border Country
By Jonny Copp

"Here it comes to take me down, take me down with a thunderin' sound.
Here she comes with arms spread wide, calling me back from border country.
Inch by inch, step by step, shadows are runnin' in both directions.
Cowerin' down from the echoing sounds bring us face to face.
Tighten my boots, make a run, turn to see that my thoughts untied,
Standing still in the blazing sun, nowhere to hide in Border Country.
Grabbin' at the earth, holding on tight, wishin' for my momma and my sweetheart's delight.
Pull out a pennywhistle, let the old man dance, buying my ticket outta border country."

Parking

James Lucas on Border Country, 5.12
Photo: Ben Ditto

Father Time VI 5.13b

FA: October 2012 - Mikey Schaefer et al.

Approach:

Park at the pullout .4 miles past the Bridalveil Falls straightaway on Southside Drive. Follow the climbers' trail which crosses the Valley Loop Trail and up into the Gunsight Gully. The trail weaves in and out of the gully.

Beyond the East Buttress of Lower Cathedral, the trail to Father Time and Mother Earth leaves the gully and heads east towards the North Face of Middle Cathedral.

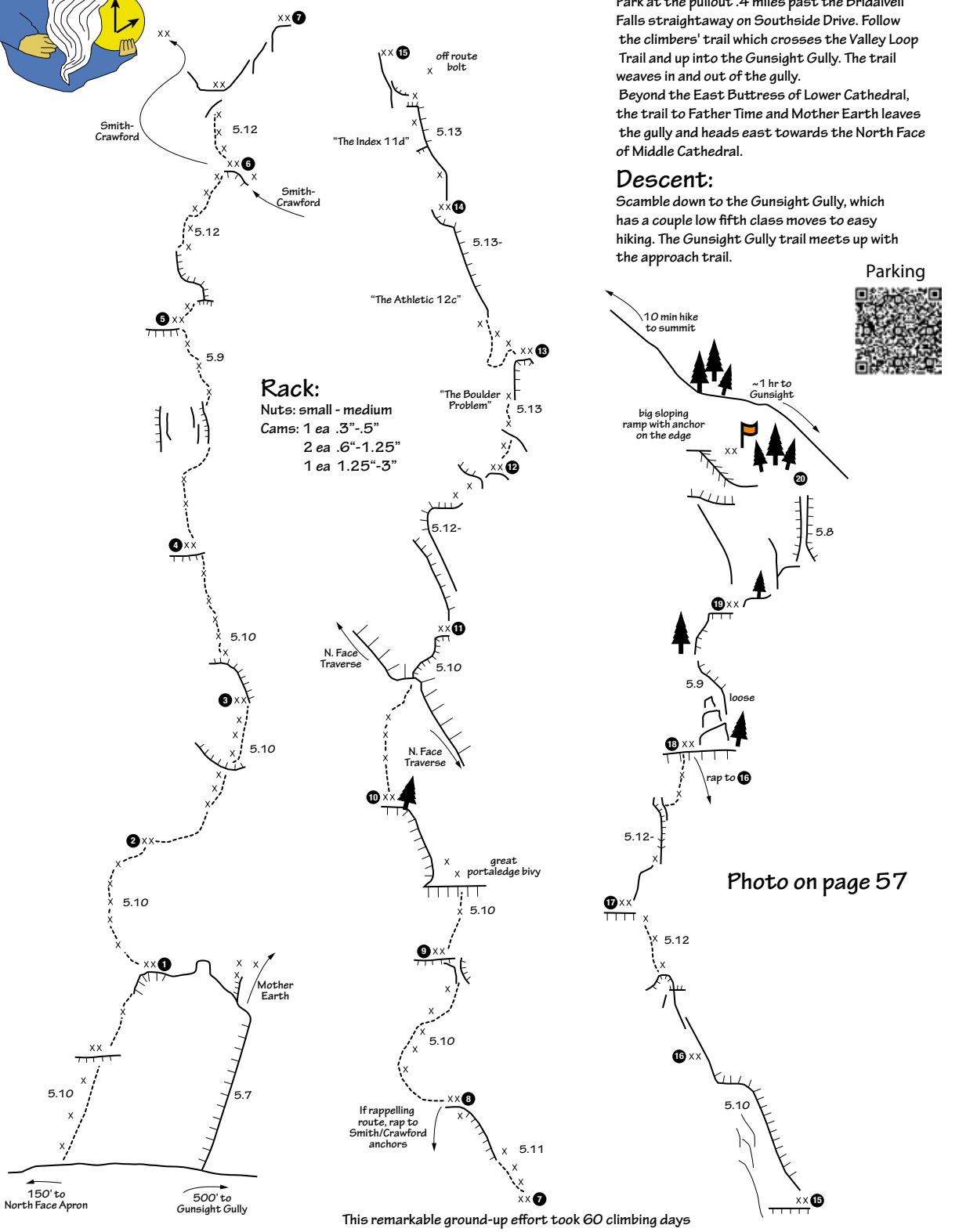
Descent:

Scamble down to the Gunsight Gully, which has a couple low fifth class moves to easy hiking. The Gunsight Gully trail meets up with the approach trail.

Parking

Rack:

Nuts: small - medium
Cams: 1 ea .3"-.5"
2 ea .6"-1.25"
1 ea 1.25"-3"



This remarkable ground-up effort took 60 climbing days spread over two years. It resulted in a modern test-piece that involves top notch face and crack-climbing.

Photo on page 57

Mikey Schaefer on his route Father Time, 5.13b
Photo: John Dickey

Higher Cathedral

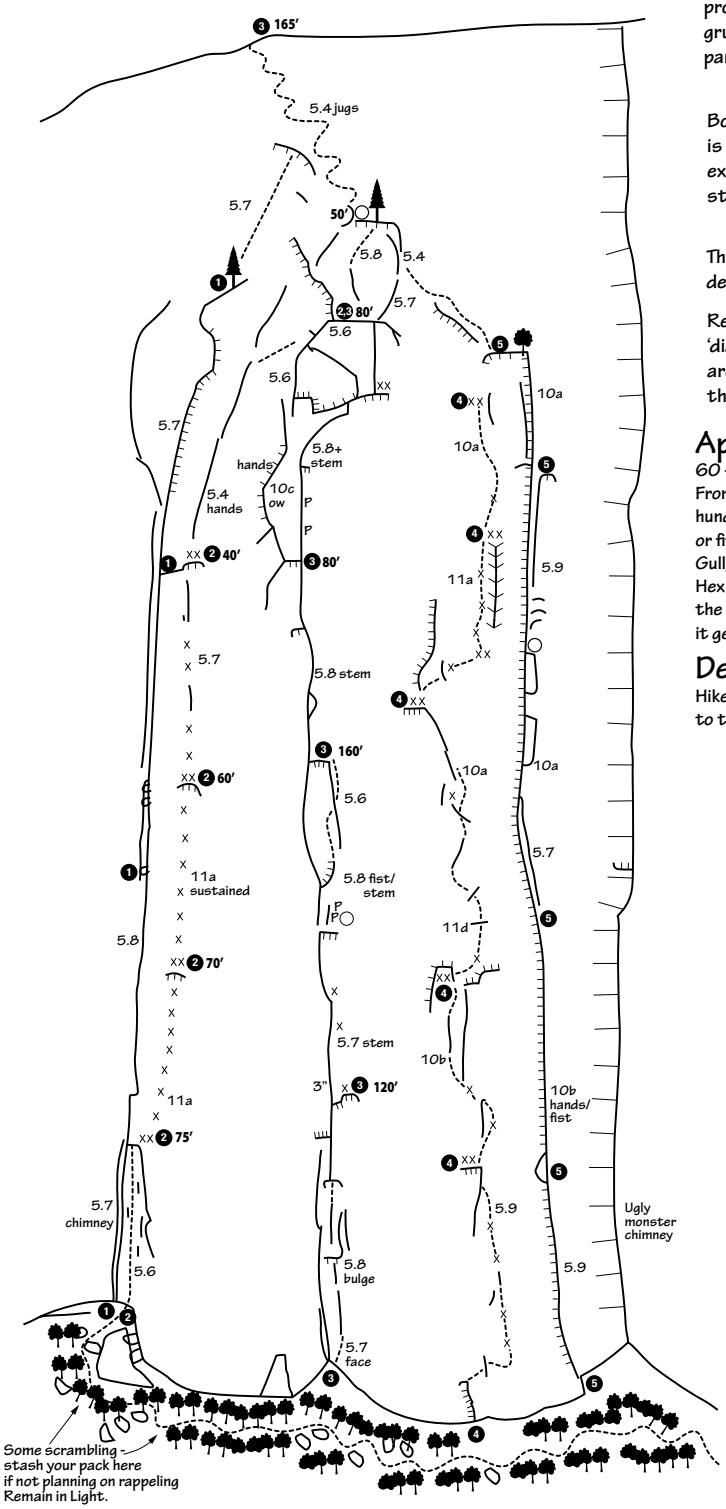
Higher Cathedral offers topnotch, multi-pitch trad and mixed routes. Nearly every route is a classic. The approach is stout, and the descent is not trivial, so start early and bring a headlamp.

1) The Sequel ★★ 5.8
2) Braille Book ★★★ 5.8+
3) Perfect Vision ★★ 5.11d
4) Book of Job ★★ 5.10b

Approach / Descent Info page 47

Photo: Lucas Barth

1) The Sequel ★★ 5.8. Pro: 2ea .5" - 4"
2) Remain in Light ★★ 11a. Pro: 1ea 1.5" - 3"
3) Braille Book ★★★ 5.8+. Pro: 1ea .5" - 2", 2ea 3"-4", 1ea 5"(optional)
4) Perfect Vision ★ 5.9, 10b,11d, 11a, 10a. Pro: 2ea .5" - 1.5"
5) Book of Job ★★★ 5.9, 10b, 10a, 5.8,10a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4", 1-2 ea 5"



Braille Book, super popular, is an old school 5.8 that combines super featured, glory/easy climbing with a couple slick, hard to protect wide sections. The cruxes are sections of stemming, with either fixed pins or small pro in thin cracks on the side walls. For most folks the grueling approach, and being slowed down by other parties on the route, make this a full day outing.

Book of Job, along with Chingando and Mental Block, is one of the 5.10 ow testpieces of the Valley. Splitter, exposed and wild, this climb has it all. (plenty of parties start up this route thinking they are on Braille Book).

The Sequel is a mostly a pure chimney climb, and is a decent backup plan if Braille Book is too crowded.

Remain in Light and Perfect Vision are old school, 'diamonds in the rough', sport climbs. Their positions are topnotch, and the protection is adequate, but there is still some loose and dirty rock.

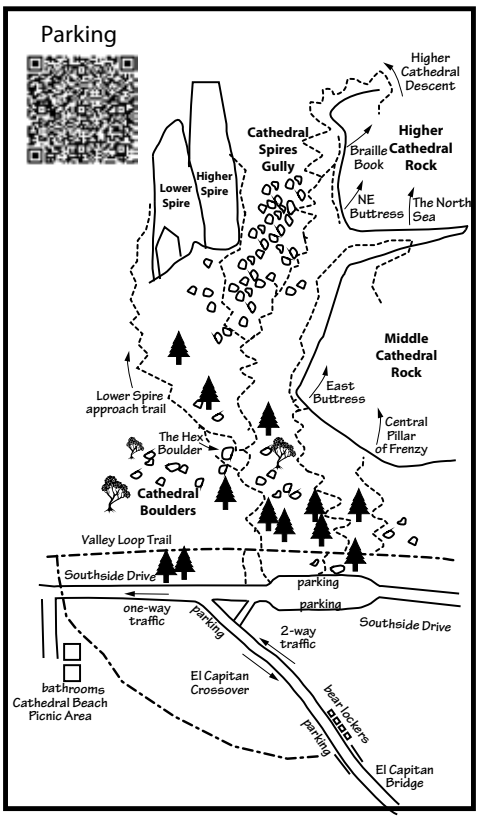
Approach: (See map on page 30)

60 - 90 minutes.

From El Capitan Crossover find a faint trail that leads a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right and walk just ten or fifty feet (depending on which trail you took) to the Spires Gully / Cathedral Boulders trail. Turn left and head up to the popular Hex Boulder. The Spires Gully trail continues up and right from the Hex Boulder. Good trail leads to right before the base, where it gets more overgrown and steep.

Descent:

Hike down the back side of the mountain, which leads back around to the base..



Higher Cathedral

1) Mary's Tears ★ 5.11b
2) Northeast Buttress ★★★ 5.9++
3) The Gravity Ceiling ★★★ 5.12c/d
4) The Crucifix ★★★ 5.12b
5) Power Point ★★★ 5.11d

Free route
Aid route
Trail

Approach / Descent Info page 47

Photo: Roger Putnam

Louis Müllerleile on the Crucifix, 5.12b
Photo: Michael Soucy

Northeast Buttress IV 5.9++
FA: June 1959 - Dick Long, Ray D'Arcy, Terry Traver
FFA: 1964 - Frank Sacherer, Jeff Dozier

Power Point IV 5.11d
FFA: 1986 - Werner Braun, Scott Cosgrove

Mary's Tears IV 5.11b
FA: May 1980 - Bill Price, Mike Borris

The Crucifix IV 5.12b
FA: 1973 - Jim Bridwell, Kevin Worall
FFA: 1985 - Peter Croft et al.
Gravity Ceiling FA: 2011. Cedar Wright, Lucho Rivera

Photo on page 74

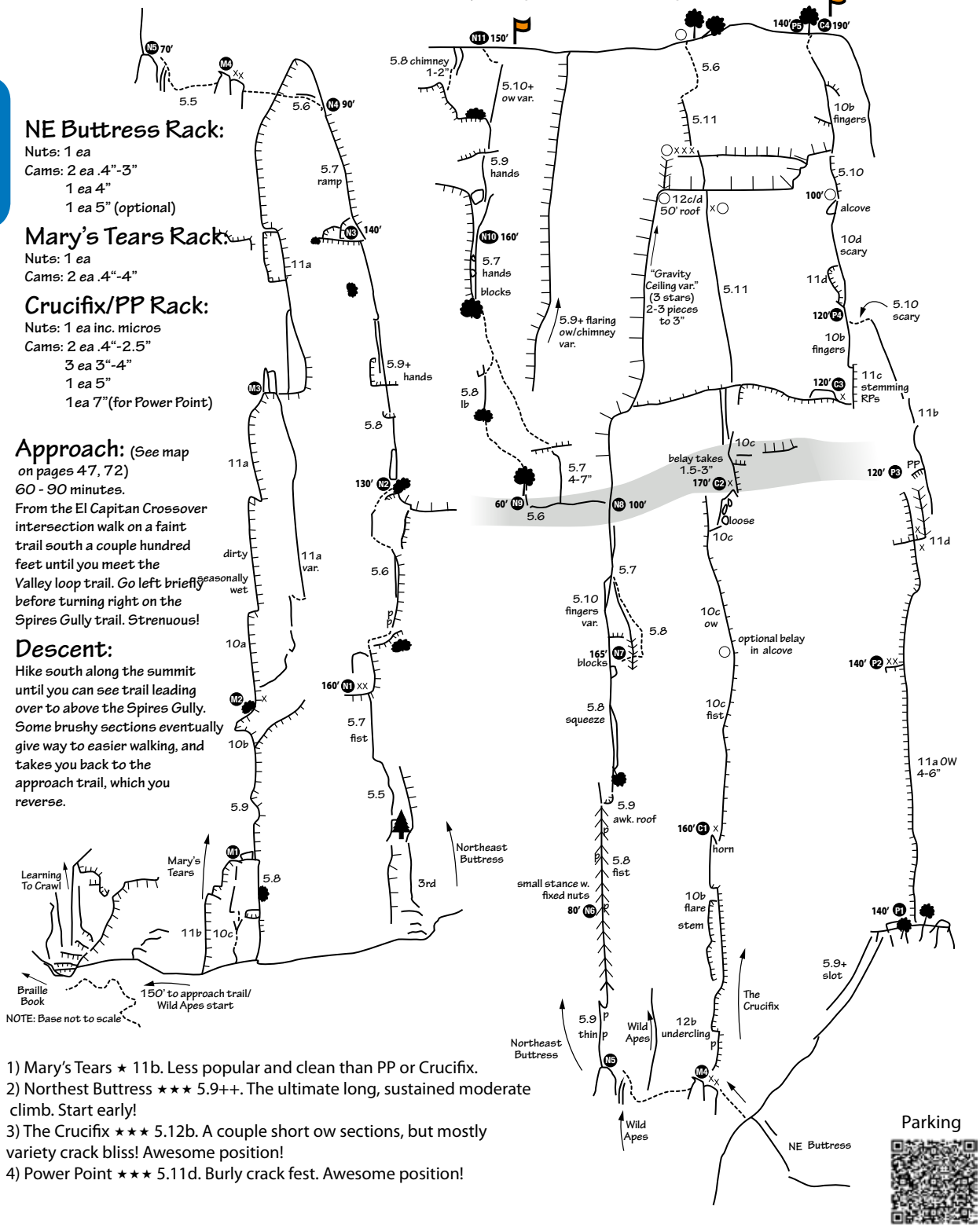
NE Buttress Rack:
Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .4"-3"
1 ea 4"
1 ea 5" (optional)

Mary's Tears Rack:
Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .4"-4"

Crucifix/PP Rack:
Nuts: 1 ea inc. micros
Cams: 2 ea .4"-2.5"
3 ea 3"-4"
1 ea 5"
1ea 7"(for Power Point)

Approach: (See map on pages 47, 72)
60 - 90 minutes.
From the El Capitan Crossover intersection walk on a faint trail south a couple hundred feet until you meet the Valley loop trail. Go left briefly before turning right on the Spires Gully trail. Strenuous!

Descent:
Hike south along the summit until you can see trail leading over to above the Spires Gully. Some brushy sections eventually give way to easier walking, and takes you back to the approach trail, which you reverse.



1) Mary's Tears ★ 11b. Less popular and clean than PP or Crucifix.
2) Northest Buttress ★★★ 5.9++. The ultimate long, sustained moderate climb. Start early!
3) The Crucifix ★★★ 5.12b. A couple short ow sections, but mostly variety crack bliss! Awesome position!
4) Power Point ★★★ 5.11d. Burly crack fest. Awesome position!

Parking

Cathedral Spires

The Cathedral Spires offer some of the best positioning of any climbs in the Valley. The climbing is featured and fun, though Lower Spire has more loose rock than Higher Spire. The Spires have the best summit views!

Approach / Descent Info page 47

Photo: Roger Putnam

South by Southwest III 5.10d

FA: 1973. Walt Shipley, Keith Reynolds

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2-3 ea .4"-2.5"
2 ea 3"

(A)Regular Route III 5.9+

FA: 1948. Roy Gorin, Paul Estes, Jerry Ganapole, Raffi Bedayn

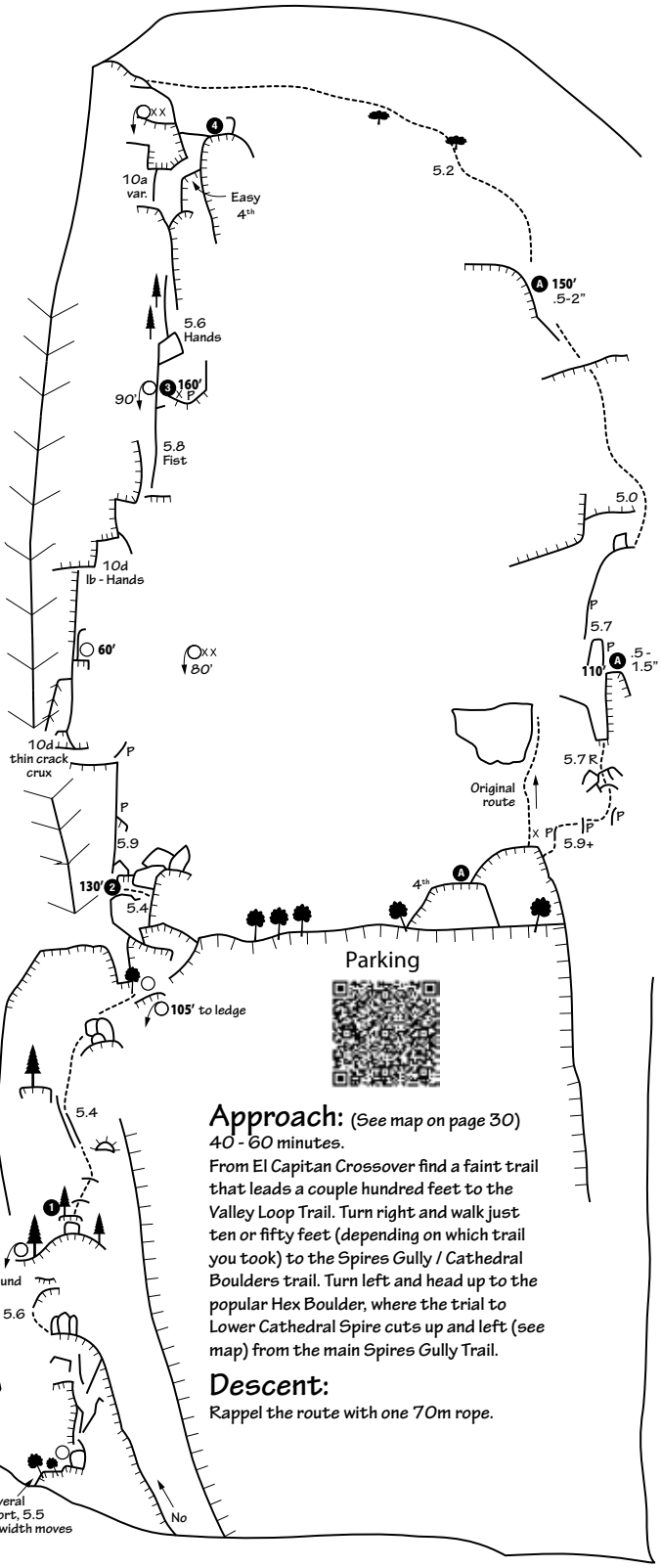
Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .4"-3"
1 ea 5"

Photo on page 77

Lower Cathedral Spire Regular Route is more of a peak bagger's route than a classic climb. Most folks climb it because they had so much fun climbing Higher Cathedral Spire that they want more. The Regular Route has plenty of loose rock and dubious protection, but few crowds and an amazing summit.

Previously rated 5.11a, South by Southwest is considered topnotch, and is touted as sustained 10d or possibly easy 11a. Steep and exposed, the cruxes are a couple short sections, with the majority of the climbing being well-protected 5.10. This route faces south, so can be hot. In winter (or early season), the first couple approach pitches can be damp.

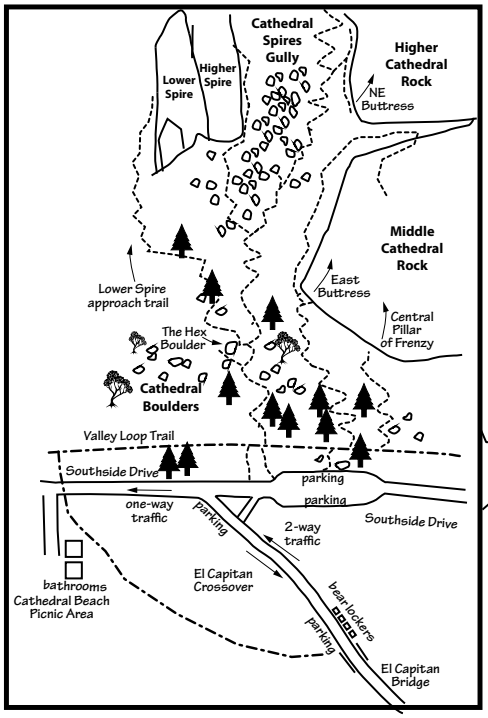


Approach: (See map on page 30)

40 - 60 minutes.
From El Capitan Crossover find a faint trail that leads a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right and walk just ten or fifty feet (depending on which trail you took) to the Spires Gully / Cathedral Boulders trail. Turn right and head up to the popular Hex Boulder, where the trial to Lower Cathedral Spire cuts up and left (see map) from the main Spires Gully Trail.

Descent:

Rappel the route with one 70m rope.

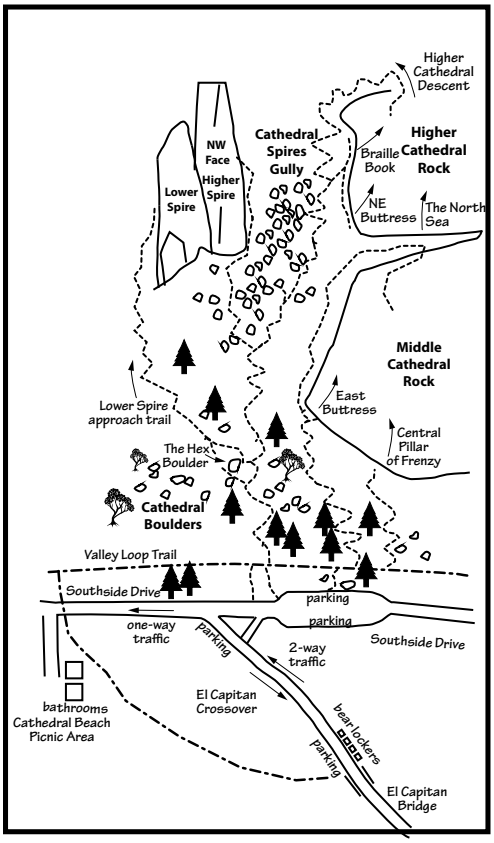


Allen Higginbotham at the crux of South by Southwest, 5.10d.
Photo: Dana Felthauser

Blue Collar (Northwest Face) VI 5.13 or 5.8 A3+

FA: June 1961 - Tom Frost, Royal Robbins
FFA: 2018 - Kevin Jorgeson

This is a mega classic, old school route right up the middle of one of the Valley's most iconic faces. This climb is worth doing a little aid, if necessary, to experience. The position is topnotch; the route is in the shade nearly all day.



Approach: (See map on page 30)

60 - 90 minutes.

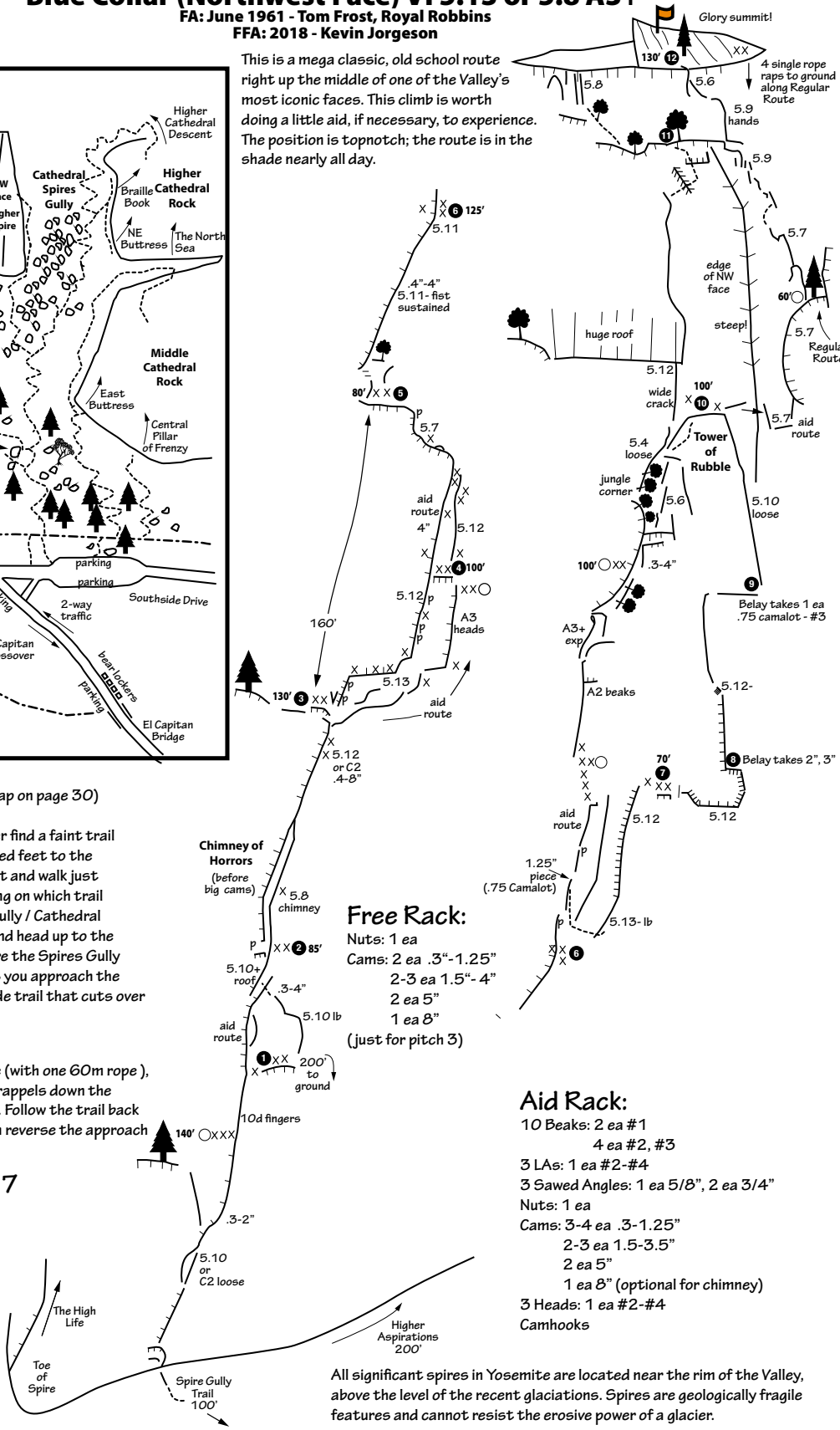
From El Capitan Crossover find a faint trail that leads a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right and walk just ten or fifty feet (depending on which trail you took) to the Spires Gully / Cathedral Boulders trail. Turn left and head up to the popular Hex Boulder, where the Spires Gully trail cuts right and up. As you approach the Higher Spire, look for a side trail that cuts over to the cliff.

Descent:

Rappel the Regular Route (with one 60m rope), which involves four, easy, rappels down the backside of the mountain. Follow the trail back down along the base, then reverse the approach trail.

Photo on page 77

Parking



Free Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .3"-1.25"
2-3 ea 1.5"- 4"
2 ea 5"
1 ea 8"
(just for pitch 3)

Aid Rack:

10 Beaks: 2 ea #1
4 ea #2, #3
3 LAs: 1 ea #2-#4
3 Sawed Angles: 1 ea 5/8", 2 ea 3/4"
Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 3-4 ea .3-1.25"
2-3 ea 1.5-3.5"
2 ea 5"
1 ea 8" (optional for chimney)
3 Heads: 1 ea #2-#4
Camhooks

All significant spires in Yosemite are located near the rim of the Valley, above the level of the recent glaciations. Spires are geologically fragile features and cannot resist the erosive power of a glacier.

Regular Route III 5.9+

FA: 1944. Chuck Wilts, Spencer Austin

Steep, strenuous, but
also featured and stunning,
the Regular Route is topnotch.
The best, shorter-route summit in Yosemite!

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 1-2 ea .4"-2"
1 ea 3"
Many long slings
one 60m rope

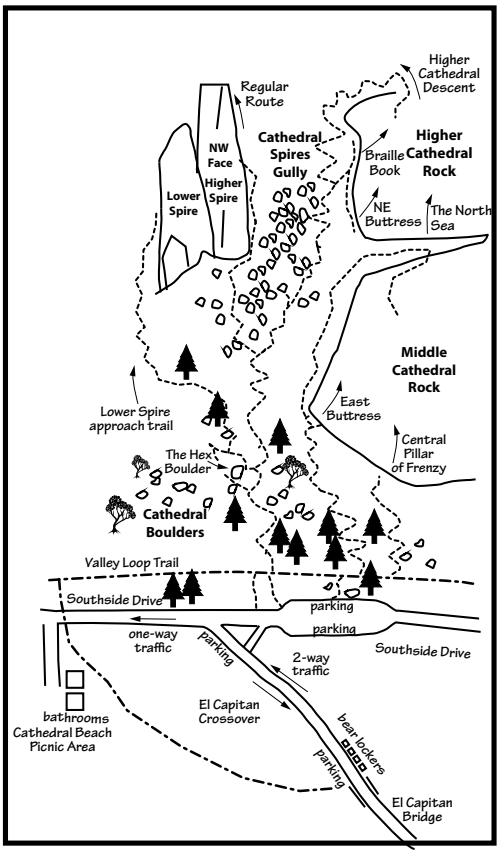
Approach: (See map on page 30)

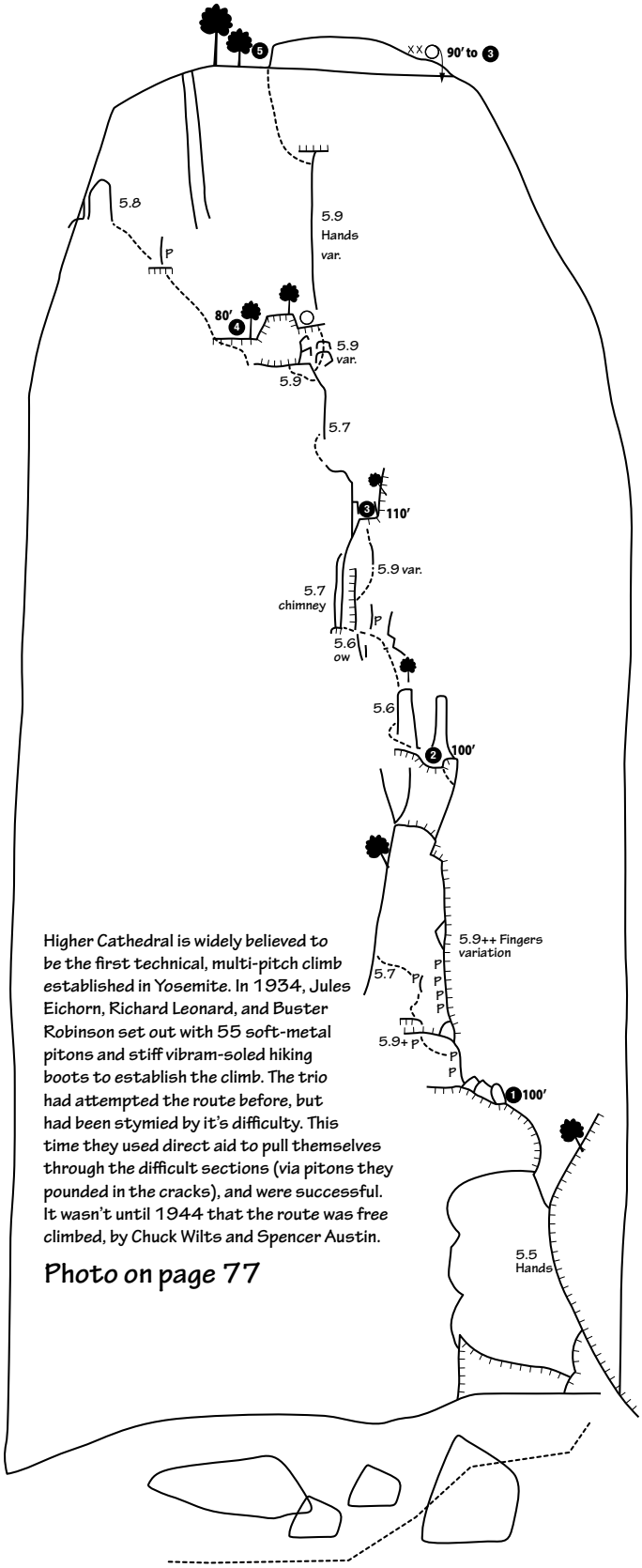
75 - 90 minutes.
From El Capitan Crossover find a faint trail that leads a couple hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right and walk just ten or fifty feet (depending on which trail you took) to the Spires Gully / Cathedral Boulders trail. Turn left and head up to the popular Hex Boulder, where the Spires Gully trail cuts right and up. As you approach the Higher Spire, look for a side trail that cuts over to the cliff (see map).

Parking

Descent:

Rappel the route (with one 60m rope).





Higher Cathedral is widely believed to be the first technical, multi-pitch climb established in Yosemite. In 1934, Jules Eichorn, Richard Leonard, and Buster Robinson set out with 55 soft-metal pitons and stiff vibram-soled hiking boots to establish the climb. The trio had attempted the route before, but had been stymied by it's difficulty. This time they used direct aid to pull themselves through the difficult sections (via pitons they pounded in the cracks), and were successful. It wasn't until 1944 that the route was free climbed, by Chuck Wilts and Spencer Austin.

Photo on page 77

Sentinel Creek

Sentinel Creek is one of the best summer cragging spots for 5.9 - 5.10 leaders. This is an up and coming area with two new routes established in 2015. The views of Yosemite Falls and El Capitan are deluxe!

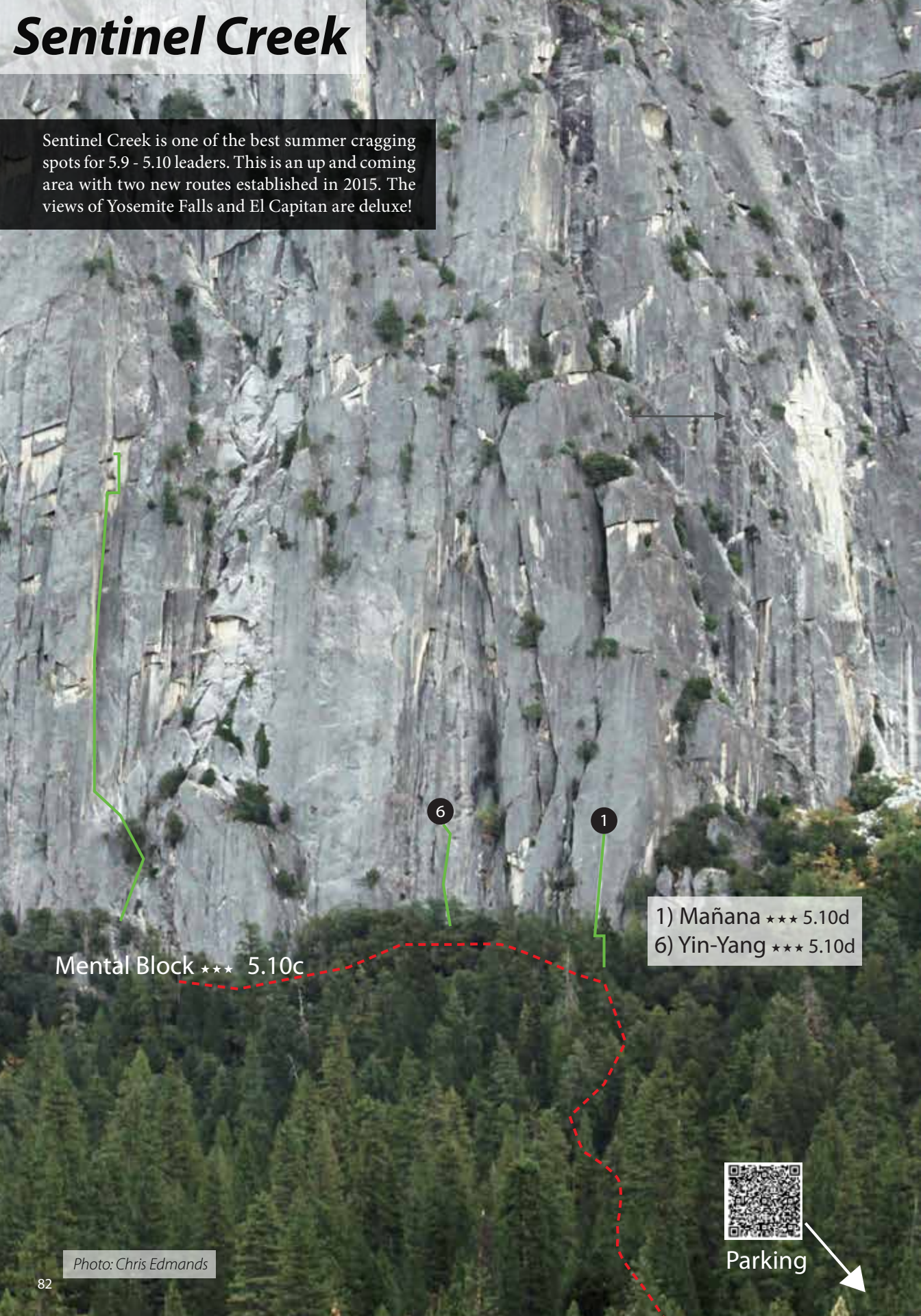
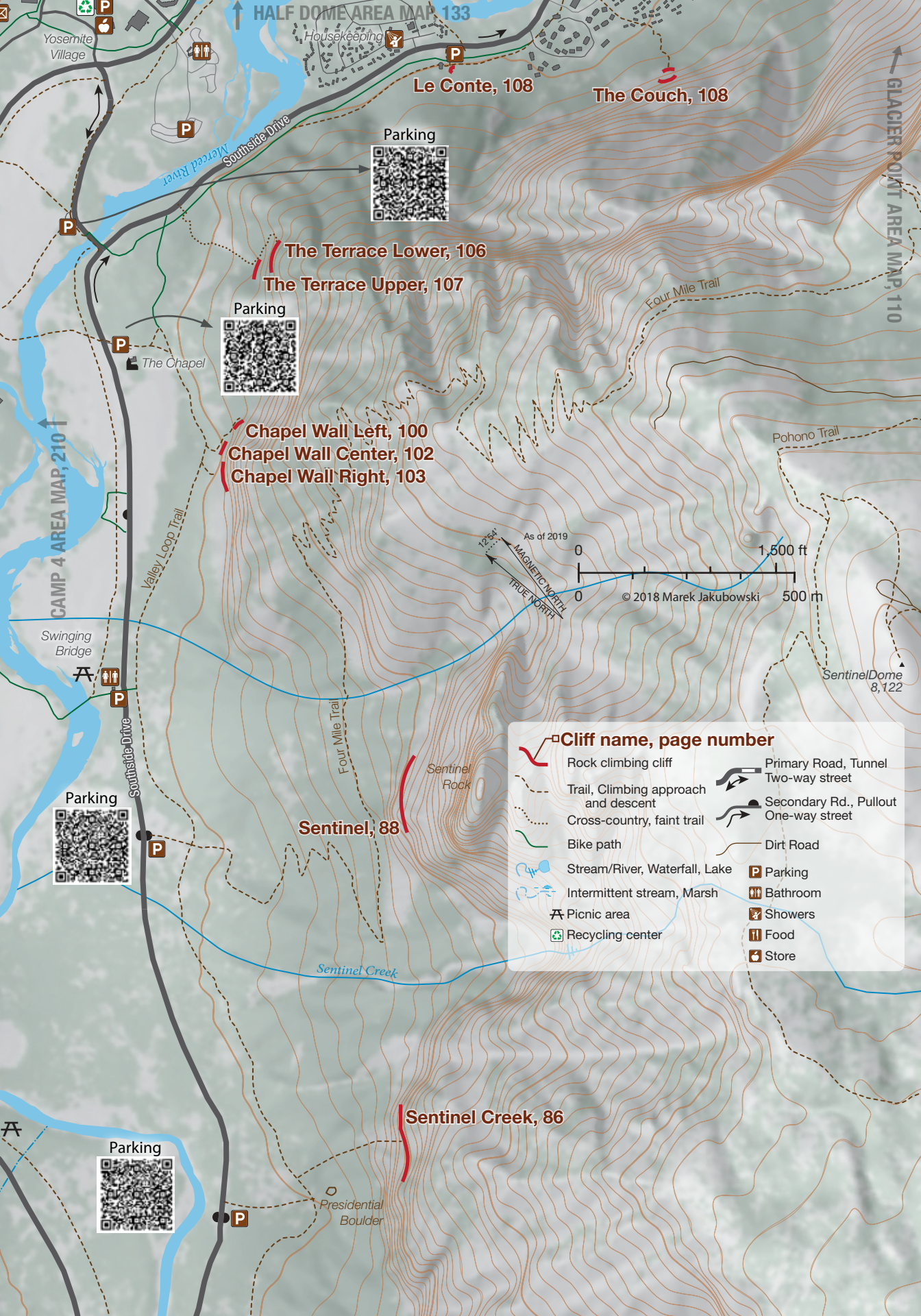


Photo: Chris Edmands


HALF DOME AREA MAP, 133
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Valley Loop Trail
12°54'
As of 2019
MAGNETIC NORTH
TRUE NORTH
0
1,500 ft
0
© 2018 Marek Jakubowski
500 m
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Rock climbing cliff
Trail, Climbing approach and descent
Cross-country, faint trail
Bike path
Stream/River, Waterfall, Lake
Intermittent stream, Marsh
Picnic area
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Parking
Presidential Boulder

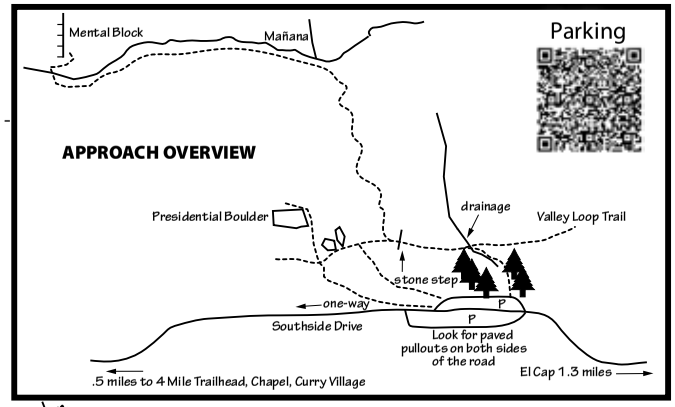
Shante Eide on Brownnoser , 5.8
Photo: Samuel Crossley

Garrett Randall on Ying Yang, 5.10d
Photo: Samuel Crossley

Sentinel Creek

Sentinel Creek is great, moderate cragging. It is shady until mid / late - afternoon.

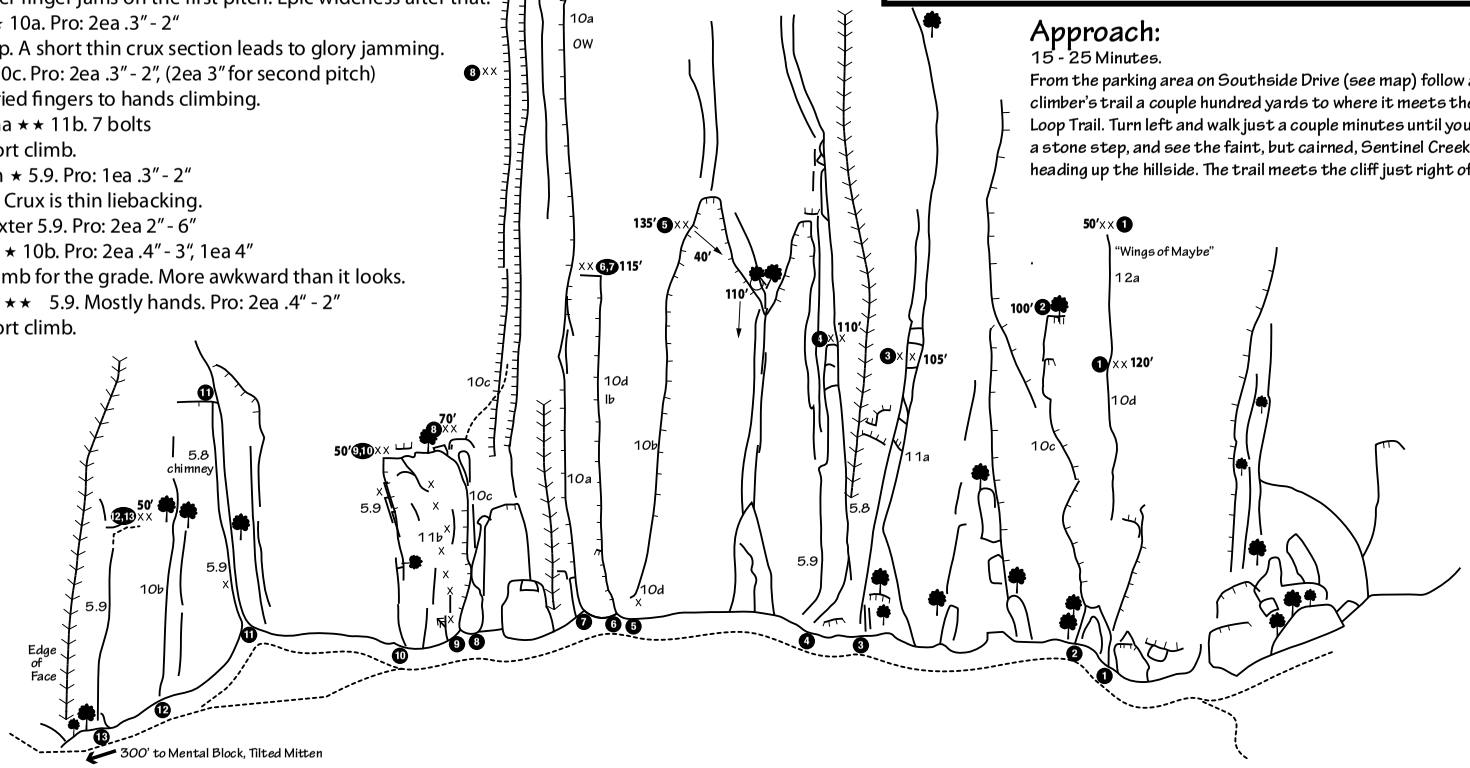
1) Mañana ★★★ 10d, 12a. Pro: 2-3ea .3" - 1.5"
Splitter .75 and #1 Camalot size crack (off fingers to tight hands).
2) Post Traumatic Climbing Disorder ★10c. Pro: 2ea .4" - 3"
A newer route, so still slightly dirty wide hands, to hands.
3) Shaggy's Roof ★11a. Pro: 2ea .5" - 3", 1ea 4"
Dirty, but wild position.
4) Brownoser ★★ 5.8. Pro: 2ea .4" - 3"
Good warm up. Save a 3" piece for the top.
5) Mantra ★★ 10d. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3", 3ea .4 - 1"
A hard face / thin crack moves leads to easier, fun climbing.
(you need a black alien or similar for first piece of pro)
6) Ying-Yang ★★★ 10d, 10a. Pro: 2-3 ea .3" - 1.5"
(first pitch), 2-3ea 5" - 6" (second pitch)
Slick, but locker finger jams on the first pitch. Epic wideness after that.
7) Hari-Kiri ★★ 10a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2"
Great warm up. A short thin crux section leads to glory jamming.
8) Unagi ★★ 10c. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2", (2ea 3" for second pitch)
Super fun, varied fingers to hands climbing.
9) Yama Shama ★★ 11b. 7 bolts
Super fun, short climb.
10) Juan-Tawn ★ 5.9. Pro: 1ea .3" - 2"
Dirty, but fun. Crux is thin liebacking.
11) The Sphinxter 5.9. Pro: 2ea 2" - 6"
12) Unnamed ★ 10b. Pro: 2ea .4" - 3", 1ea 4"
Great short climb for the grade. More awkward than it looks.
13) Unnamed ★★ 5.9. Mostly hands. Pro: 2ea .4" - 2"
Super fun, short climb.



Approach:

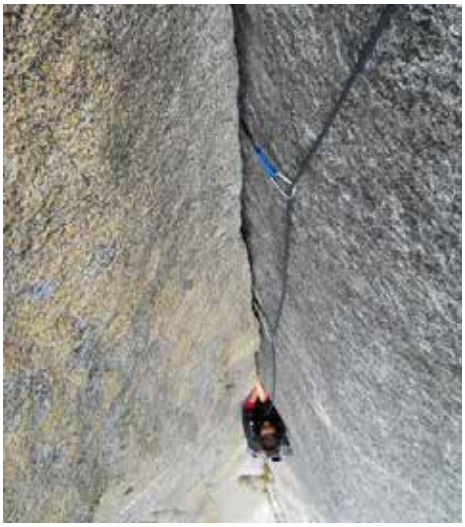
15 - 25 Minutes.

From the parking area on Southside Drive (see map) follow a faint climber's trail a couple hundred yards to where it meets the Valley Loop Trail. Turn left and walk just a couple minutes until you cross a stone step, and see the faint, but cairned, Sentinel Creek trail heading up the hillside. The trail meets the cliff just right of Mañana.

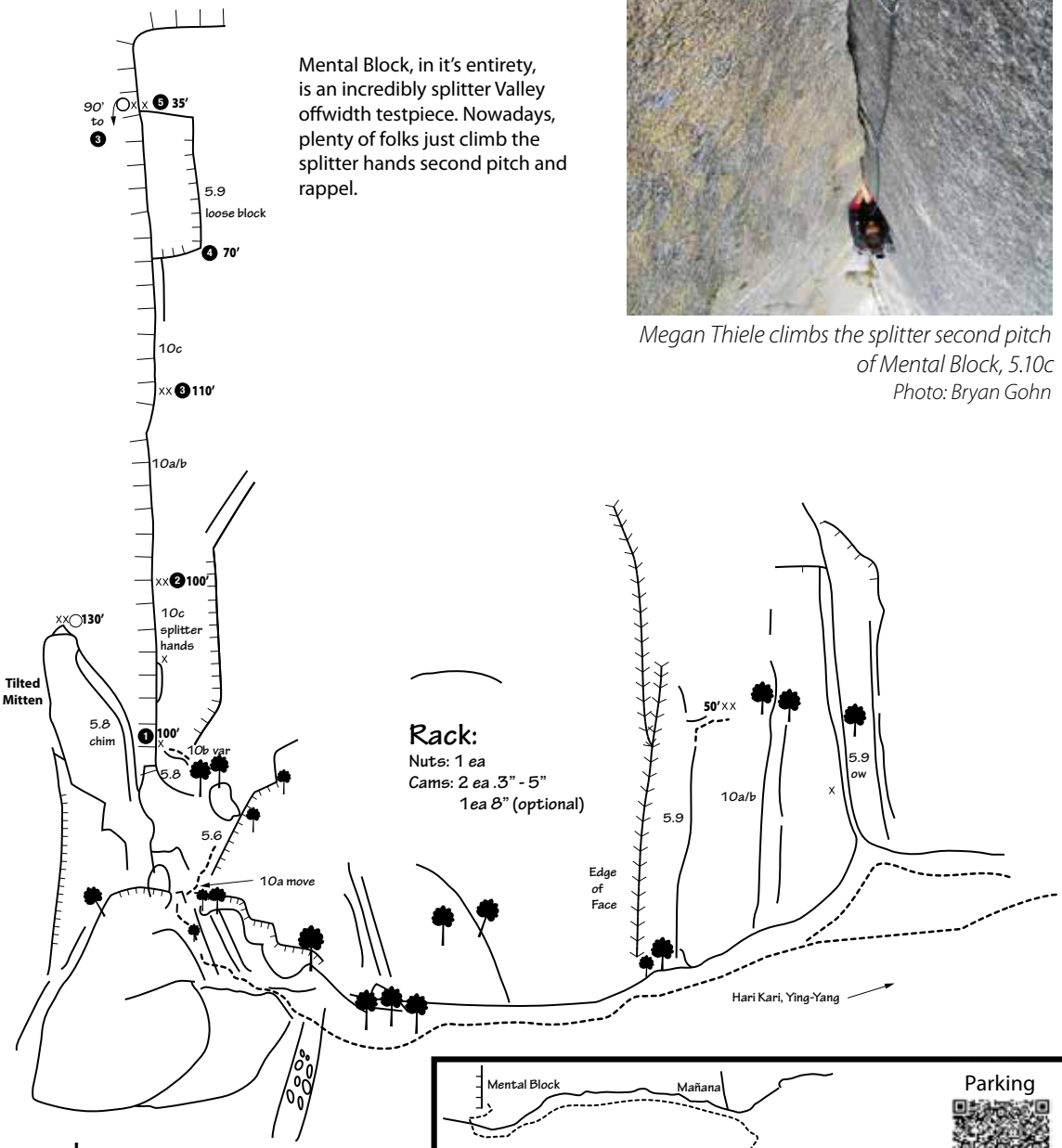


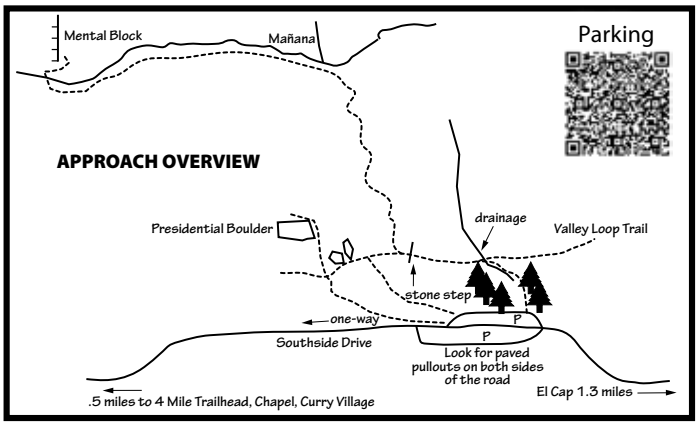
Sentinel Creek East
Mental Block III 5.10c
FA: 1973. Dale Bard, Jim Bridwell

Mental Block, in it's entirety, is an incredibly splitter Valley offwidth testpiece. Nowadays, plenty of folks just climb the splitter hands second pitch and rappel.



Megan Thiele climbs the splitter second pitch of Mental Block, 5.10c
Photo: Bryan Gohn





Approach:
25 - 45 Minutes.

From the parking area on Southside Drive (see map) follow a faint climber's trail a couple hundred yards to where it meets the Valley Loop Trail. Turn left and walk just a few hundred feet until you cross a stone step, and see the faint Sentinel Creek trail heading up the hillside. When you reach the cliff traverse several hundred feet left, down, and around until the clean corner of Mental Block comes into view. Scramble up forested ledges to the base.

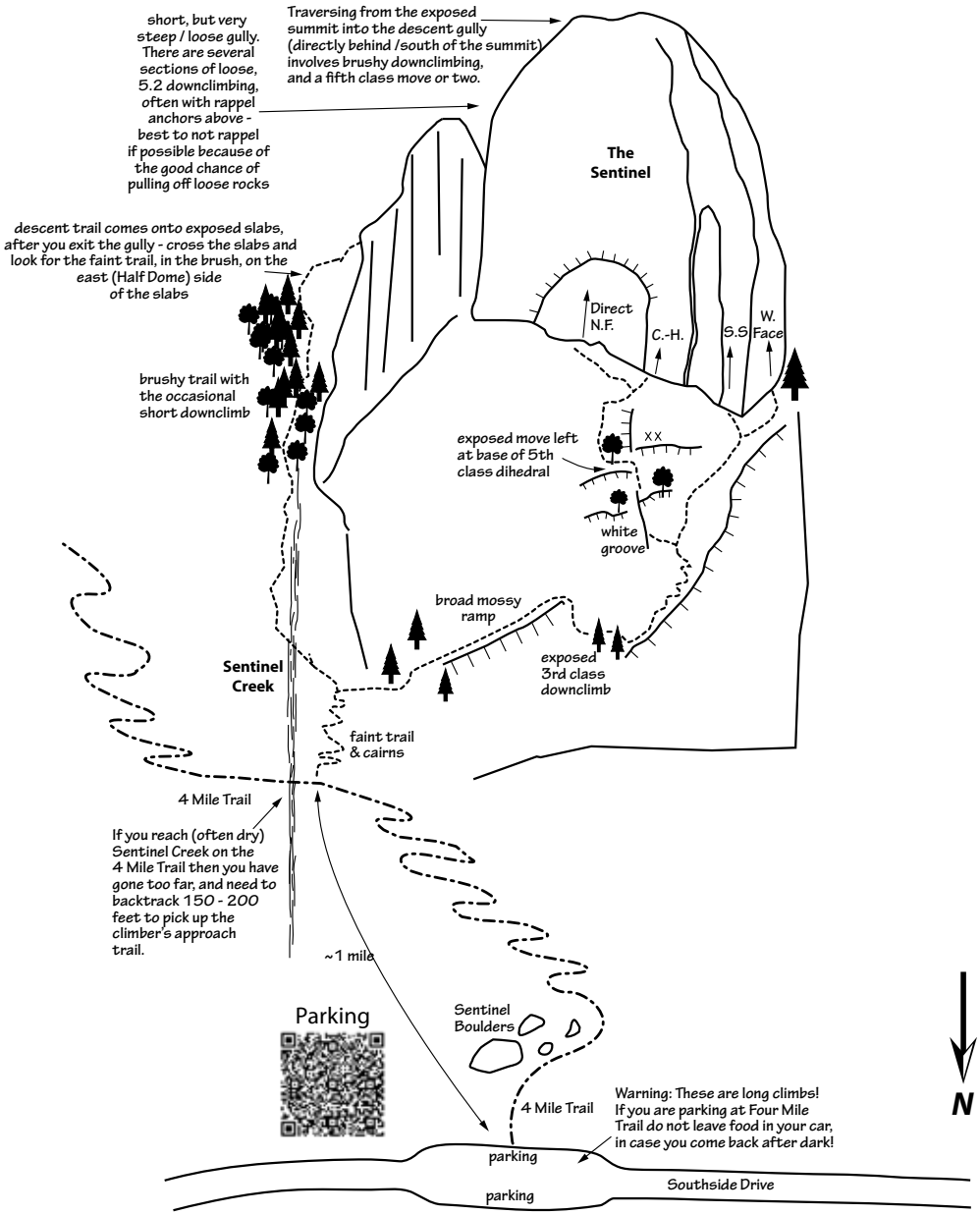
Sentinel

The Sentinel is old-school crack climbing at its finest. North-facing, so shady till mid-afternoon, the climbs here are steep, splitter and punishing, as are the approach and descent. Classics are the iconic *Steck-Salathé* (5.10b – wide, athletic) and *Chouinard-Herbert* (5.11c – more hand cracks and face climbing, and has many fixed pitons so is considered easier overall than *Steck-Salathé*). Start early and bring a headlamp!

1) Psychedelic Wall ★ 5.12c
2) Direct Northwest Face ★ 5.12a
3) Uncertainty Principle ★ 5.13a
4) Chouinard-Herbert ★★★ 5.11c or 5.10a C1
5) Steck-Salathé ★★★ 5.10b
6) West Face ★★ 5.12d or 5.11b C1

Free route
Aid route
Trail

Photo: Taylor Sincich



Approach

Park at the 4 Mile Trailhead and hike approximately 1 mile to a creek crossing. Leave the main trail ~100' before this crossing and hike uphill on the faint trail marked by cairns. When you reach the base, scramble up and right on a broad, slabby ramp. At the top of this ramp, take a ledgy trail down and to the right that leads to another large, right-leaning ramp. Continue up this ramp until you reach a sandy slope. For routes on the North Face, head left up 4th and easy 5th class ledges to the base of a steep, water-polished, right facing corner. Bypass the corner by exposed scrambling to the left. If carrying a haulbag, you may want to rope up. For routes on the West Face, continue up the sandy slope past the Steck-Salathé route. Contour around the Sentinel to the west until the ledge ends at a large pine tree.

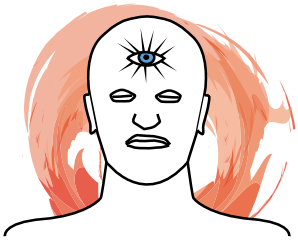
Descent

From the top of the Sentinel, hike / scramble south to enter a steep gully that drops away from the summit to the north and east (toward Half Dome). Hike down this gully, being careful of loose rock and occasionally doing low fifty class downclimbing or short rappels.. Eventually the gully deposit you onto slabs, which contour around the front of the formation. There can be much snow / water here in early season. Continue through forested sections, and easy downclimbing until you rejoin the approach trail. Continue descending the approach trail. Short, but challenging descent!

Psychedelic Wall V 5.12c or 5.8 A4

FA: September 1966 - Ken Boche, Dennis Hennek
FFA: July 2002 - Cedar Wright, Jake Whittaker

Kor-Denny V 5.9 A3
FA: June 1963 - Layton Kor, Glen Denny



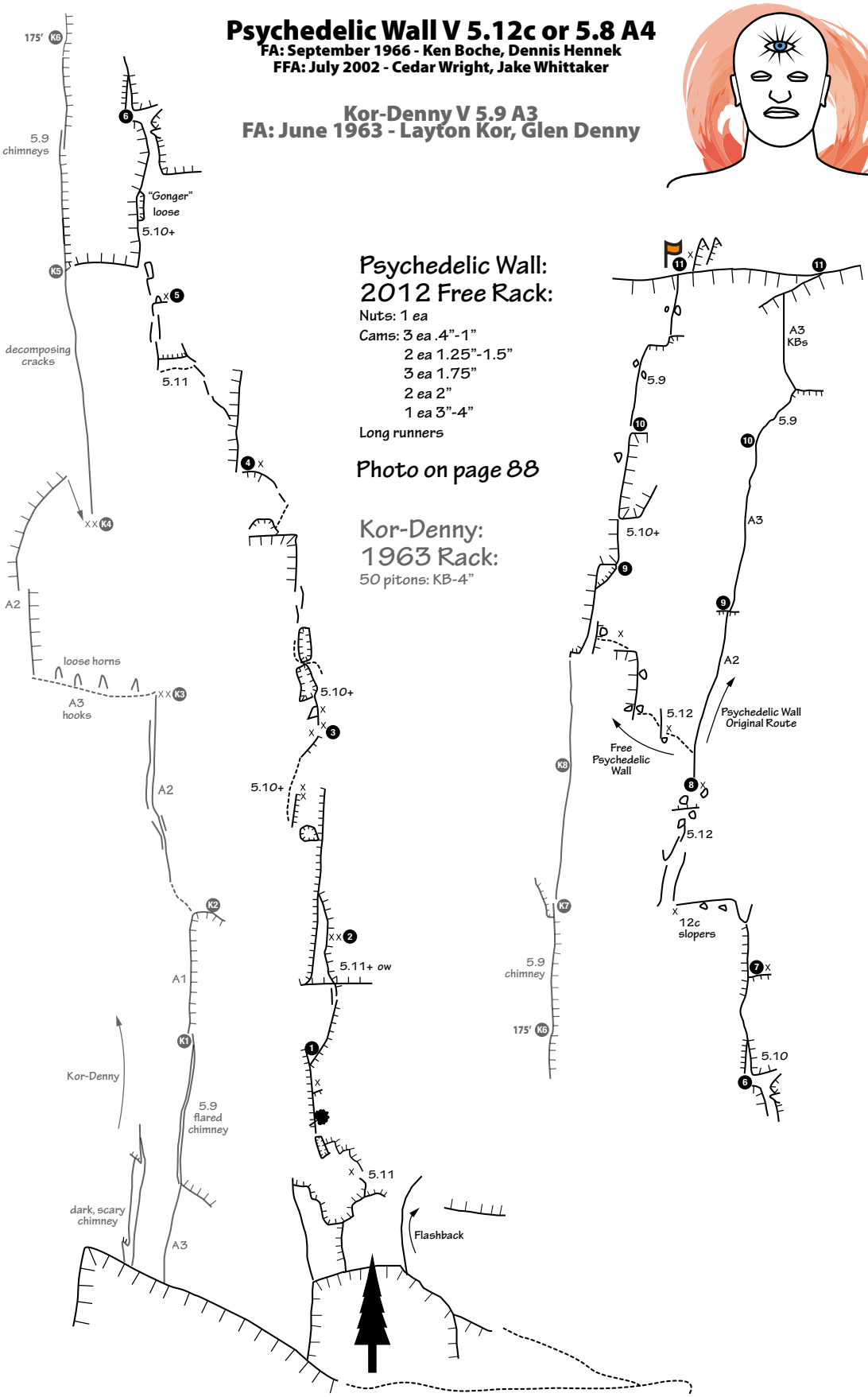
Psychedelic Wall:
2012 Free Rack:

Nuts: 1 *ea*
Cams: 3 *ea* .4"-1"
2 *ea* 1.25"-1.5"
3 *ea* 1.75"
2 *ea* 2"
1 *ea* 3"-4"
Long runners

Photo on page 88

Kor-Denny:
1963 Rack:

50 pitons: KB-4"



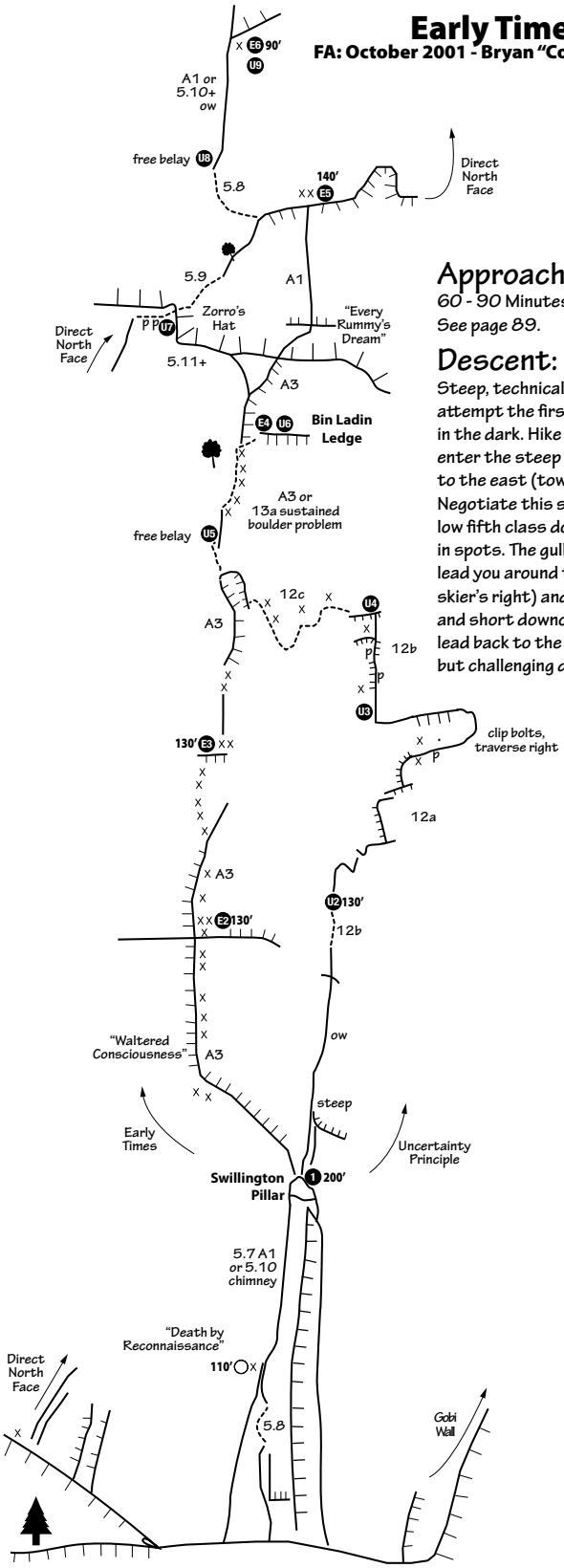
Uncertainty Principle V 5.13a

FA: October 2001 - Cedar Wright, Jose Pereya

$$\sigma_x \sigma_p \geq \frac{h}{2}$$

Early Times V 5.9 A3

FA: October 2001 - Bryan "Coiler" Kay, Joshua Thompson

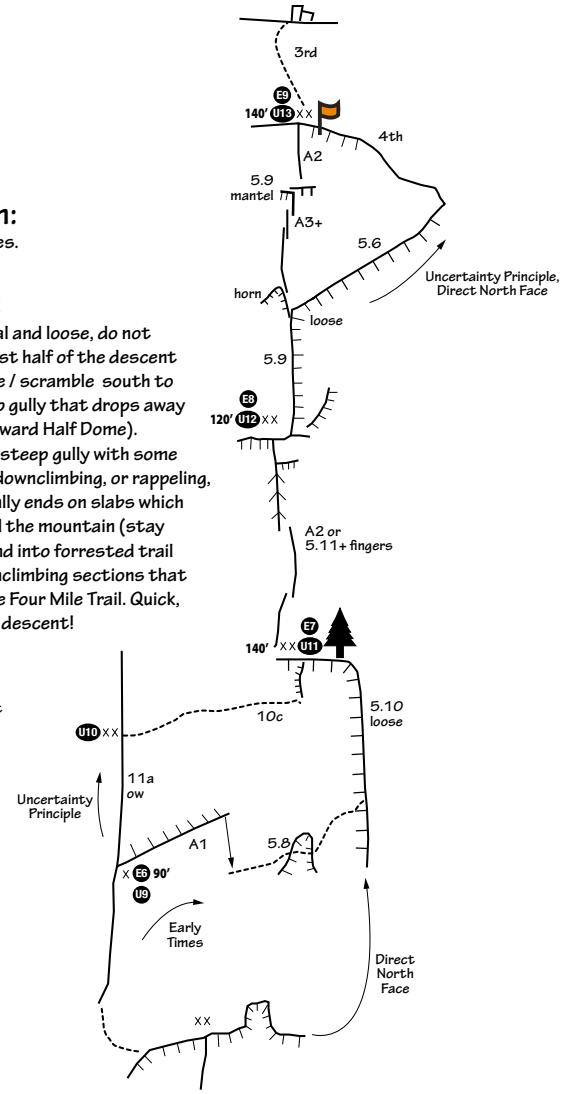


Approach:

60 - 90 Minutes.
See page 89.

Descent:

Steep, technical and loose, do not attempt the first half of the descent in the dark. Hike / scramble south to enter the steep gully that drops away to the east (toward Half Dome). Negotiate this steep gully with some low fifth class downclimbing, or rappeling, in spots. The gully ends on slabs which lead you around the mountain (stay skier's right) and into forrested trail and short downclimbing sections that lead back to the Four Mile Trail. Quick, but challenging descent!



Uncertainty Rack:

Free rack

Early Times 2001 Rack:

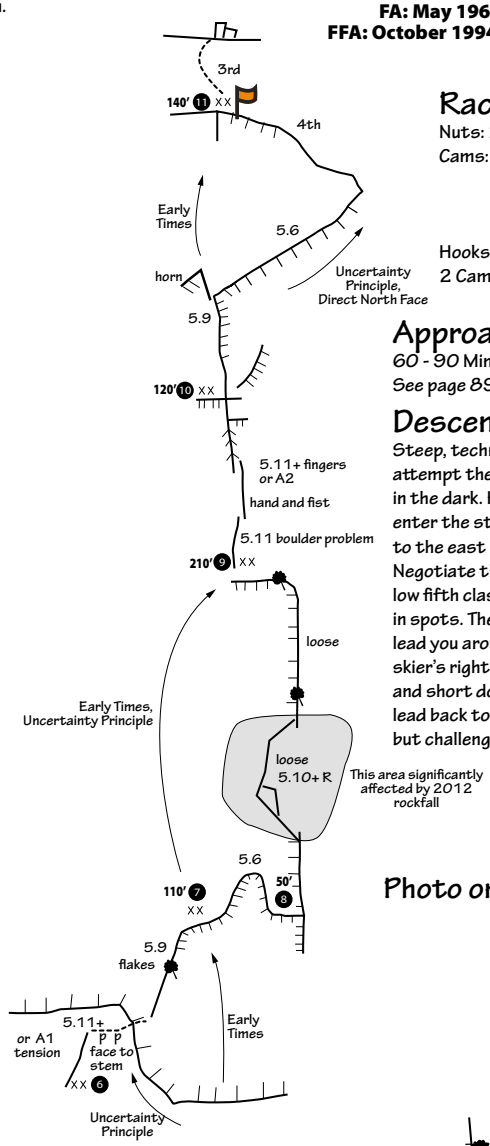
4 RURPs
6 Beaks
KBs: 1 set
10 LAs
Angles: 1 set
Nuts
Cams: 2 ea .3"-4"
Hooks
2 Camhooks: 1 ea narrow, wide
4 Rivet Hangers
4 Keyhole Hangers

Photo on page 88

DNF is wild, adventure climbing with a bit of loose rock thrown in.

Direct North Face IV 5.12a or 5.9 A3

FA: May 1962 - Royal Robbins, Tom Frost
FFA: October 1994 - Adam Wainwright, Kevin Thaw



Rack:

Nuts: 2 ea micros, 1 ea regular offsets
Cams: 2 ea .3" -1"
3 ea 1.25"- 3"
2 ea 4"
1 ea 5"
Hooks: 1 ea grappling or cliffhanger
2 Camhooks: 1 ea narrow, wide

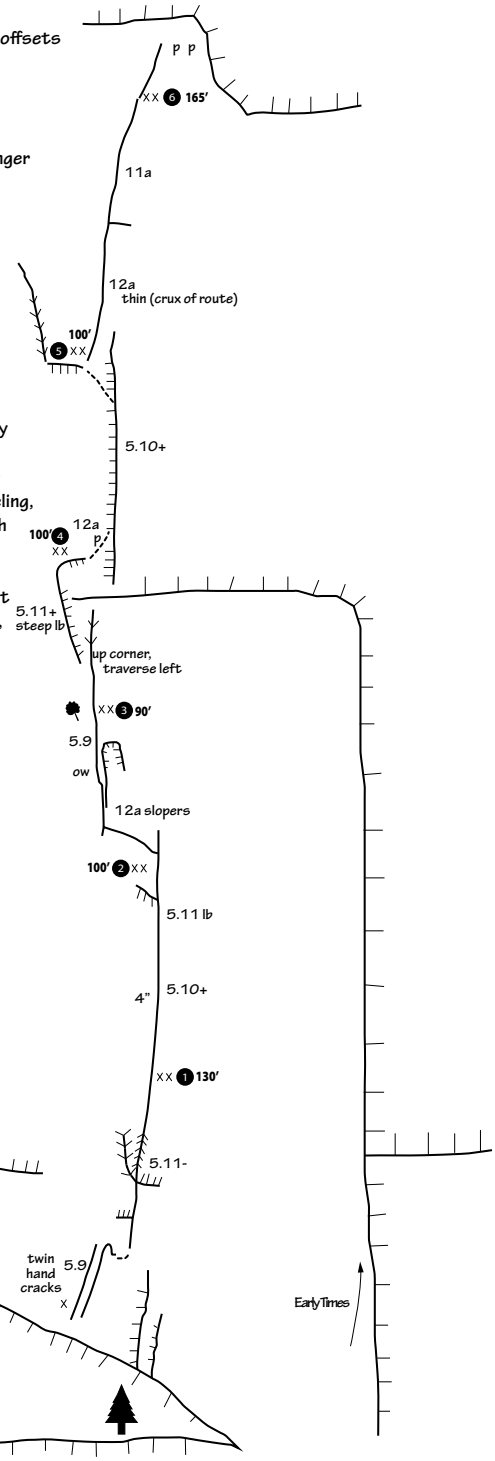
Approach:

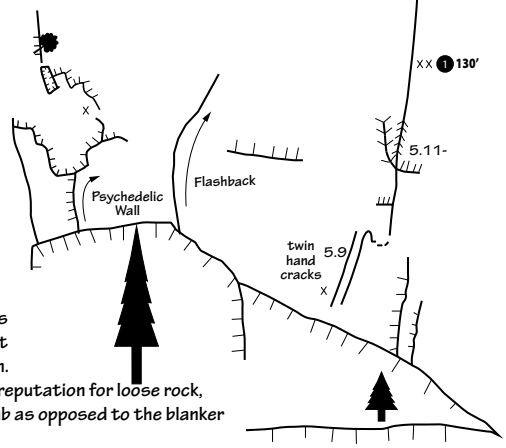
60 - 90 Minutes.
See page 89.

Descent:

Steep, technical and loose, do not attempt the first half of the descent in the dark. Hike / scramble south to enter the steep gully that drops away to the east (toward Half Dome). Negotiate this steep gully with some low fifth class downclimbing, or rappeling, in spots. The gully ends on slabs which lead you around the mountain (stay skier's right) and into forrested trail and short downclimbing sections that lead back to the Four Mile Trail. Quick, but challenging descent!

Photo on page 88





Compared with other large Yosemite free routes, the DNF required relatively little effort. The route was climbed ground up and freed pitch by pitch, with a couple of pitches requiring cleaning and pre-inspection. However, the ascent still took over two weeks to complete because Adam had a hard time finding partners. .

"As to the route, it always stood out to me as one of the coolest chunks of rock around with a stunning line up the middle, and I couldn't believe that it hadn't been freed already. However, I had a hard time finding partners as no one seemed interested, and believe me I spent a lot of time trying to sell the idea to anyone who would listen. I guess people didn't like the approach or the Sentinel's reputation for loose rock, although to me that just meant features you could climb as opposed to the blanker stuff on the other side of the Valley.
I did the first pitch with Grant Farquar, then freed another pitch with Kevin before he had to bail for a while. I then spent a fraught few weeks convincing anyone I could to join me for a day, before Kevin returned and we finished the route. I guess we were seeing how feasible it would be to free climb on a big wall, and were both really pleased with how it came out." Adam Wainwright

Chouinard-Herbert IV 5.11c or 5.9 C2F

FA: August 1962 - Yvon Chouinard, T.M. Herbert
FFA: 1976 - John Long, Pete Minks, Eric Erickson

Chouinard - Herbert, though technically harder, is a mellower alternative to the Steck - Salathe. The numerous fixed pitons on this route, and the lack of wide cracks, make it a reasonable day climb for most 5.10 climbers. This is a good way to practice the descent before going for the more exhausting Steck - Salathe.

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .4"-3"
1 ea 4"

Note: This route has many fixed pins

"I started climbing when men were men... and we nailed 5.8."
- TM Herbert

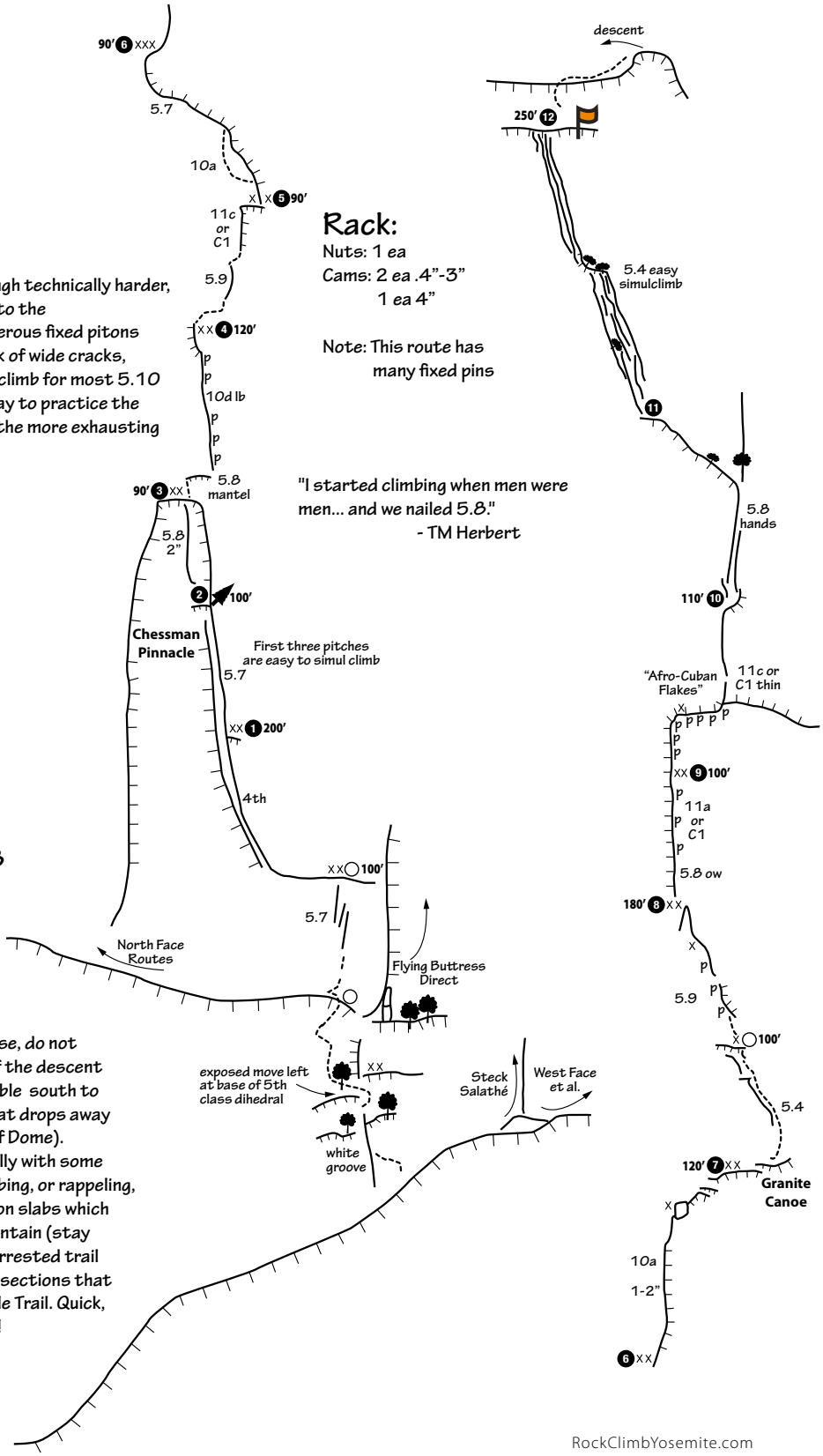


Photo on page 88

Approach:

60 - 90 Minutes.
See page 89.

Descent:

Steep, technical and loose, do not attempt the first half of the descent in the dark. Hike / scramble south to enter the steep gully that drops away to the east (toward Half Dome). Negotiate this steep gully with some low fifth class downclimbing, or rappeling, in spots. The gully ends on slabs which lead you around the mountain (stay skier's right) and into forrested trail and short downclimbing sections that lead back to the Four Mile Trail. Quick, but challenging descent!

.

Steck-Salathé IV 5.10b or 5.9 C2

FA: July 1950 - Allen Steck, John Salathé

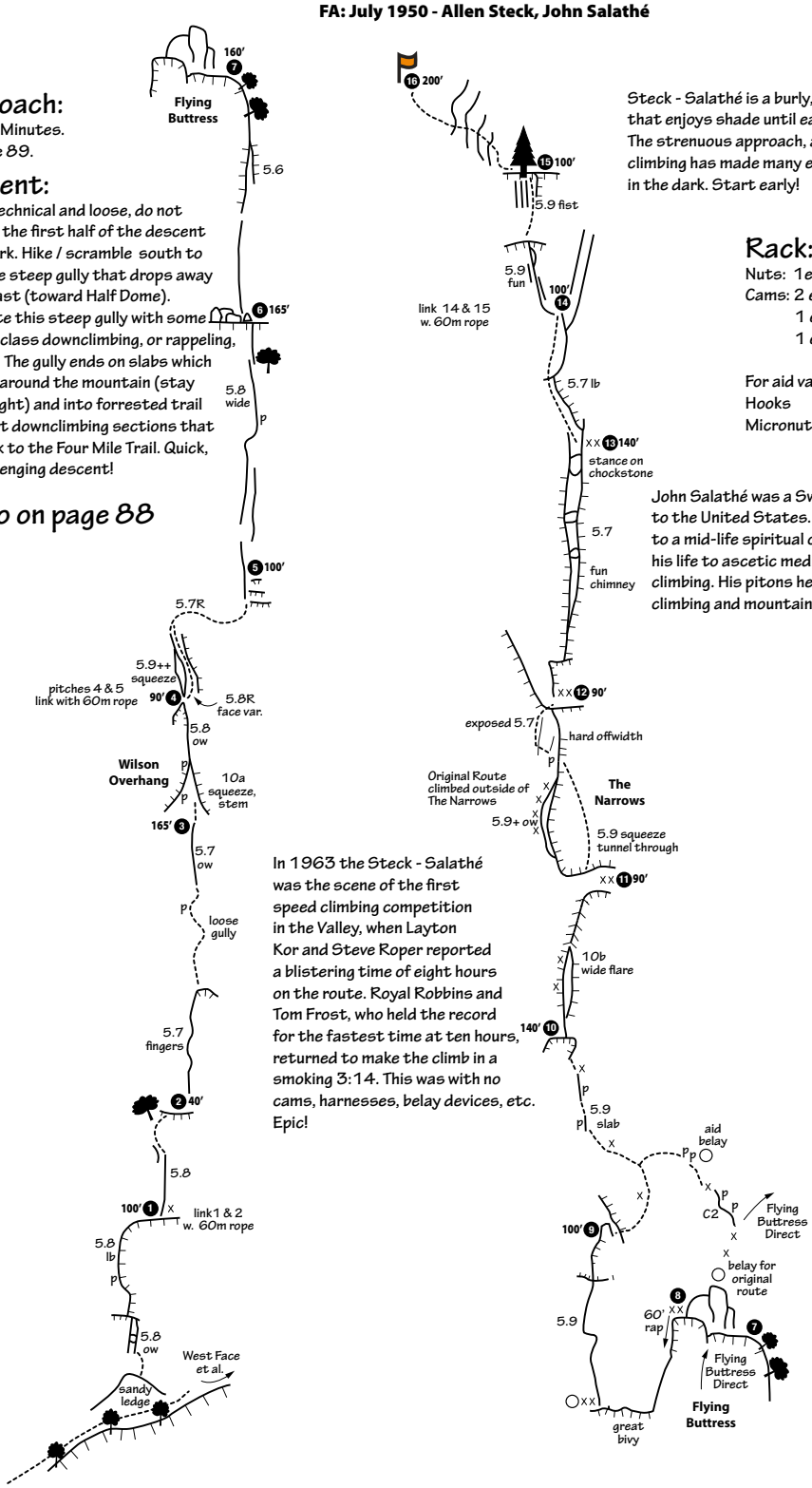
Approach:

60 - 90 Minutes.
See page 89.

Descent:

Steep, technical and loose, do not attempt the first half of the descent in the dark. Hike / scramble south to enter the steep gully that drops away to the east (toward Half Dome). Negotiate this steep gully with some low fifth class downclimbing, or rappeling, in spots. The gully ends on slabs which lead you around the mountain (stay skier's right) and into forrested trail and short downclimbing sections that lead back to the Four Mile Trail. Quick, but challenging descent!

Photo on page 88



Steck - Salathé is a burly, wide crack testpiece that enjoys shade until early/mid-afternoon. The strenuous approach, and slow (wide) climbing has made many expert climbers finish in the dark. Start early!

Rack:

Nuts: 1ea (optional)
Cams: 2 ea .4"-3"
1 ea 4"
1 ea 5"

For aid variations:
Hooks
Micronuts

John Salathé was a Swiss blacksmith who emigrated to the United States. He suffered an illness that led to a mid-life spiritual crisis. He devoted the rest of his life to ascetic meditation, vegetarianism and rock climbing. His pitons helped revolutionize Yosemite climbing and mountaineering in general.

In 1963 the Steck - Salathé was the scene of the first speed climbing competition in the Valley, when Layton Kor and Steve Roper reported a blistering time of eight hours on the route. Royal Robbins and Tom Frost, who held the record for the fastest time at ten hours, returned to make the climb in a smoking 3:14. This was with no cams, harnesses, belay devices, etc. Epic!

Shino Jamoto enters The Narrows
Photo: Tamas Kovacs

Tommy Caldwell on pitch 23, 5.13c, of Passage to Freedom (5.13d) on El Cap
Photo: Austin Siadak

West Face V 5.9 C2 or 5.11b C1 or 5.12d

FA: June 1960 - Yvon Chouinard, Tom Frost
FFA : October 2016 - Kevin Jorgeson, Ben Rueck

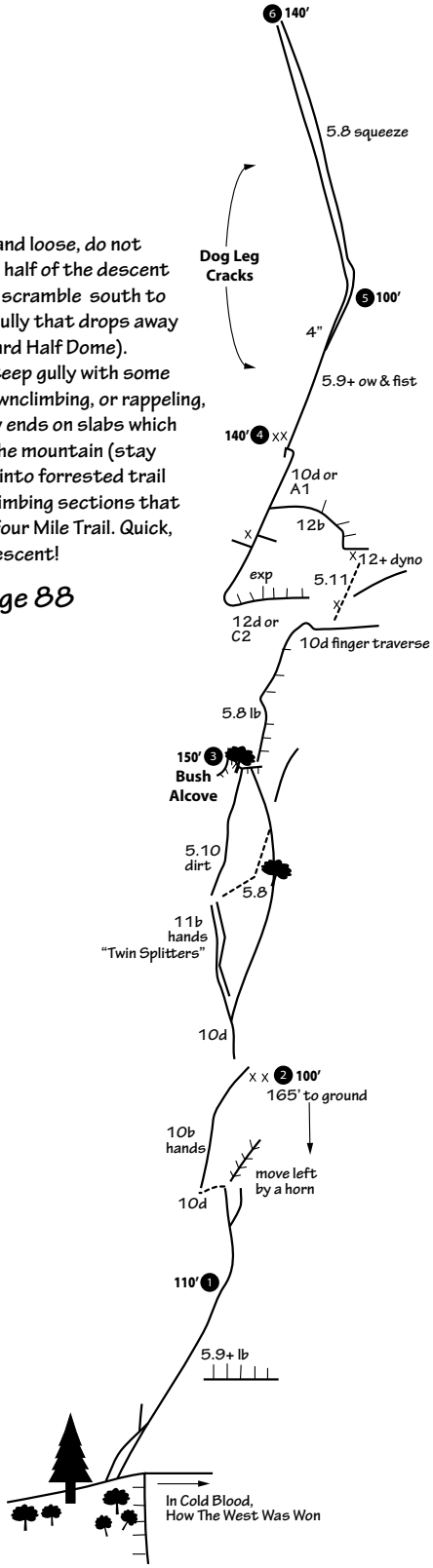
Approach:

60 - 90 Minutes.
See page 89.

Descent:

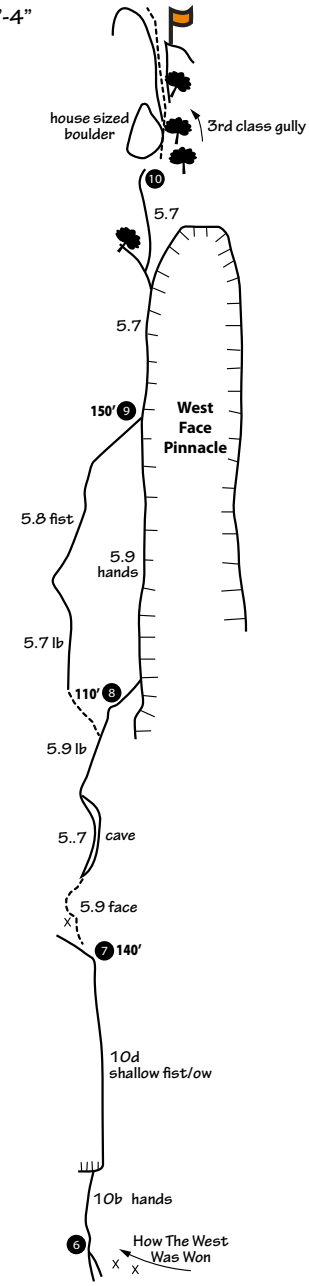
Steep, technical and loose, do not attempt the first half of the descent in the dark. Hike / scramble south to enter the steep gully that drops away to the east (toward Half Dome). Negotiate this steep gully with some low fifth class downclimbing, or rappeling, in spots. The gully ends on slabs which lead you around the mountain (stay skier's right) and into forrested trail and short downclimbing sections that lead back to the Four Mile Trail. Quick, but challenging descent!

Photo on page 88



Rack:

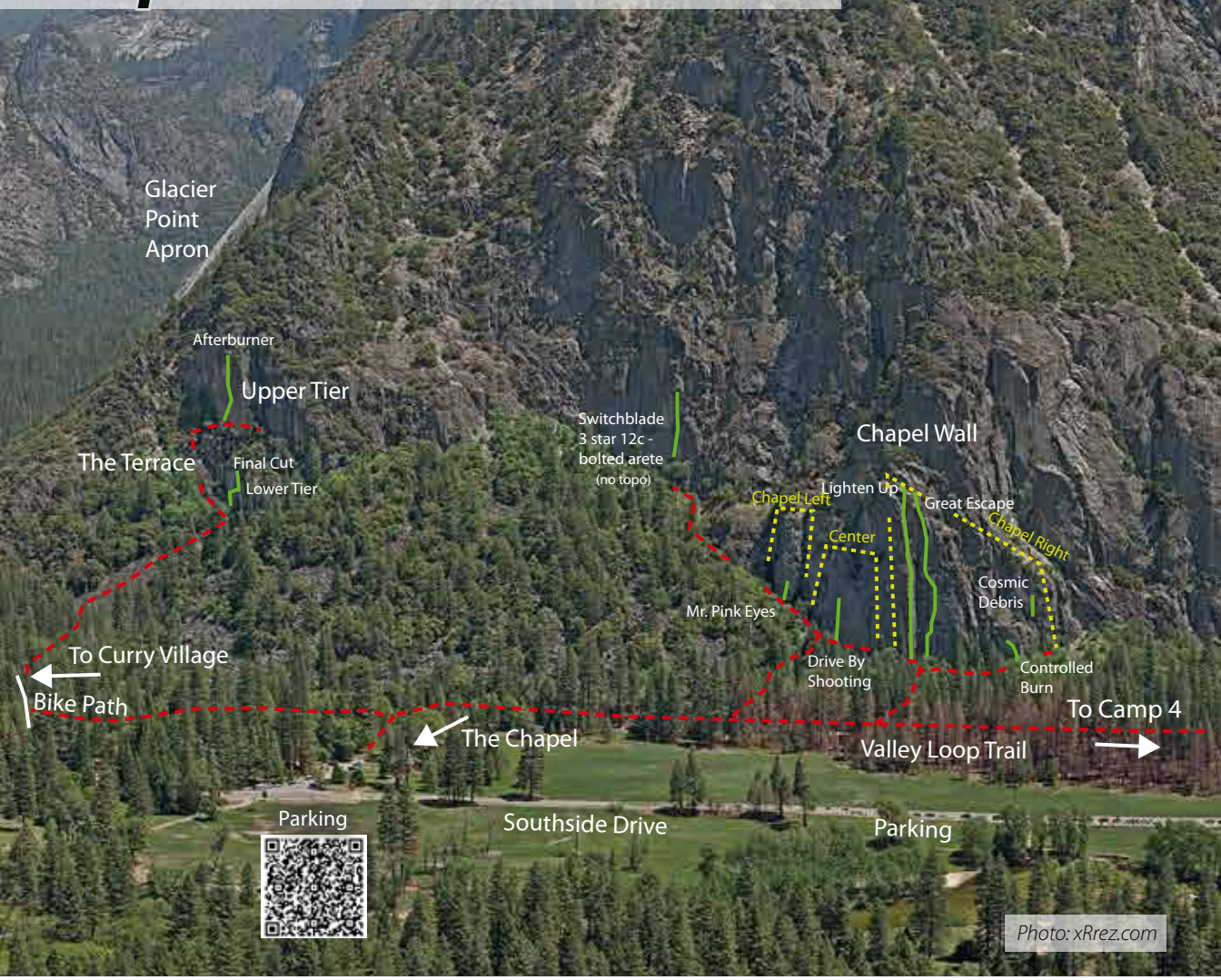
Nuts
Cams: 2-3 ea .5"-4"
Camhooks



"Remember: if you take bivouac equipment along, you will bivouac..." - Yvon Chouinard

Kevin Jorgeson on the FFA of the West Face, 5.12d
Photo: John Evans

Chapel Wall & The Terrace



Chapel Wall
Chapel Wall, with many short, featured crack and sport routes, is an oasis of shade in the hot summer months. Park at the Chapel, or ride your bike over from Camp 4, and you're practically at the cliff.

Chapel Approach
5 - 15 Minutes. Park at the Chapel or on the straight away before the Chapel. From the south end of the Chapel parking lot walk a few hundred feet to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right, west, and follow the Valley Loop trail for a few hundred yards until the cliff, and trail to it, are visible on your left. The trail walks right up to Drive By Shooting. Heathenistic Pursuit is right around the corner. Approach time: 5-10 minutes.

The Terrace (Public Sanitation)
The Terrace is the closest thing to an overhanging, bolted sport crag in Yosemite Valley, with a couple dozen high quality sport and trad routes in the 5.10 to 5.13 range. The majority of climbs are 5.11 or harder. While safe, not all of the climbs are closely bolted, so some folks enjoy bringing a few finger to hand - sized cams for additional protection.

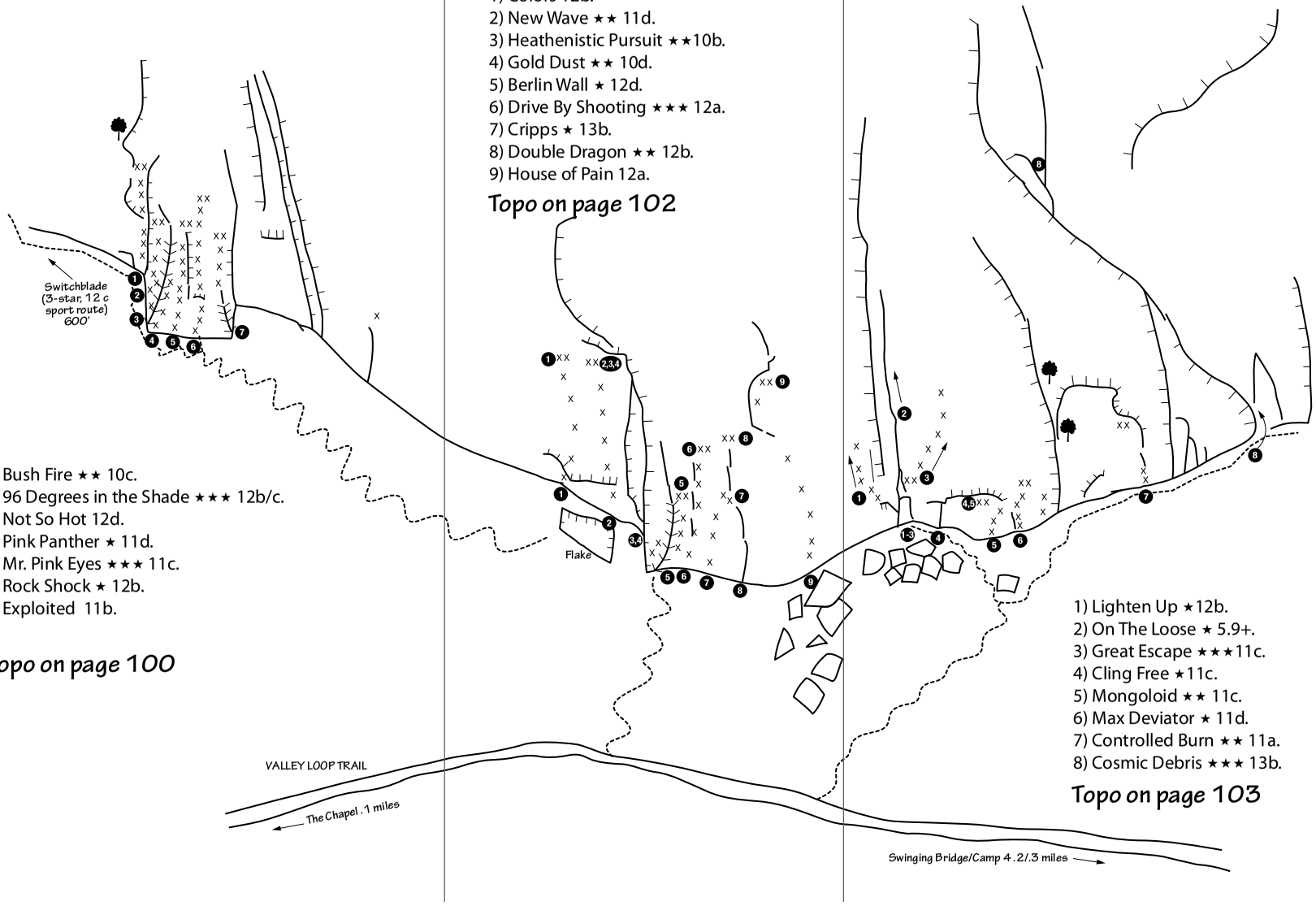
The Terrace (Public San) Approach
25 – 45 minutes. From the Sentinel Bridge, head east on the bike path (towards Curry Village) for a few hundred feet (see approach overview map on topo) until you see a clearing on your right below the bike path. Head down and through this clearing on a faint path that leads through small a dense forest to a massive boulder field (slick when wet). Head up and slightly right through the boulders to the Lower Tier. For the Upper Tier walk almost to the Lower Tier and look for a trail heading up and left.

Chapel Wall Overview

Chapel Wall Left "Top Shelf"

Chapel Wall Center

Chapel Wall Right



1) Colors 12b.
2) New Wave ★★ 11d.
3) Heathenistic Pursuit ★★10b.
4) Gold Dust ★★ 10d.
5) Berlin Wall ★ 12d.
6) Drive By Shooting ★★★ 12a.
7) Cripps ★ 13b.
8) Double Dragon ★★ 12b.
9) House of Pain 12a.

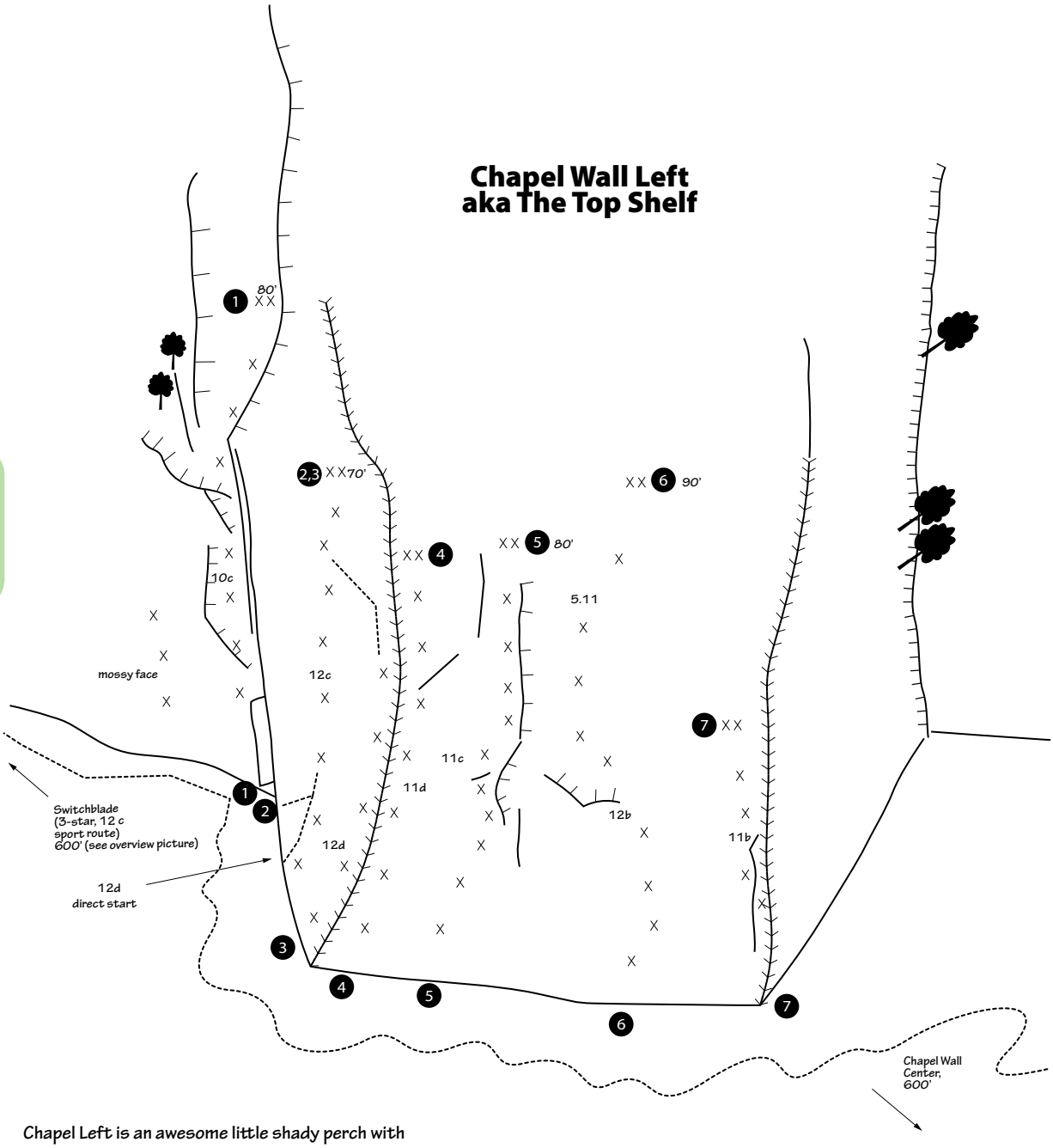
Topo on page 102

1) Bush Fire ★★ 10c.
2) 96 Degrees in the Shade ★★★ 12b/c.
3) Not So Hot 12d.
4) Pink Panther ★ 11d.
5) Mr. Pink Eyes ★★★ 11c.
6) Rock Shock ★ 12b.
7) Exploited 11b.

Topo on page 100

1) Lighten Up ★12b.
2) On The Loose ★ 5.9+.
3) Great Escape ★★★11c.
4) Cling Free ★11c.
5) Mongoloid ★★ 11c.
6) Max Deviator ★ 11d.
7) Controlled Burn ★★ 11a.
8) Cosmic Debris ★★★ 13b.

Topo on page 103



Chapel Left is an awesome little shady perch with well-protected sport climbs. There is still some space for new routes in this area, and with some more traffic some of the one - star routes will become more classic.

1) Bush Fire ★★ 10c. 7 Bolts (optional 1ea 1.5" - 3"). Big left - facing corner with bolts.
Most folks like a couple extra pieces for the lower part. A good warm-up!
2) 96 Degrees in the Shade ★★★ 12b/c. 7 or 9 Bolts. Mega classic overhanging face. Most folks skip the direct start.
Stays (mostly) dry in the winter!
3) Not So Hot 12d. Would be more classic if there were bolts on the upper part of the arete.
4) Pink Panther ★ 11d. Arete. 9 Bolts - bring one long sling.
5) Mr. Pink Eyes ★★★ 11c. 10 Bolts. Fun, varied face and corner moves. Mega classic!
6) Rock Shock ★ 12b. Technical edges to a pumpy crux at a roof. A good step up after Drive by Shooting, at Chapel Center.
7) Exploited ★ 11b. Bolts + a few .4" - 1.5" pieces. Fun arete, and discontinuous crack moves lead to a short face section.

Erik Sloan french-freeing his way up Gold Dust, 5.10d
Photo: Samuel Crossley

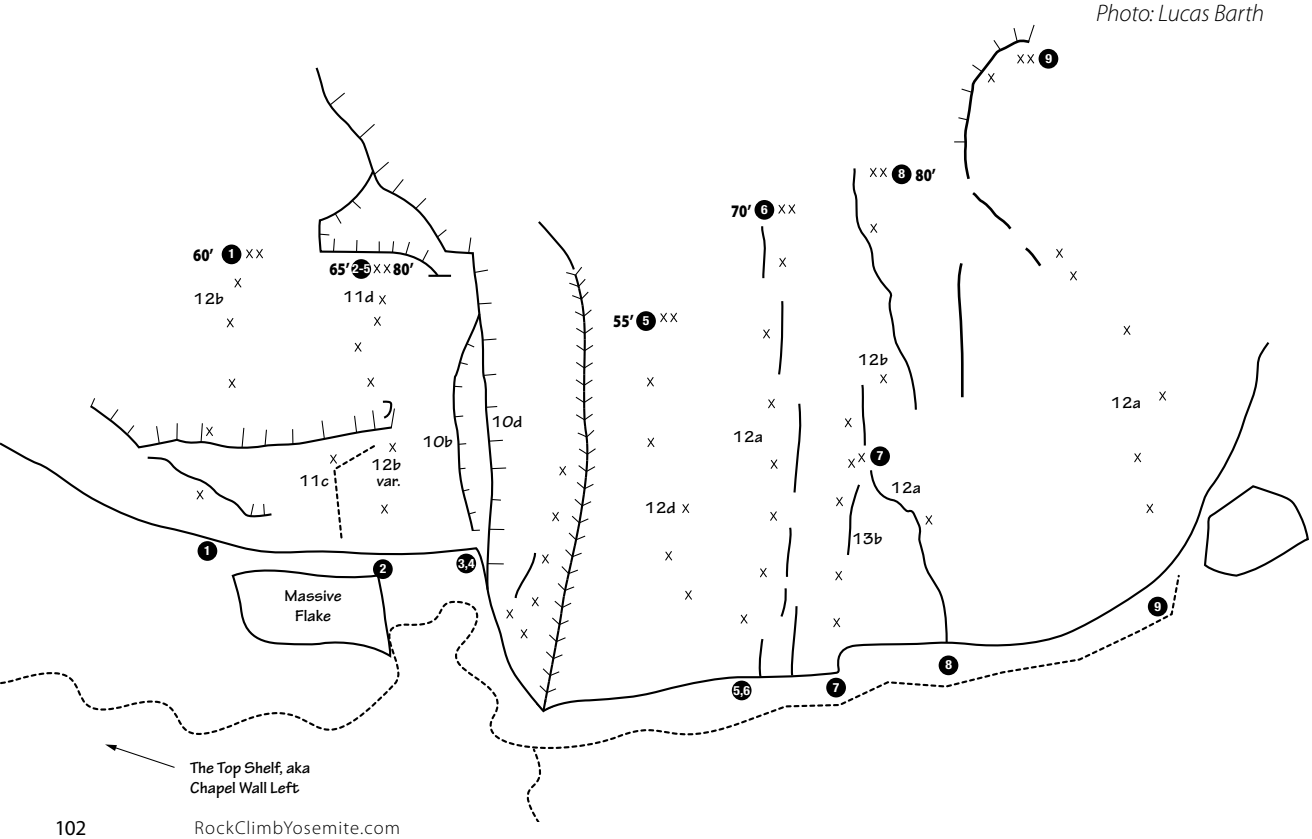
This area stays relatively dry even during a rainstorm

Chapel Wall Center

Chapel Center, a hundred feet from the Valley Loop Trail, is an oasis of shade during the hotter months, and can be perfect conditions in spring / fall. High quality sport and trad climbs abound. Heathenistic Pursuit / Gold Dust, and New Wave, stay fairly dry when it rains. Chapel Wall can be buggy in the summer.

1) Colors 12b. 5 Bolts
2) New Wave ★★ 11d. 6 Bolts. Technical and thin, this is a popular toprope after leading Heathenistic Pursuit / Gold Dust.
3) Heathenistic Pursuit ★★10b. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2." Corner and hand crack moves lead to a cool traverse at the top. Dry when it rains!
4) Gold Dust ★★ 10d. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2." Steeper, stemming corner just right of Heathenistic. Classic, and dry when it rains.
5) Berlin Wall ★ 12d. 6 Bolts.
6) Drive By Shooting ★★★ 12a. 7 Bolts. Classic, featured climbing.
7) Cripps ★ 13b. Pro: few small pieces
8) Double Dragon ★★ 12b. Pro: 7 bolts + 1ea .3" - 1.25"
9) House of Pain ★ 12a. Pro: 1ea .3" - 2"

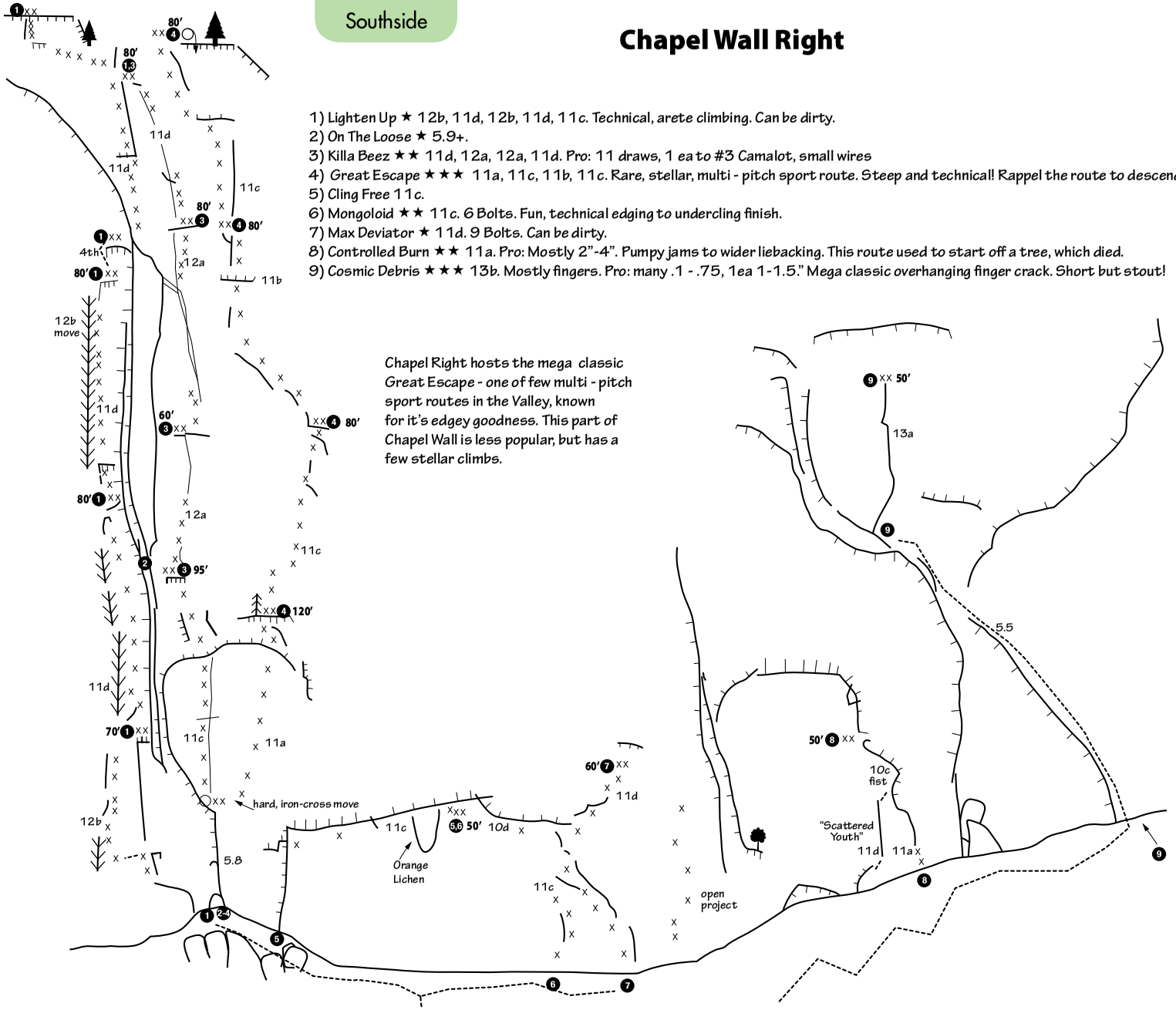
Andrea Carlomango on Drive By Shooting, 5.12a
Photo: Lucas Barth



Chapel Wall Right

1) Lighten Up ★ 12b, 11d, 12b, 11d, 11c. Technical, arete climbing. Can be dirty.
2) On The Loose ★ 5.9+.
3) Killa Beez ★★ 11d, 12a, 12a, 11d. Pro: 11 draws, 1 ea to #3 Camalot, small wires
4) Great Escape ★★★ 11a, 11c, 11b, 11c. Rare, stellar, multi - pitch sport route. Steep and technical! Rappel the route to descend.
5) Cling Free 11c.
6) Mongoloid ★★ 11c. 6 Bolts. Fun, technical edging to undercling finish.
7) Max Deviator ★ 11d. 9 Bolts. Can be dirty.
8) Controlled Burn ★★ 11a. Pro: Mostly 2"-4". Pumpy jams to wider liebacking. This route used to start off a tree, which died.
9) Cosmic Debris ★★★ 13b. Mostly fingers. Pro: many .1 - .75, 1ea 1-1.5." Mega classic overhanging finger crack. Short but stout!

Chapel Right hosts the mega classic Great Escape - one of few multi - pitch sport routes in the Valley, known for it's edgey goodness. This part of Chapel Wall is less popular, but has a few stellar climbs.



The Terrace

Shady all day, The Terrace is worth visiting just for the incredible views of the Valley and Yosemite Falls. Mega-classics: *Final Cut* (5.12b), *Afterburner* (5.11c), *Unknown And Super Fun!* (5.11c), and *Tucker's Proud Rock Climb* (5.12b).

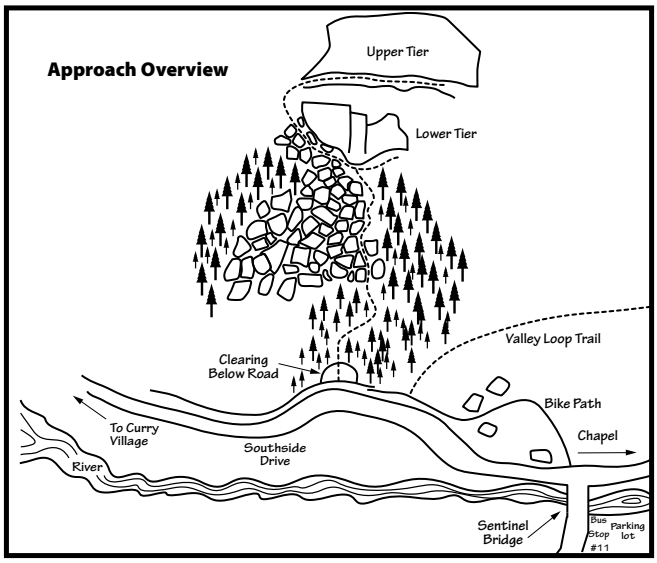
See Overlay Map / Approach text on Page 98

Alix Morris on Afterburner, 5.11c
Photo: Drew Smith

Katie Lambert on Final Cut, 5.12b
Photo: Ben Ditto

The Terrace (Public Sanitation)

1) Black Fly ★★ 13b. 10 Bolts
2) Final Cut ★★★ 12b. 10 Bolts (Optional 1ea .3" - 1")
3) Wide Thing ★11a. Pro: 1 ea .3 - 6"
4) Best Bet Arete ★★★ 12b. 10 Bolts
5) Spike ★★ 12a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"
6) Public Sanitation 5.10.
7) Carpet Bagger ★★ 11b. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3", 1ea 4"
8) Wish You Were Here ★★ 12a. 6 Bolts (Optional 1ea .3" - 1")
9) Wishing Well ★ 11a/b.



Approach text on page 98

Lower Tier

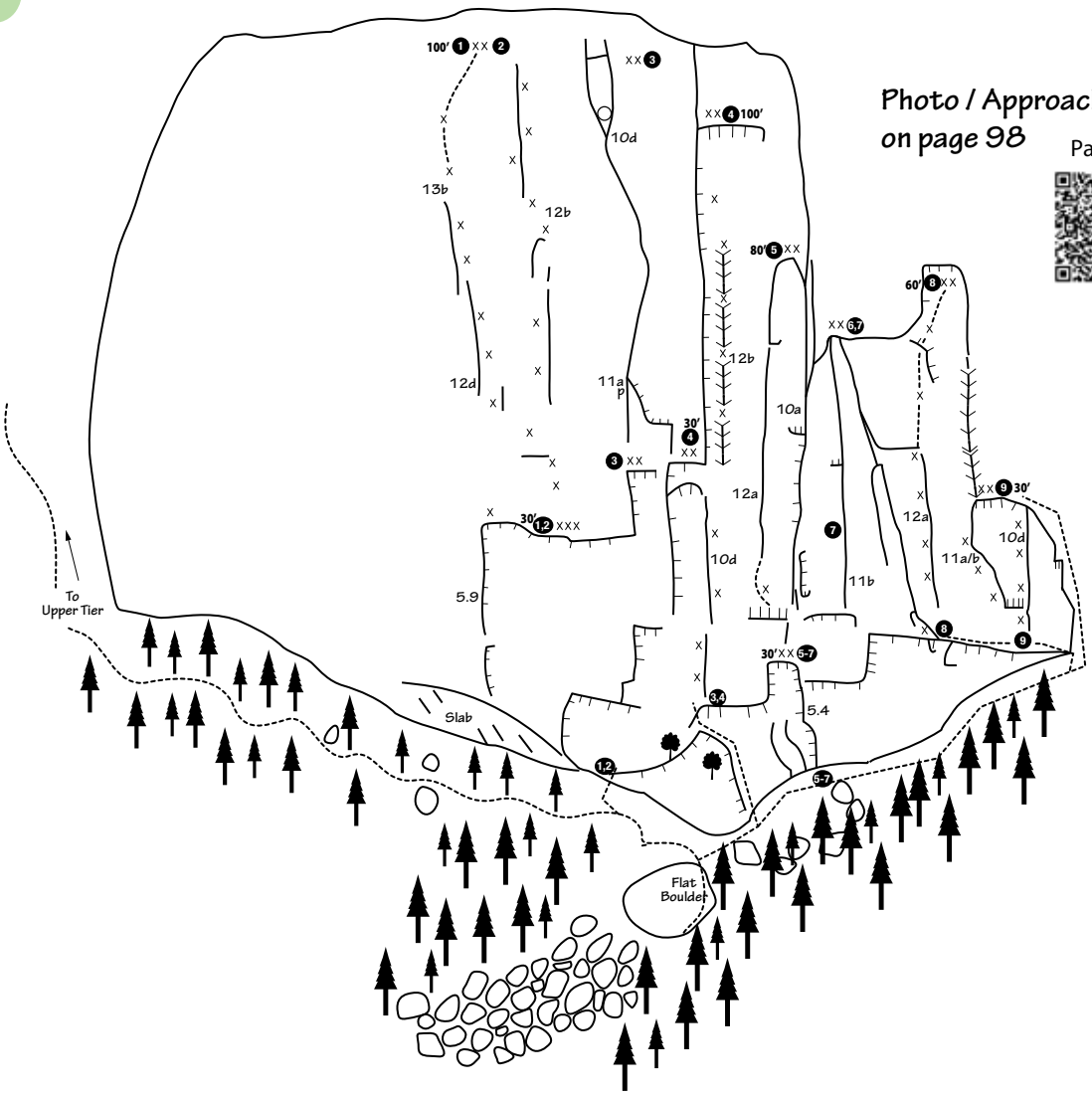


Photo / Approach on page 98

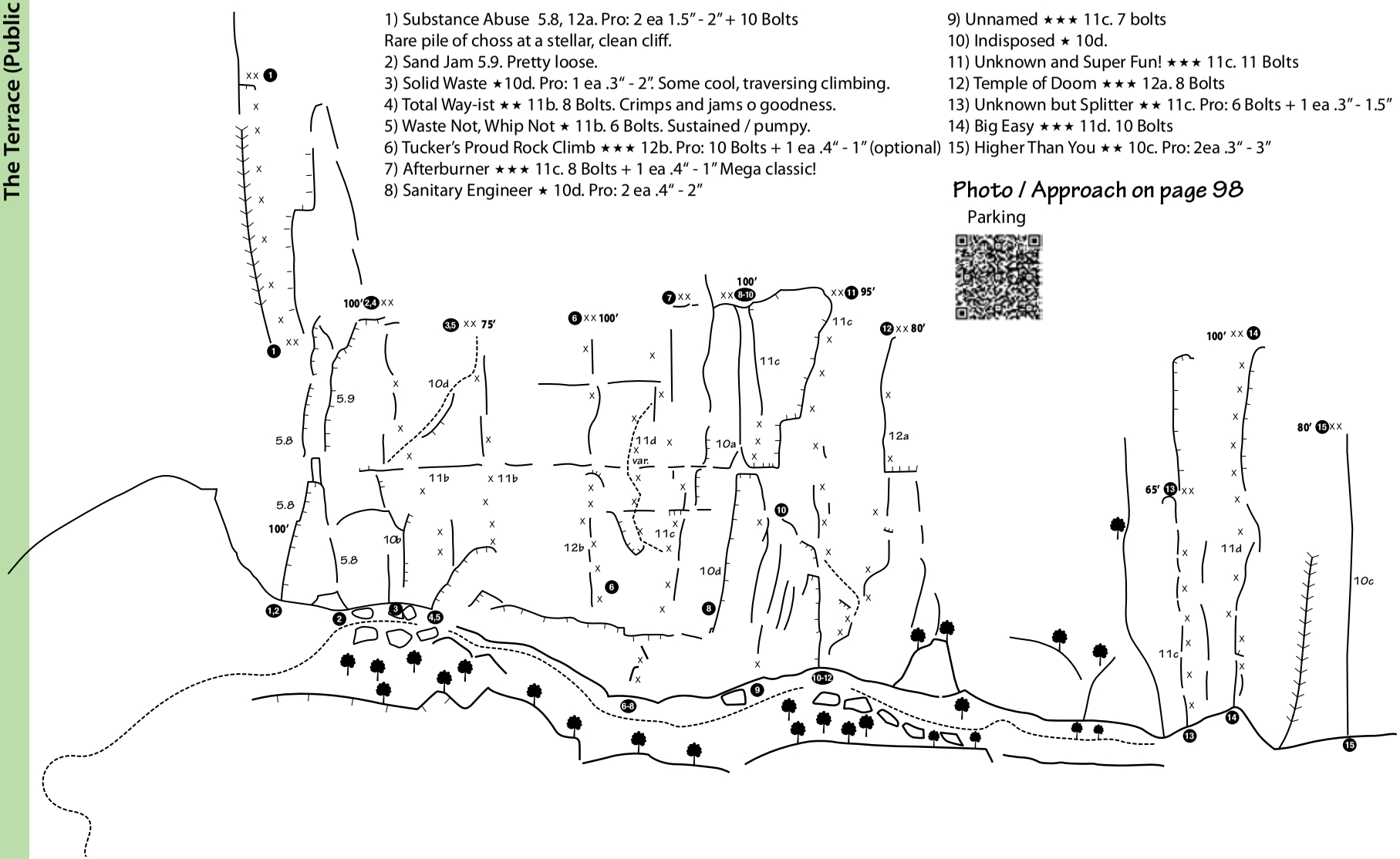
Parking

The Terrace (Public Sanitation) - Upper Tier

1) Substance Abuse 5.8, 12a. Pro: 2 ea 1.5" - 2" + 10 Bolts
Rare pile of choss at a stellar, clean cliff.
2) Sand Jam 5.9. Pretty loose.
3) Solid Waste ★10d. Pro: 1 ea .3" - 2". Some cool, traversing climbing.
4) Total Way-ist ★★ 11b. 8 Bolts. Crimps and jams o goodness.
5) Waste Not, Whip Not ★ 11b. 6 Bolts. Sustained / pumpy.
6) Tucker's Proud Rock Climb ★★★ 12b. Pro: 10 Bolts + 1 ea .4" - 1" (optional)
7) Afterburner ★★★ 11c. 8 Bolts + 1 ea .4" - 1" Mega classic!
8) Sanitary Engineer ★ 10d. Pro: 2 ea .4" - 2"
9) Unnamed ★★★ 11c. 7 bolts
10) Indisposed ★ 10d.
11) Unknown and Super Fun! ★★★ 11c. 11 Bolts
12) Temple of Doom ★★★ 12a. 8 Bolts
13) Unknown but Splitter ★★ 11c. Pro: 6 Bolts + 1 ea .3" - 1.5"
14) Big Easy ★★★ 11d. 10 Bolts
15) Higher Than You ★★ 10c. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"

Photo / Approach on page 98

Parking



RockClimbYosemite.com

Southside

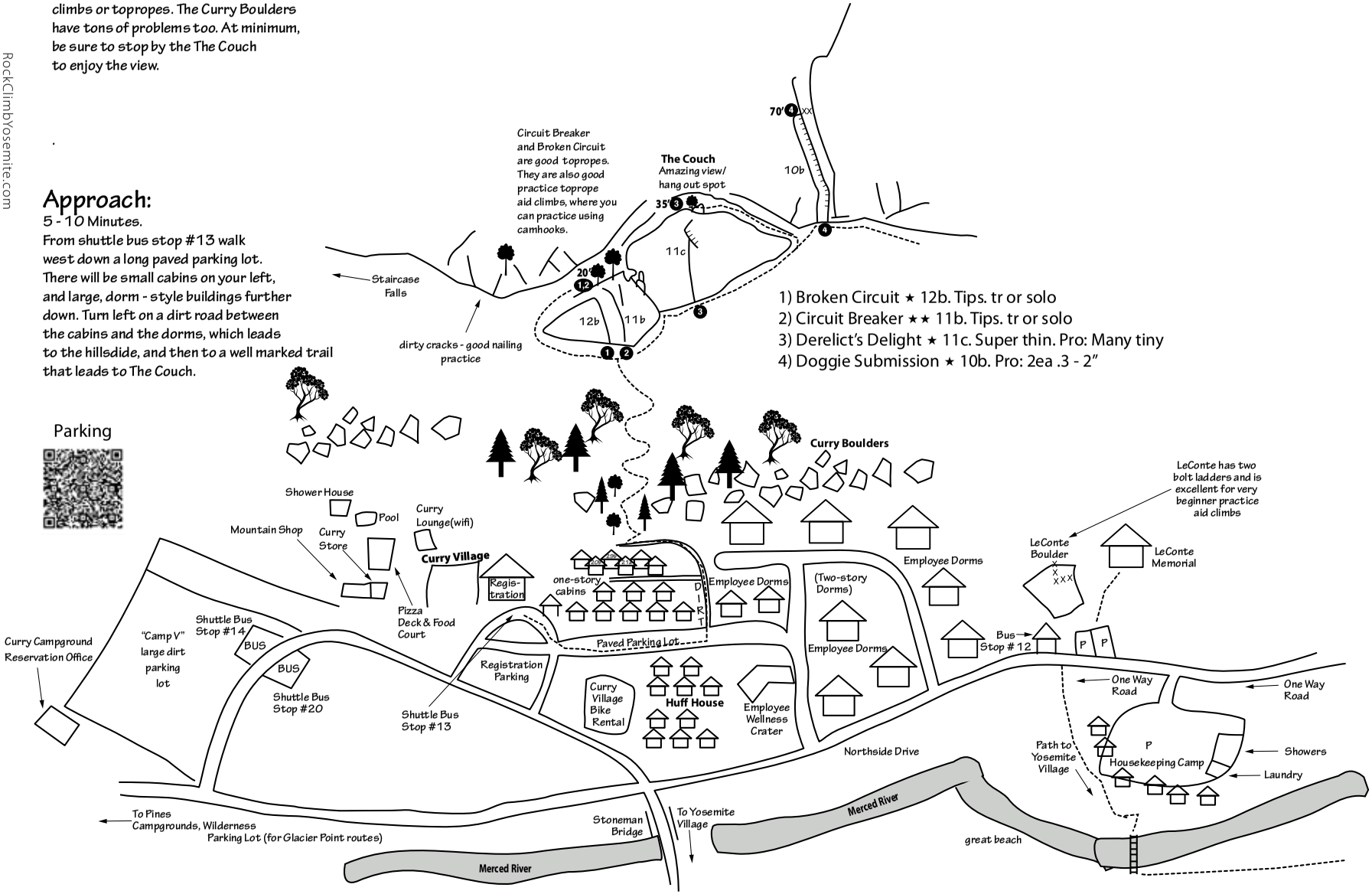
Curry (Half Dome) Village / The Couch / LeConte Boulder

The Couch offers fun, easy access short climbs or topropes. The Curry Boulders have tons of problems too. At minimum, be sure to stop by the The Couch to enjoy the view.

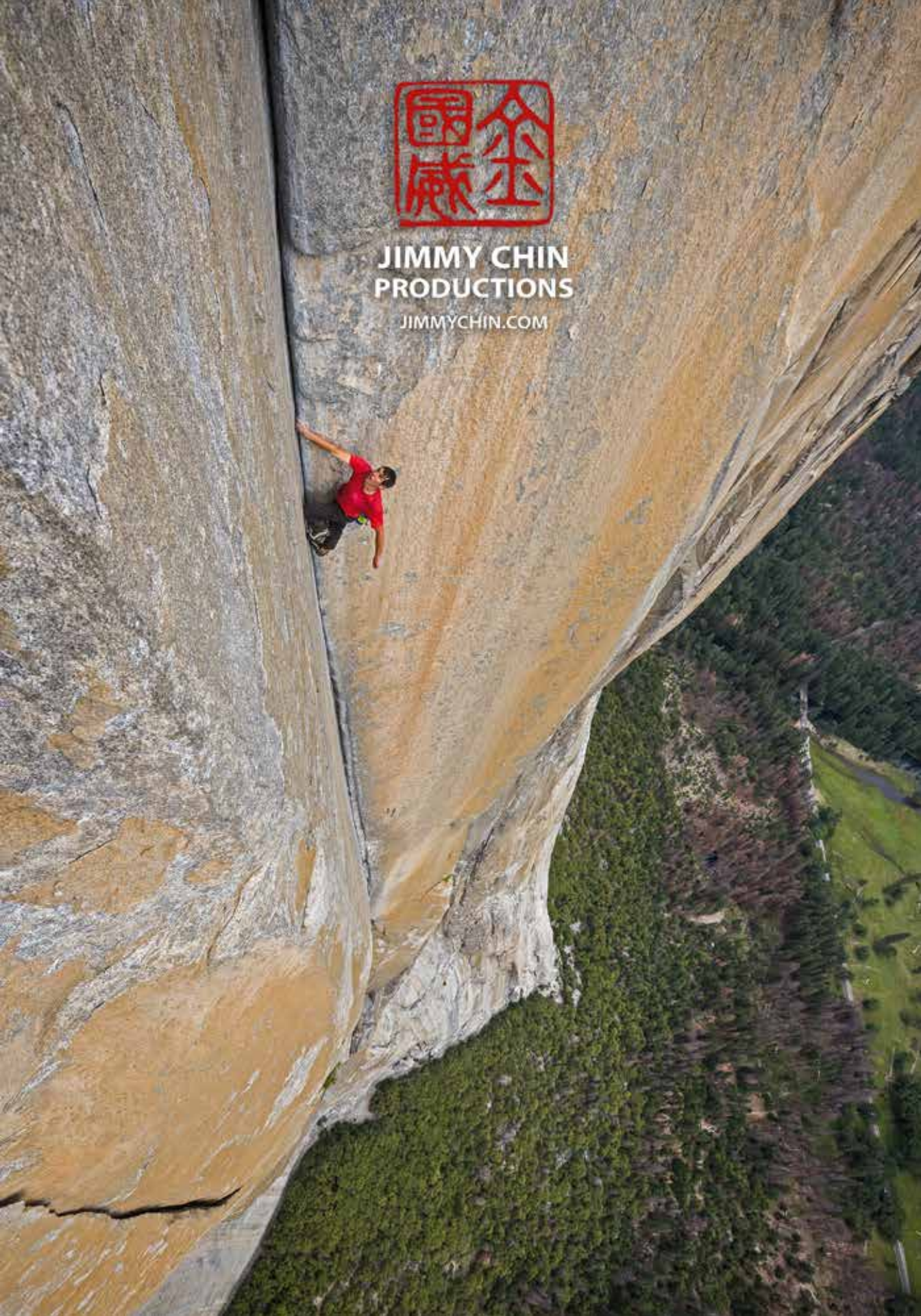
Approach:

5 - 10 Minutes.
From shuttle bus stop #13 walk west down a long paved parking lot. There will be small cabins on your left, and large, dorm - style buildings further down. Turn left on a dirt road between the cabins and the dorms, which leads to the hillsdide, and then to a well marked trail that leads to The Couch.

Parking

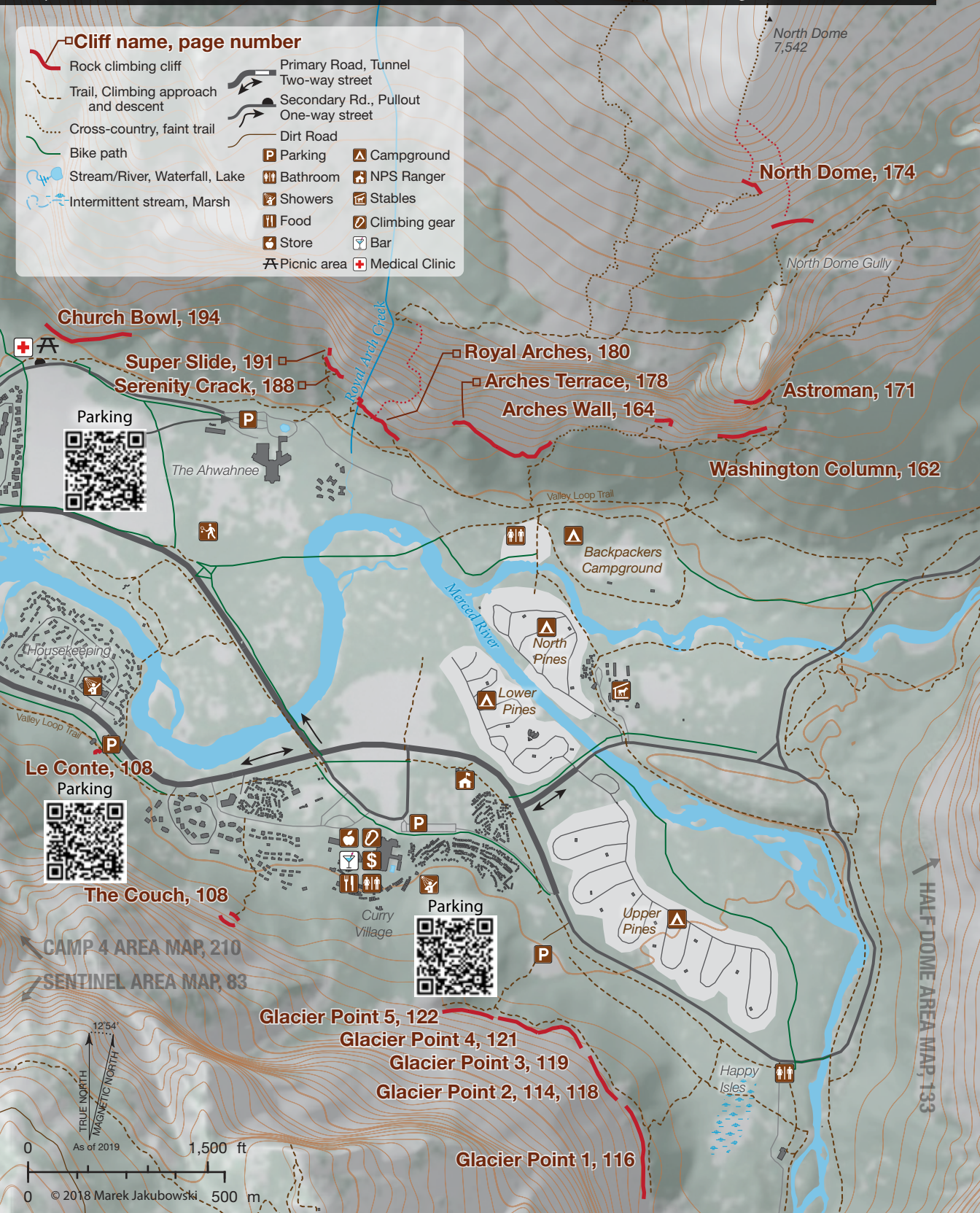


1) Broken Circuit ★ 12b. Tips. tr or solo
2) Circuit Breaker ★★ 11b. Tips. tr or solo
3) Derelict's Delight ★ 11c. Super thin. Pro: Many tiny
4) Doggie Submission ★ 10b. Pro: 2ea .3 - 2"


JIMMY CHIN
PRODUCTIONS
JIMMYCHIN.COM

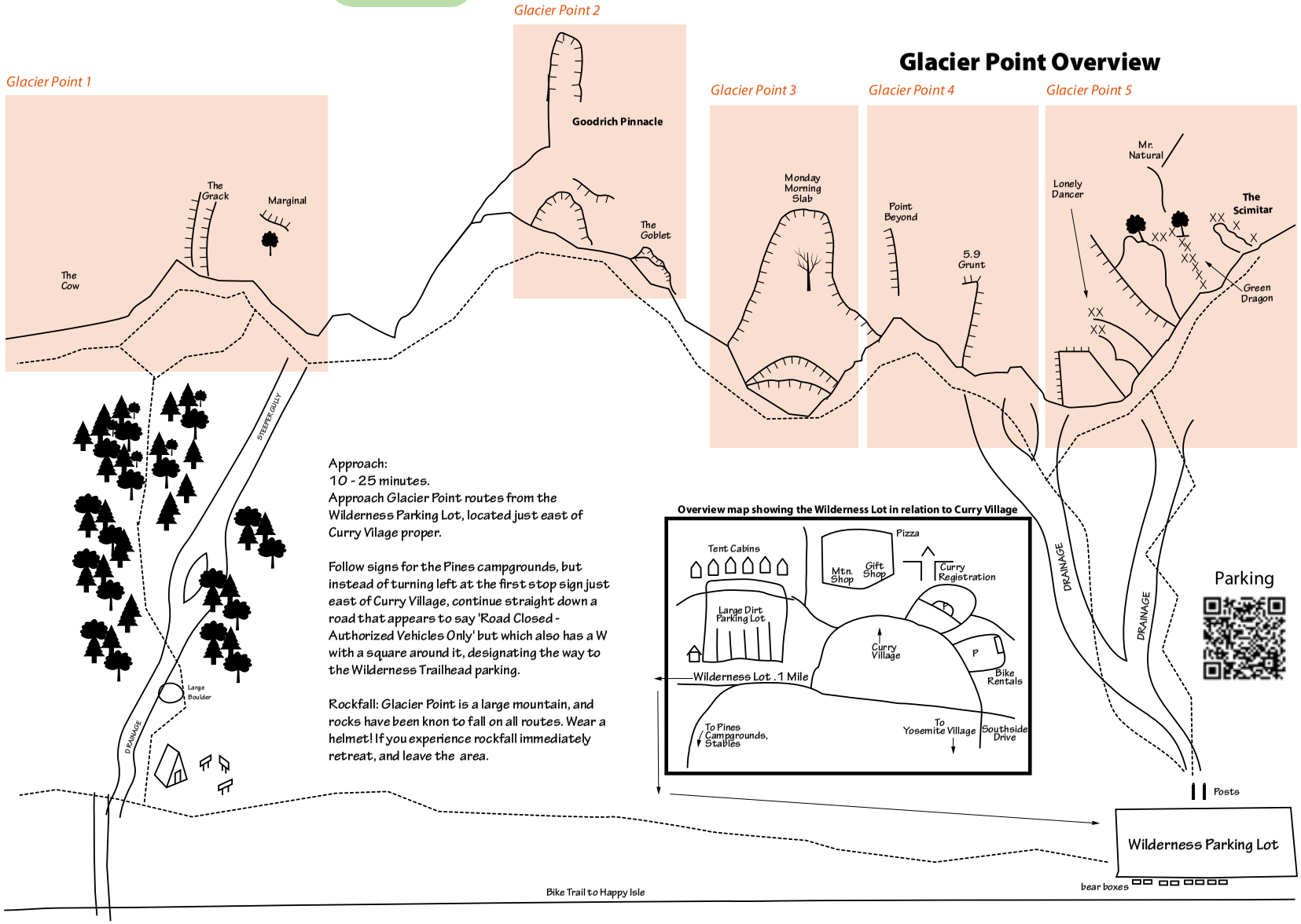
Glacier Point

Scenic and lower-angled, Glacier Point is a good introduction to Yosemite trad climbing. With many climbs in the 5.5 - 5.8 range, including runout slabs and some perfect cracks, this is an area that will challenge you to trust your footwork on the rock. The north, and northeast facing nature of the climbing here means that you can find some morning shade on the right side routes, from *Morning Glory Slab* to *Mr. Natural*, but generally this is a sunny area. *The Grack* (5.6), *Harry Daley* (5.8), and *Mr. Natural* (5.10c) are the mega-classics.



Southside

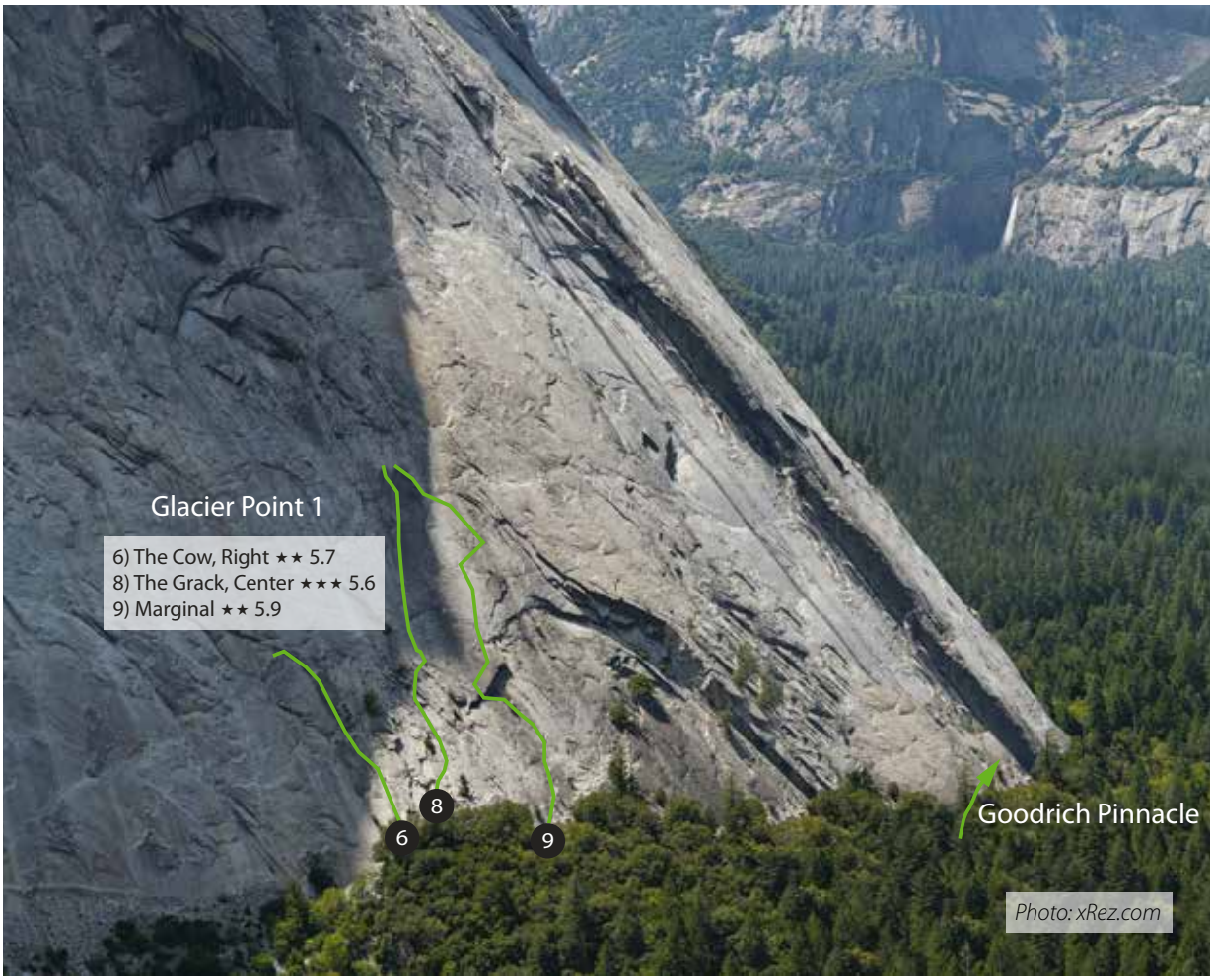
Glacier Point Overview



Approach:
10 - 25 minutes.
Approach Glacier Point routes from the Wilderness Parking Lot, located just east of Curry Vilage proper.

Follow signs for the Pines campgrounds, but instead of turning left at the first stop sign just east of Curry Village, continue straight down a road that appears to say 'Road Closed - Authorized Vehicles Only' but which also has a W with a square around it, designating the way to the Wilderness Trailhead parking.

Rockfall: Glacier Point is a large mountain, and rocks have been knon to fall on all routes. Wear a helmet! If you experience rockfall immediately retreat, and leave the area.


Glacier Point 1
6) The Cow, Right ★★ 5.7
8) The Grack, Center ★★★ 5.6
9) Marginal ★★ 5.9
6
8
9
Goodrich Pinnacle
Photo: xRez.com

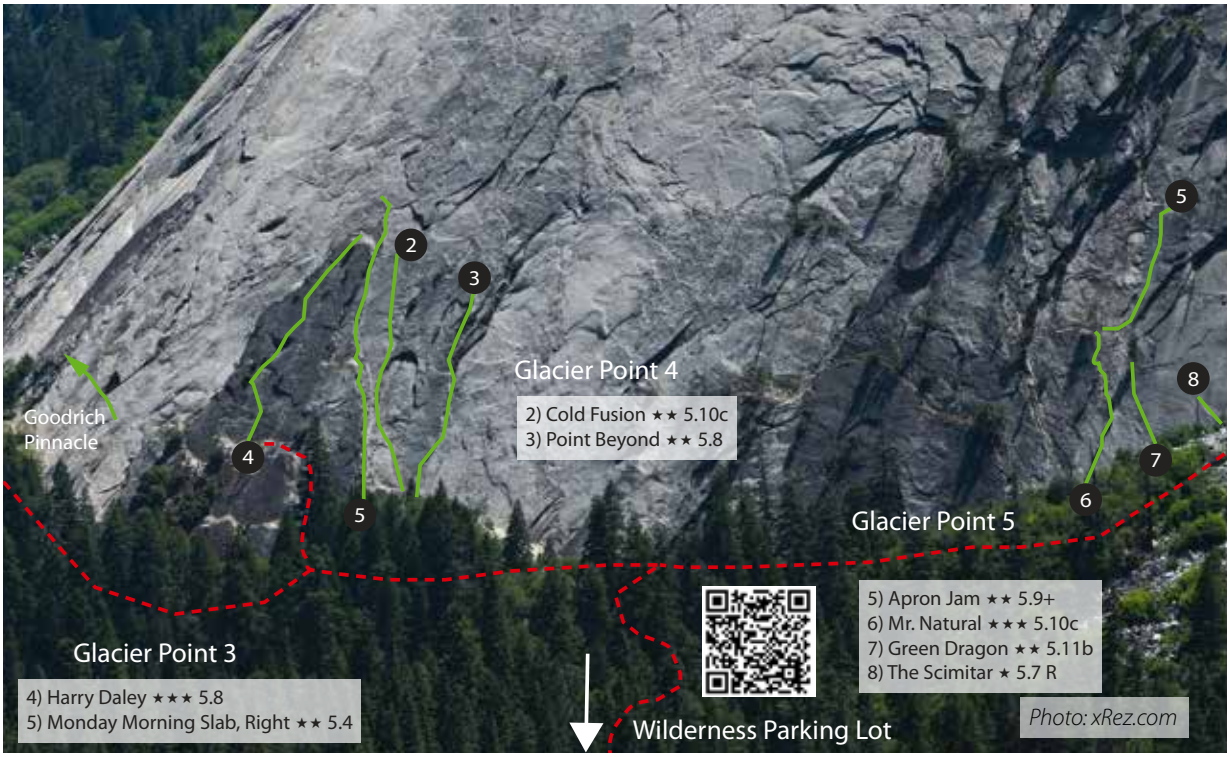

Goodrich Pinnacle
4
5
2
3
Glacier Point 4
2) Cold Fusion ★★ 5.10c
3) Point Beyond ★★ 5.8
5
8
7
6
Glacier Point 5
5) Apron Jam ★★ 5.9+
6) Mr. Natural ★★★ 5.10c
7) Green Dragon ★★ 5.11b
8) The Scimitar ★ 5.7 R
Glacier Point 3
4) Harry Daley ★★★ 5.8
5) Monday Morning Slab, Right ★★ 5.4
Wilderness Parking Lot
Photo: xRez.com

Photo: Erik Sloan

Hall of Mirrors V 5.12c R

FA: September 1980 - Chris Cantwell, Scott Burk

Hall of Mirrors is considered one of the best slab routes at its grade in the world. Steep and technical, Alex Honnold describes HOM as 'Freeblast on steroids'.

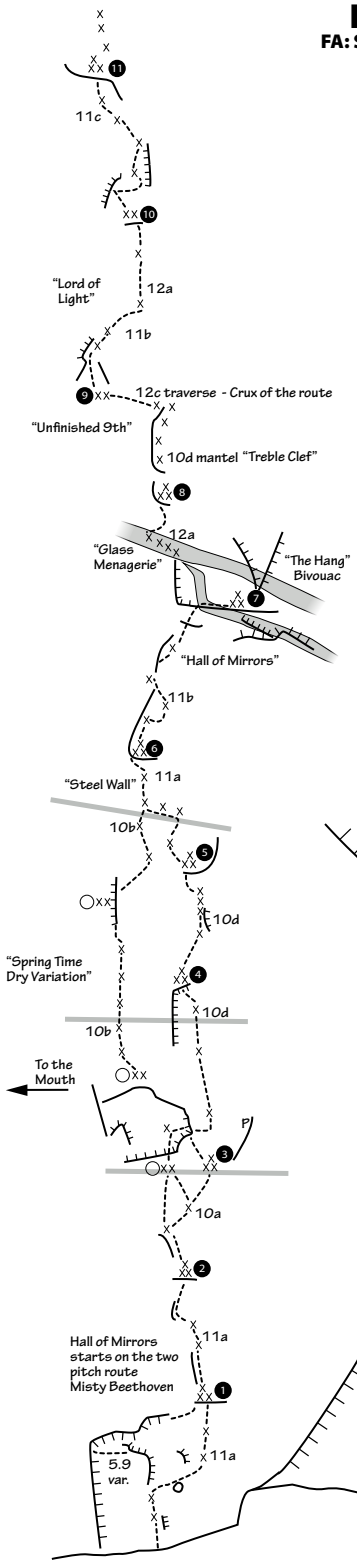
Approach:

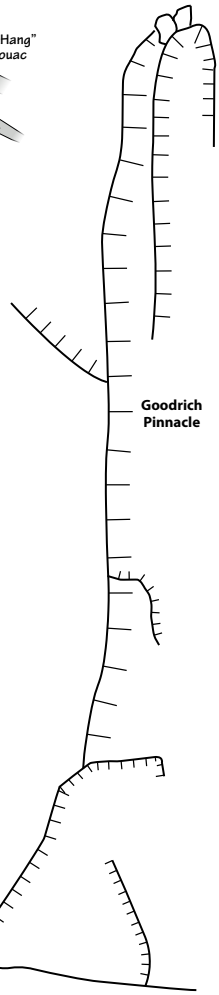
15 - 25 Minutes.

Approach as you do for the Grack, walking east of the Wilderness Parking Lot until you hit a clearing with a little hut and benches (see map on page111). Turn right and follow a climber's trail up until you reach the wall. Turn right and walk down, around, and up along the base of the wall to the route.

Descent:

Rappel with two ropes from pitch 16 anchor, or continue to the rim via easy climbing. From the rim, walk to the Glacier Point store and buy ice cream. Eat ice cream and make new friends. Hitch a ride, with your new friends, back down to the Valley.

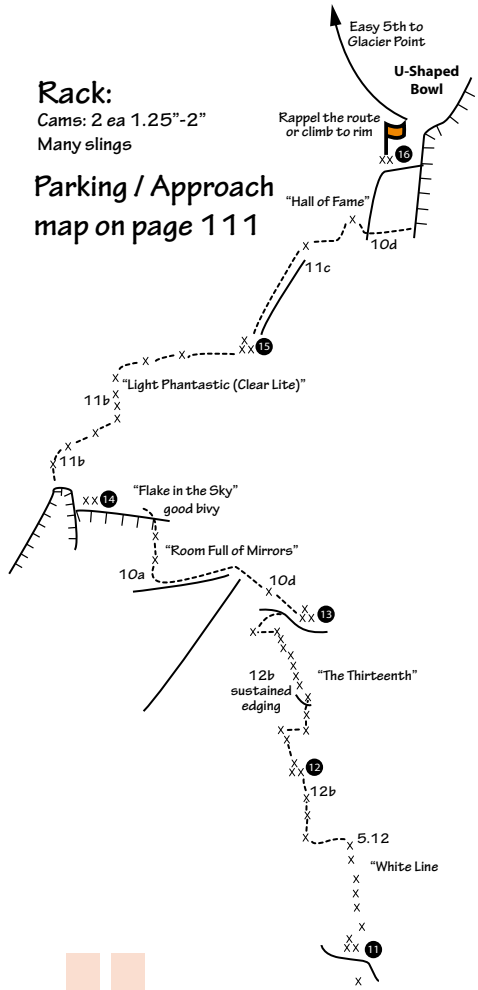


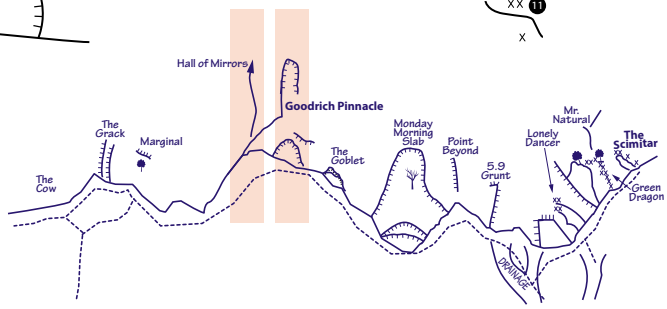


Rack:

Cams: 2 ea 1.25"-2"
Many slings

Parking / Approach map on page 111

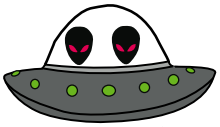




Parking

Galactic Hitchhiker IV 5.11b or 5.10a C2

FA: October 1995 - Lou Renner, Matt Brooks



Ascending a mind-boggling four thousand vertical feet, Galactic Hitchiker is an incredible adventure with the ultimate topout. GH is know for technical, wandery slab with plenty of challenging route finding, aka 'the adult version of the Royal Arches'.

Approach:

20 - 30 Minutes.
Approach as you do for the Grack, walking east of the Wilderness Parking Lot until you hit a clearing with a little hut and benches (see map on page 111). Turn right and follow a climber's trail up until you reach the wall. Turn right and walk down, around, and up along the base of the wall to the route.
a ride back down to the Valley with your new friends.

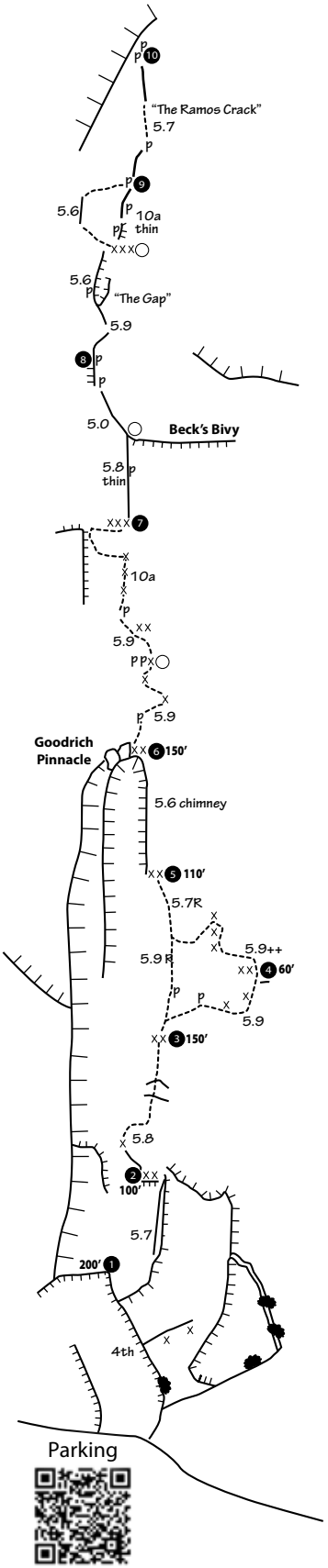
Rack:

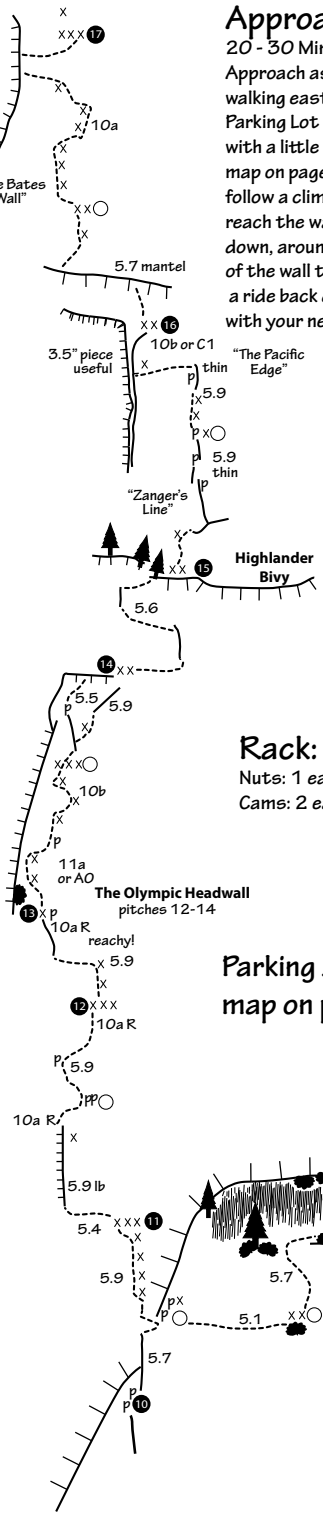
Nuts: 1 ea inc. micros
Cams: 2 ea .3"-4"

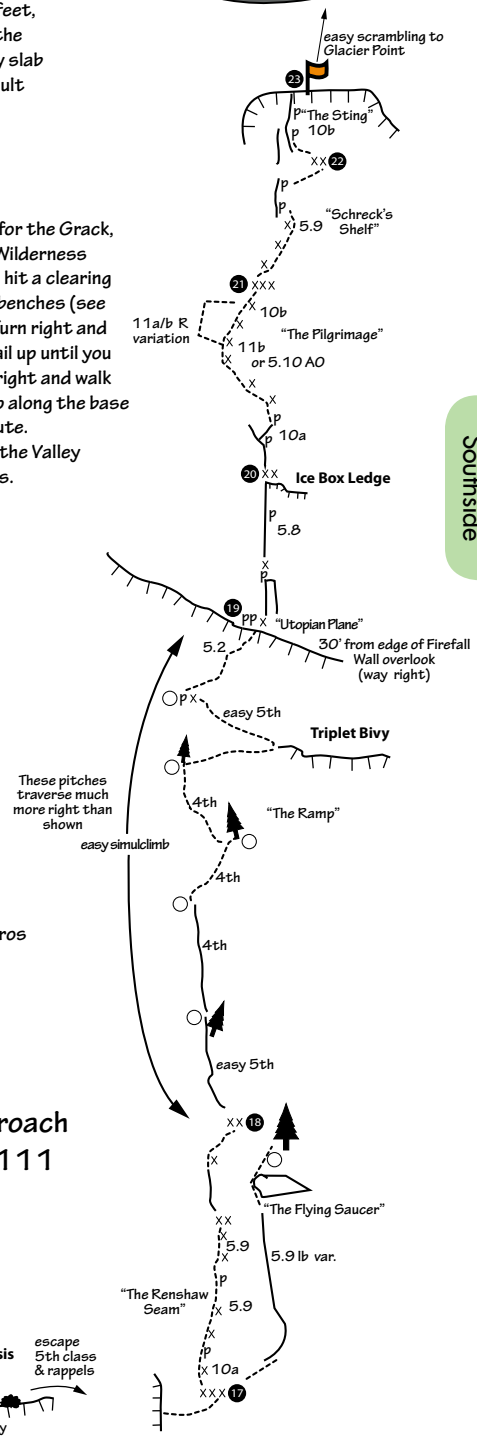
Parking / Approach map on page 111

Descent:

Walk to Glacier Point store and eat ice cream / make friends with tourists. Hitch a ride back down to the Valley with your new friends.



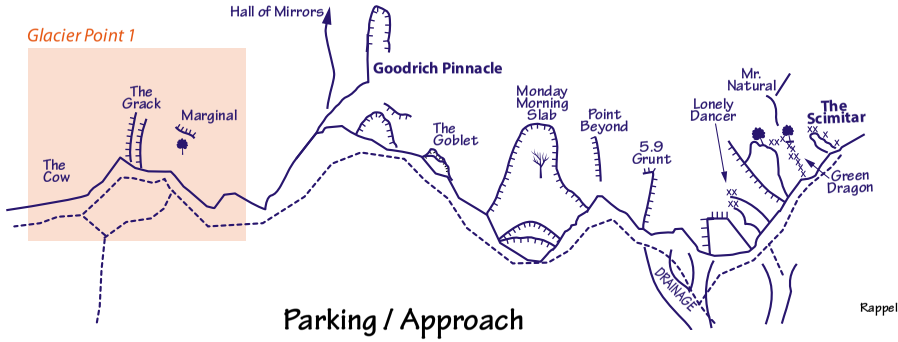




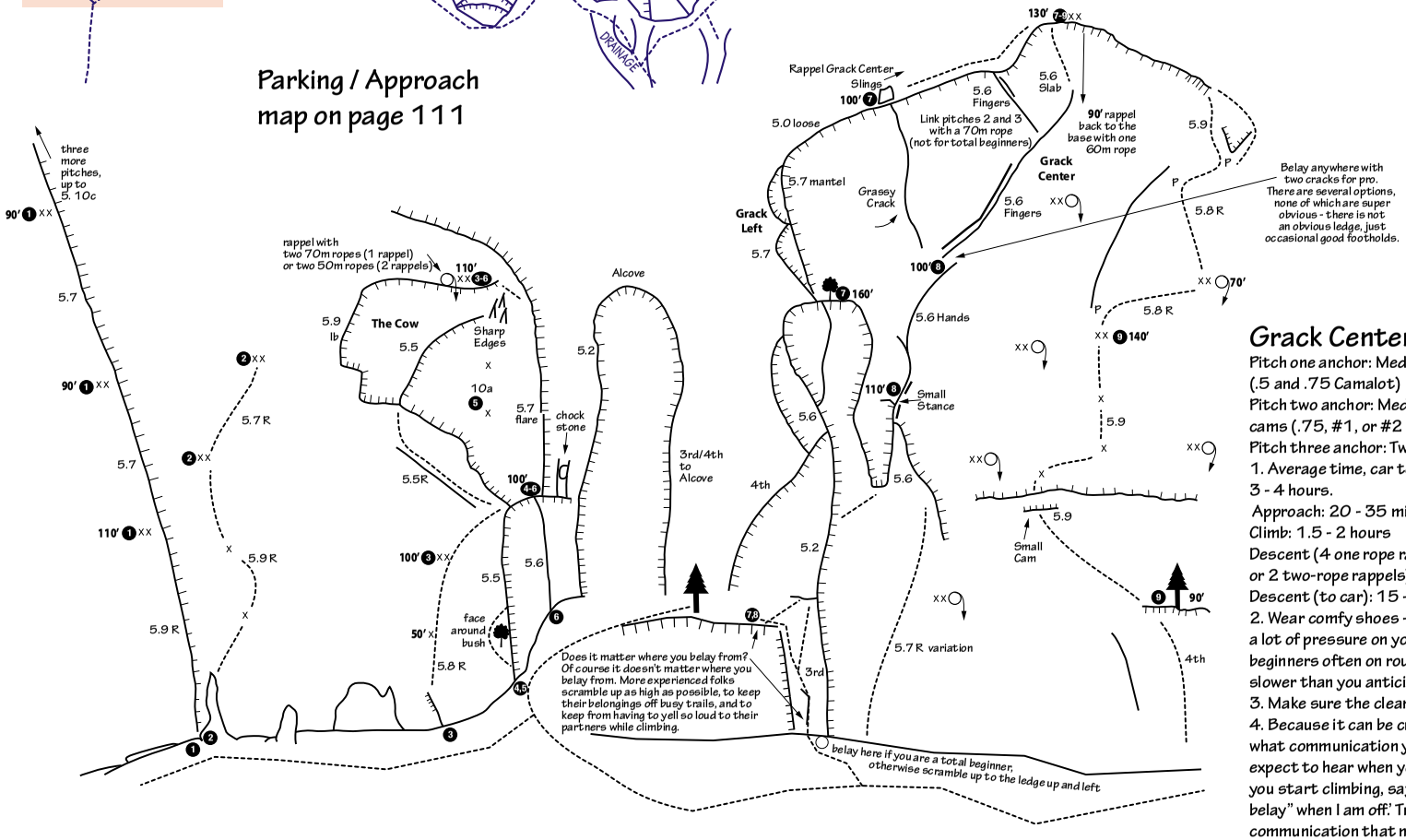
Southside

Glacier Point 1

1) Mother's Lament ★ 5.9 R, 5.7. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3", 1ea 4". Polished.
2) Tightrope 5.9 R, 5.7 R. 2 Bolts. Bold - school.
3) The Cow, Left 5.8 R, 5.9. Pro: 1ea .3" - 3". Better than tightrope.
4) The Cow, Center ★★ 5.5. Pro: 1ea .3" - 3". Fun, low - angled beginner route.
5) An Udder Way ★ 10a.
6) The Cow, Right ★★ 5.6, 5.7. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1", 1ea 1.5" - 3". Second pitch is thin, so more of a smear fest.
7) The Grack, Left ★★ 5.6, 5.7. Pro: 1-2ea: .3" - 3". Super fun / well protected.
8) The Grack, Center ★★★ 5.6. Pro: 2-3ea .4" - 1.5", 1ea 2". Splitter bliss. Eats stoppers.
9) Marginal ★★ 5.9, 5.8 R. Pro: 1ea .3" - 1.25". Bold - school runout friction.



Parking / Approach map on page 111

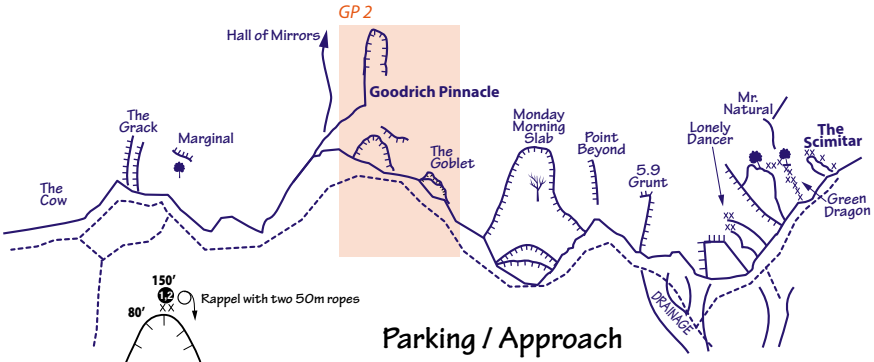


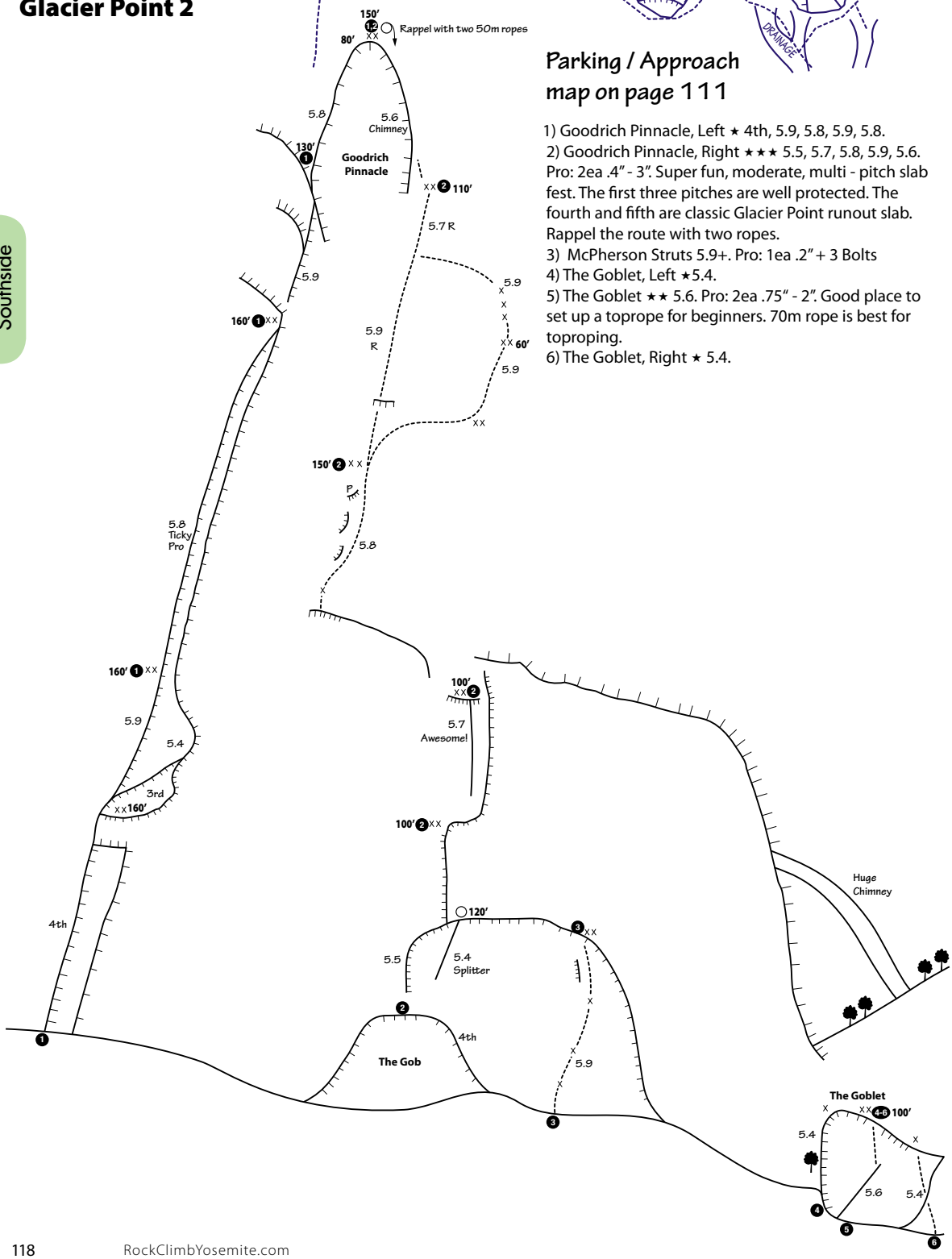
Grack Center Extra Beta:

Pitch one anchor: Medium nut and 1" - 1.5" (.5 and .75 Camalot)
Pitch two anchor: Medium nut and 1.25" - 2" cams (.75, #1, or #2 Camalot)
Pitch three anchor: Two bolts (rappel anchor).
1. Average time, car to car, for the climb: 3 - 4 hours.
Approach: 20 - 35 minutes
Climb: 1.5 - 2 hours
Descent (4 one rope rappels w/ 60m rope, or 2 two-rope rappels): 20 - 30 minutes
Descent (to car): 15 - 20 minutes
2. Wear comfy shoes - low angle climbing puts a lot of pressure on your feet. With a lot of beginners often on route, progress could be slower than you anticipated.
3. Make sure the cleaner has a nut tool!
4. Because it can be crowded, be extra clear what communication your partner(s) can expect to hear when you are climbing. Before you start climbing, say 'ok, I will say "John off belay" when I am off.' Try to minimize frivilous communication that might confuse nearby parties.

Erik Sloan on Sunnyside Bench, 5.5 (pg. 213)
Photo: Samuel Crossley

Glacier Point 2

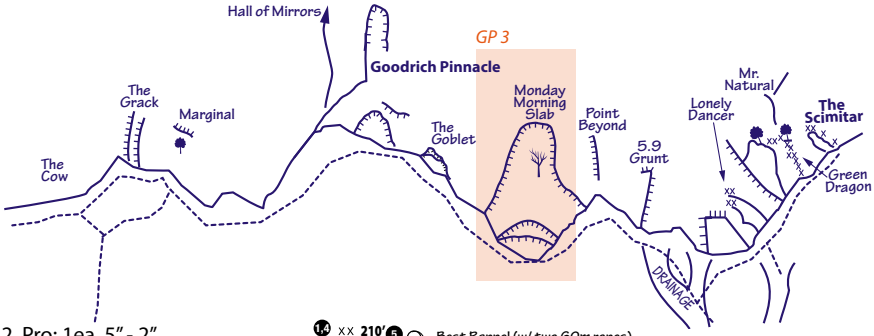




Parking / Approach map on page 111

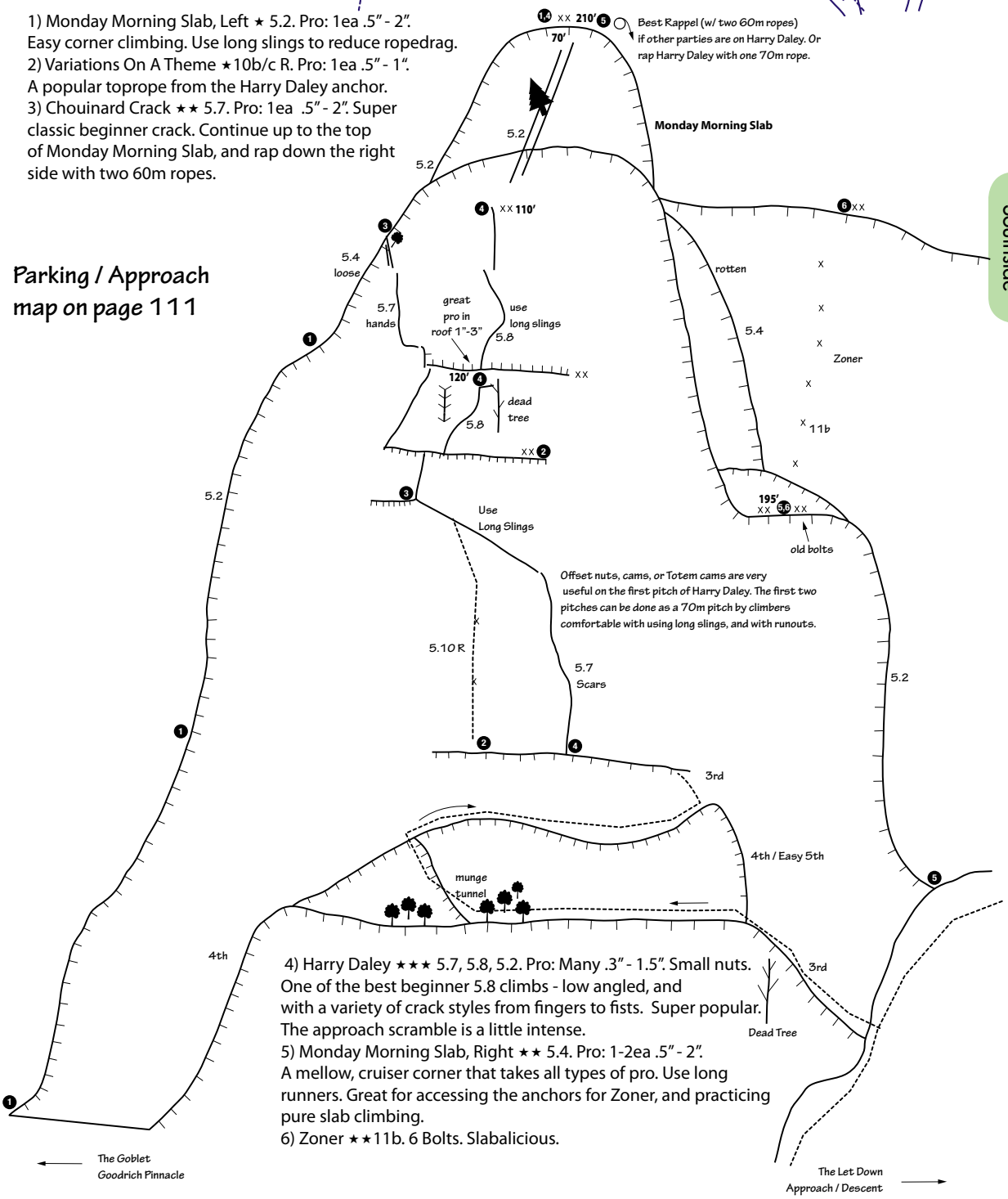
1) Goodrich Pinnacle, Left ★ 4th, 5.9, 5.8, 5.9, 5.8.
2) Goodrich Pinnacle, Right ★★★ 5.5, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.6. Pro: 2ea .4" - 3". Super fun, moderate, multi - pitch slab fest. The first three pitches are well protected. The fourth and fifth are classic Glacier Point runout slab. Rappel the route with two ropes.
3) McPherson Struts 5.9+. Pro: 1ea .2" + 3 Bolts
4) The Goblet, Left ★5.4.
5) The Goblet ★★ 5.6. Pro: 2ea .75" - 2". Good place to set up a toprope for beginners. 70m rope is best for toproping.
6) The Goblet, Right ★ 5.4.

Glacier Point 3



1) Monday Morning Slab, Left ★ 5.2. Pro: 1ea .5" - 2". Easy corner climbing. Use long slings to reduce ropedrag.
2) Variations On A Theme ★10b/c R. Pro: 1ea .5" - 1". A popular toprope from the Harry Daley anchor.
3) Chouinard Crack ★★ 5.7. Pro: 1ea .5" - 2". Super classic beginner crack. Continue up to the top of Monday Morning Slab, and rap down the right side with two 60m ropes.

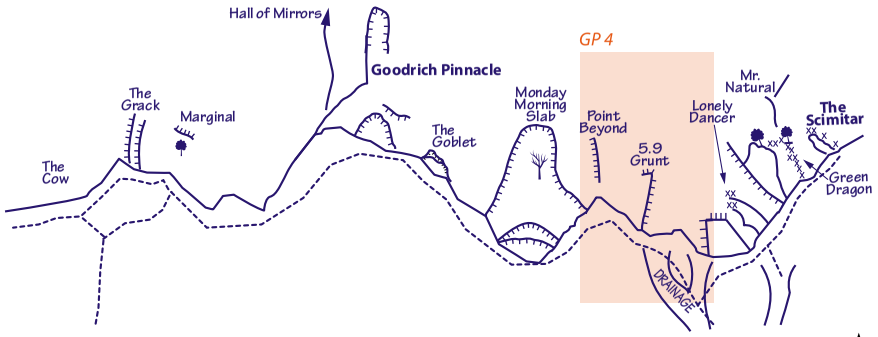
Parking / Approach map on page 111



4) Harry Daley ★★★ 5.7, 5.8, 5.2. Pro: Many .3" - 1.5". Small nuts. One of the best beginner 5.8 climbs - low angled, and with a variety of crack styles from fingers to fists. Super popular. The approach scramble is a little intense.
5) Monday Morning Slab, Right ★★ 5.4. Pro: 1-2ea .5" - 2". A mellow, cruiser corner that takes all types of pro. Use long runners. Great for accessing the anchors for Zoner, and practicing pure slab climbing.
6) Zoner ★★11b. 6 Bolts. Slabalicious.

Ryan Sheridan on The Grack, 5.6
Photo: Samuel Crossley

Glacier Point 4



1) Zoner ★★ 11b. 6 Bolts. Slabalicious
2) Cold Fusion ★★ 10c, 5.9, 10b. Pro: 1ea .3" - 1.5".
A challenging route with gear and bolts.
3) Point Beyond ★★ 5.8, 5.6. Pro: 1-2ea .3" - 3". Fun, slab challenge.
The start is the crux.
4) Chiropodist Shop ★ 11b. Pro: 1-2ea .3" -1.5" + 6 Bolts
5) The Token ★ 11d.
6) Ephemeral Clogdance ★ 11b.
7) The Letdown 5.9.

Parking / Approach map on page 111

Point Beyond (1 Pitch) 5.7

Point Beyond Direct (2 Pitches) 5.8

12 XX 100′

Zoner

10b

2 XX 60′

11b

1

5.8

5.6

3 100′

3 140′

2 XX 100′

10c

.3" cam (blue alien)

5.8 lb

Thin

5.8

Monday Morning Slab

Goodrich Pinnacle

2

3

XX 4-6 80′

"5.9 Grunt"

11b

5.9+

11b

11d

11b

4

5

6

Continues for 6 Pitches

7

5.8 forest

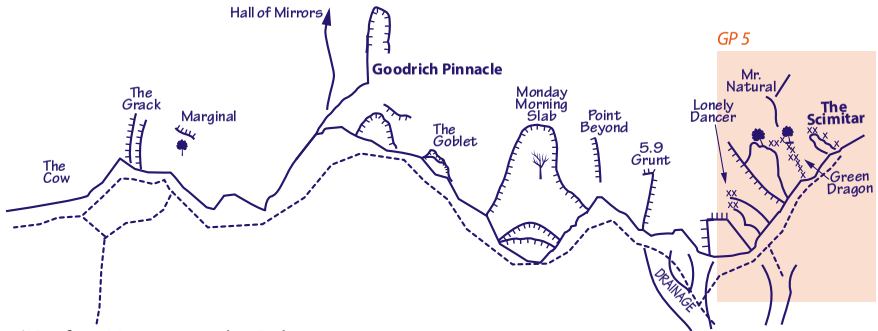
7

7

to Mr. Natural

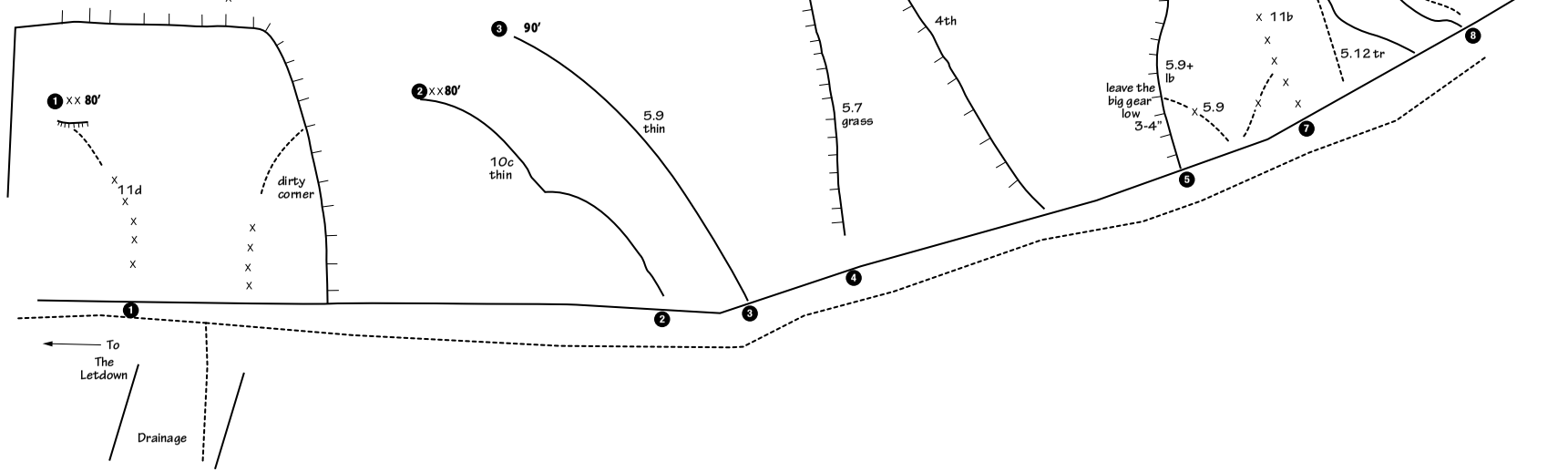
RockClimbYosemite.com

Glacier Point 5



Parking / Approach map on page 111

1) Perfect Master ★ 11d. 5 Bolts
2) Lonely Dancer ★ 10c. Pro: Thin (many small stoppers).
A nice arching crack on perfect rock.
3) Son of Sam ★ 5.9+. Pro: 1-2ea .3" - 1.5". Good times slab climbing.
4) Cosmic Comedy 5.7.
5) Apron Jam ★★ 5.9+. Pro: 1ea 1" - 3", 2ea 4". 1ea 5".
Stout, fun liebacking.
6) Mr. Natural ★★★ 10c. Pro: 3-5ea .3" - 1", 1-2ea 1.5".
One of the all time, lower - angled finger cracks. Mega - classic!
7) Green Dragon ★★ 11b. 10 Bolts
8) The Scimitar ★ 5.7 R. 2 Bolts



Rachel Walera is Ms. Natural, 5.10c
Photo: Dave N. Campbell

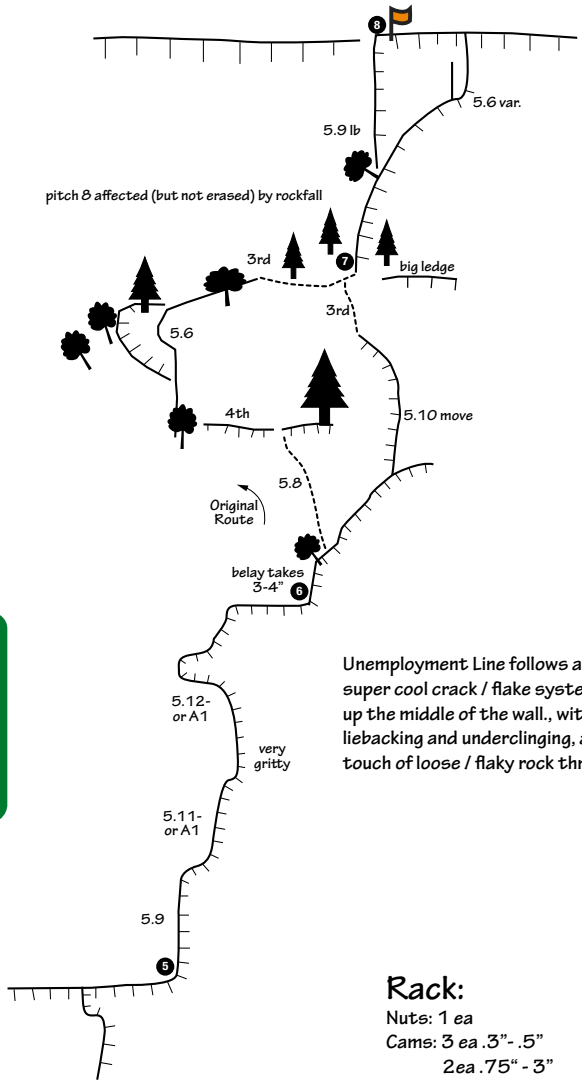
Mount Broderick and Liberty Cap

Bold, adventure climbing with some incredible splitter cracks mixed in, Mt. Broderick and Liberty Cap are up-and-coming free climbing crags. The approach, while long, is super straight forward and the setting, right next to Nevada Fall, is as idyllic as they come. Better in the colder months, these routes are in the sun most of the day.

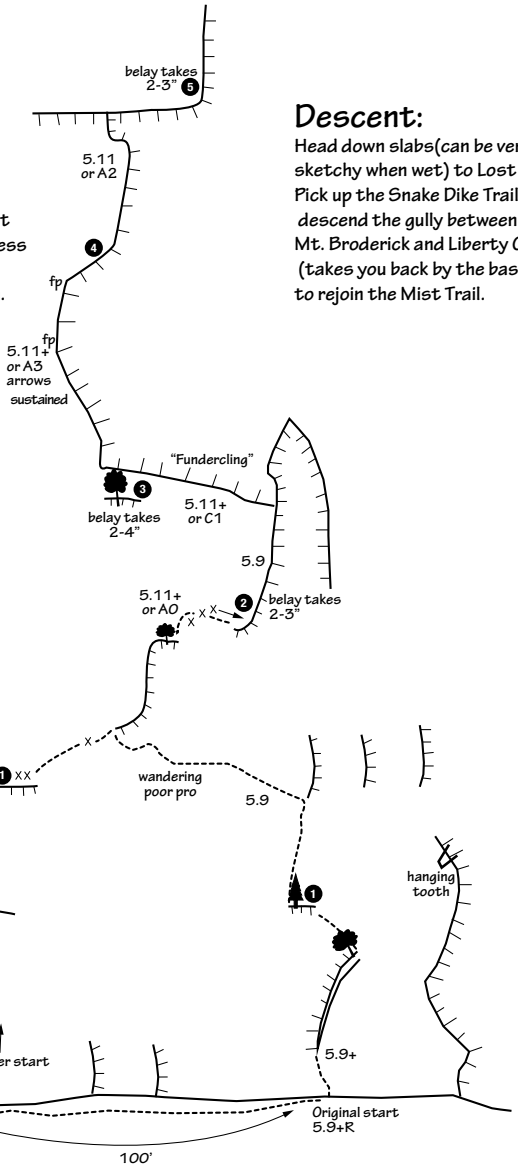
Photo: Erik Sloan

Unemployment Line IV 5.12a or 5.9 A3

FA: November 1982 - Alan Bartlett, Jim May, Steve Gerberding
FFA: June 2014 - Shaun Reed, Scotty Nelson



Unemployment Line follows a super cool crack / flake system right up the middle of the wall., with endless liebacking and underclinging, and a touch of loose / flaky rock thrown in.



Descent:

Head down slabs(can be very sketchy when wet) to Lost Lake. Pick up the Snake Dike Trail and descend the gully between Mt. Broderick and Liberty Cap (takes you back by the base) to rejoin the Mist Trail.

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 3 ea .3"- .5"
2ea .75" - 3"
1 ea 4"
10 LAs (if aiding)

Photo on page 124

Approach:

70 - 90 minutes.
Hike up the Mist Trail until it crosses the Merced River ~0.25 miles after Vernal Fall. 200' past the bridge leave the trail hiking uphill, trending left. When you encounter cliff bands, trend left as you go up slabs. (See the approach map for the South Face of Half Dome)

Parking

Alix Morris on Scarface, 5.12b, Liberty Cap, pg 128
Photo: Austin Siadak

Free Scarface V 5.12

FA: June 2010 - Steve Bosque, Josh Mucci
FFA: 2013 - Luke Stefurak, Ben Steel

The most popular free route in this area. Scarface climbs a couple dirtier pitches to access several pitches of pristine, white spitters.

Free Rack:

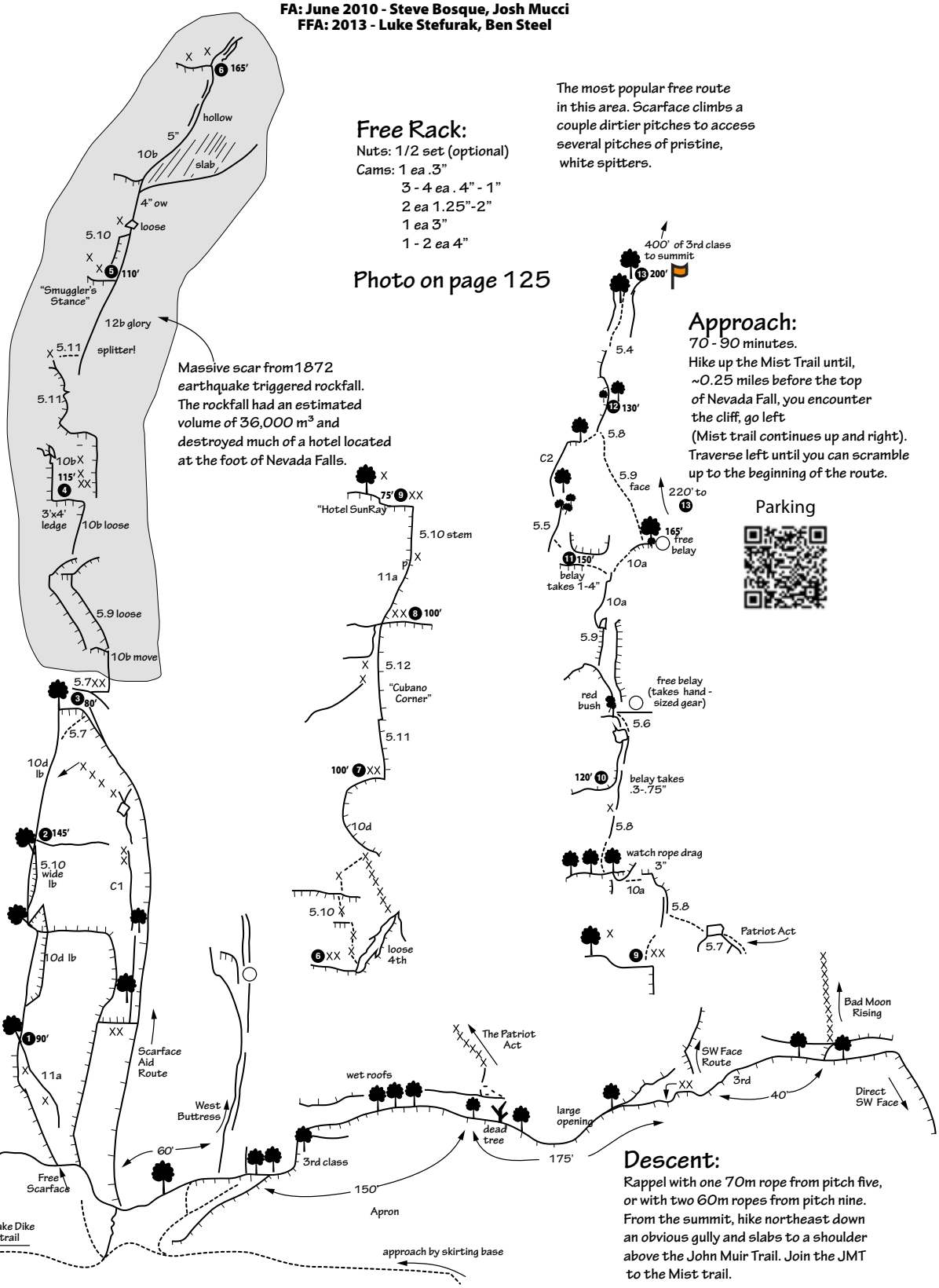
Nuts: 1/2 set (optional)
Cams: 1 ea .3"
3 - 4 ea . 4" - 1"
2 ea 1.25"-2"
1 ea 3"
1 - 2 ea 4"

Photo on page 125

Approach:

70 - 90 minutes.
Hike up the Mist Trail until, ~0.25 miles before the top of Nevada Fall, you encounter the cliff, go left (Mist trail continues up and right). Traverse left until you can scramble up to the beginning of the route.

Parking



Descent:

Rappel with one 70m rope from pitch five, or with two 60m ropes from pitch nine. From the summit, hike northeast down an obvious gully and slabs to a shoulder above the John Muir Trail. Join the JMT to the Mist trail.

Southwest Face V 5.8 C2

FA: June 1969 - Warren Harding, Galen Rowell, Joe Faint

Liberty Cap is an excellent alternative to Washington's Column as a beginner bigwall route, with plenty of good, adventurous free climbing. Only bummer is the bivy ledge is high on the route, so definitely not good for your first bigwall. The setting is incredible, and the rock quality mostly good.This route favors a 'fast and light' climbing strategy.

Approach:

1.5 - 2.5 hrs.
Hike up the Mist Trail until, ~0.25 miles before the top of Nevada Fall, you encounter the cliff, go left (Mist trail continues up and right). Traverse left, down, and around until you can scramble up to a 3rd class ramp, which cuts across the face.

Descent:

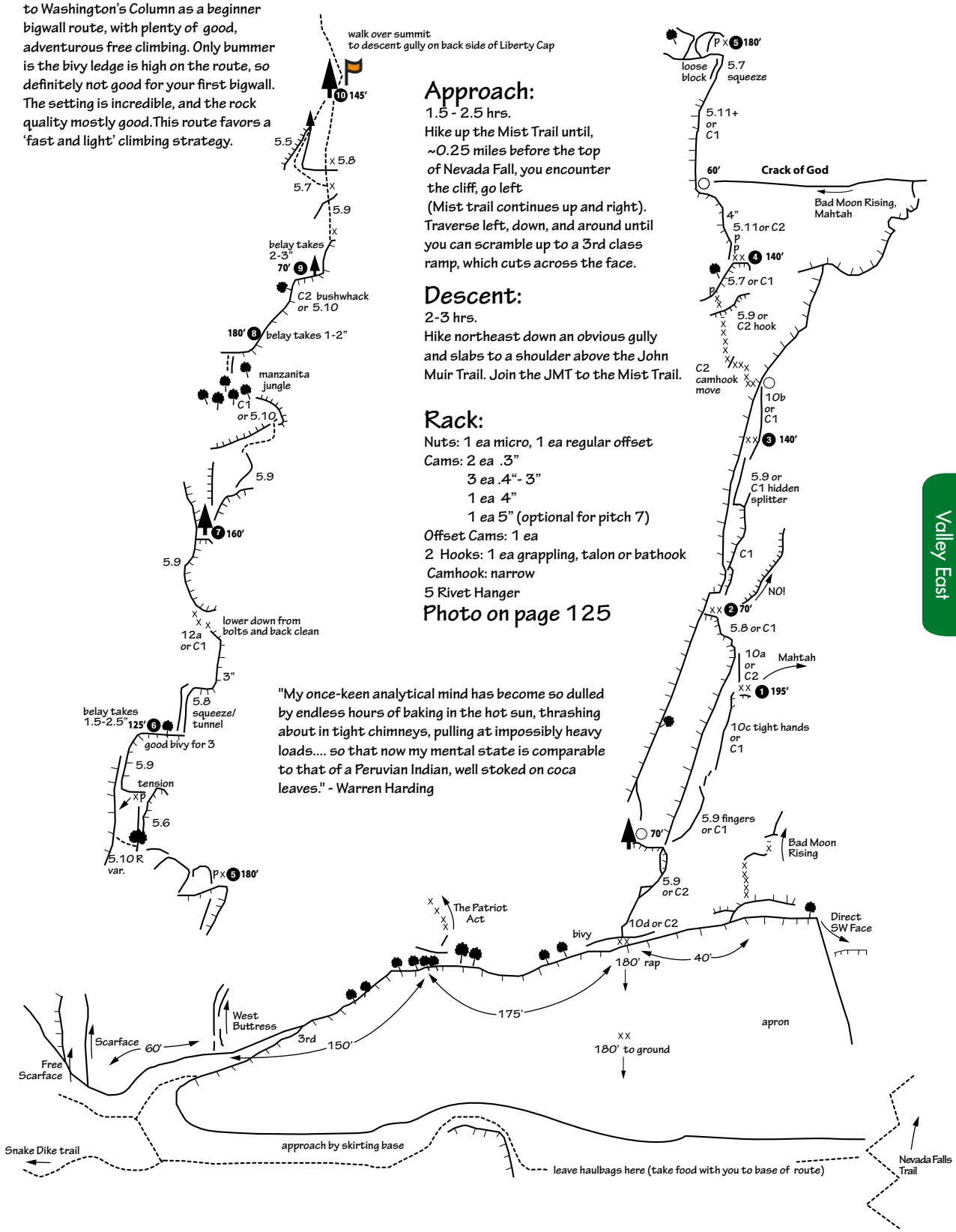
2-3 hrs.
Hike northeast down an obvious gully and slabs to a shoulder above the John Muir Trail. Join the JMT to the Mist Trail.

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea micro, 1 ea regular offset
Cams: 2 ea .3"
3 ea .4"- 3"
1 ea 4"
1 ea 5" (optional for pitch 7)
Offset Cams: 1 ea
2 Hooks: 1 ea grappling, talon or bathook
Camhook: narrow
5 Rivet Hanger

Photo on page 125

"My once-keen analytical mind has become so dulled by endless hours of baking in the hot sun, thrashing about in tight chimneys, pulling at impossibly heavy loads.... so that now my mental state is comparable to that of a Peruvian Indian, well stoked on coca leaves." - Warren Harding



Mahtah V 5.12d

FFA: June 2013 - Lucho Rivera, Cedar Wright

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .3"-1.5", 3 ea 1"
1 ea 2"-3"

Photo on page 125

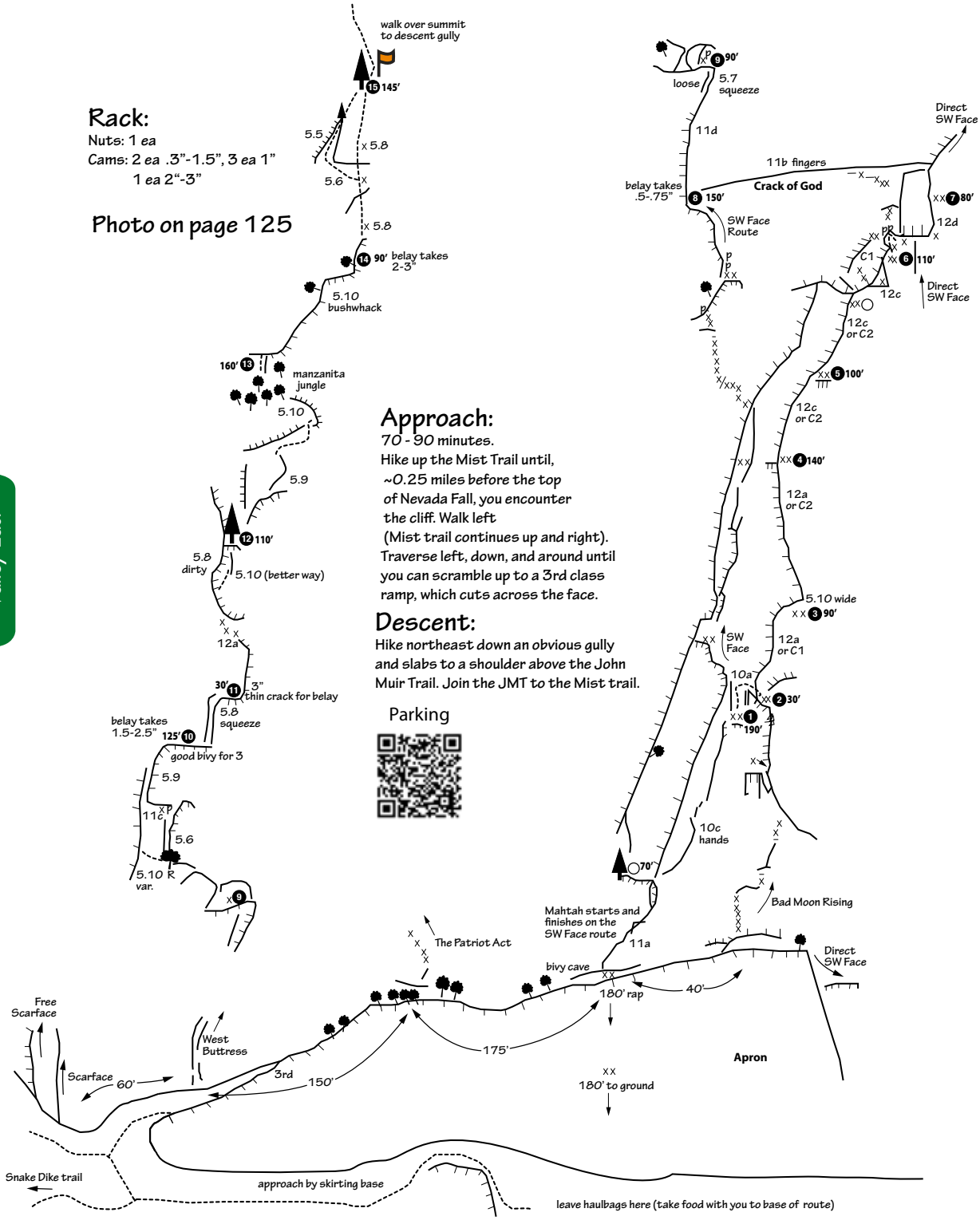
Approach:

70 - 90 minutes.
Hike up the Mist Trail until, ~0.25 miles before the top of Nevada Fall, you encounter the cliff. Walk left (Mist trail continues up and right). Traverse left, down, and around until you can scramble up to a 3rd class ramp, which cuts across the face.

Descent:

Hike northeast down an obvious gully and slabs to a shoulder above the John Muir Trail. Join the JMT to the Mist trail.

Parking



Cedar Wright on his route Mahtah, 5.12c/d
Photo: Gabriel Mann

Cables Route

Lost Again

South Face / Growing Up

Karma

Cataclysmic Megashear

To Snake Dike

cut up to climb after 2nd exposed slab move

great forest bivy

entire approach very bushy

look for faint trail & small cairns aim for grove of large pine trees

slab

~100 yards past cedar grove, look for faint trail contouring west

many large cedar trees

seasonal stream

Cut towards the South Face on an informal trail that starts ~ 0.5 miles past LYV bathrooms

sunny exposed switchbacks

bathroom

Little Yosemite Valley

Approach:

2.5 - 4.5 hrs. Park at the Wilderness Parking lot east of Curry Village. Walk ten minutes to Happy Isles, and follow the super popular Mist Trail. For Snake Dike, turn left onto a climber's trail at Liberty Cap (three miles up Mist trail), and continue cross country to Lost Lake, and up exposed slabs to the base. For the other routes stay on the John Muir (Half Dome) trail until you can cut over to the face on a faint trail through brush.

Lost Lake

Mt. Broderick

Liberty Cap

Distance from the top of Nevada Falls to Happy Isles:
4.1 miles via John Muir Trail
2.6 miles via Mist Trail

Merced River

Snake Dike approach

stay high follow informal trail & cairns

John Muir Trail

longer than Mist Trail, but far less steep

Nevada Fall

To The Valley

N

Mist Trail

Descent:

3 - 5 hours. Hike east along the summit to the cables, and descend. Hike eight miles to Happy Isle via the John Muir and Mist trails.

To The Valley

The South Face of Half Dome is known for impeccable slab climbing. The cracks are scarce, as are bolt placements. *Growing Up* (5.13b) is the only well-protected route. *Snake Dike* (5.7 R) is super moderate and amazing. Idyllic, full sun cliff.

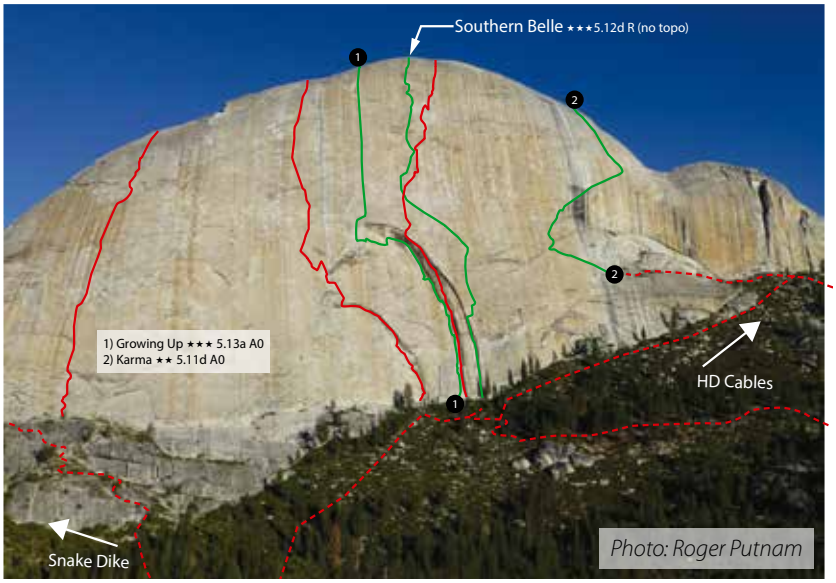


Photo: Roger Putnam

Parking

Beginning of hiking trail

Mount Watkins 8,500
Mt. Watkins, 154
Quarter Dome 8,318
Quarter Dome, 150
Watkins Pinnacle
Cliff name, page number
Rock climbing cliff
Trail, Climbing approach and descent
Cross-country, faint trail
Bike path
Stream/River, Waterfall, Lake
Intermittent stream, Marsh
Primary Road, Tunnel
Two-way street
Secondary Rd., Pullout
One-way street
Dirt Road
Parking
Bathroom
Showers
Food
Store
ATM
Campground
NPS Ranger
Stables
Climbing gear
Bar
Snow Creek
Half Dome Trail
Sunrise Creek
12°54'
MAGNETIC NORTH
TRUE NORTH
As of 2019
0
1 mi
0
1.5 km
© 2018 Marek Jakubowski
GLACIER POINT AREA MAP, 110
Mirror Lake Loop
Tenaya Creek
Ahwiyah Point 6,920
Cables
Half Dome 8,842
Half Dome NW, 142
Half Dome S, 136
Death Slabs
Lost Lake
John Muir Trail
Merced River
Mirror Lake
Snake Dike, 135
North Dome 7,542
North Dome, 174
Mount Broderick 6,706
Liberty Cap 7,076
Mt. Broderick, 126
Liberty Cap, 127
Nevada Fall
North Dome Gully
Washington Column, 162
Beginning of hiking trail
Vernal Fall
Arches, 178
Backpackers Campground
Valley Loop Trail
Grizzly Peak 6,222
Mist Trail
Clark Point
Merced River
North Pines
Serenity Crack, 188
Upper Pines
Lower Pines
The Ahwahnee
Curry Village
Happy Isles
Panorama Trail
Northside Drive
Glacier Point, 110
Panorama Point

Snake Dike

Photo: xRez.com

Snake Dike is one of the most classic Yosemite adventure climbs, and is not to be missed. Runout, but very moderate, this is an adventure route because of the arduous, three- to five-hour, approach and the steep, eight-mile, descent. You'll pass stunning waterfalls and incredible vistas just to get to *Snake Dike*. In season, three to ten parties attempt the route each day. So plan ahead. If a half-marathon type day with five thousand feet of elevation gain does not sound reasonable, or fun, then consider getting a free permit and camping near the climb. Wherever you sleep, start early, bring headlamps, warm layers, extra food, and have a blast!

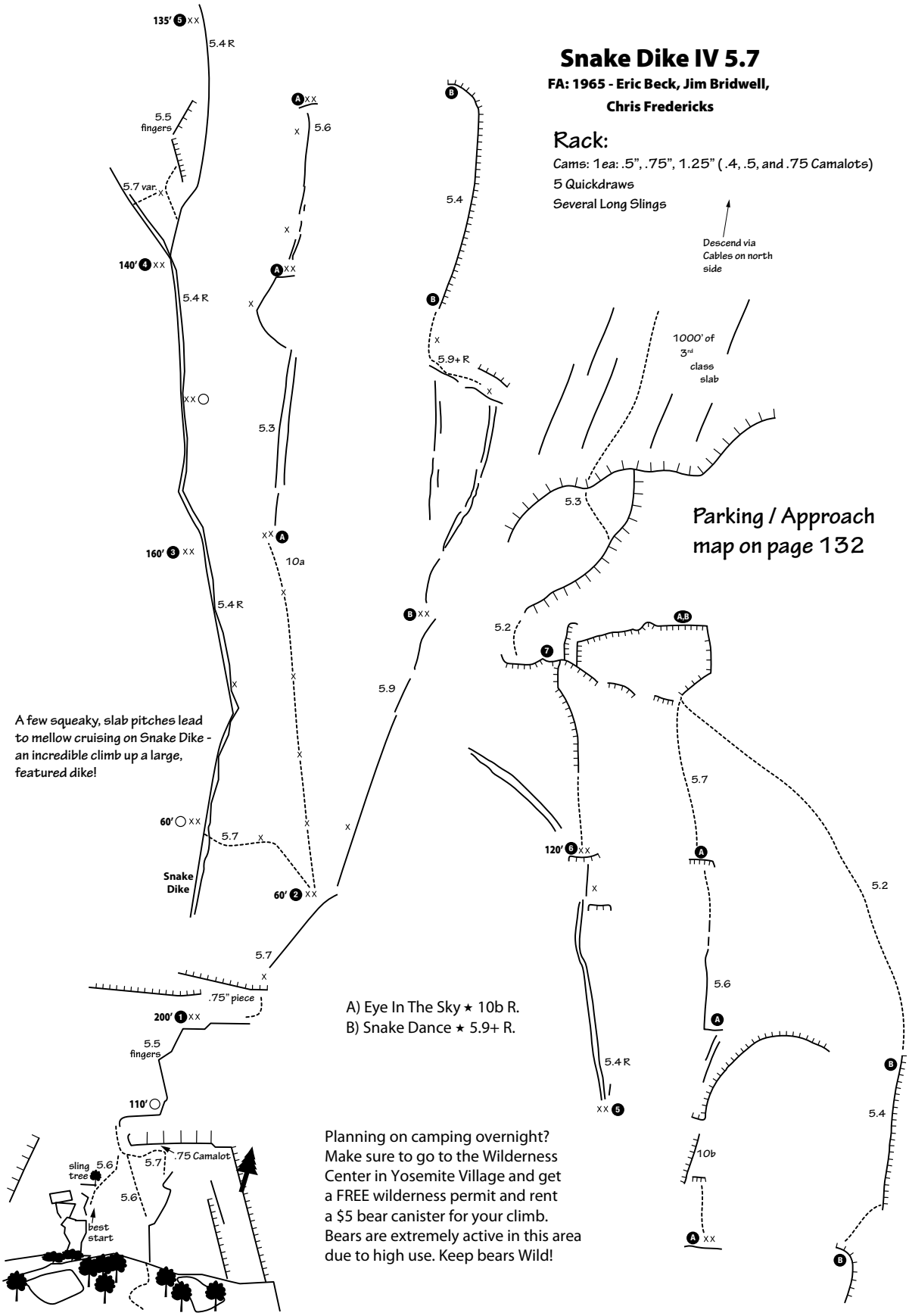
Stefan Durrbeck enjoying the Snake Dike, 5.7
Photo: Adam Freund

Snake Dike IV 5.7

FA: 1965 - Eric Beck, Jim Bridwell, Chris Fredericks

Rack:

Cams: 1ea: .5", .75", 1.25" (.4, .5, and .75 Camalots)
5 Quickdraws
Several Long Slings



A few squeaky, slab pitches lead to mellow cruising on Snake Dike - an incredible climb up a large, featured dike!

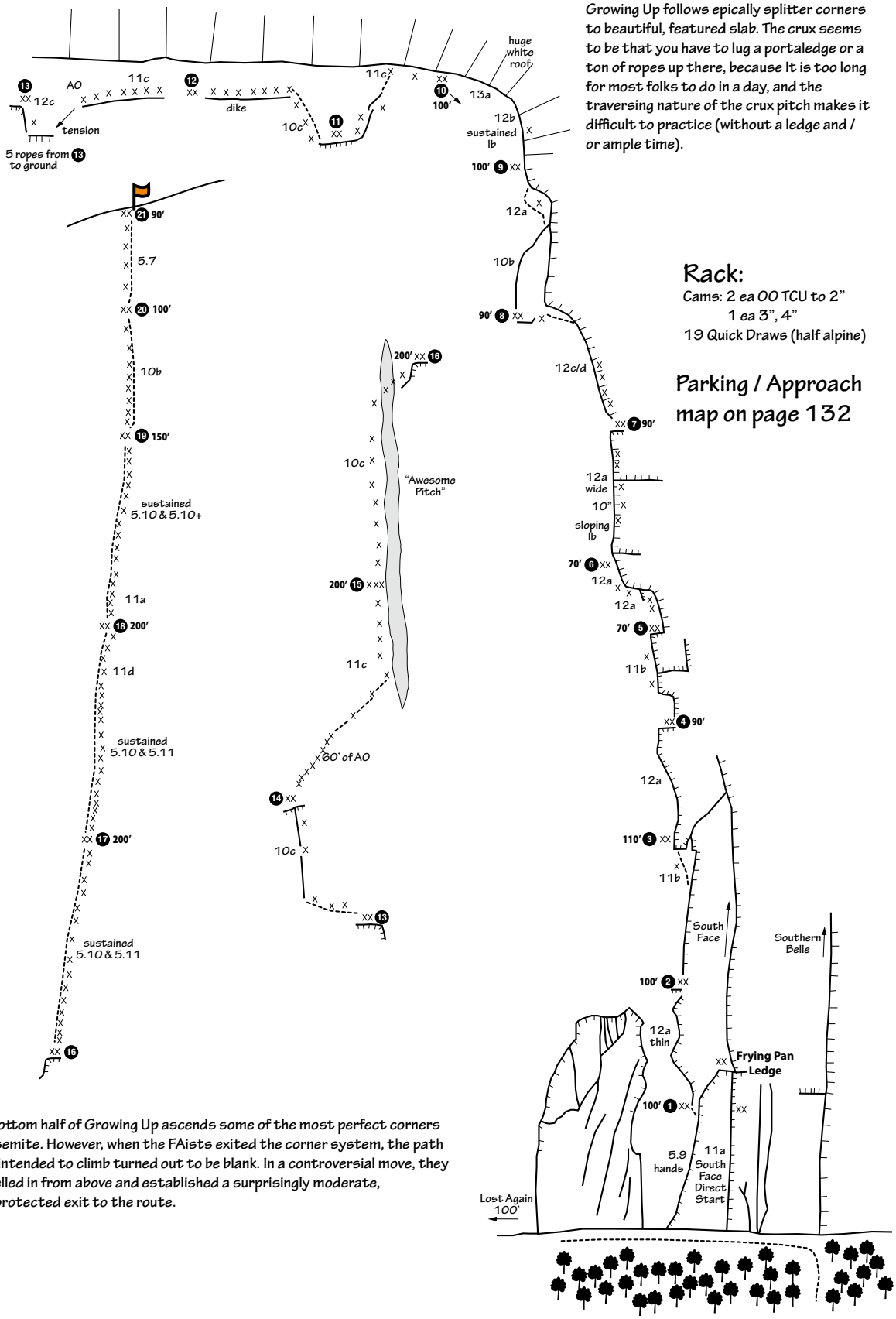
A) Eye In The Sky ★ 10b R.
B) Snake Dance ★ 5.9+ R.

Planning on camping overnight? Make sure to go to the Wilderness Center in Yosemite Village and get a FREE wilderness permit and rent a $5 bear canister for your climb. Bears are extremely active in this area due to high use. Keep bears Wild!

Growing Up VI 5.13a A0

FA: July 2007 - Sean Jones, Sarah Watson

Growing Up follows epically splitter corners to beautiful, featured slab. The crux seems to be that you have to lug a portaledge or a ton of ropes up there, because It is too long for most folks to do in a day, and the traversing nature of the crux pitch makes it difficult to practice (without a ledge and / or ample time).



Rack:

Cams: 2 ea 00 TCU to 2"
1 ea 3", 4"
19 Quick Draws (half alpine)

Parking / Approach map on page 132

The bottom half of Growing Up ascends some of the most perfect corners in Yosemite. However, when the FAists exited the corner system, the path they intended to climb turned out to be blank. In a controversial move, they rappelled in from above and established a surprisingly moderate, well-protected exit to the route.

Sean Jones on his route Growing Up, 5.13a A0, Half Dome (p. 136)
Photo: Shawn Reeder

Seth Carter and Jimmy Hayden near the topout of Soul Garden, 13b, Mt. Watkins, pg 158
Photo: Andrew Burr

Karma V 5.11d A0

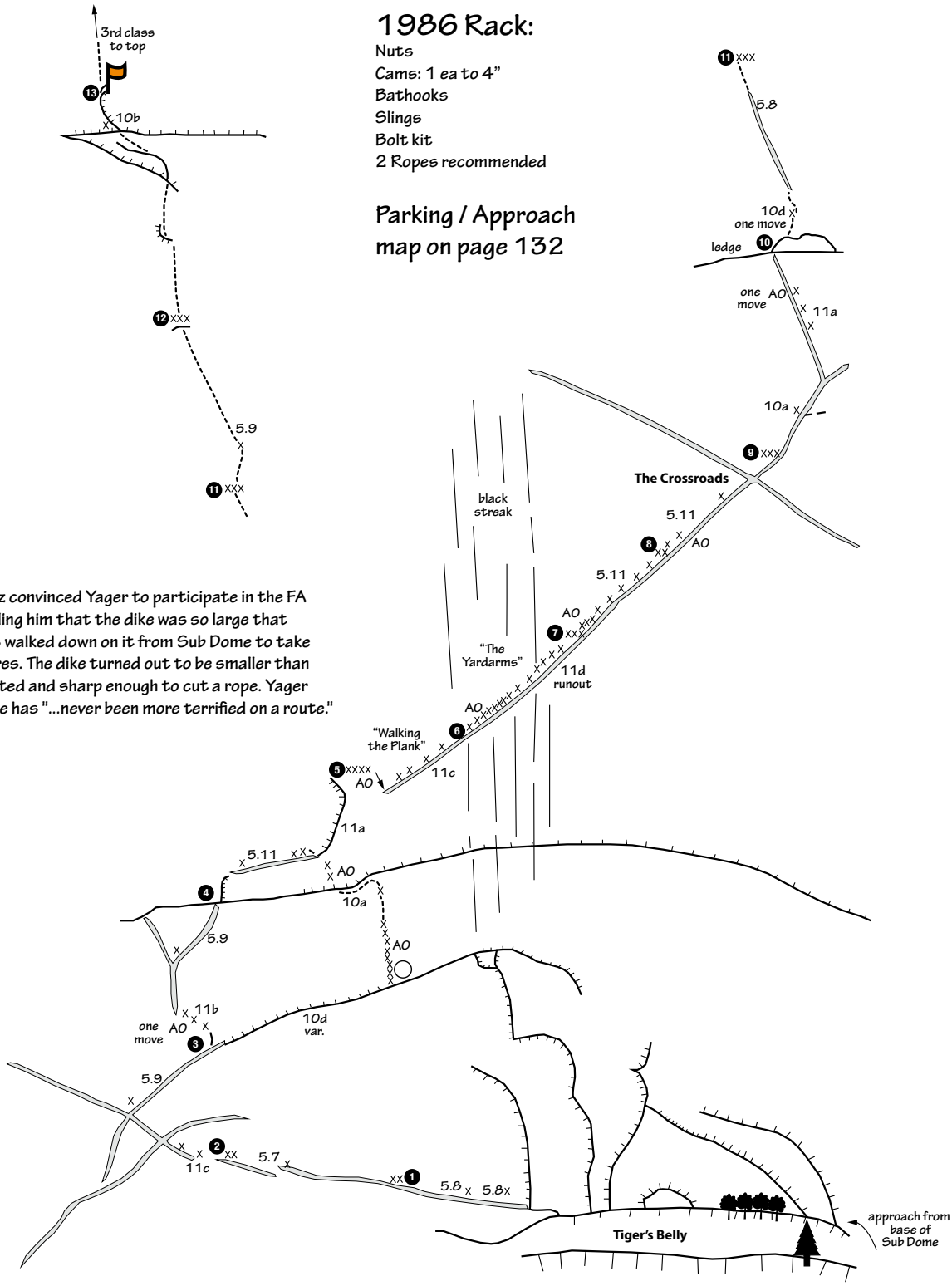
FA: July 1986 - Dave Schultz, Ken Yager, Jim Campbell

1986 Rack:

Nuts
Cams: 1 ea to 4"
Bathooks
Slings
Bolt kit
2 Ropes recommended

Parking / Approach map on page 132

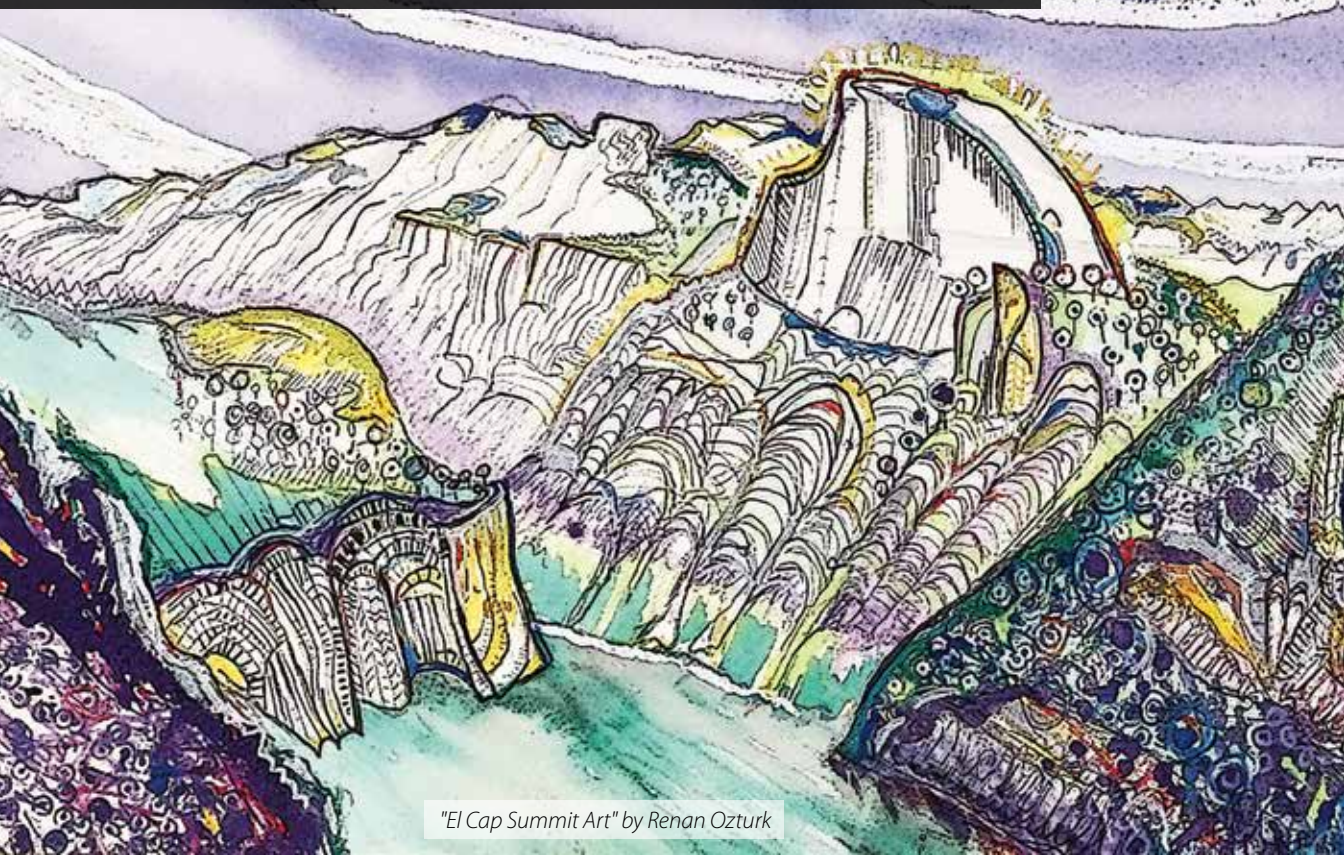
Shultz convinced Yager to participate in the FA by telling him that the dike was so large that hikers walked down on it from Sub Dome to take pictures. The dike turned out to be smaller than expected and sharp enough to cut a rope. Yager said he has "...never been more terrified on a route."



Half Dome

Climbing Half Dome via the *Regular Northwest Face Route (RNWF)* is one of the most coveted of Yosemite climbs. The climbing varies from splitter cracks, chimneys, delicate traverses, and even a little slab climbing. With a touch of loose rock thrown in for good measure. There is even a seasonal, fresh water spring right at the base of the route! Half Dome is much more a logistics climb than other long routes in Yosemite. Efficiency and planning is required to make it up an often crowded, 24 pitches. Once on top, an easy one-hour hike takes you back to the base of the route. RNWF is so awesome!

Summit Elevation: 8,842ft–it's cold up there!
Base Elevation: 6,900ft



"El Cap Summit Art" by Renan Ozturk

Camping Bliss – Plan to sleep out the night before and the night after your ascent. Wilderness permits and bear cans are required to sleep near the base of the route. Stop by the wilderness center in Yosemite Village for your free permit and bear can rental. There is a seasonal spring near the base of the route. Please don't contaminate this. Use a WAG bag or bury your waste at least 100 feet from water and camping areas. Camping at Half Dome is magical–give yourself enough time to get set up and really enjoy the alpine views, because you'll be so busy climbing on route and will probably forget to take it all in. Pack it in/Pack it out.

Rockfall – Don't sleep right at the base, as rockfall is common. There are many flat spots 10-20 meters from the base. Be very mindful not to knock off rocks while climbing, as there are almost always people below. On July 3rd, 2015, a 60x30 meter section of the mountain (estimated 3 million kilos!) fell off, which included half of pitch 10 and all of pitch 11, changing the route forever. Since then a bolt ladder and pendulum have been added to cross the blank section. Check www.RockClimbYosemite.com for the latest Half Dome updates.

Traffic Jam!

Strategy – The Regular route has much broken, ledgy, alpine style terrain. Hauling is not recommended. Big Sandy, the only bivy ledge, is located 17 pitches up the route, so a good strategy is crucial. Most parties fix the first one - three pitches and plan to make it to the top in a day. The challenge is, everyone has the same plan, so if one of the first teams has trouble it slows everyone down. Talk together with other parties before starting out to try and find the best strategy for success. Regardless of how strong a climber you are, emergency gear like space blanket, bivy sacs and puffy jackets weigh mere ounces these days, and could save your life.

Low angle terrain on lower half of route

Thunderstorms – Other than Cloud's Rest, Half Dome is the highest point in the Valley. Violent thunderstorms are common on summer afternoons. Due to its high elevation, snow and hail can happen even in the summer months. If there is a chance of afternoon thunderstorms, think twice before trying this route. Retreat is difficult because of the traversing nature of the route.

Half Dome

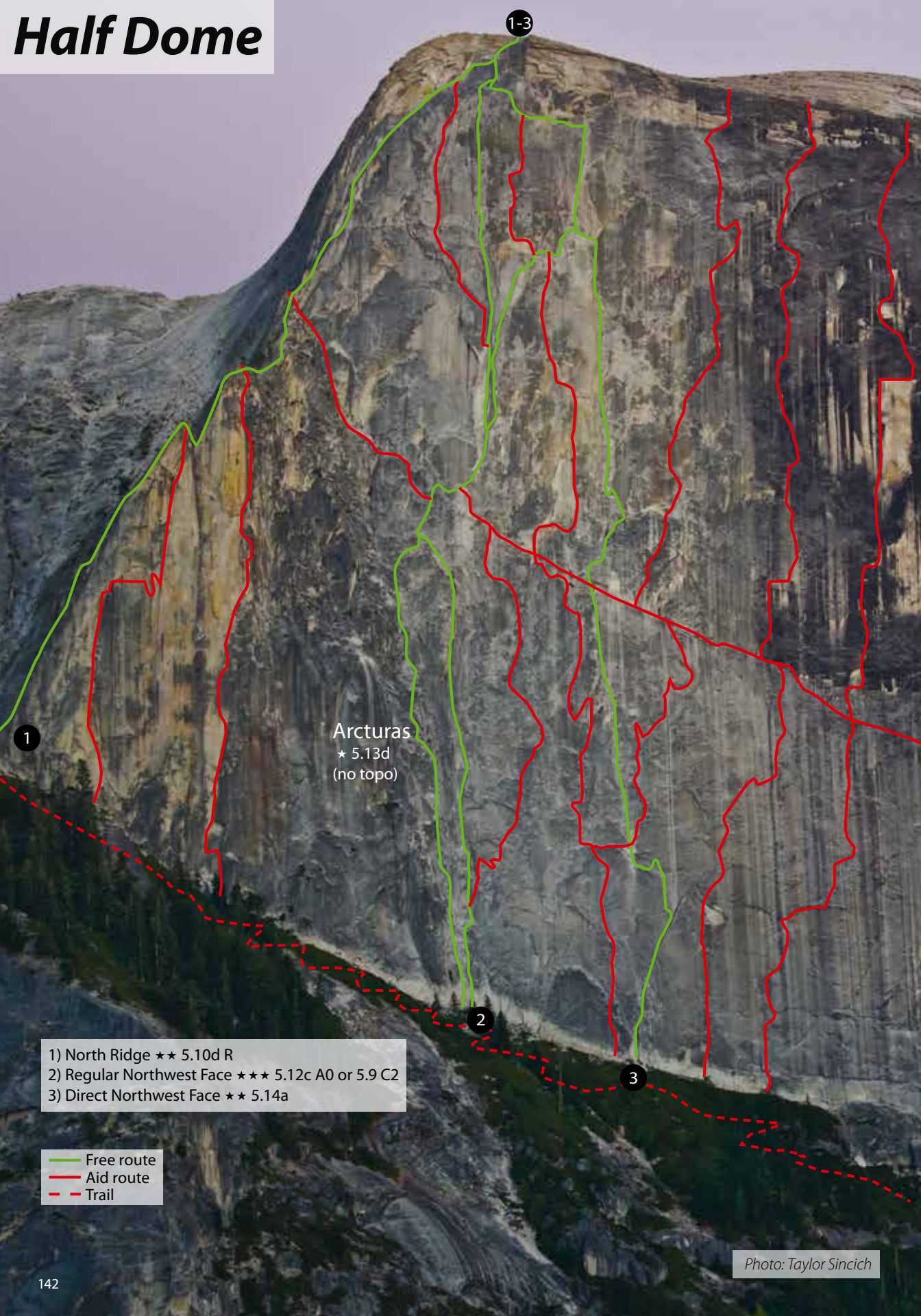
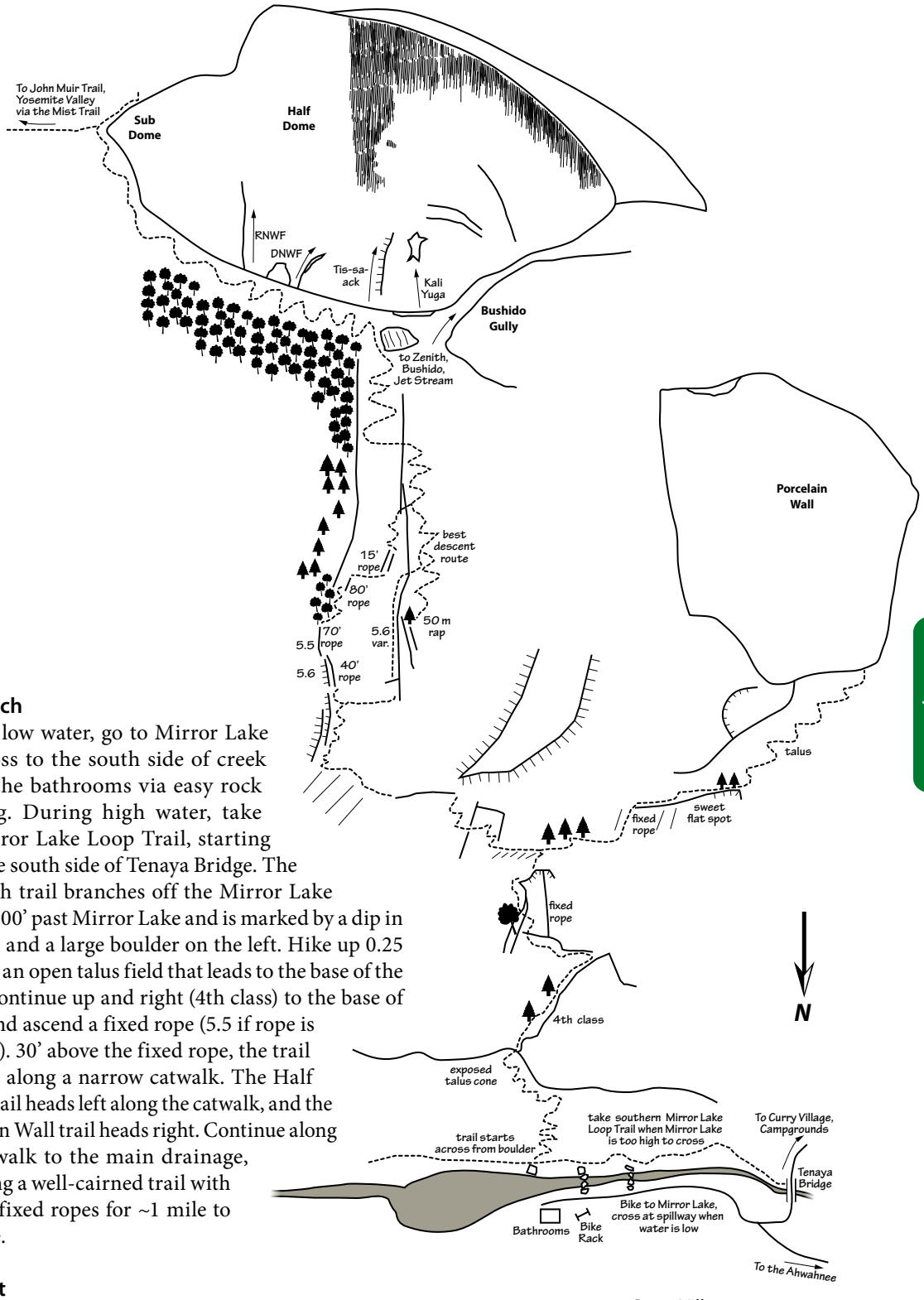


Photo: Taylor Sincich



Approach

During low water, go to Mirror Lake and cross to the south side of creek before the bathrooms via easy rock hopping. During high water, take the Mirror Lake Loop Trail, starting from the south side of Tenaya Bridge. The approach trail branches off the Mirror Lake Loop ~200' past Mirror Lake and is marked by a dip in the trail and a large boulder on the left. Hike up 0.25 miles to an open talus field that leads to the base of the slabs. Continue up and right (4th class) to the base of a cliff and ascend a fixed rope (5.5 if rope is missing). 30' above the fixed rope, the trail cuts left along a narrow catwalk. The Half Dome trail heads left along the catwalk, and the Porcelain Wall trail heads right. Continue along the catwalk to the main drainage, following a well-cairned trail with 3 more fixed ropes for ~1 mile to the base.

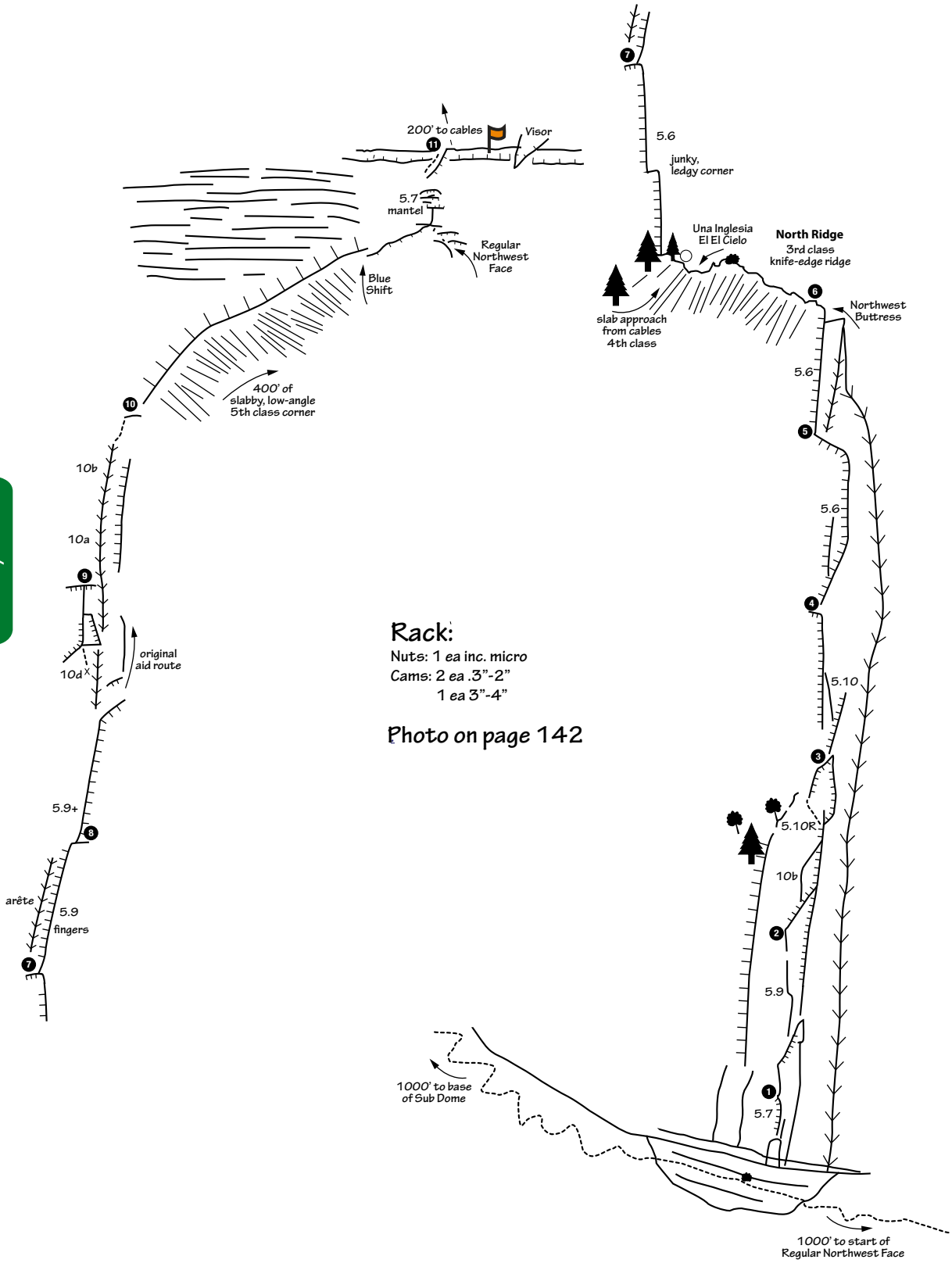
Descent

Follow the hiker's trail (cables) down to the shoulder at the base of Sub Dome. Walk down and left, staying close to the base of the wall, until you reach the base of the Northwest Face (1 - 2 hours). Continue down the approach. Alternatively, follow the hiker's trail 8.5 miles to Curry Village.

Curry Village Parking

North Ridge IV 5.10d R

FA: July 1961 - Chuck Wilts, Royal Robbins
FFA: 1989 - Walt Shipley, John Harpole



Rack:
Nuts: 1 ea inc. micro
Cams: 2 ea .3"-2"
1 ea 3"-4"

Photo on page 142

Dean Potter in the Zig Zags, The Free Regular Northwest Face of Half Dome, 5.12c

Photo: Jimmy Chin

Free Regular Northwest Face VI 5.12c A0

FFA: 1975 - Jim Erickson, Art Higbee
FA: June 1957 - Royal Robbins, Mike Sherrick, Jerry Gallwas

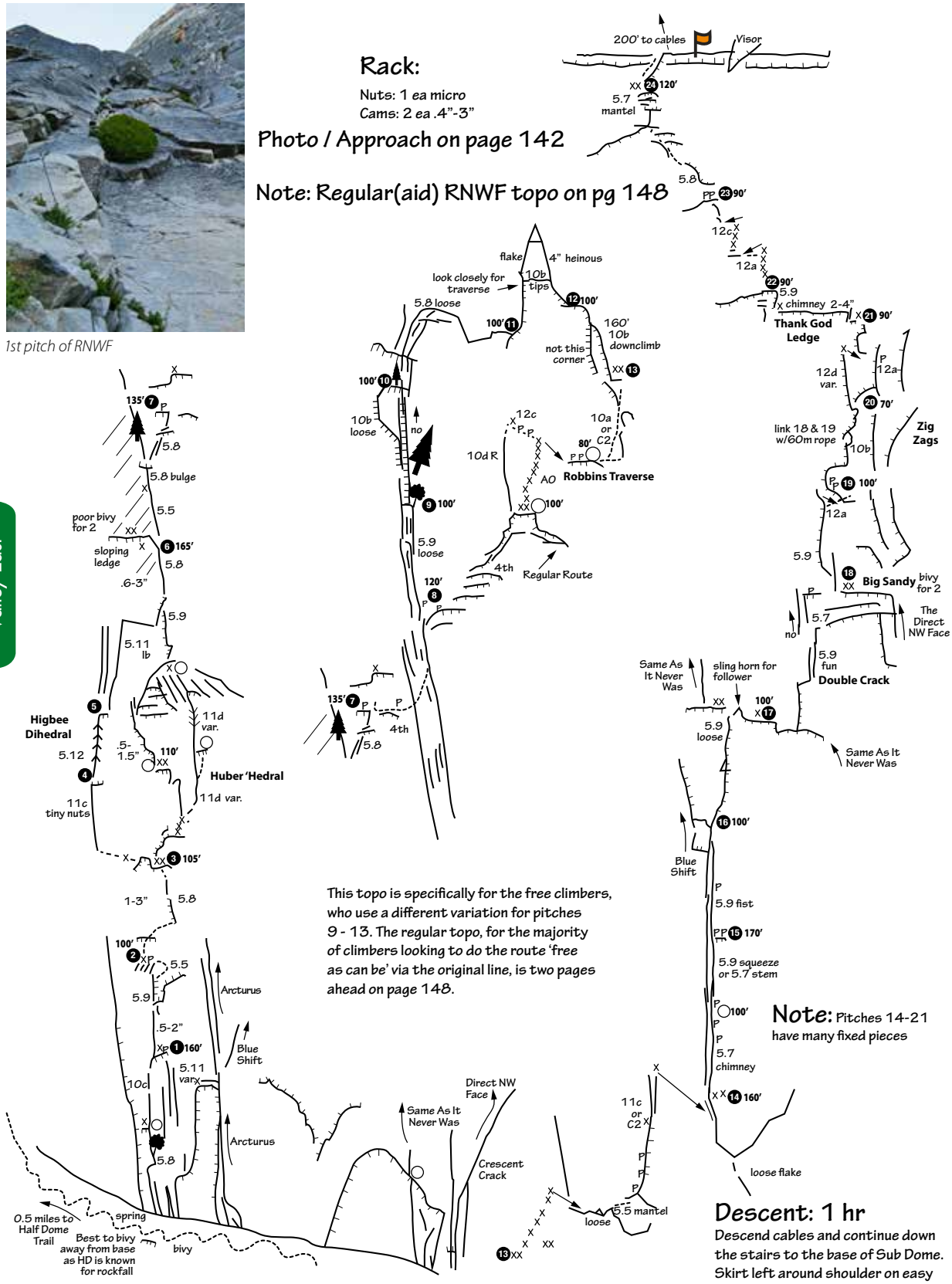
1st pitch of RNWF

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea micro
Cams: 2 ea .4"-3"

Photo / Approach on page 142

Note: Regular(aid) RNWF topo on pg 148



This topo is specifically for the free climbers, who use a different variation for pitches 9 - 13. The regular topo, for the majority of climbers looking to do the route 'free as can be' via the original line, is two pages ahead on page 148.

Note: Pitches 14-21 have many fixed pieces

Descent: 1 hr

Descend cables and continue down the stairs to the base of Sub Dome. Skirt left around shoulder on easy trail back to the start of the route.

Climb Half Dome

What is the best strategy for first time (5.10 or lower) climbers on RNWF?

A team of two with the second climber jugging with a small pack.

The biggest mistake most climbers make is thinking that the second will be able to follow rather than jug. This is too difficult with a heavy pack (two jackets, lots of food and water, headlamps, approach shoes). This is not a route for teams of three, due to its traversing nature.

Make sure you get a wilderness permit and bear canister from the Wilderness Center in Yosemite Village before your climb!

Day 1: Approach + Fix pitches (4-6 hours)

First, take the paved trail to Mirror Lake. When the water is low, continue all the way to the Lake and cross at the bathrooms. When the water is high, you'll need to take the Mirror Lake Loop trail to the right immediately before the Tenaya Creek Bridge (which is a half mile before Mirror Lake). Study the approach map and description on page 143.

Hike up the Slabs (which are strenuous but not scary) in the late morning shade (sun hits the approach around noon). Bring a tent or hooped bivy sac, sleeping bags, empty water bottles (there is a fresh water spring at the base!), and tons of food (in a bear canister).

Fix the first two pitches (70m), make a huge dinner, bask in the high country glory, and go to sleep early. Meet the other climbers and come up with a staggered start time. Be strategic - let someone start before you that appears to be much stronger, or who has done the route before, but be sure to poke your head out of your tent at and make sure that they are actually starting. If not, get after it!

Day 2: Climb!

If you fixed pitches, start jugging at least an hour before daylight. Otherwise, it is best to start just as it is getting light. Have fun! Slower parties spend a brutal night at Big Sandy (not recommended) or hopefully you can push through to the top. The descent is just an hour (back to the base of the climb). Before you know it you will be back in your warm sleeping bag. Really enjoy the summit!

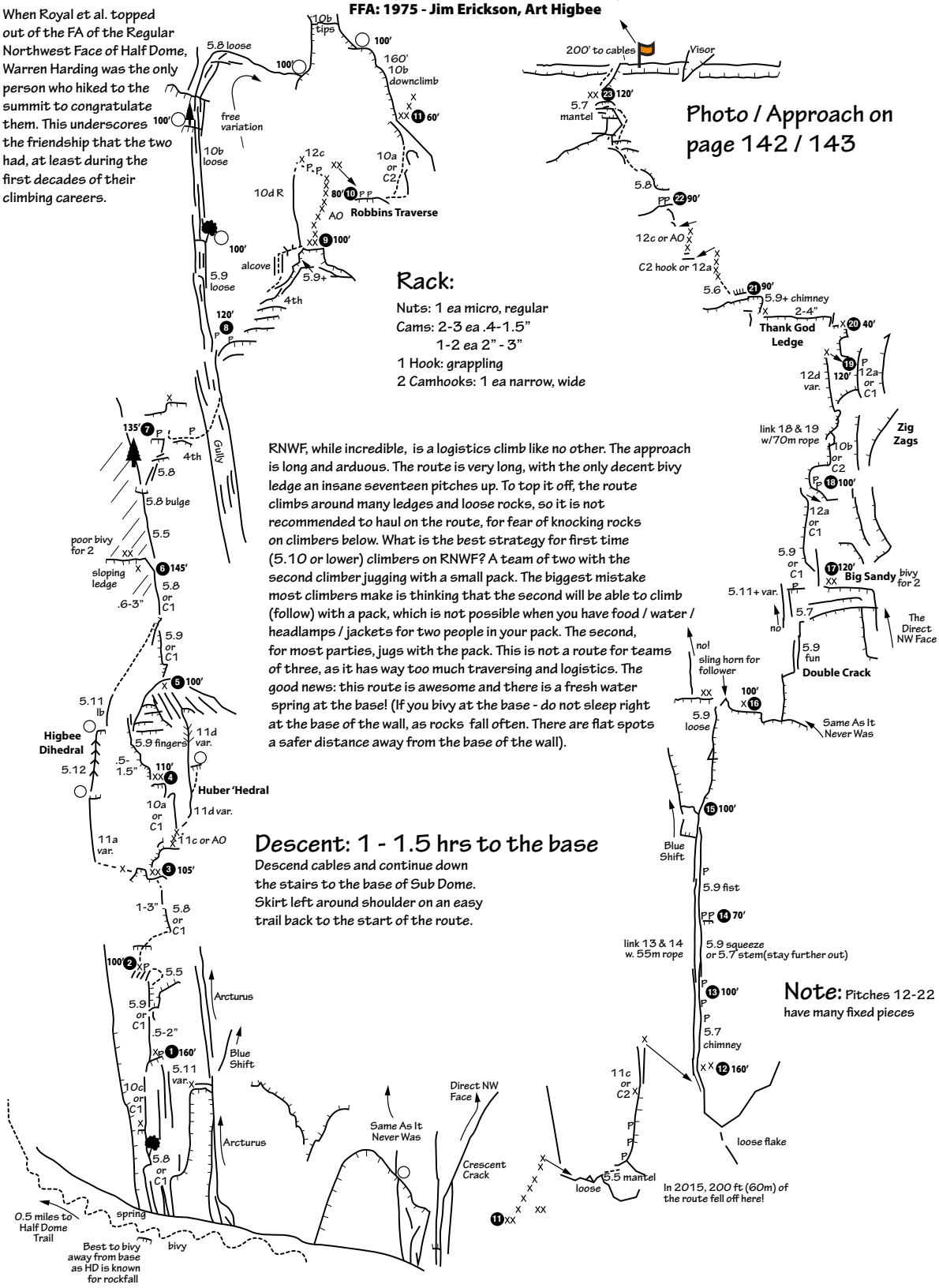
Day 3: Walk down the Slabs to your car! (2-3 hours)

Photo: Steph Abegg

Regular Northwest Face VI 5.9 C2 or 5.12c A0

FA: June 1957 - Royal Robbins, Mike Sherrick, Jerry Gallwas
FFA: 1975 - Jim Erickson, Art Higbee

When Royal et al. topped out of the FA of the Regular Northwest Face of Half Dome, Warren Harding was the only person who hiked to the summit to congratulate them. This underscores the friendship that the two had, at least during the first decades of their climbing careers.



Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea micro, regular
Cams: 2-3 ea .4-1.5"
1-2 ea 2" - 3"
1 Hook: grappling
2 Camhooks: 1 ea narrow, wide

RNWF, while incredible, is a logistics climb like no other. The approach is long and arduous. The route is very long, with the only decent bivy ledge an insane seventeen pitches up. To top it off, the route climbs around many ledges and loose rocks, so it is not recommended to haul on the route, for fear of knocking rocks on climbers below. What is the best strategy for first time (5.10 or lower) climbers on RNWF? A team of two with the second climber jugging with a small pack. The biggest mistake most climbers make is thinking that the second will be able to climb (follow) with a pack, which is not possible when you have food / water / headlamps / jackets for two people in your pack. The second, for most parties, jugs with the pack. This is not a route for teams of three, as it has way too much traversing and logistics. The good news: this route is awesome and there is a fresh water spring at the base! (If you bivy at the base - do not sleep right at the base of the wall, as rocks fall often. There are flat spots a safer distance away from the base of the wall).

Descent: 1 - 1.5 hrs to the base

Descend cables and continue down the stairs to the base of Sub Dome. Skirt left around shoulder on an easy trail back to the start of the route.

Photo / Approach on page 142 / 143

Note: Pitches 12-22 have many fixed pieces

Direct Northwest Face VI 5.14a or 5.10 C2+ or 5.9 A2+

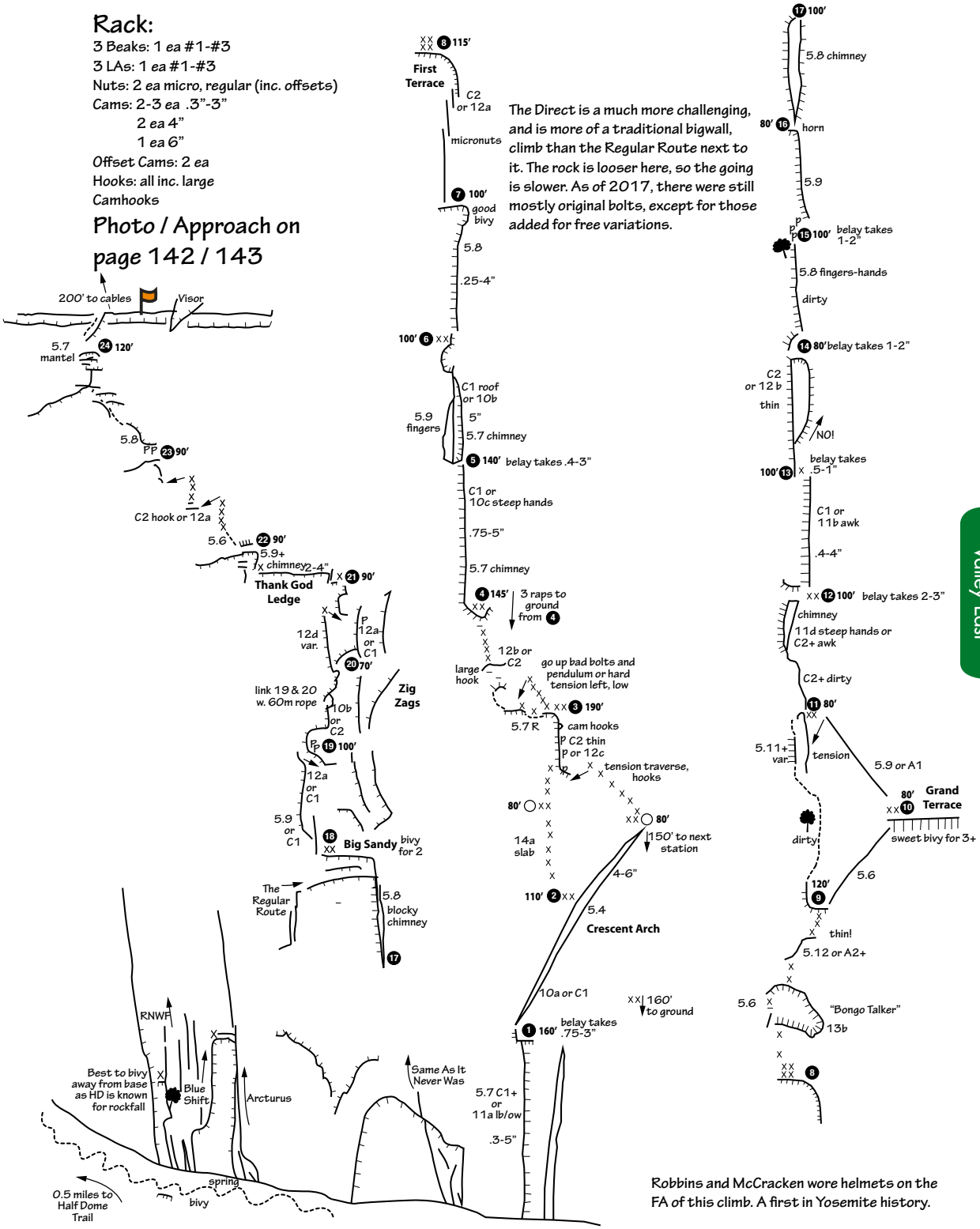
FA: June 1963 - Royal Robbins, Dick McCracken
FFA: 1992 - Todd Skinner

Rack:

3 Beaks: 1 ea #1-#3
3 LAs: 1 ea #1-#3
Nuts: 2 ea micro, regular (inc. offsets)
Cams: 2-3 ea .3"-3"
2 ea 4"
1 ea 6"
Offset Cams: 2 ea
Hooks: all inc. large
Camhooks

Photo / Approach on page 142 / 143

The Direct is a much more challenging, and is more of a traditional bigwall, climb than the Regular Route next to it. The rock is looser here, so the going is slower. As of 2017, there were still mostly original bolts, except for those added for free variations.



Robbins and McCracken wore helmets on the FA of this climb. A first in Yosemite history.

Quarter Dome

Pegasus is an awesome, full-shade adventure climb with a burly approach. The rock is less than vertical, and fairly featured and gritty, though a few of the cracks can be grassy. The experience of being tucked away in Tenaya Canyon, with clear views of the massive Mt. Watkins across the canyon, make this a magical place. This is an alpine-style climb, where you are forced to go fast and light, or suffer while spending a day or two just getting to the base with heavy packs. This is the perfect warm up for the Regular Route on Half Dome - there are ten less pitches, but the challenging approach is a few hours longer, there is no spring at the base, and you might get off route or have to bust a couple more difficult moves.

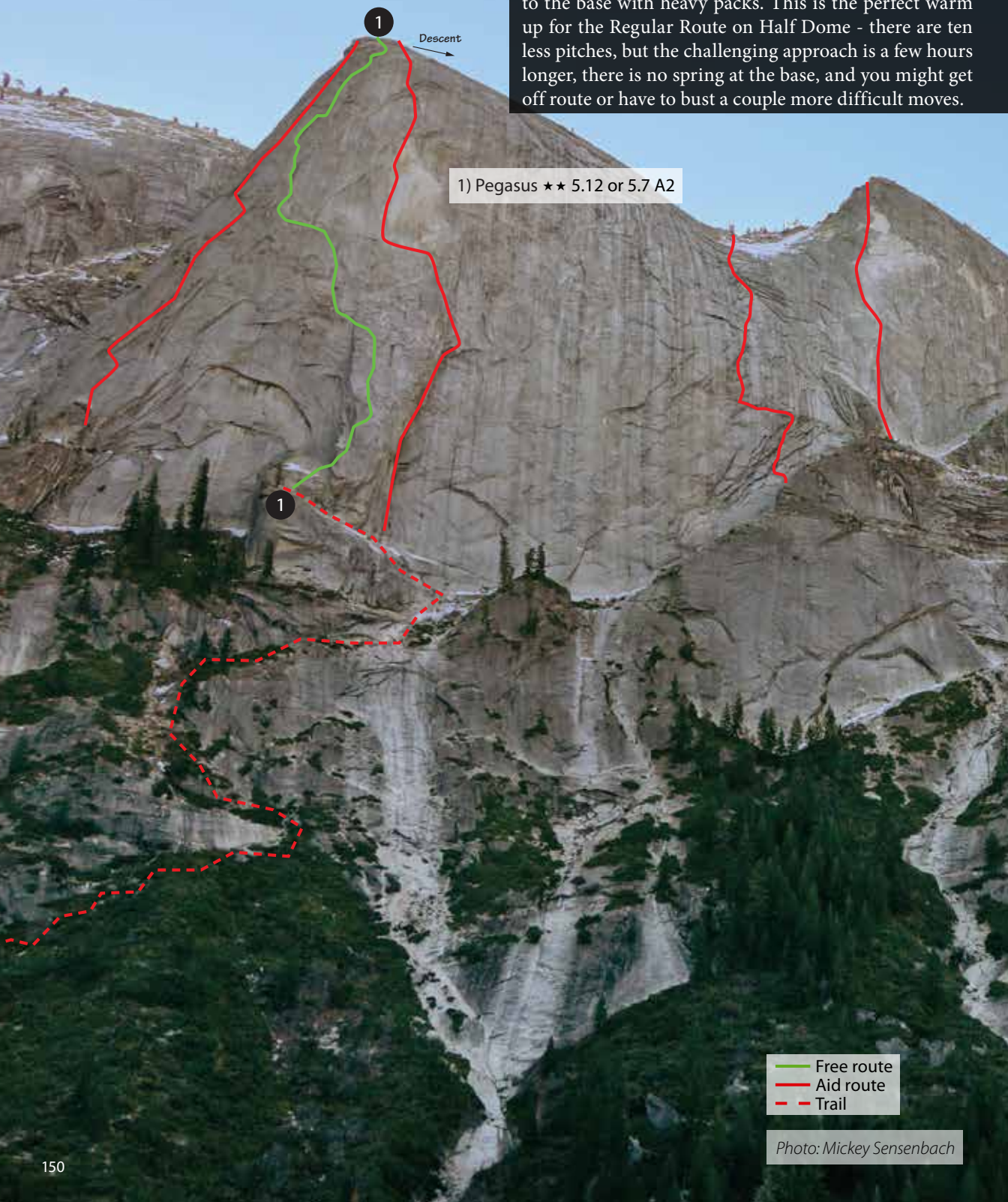


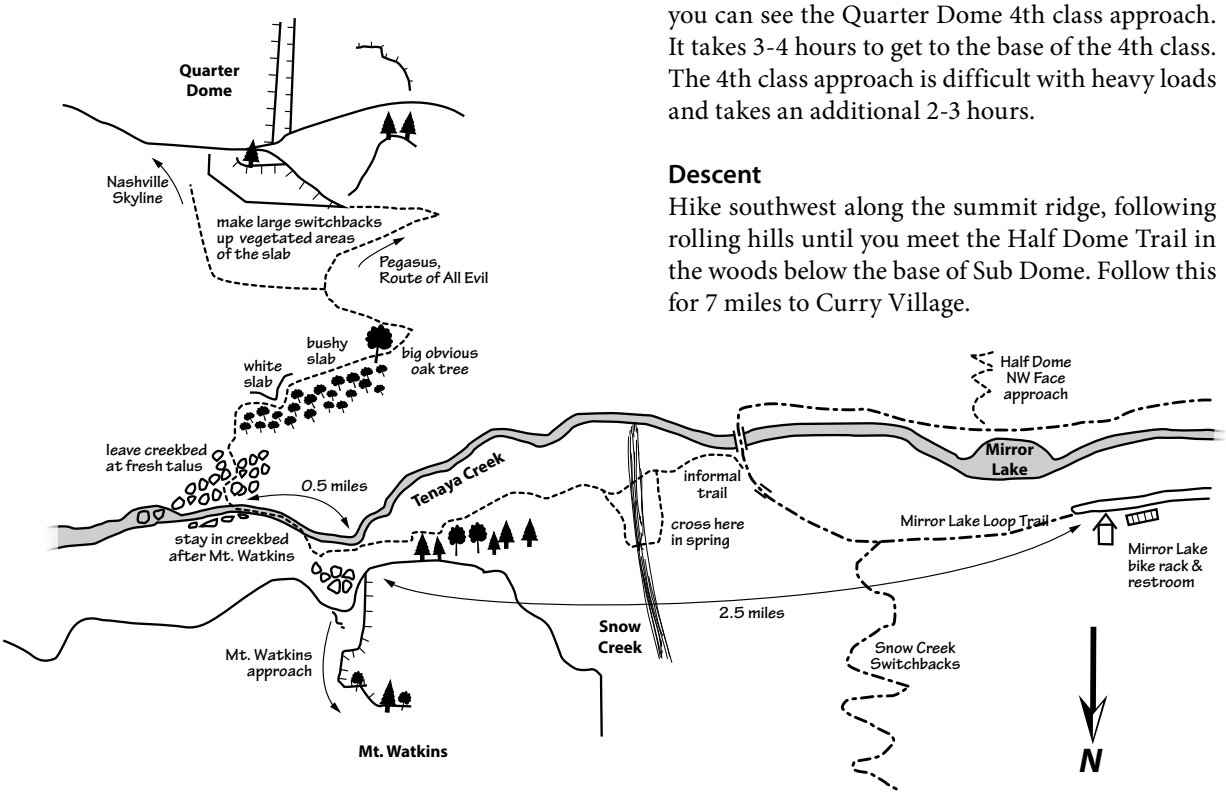
Photo: Mickey Sensenbach

Approach

(The first half of this approach is the same as for Mt. Watkins). Hike east on the Mirror Lake loop trail for 1 mile until right before it crosses Tenaya Creek. Follow a faint hiking trail on the north side of the creek, staying within a couple hundred feet of the creekbed for 1.5 miles until the trail brings you within a couple hundred feet from the base of Mt. Watkins. Continue past the Watkins approach trail and stay in the creekbed for another 0.75 miles to where the creekbed becomes wide and open and you can see the Quarter Dome 4th class approach. It takes 3-4 hours to get to the base of the 4th class. The 4th class approach is difficult with heavy loads and takes an additional 2-3 hours.

Descent

Hike southwest along the summit ridge, following rolling hills until you meet the Half Dome Trail in the woods below the base of Sub Dome. Follow this for 7 miles to Curry Village.



Pitch 5 of Pegasus, 5.9
Photo: Logan Talbot

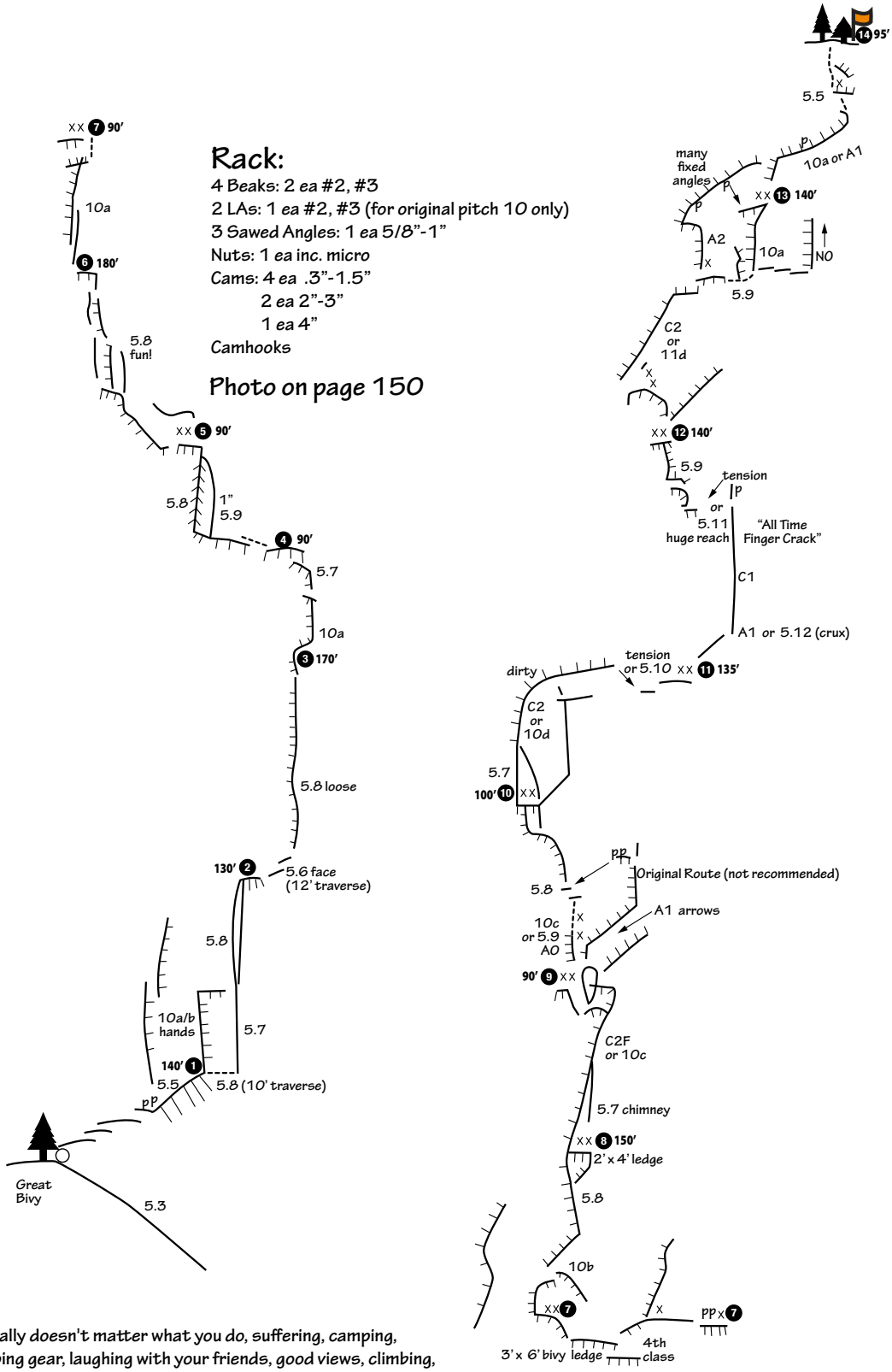
Pegasus V 5.7 A2 or 5.12

FA: September 1962 - Yvon Chouinard, Tom Frost
FFA: 1979 - Max Jones, Mark Hudon

Rack:

4 Beaks: 2 ea #2, #3
2 LAs: 1 ea #2, #3 (for original pitch 10 only)
3 Sawed Angles: 1 ea 5/8"-1"
Nuts: 1 ea inc. micro
Cams: 4 ea .3"-1.5"
2 ea 2"-3"
1 ea 4"
Camhooks

Photo on page 150



"It really doesn't matter what you do, suffering, camping, humping gear, laughing with your friends, good views, climbing, placing gear, it's all good, it's all life."
-Mark Hudon

Lance Colley topping out South Face on Mt. Watkins, pg 156
Photo: Zachary Moon

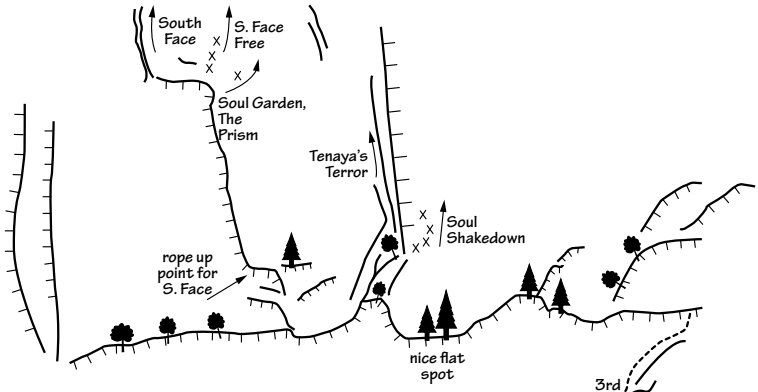
Mt. Watkins

Mt. Watkins is an incredible, El Cap-sized alpine bigwall, with a grueling half-day approach and descent. The pace of life back in Tenaya Canyon seems far removed from the hustle and bustle of the Valley proper. You will likely see few people, and no signs of civilization, after you leave Mirror Lake. The first 800 feet of Watkins is low 5th class scrambling to reach a comfortable terrace, from where the routes begin. So don't plan on leaving anything at the base, because you will not want to go all the way back up the approach slabs to retrieve your gear. Like El Cap, the cracks here are deep and parallel, though slightly grassy.

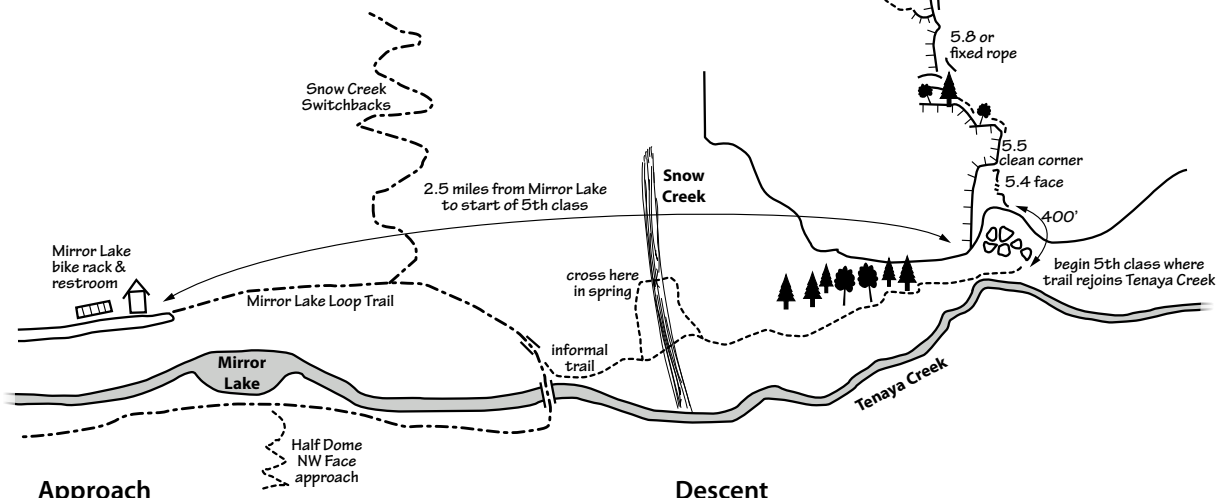
1) South Face ★★★ 5.13a or 5.9 C2
2) Soul Garden ★★★ 5.13b

Free route
Aid route
Trail

Photo: Erik Sloan



Mount Watkins is in the sun all day long, so definitely bring extra water for these routes.



Approach

Hike east on the Mirror Lake loop trail for 1 mile until before it crosses Tenaya Creek. Follow a faint hiking trail on the north side of the creek, staying within a couple hundred feet of the creekbed for 1.5 miles until the trail brings you within a couple hundred feet from the base of Mt. Watkins. Continue a few hundred yards east and pick up a faint climber's trail that ascends 400' to the beginning of the 4th class approach. It takes 3-6 hours to get to the 5th class. The 5th class section is difficult with heavy loads (or if fixed lines are missing) and takes an additional 1.5-3 hours.

Descent

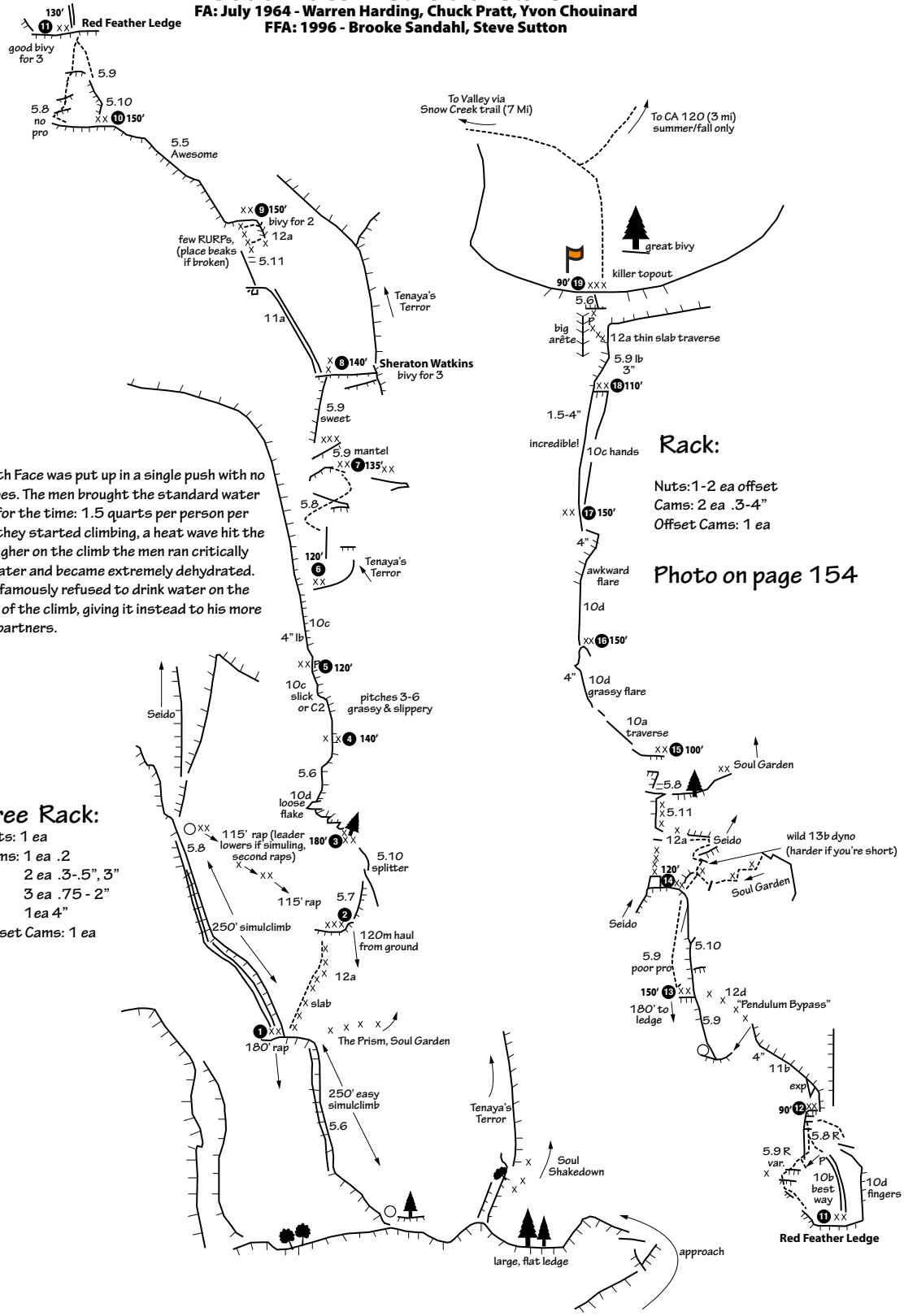
From the summit, hike north ~0.5 miles to the Snow Creek Trail. From this point hike either ~3 miles east to Highway 120 or ~7 miles down the Snow Creek Trail to Mirror Lake.

Descent

Photo: Marek Jakubowski

South Face VI 5.13b or 5.9 C2+F

FA: July 1964 - Warren Harding, Chuck Pratt, Yvon Chouinard
FFA: 1996 - Brooke Sandahl, Steve Sutton



The South Face was put up in a single push with no fixed ropes. The men brought the standard water rations for the time: 1.5 quarts per person per day. As they started climbing, a heat wave hit the valley. Higher on the climb the men ran critically low on water and became extremely dehydrated. Harding famously refused to drink water on the last day of the climb, giving it instead to his more thirsty partners.

Rack:

Nuts: 1-2 ea offset
Cams: 2 ea .3-4"
Offset Cams: 1 ea

Photo on page 154

Free Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 1 ea .2
2 ea .3-.5", 3"
3 ea .75 - 2"
1ea 4"
Offset Cams: 1 ea

Alex Honnold and Tommy Caldwell simul-free climbing Mt. Watkins during their epic Free Triple Crown–they free climbed El Capitan, Half Dome, and Mt. Watkins in one, epic day.

Photo: Ben Ditto

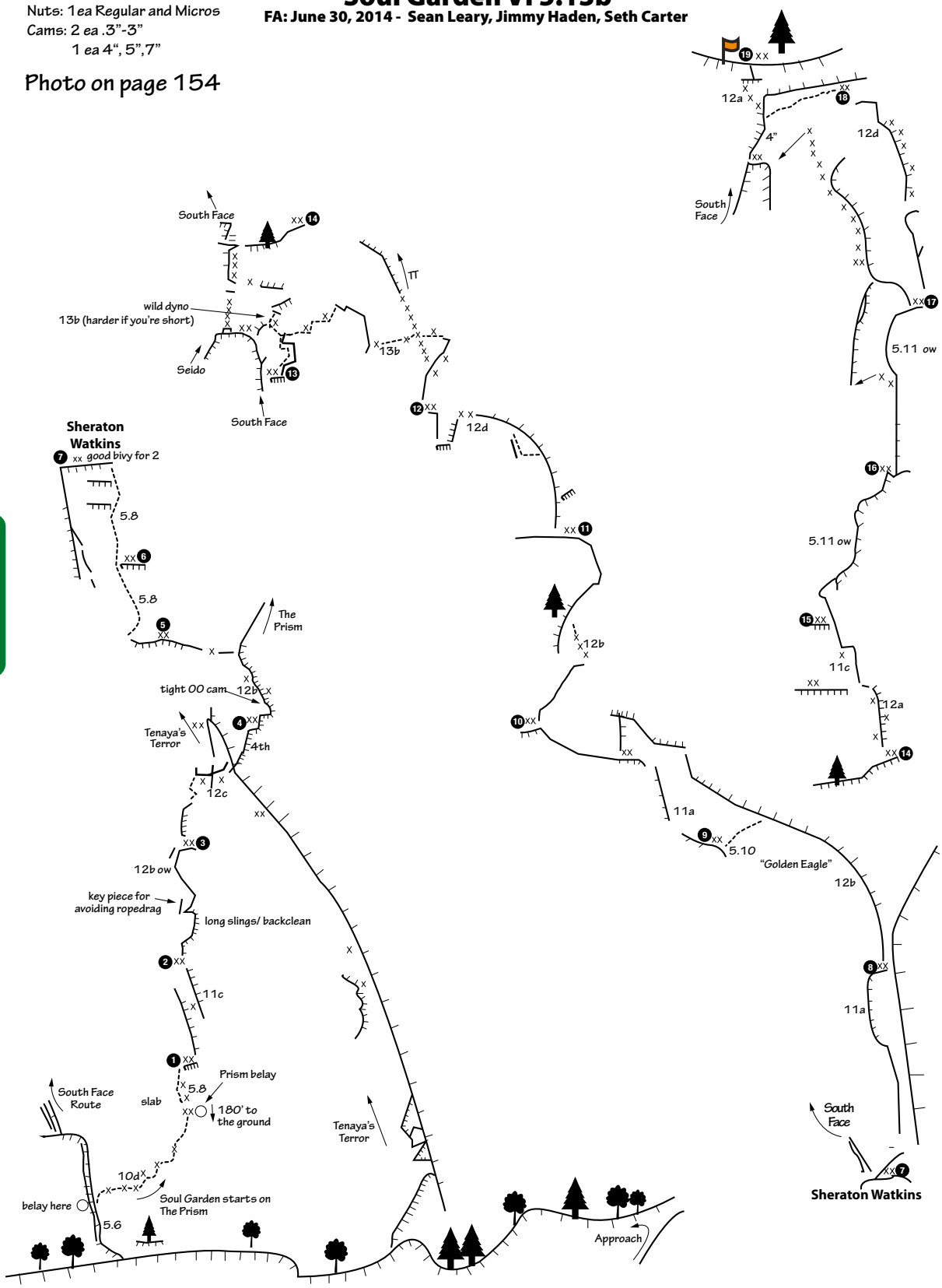
Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea Regular and Micros
Cams: 2 ea .3"-3"
1 ea 4", 5", 7"

Photo on page 154

Soul Garden VI 5.13b

FA: June 30, 2014 - Sean Leary, Jimmy Haden, Seth Carter



Jimmy Hayden on Soul Garden, 5.13b
Photo: Andrew Burr

Washington Column

Though dwarfed by Half Dome directly across from it, Washington Column towers over the campgrounds in the east end of the Valley. A clean, approachable mountain that is cut into two distinct halves: the *South Face* is lower-angled, ledgy terrain, and the East Face with its longer and much steeper, continuous cracks. Dinner Ledge, three moderate pitches up the *South Face* route, offers the perfect opportunity to explore what sleeping on the wall, or bigwall climbing, is all about.

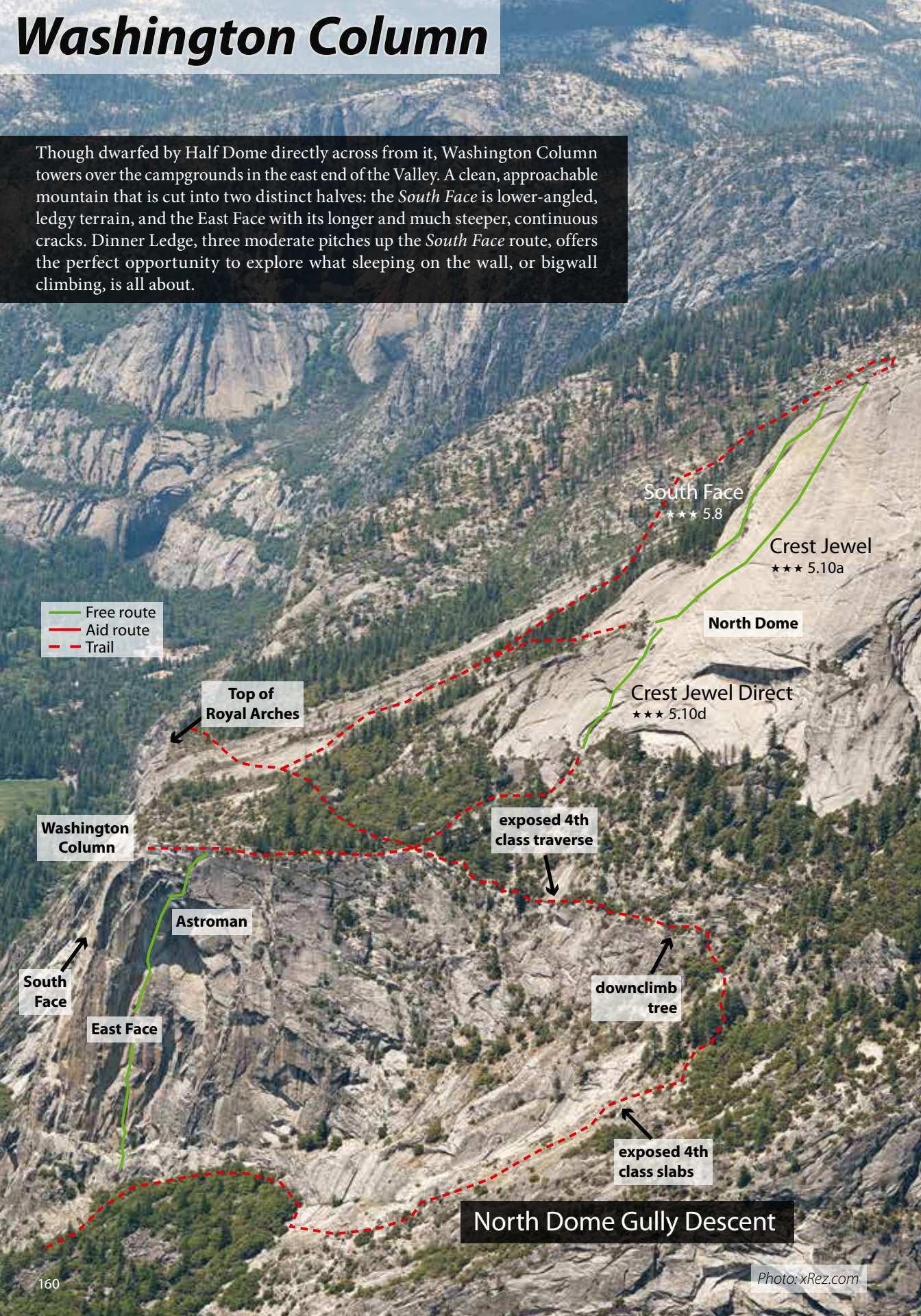
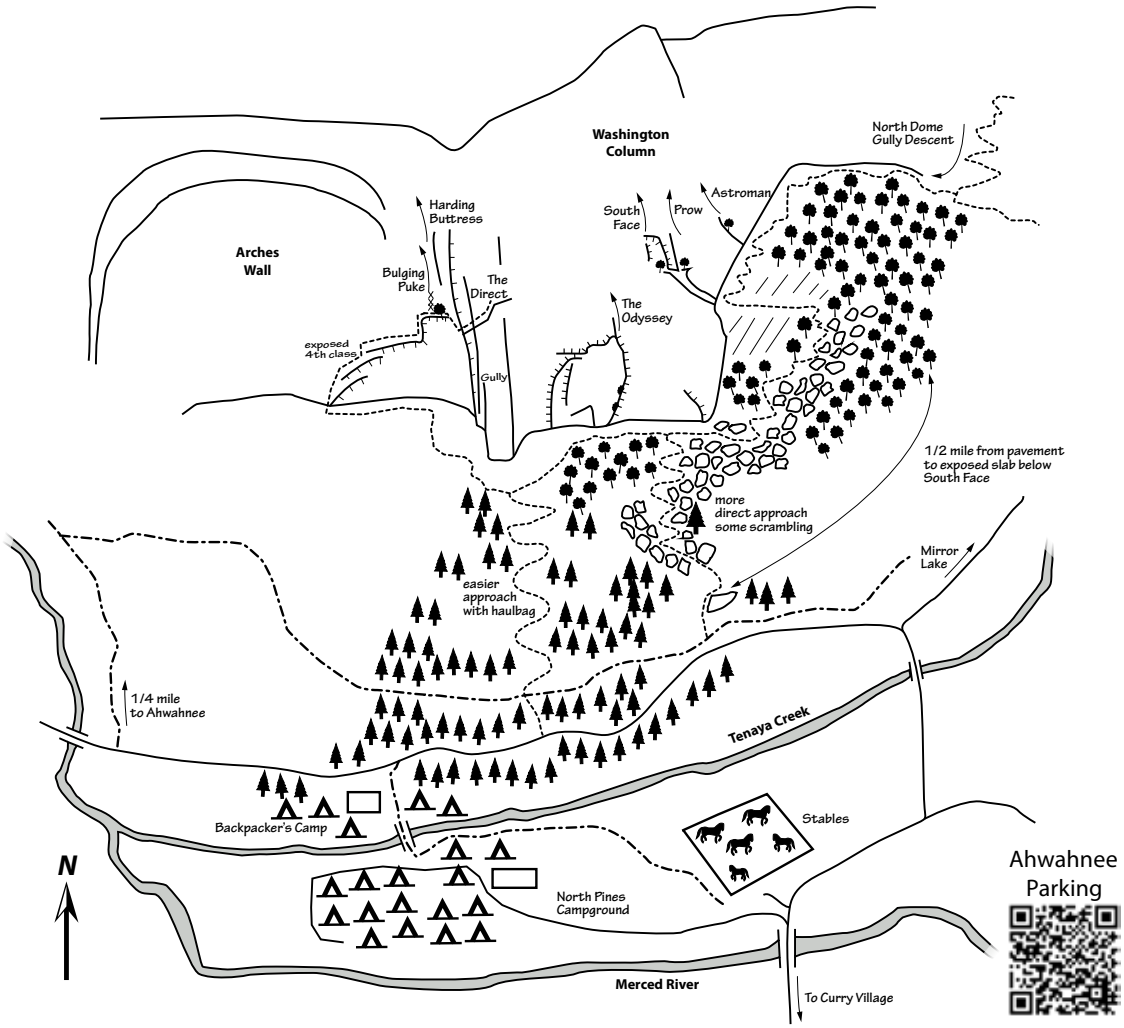


Photo: xRez.com



Approach (40 - 70 minutes)
From the Backpacker's Campground (located on the north side of Tenaya Creek across from North Pines Campground) follow the paved bike trail toward Mirror Lake. After .25 miles leave the paved trail at a clearing and walk 100' uphill to the dirt, horse trail that parallels the bike path. Look for a faint climber's trail heading more or less straight uphill. This is the easier Column approach, and is the Arches Wall and Direct, and Odyssey approaches. The more difficult boulder-scrambling approach, and the way most people descend the South Face and all routes to the east, is another 200' along the horse trail, marked by a faint trail that leads to a distinctive apartment sized boulder at the base of a boulder field. Follow cairns to the base.

Descent (1.5 - 3 hours)
Study the descent picture carefully. (While not ideal to do for your first time in the dark, this trail is now fairly well marked so adventurous climbers should be fine any time of day). From the summit of Washington Column walk north along the summit ridge until you reach the top of the gully (the trail from the summit of North Dome, or from Royal Arches, joins at this point). A short, sandy downhill section leads to approx. 1000 feet of sandy traversing, with short sections of up and down. At one point you climb under a small overhang and traverse eight feet across a slab on a good foot rail, then up the opposite hillside to more up and down traversing. Near the end of the traverse you downclimb a large tree (part in the tree part on the rock next to it), which leads to an exposed 4th class traverse down and left to a very sandy trail. The sandy trail zigzags down the exposed slabs, with a couple short 4th class downclimbing sections near the bottom, where you can eventually walk up a short hill and angle back along the base of the Column, reversing the Astroman / South Face approach (well cairned path along the wall, then down through a boulder field, which meets up with the paved Valley Loop Trail near the Backpacker's Camp). The closest bus stop to where the North Dome Gully Trail joins the paved Valley Loop Trail is either the Ahwahnee Hotel (#3), or the Upper Pines Campground (#18).

Washington Column - South Face

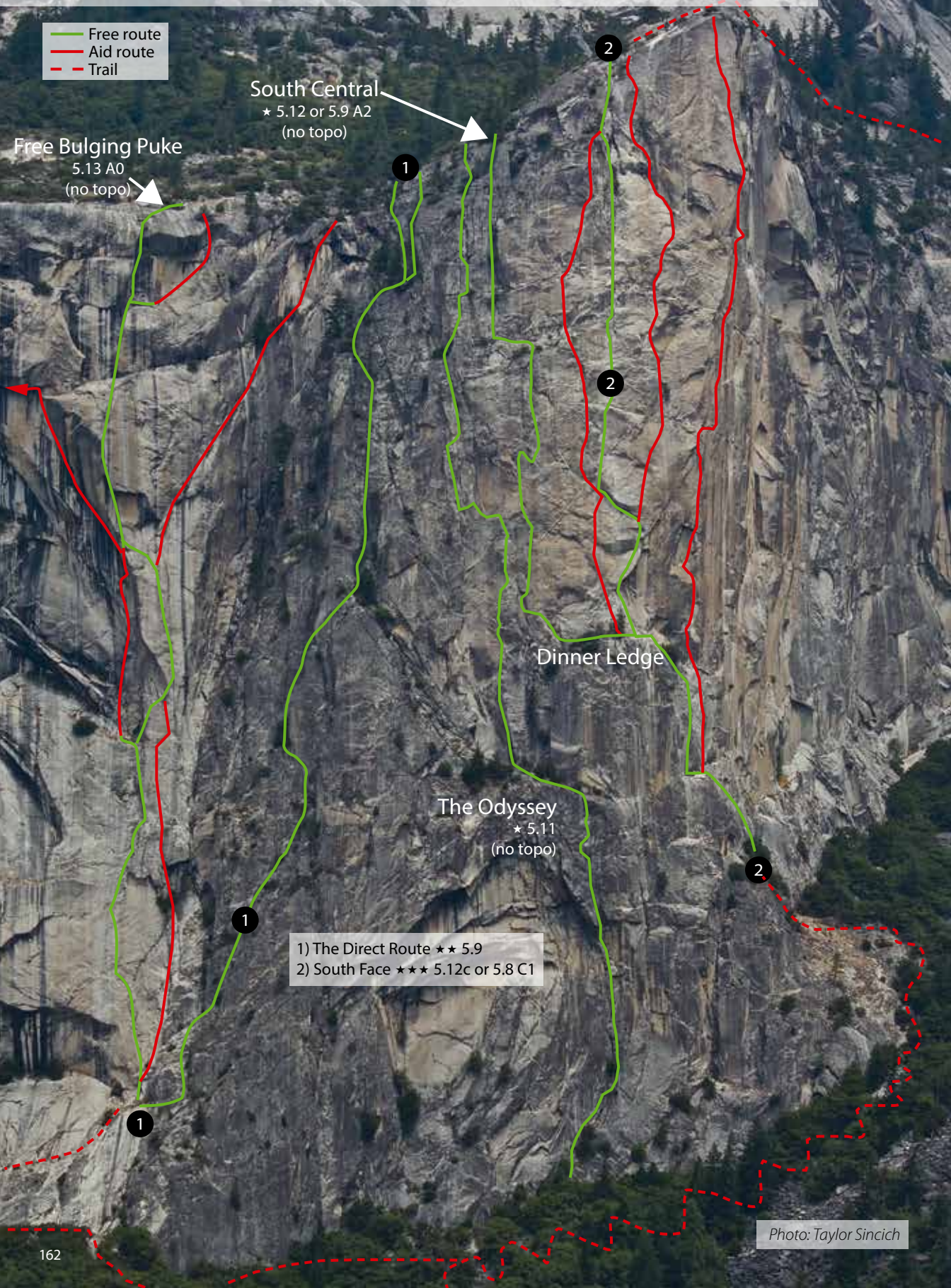
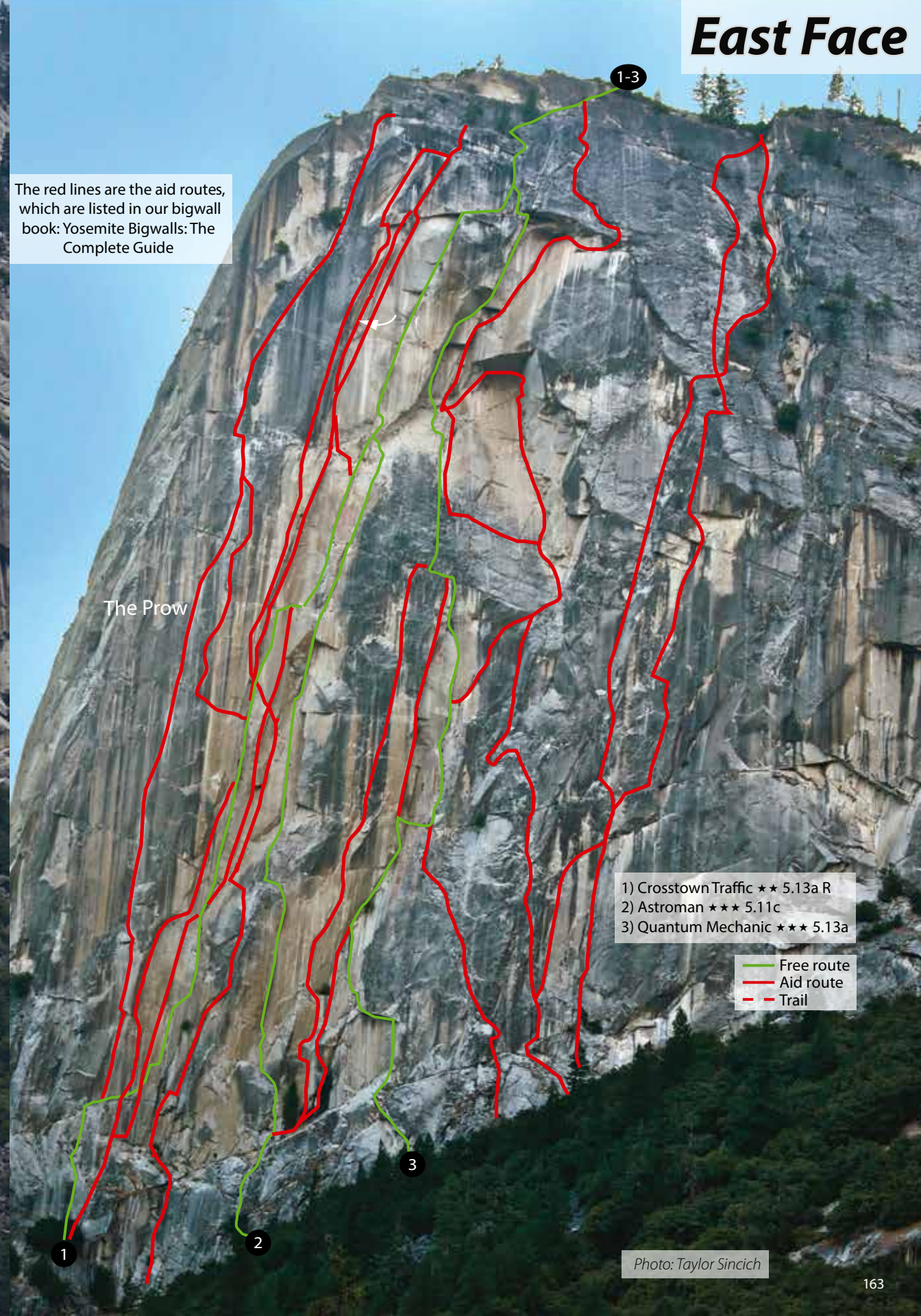


Photo: Taylor Sincich

East Face



The red lines are the aid routes, which are listed in our bigwall book: Yosemite Bigwalls: The Complete Guide

1) Crosstown Traffic ★★ 5.13a R
2) Astroman ★★★ 5.11c
3) Quantum Mechanic ★★★ 5.13a

Free route
Aid route
Trail

Photo: Taylor Sincich

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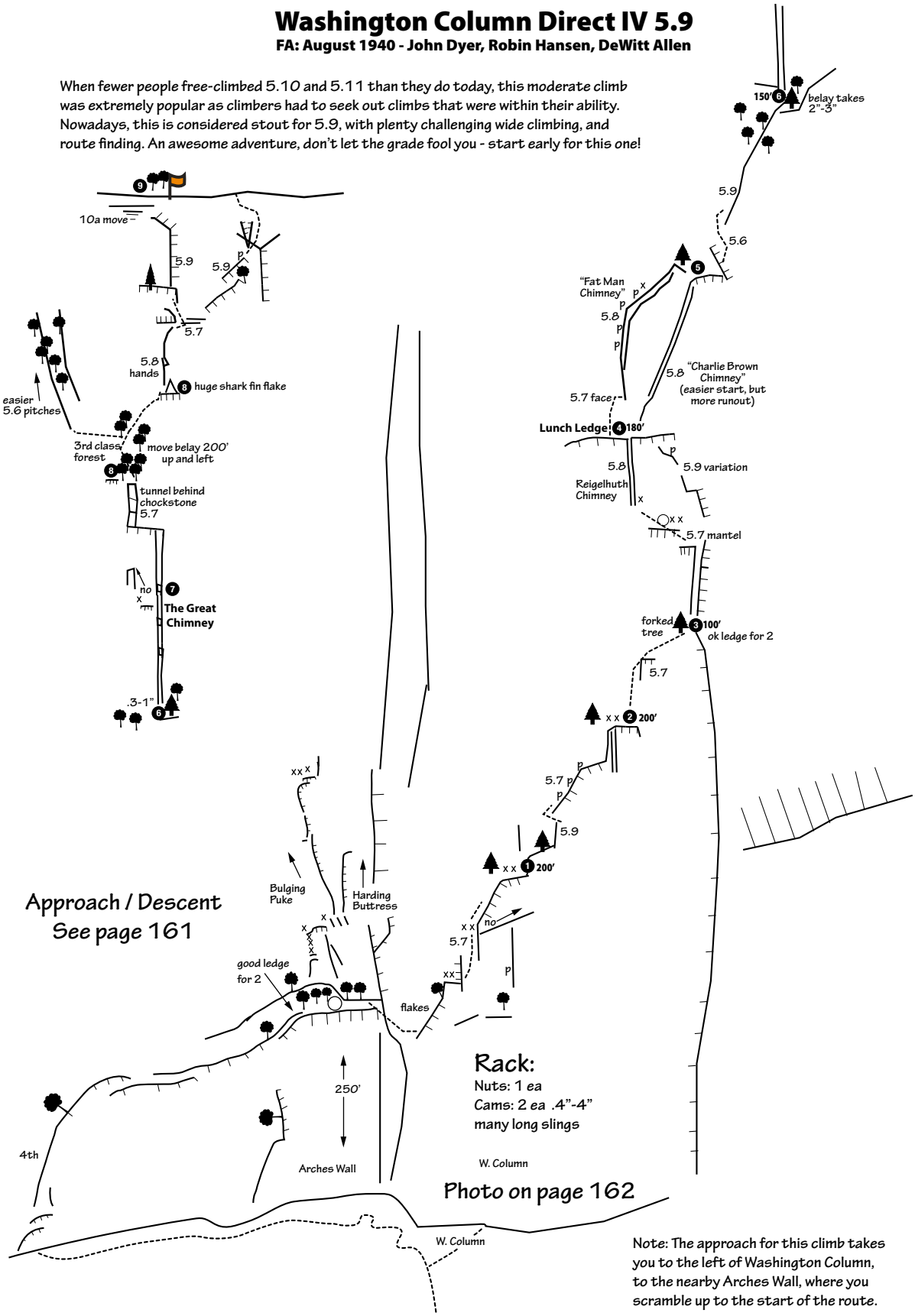
Washington Column Direct IV 5.9

FA: August 1940 - John Dyer, Robin Hansen, DeWitt Allen

When fewer people free-climbed 5.10 and 5.11 than they do today, this moderate climb was extremely popular as climbers had to seek out climbs that were within their ability. Nowadays, this is considered stout for 5.9, with plenty challenging wide climbing, and route finding. An awesome adventure, don't let the grade fool you - start early for this one!



Approach / Descent
See page 161

Photo on page 162

Note: The approach for this climb takes you to the left of Washington Column, to the nearby Arches Wall, where you scramble up to the start of the route.

Yosemite Search and Rescue (call 911) are the angels of Yosemite!

Support the team at friendsofyosar.com

Photo: National Park Service

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the Yosemite Chapel (non-denominational) is always there for you, if you need a quiet / peaceful space.

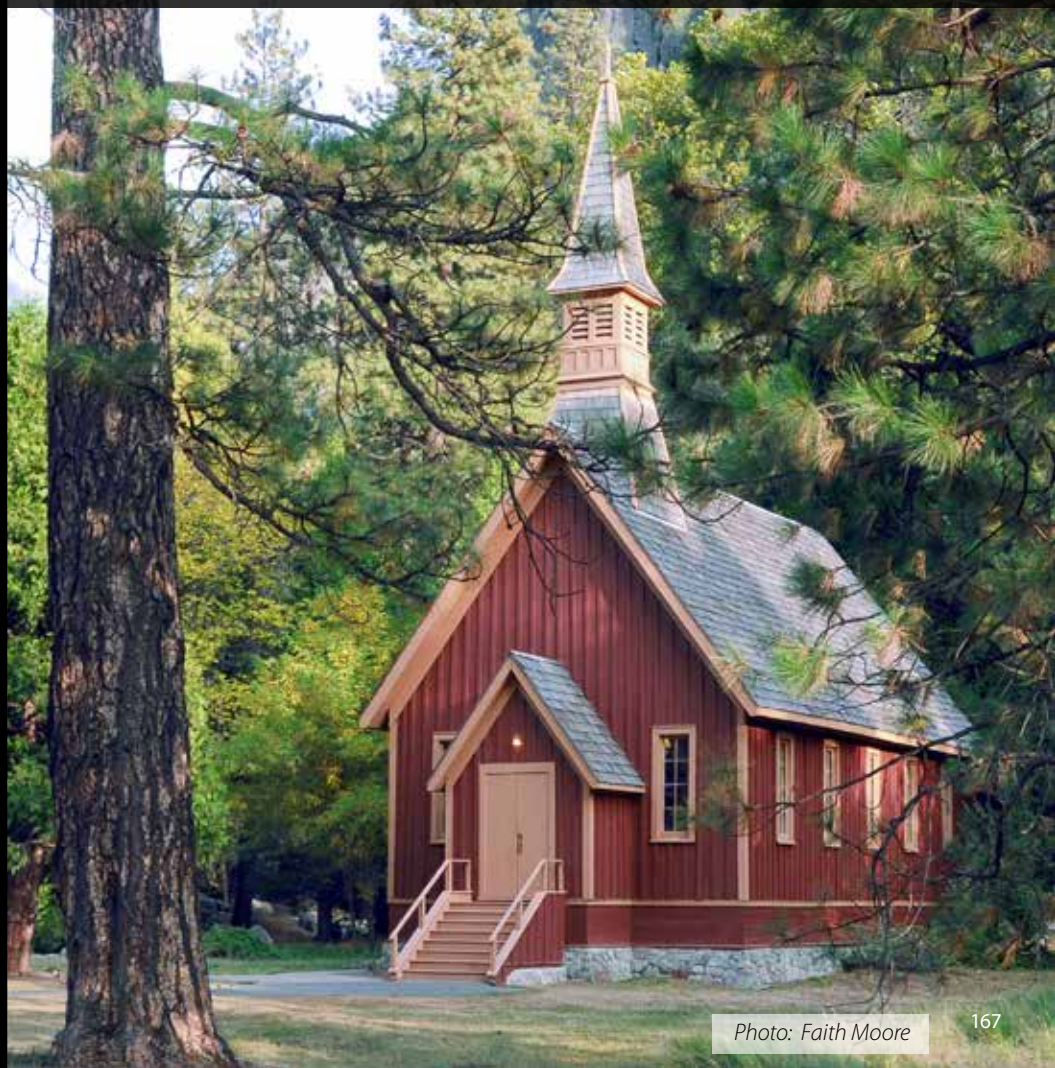


Photo: Faith Moore

South Face V 5.12c V10 or 5.8 C1

FA: September 1964 - Layton Kor, Chris Fredericks
FFA: October 2002 - Matt Wilder

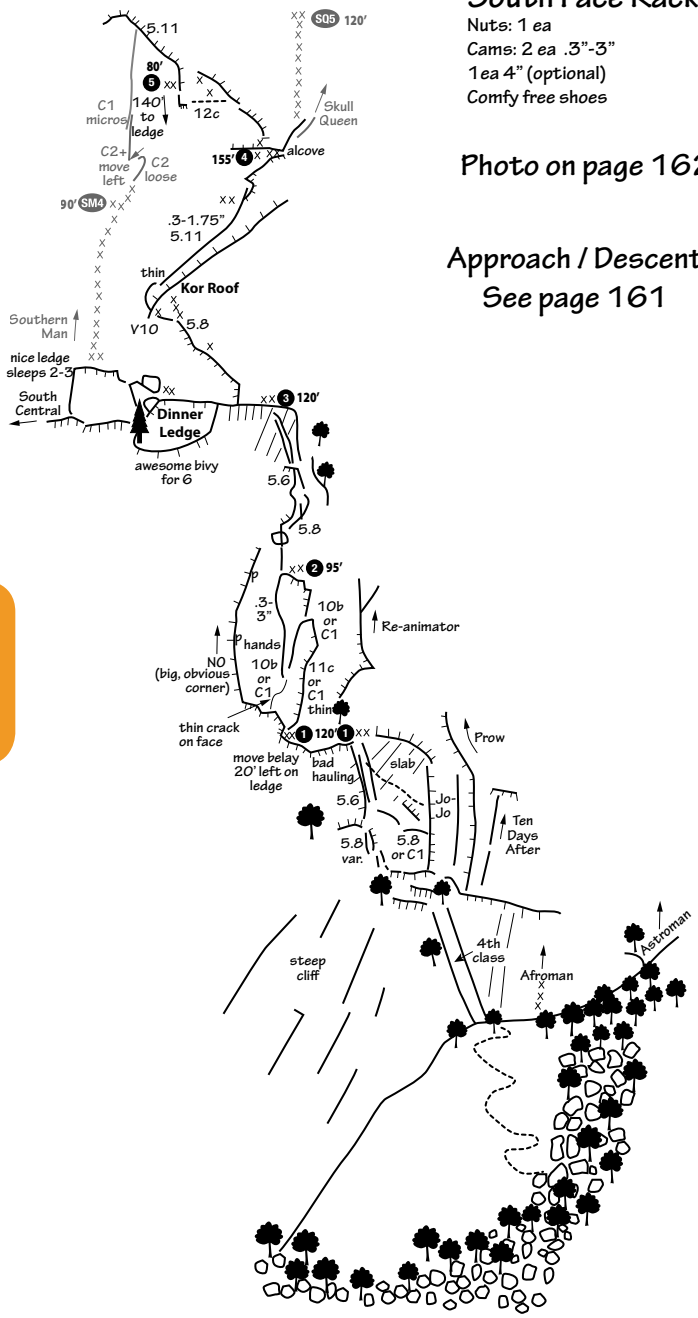
Whether you just climb the three moderate pitches to palatial Dinner Ledge, or go for the summit, the South Face is incredible. It starts on a buttress, after an easy scramble, so right away you feel like you are way off the deck. From Dinner Ledge through pitch seven can seem steep / intimidating, and slow, but don't worry, at pitch eight the angle eases, and the climbing gets cruiser. If planning on bivying, it is preferrable, because of loose rocks near the top of the route, to leave your pack or haulbag on Dinner Ledge, and plan to retrieve it when you rappel. If climbing the route in a day, it is often easier to just continue to the summit and descend North Dome Gully (an easy hike without heavy packs, ie what you would have if climbing in a day), as the wind howls in the afternoon, which can make rappelling slow and dangerous.

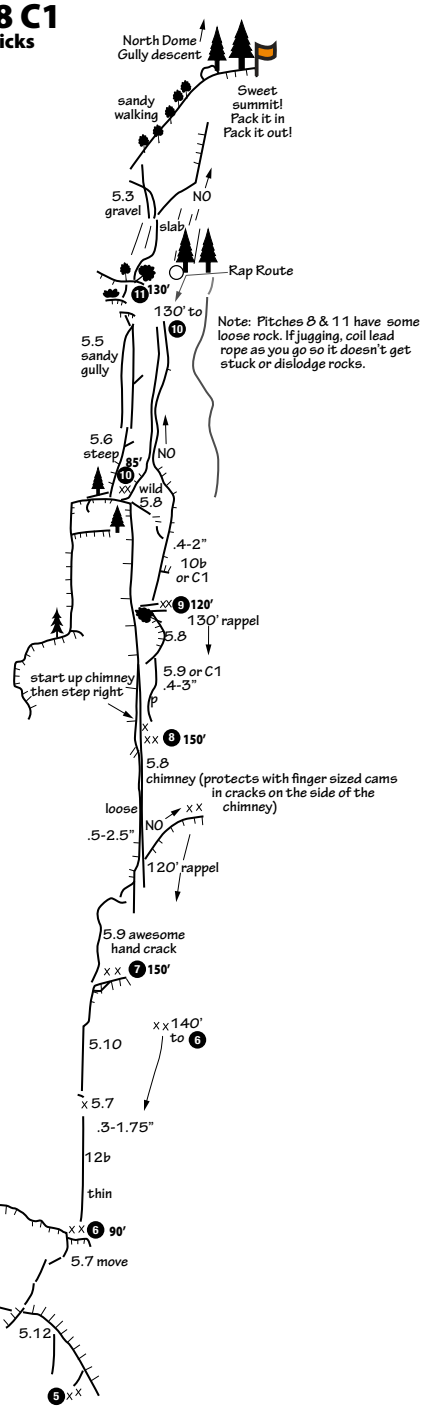
South Face Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .3"-3"
1 ea 4" (optional)
Comfy free shoes

Photo on page 162

Approach / Descent
See page 161





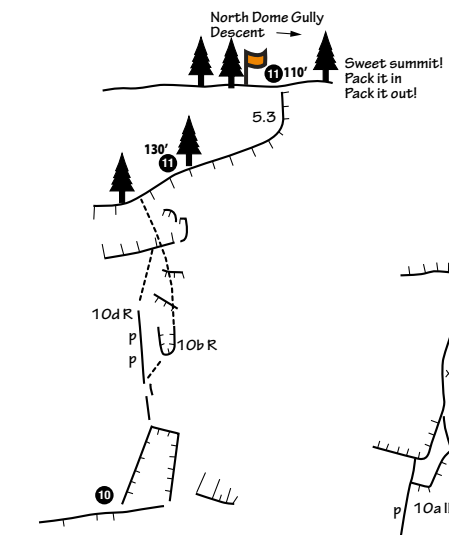
Northside

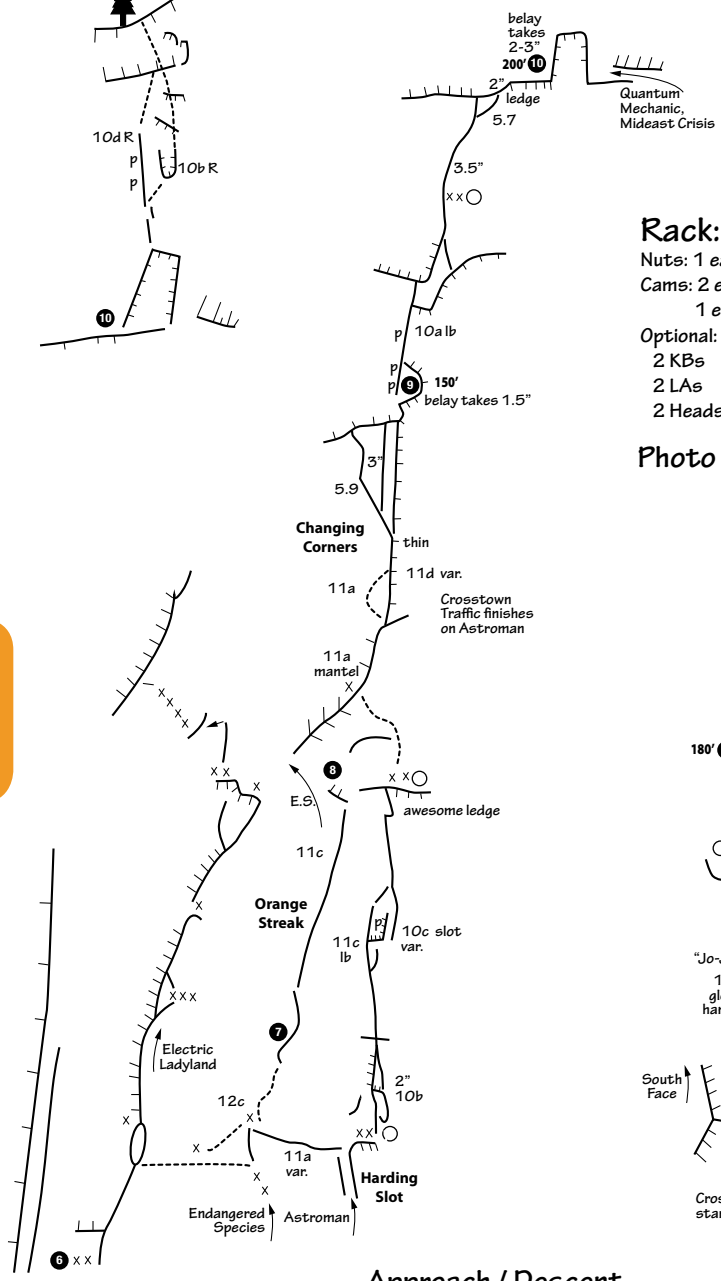
Marlene Machemy on pitch 8 (5.9) of the South Face, 5.12c V10
Photo Erik Sloan

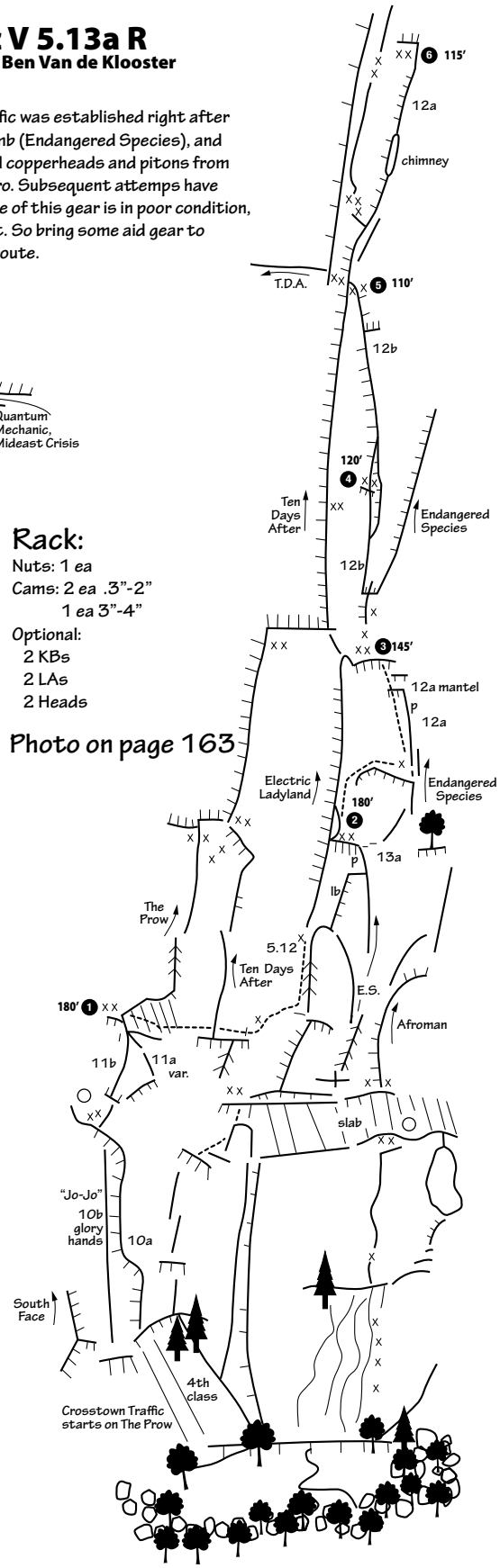
Crosstown Traffic V 5.13a R

FA: May 2003 - Alexander Huber, Ben Van de Klooster

Crosstown traffic was established right after a nearby aid climb (Endangered Species), and used some fixed copperheads and pitons from that climb as pro. Subsequent attemps have found that some of this gear is in poor condition, or has fallen out. So bring some aid gear to check out this route.





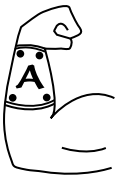


Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .3"-2"
1 ea 3"-4"
Optional:
2 KBs
2 LAs
2 Heads

Photo on page 163

Approach / Descent
See page 161



Astroman IV 5.11c or V 5.10 C2

FA: July 1959 - Warren Harding, Glen Denny, Chuck Pratt
FFA: May 1975 - John Bachar, Ron Kauk, John Long

Splitter, and offering every type of crack, Astroman is easily considered one of the top climbs at its grade in the world. It can be tricky, though, because it bakes in the morning sun until 1030/11 am. This punishing, often windless heat combined with the challenging cruxes down low, cause plenty of folks to opt for practicing the first five pitches, and then returning to finish the climb later (you can rappel with one 70m rope from pitch five).

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea micro
2 ea small, med
Cams: 1 ea .3"
2 ea .5" -.75"
3 ea 1"-2"
2 ea 3"
1 ea 4"

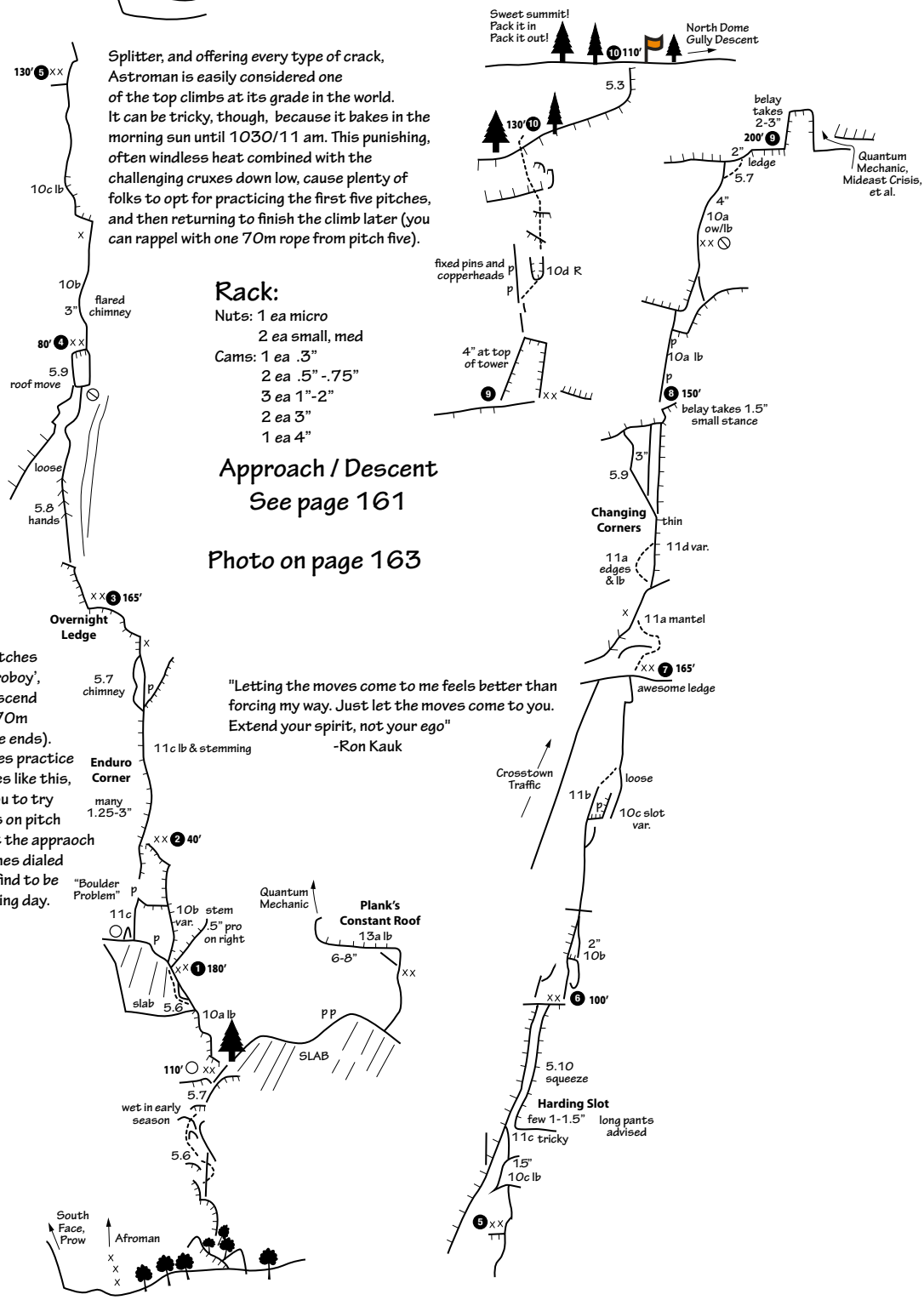
Approach / Descent

See page 161

Photo on page 163

The first five pitches are called 'Astroboy', and you can descend then with one 70m rope (watch the ends). Plenty of parties practice the first pitches like this, which allows you to try both variations on pitch two, and to get the appraoch and initial pitches dialed on what most find to be a long, challenging day.

"Letting the moves come to me feels better than forcing my way. Just let the moves come to you. Extend your spirit, not your ego"
-Ron Kauk



Northside

Zach Alles on the Enduro Corner of Astroman, 5.11c
Photo: Marek Jakubowski

Quantum Mechanic V 5.13a

FA: June 2002 - Rob Miller, Jay Selvidge

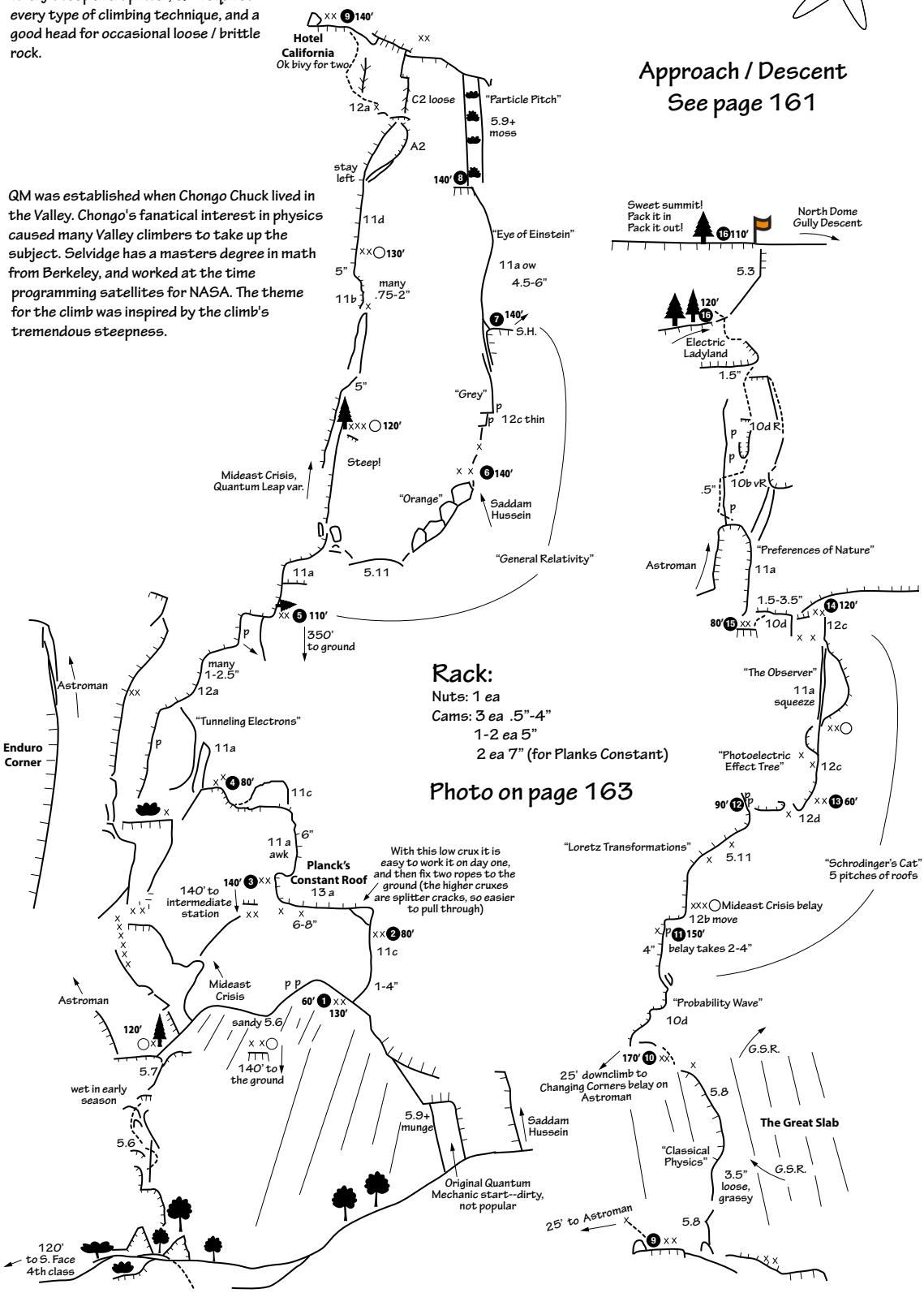
Quantum Leap Var. V 5.12a

FA: May/June 2011 - James Lucas, Madaleine Sorkin, Ben Ditto

Wildly steep and splitter, QM requires every type of climbing technique, and a good head for occasional loose / brittle rock.

QM was established when Chongo Chuck lived in the Valley. Chongo's fanatical interest in physics caused many Valley climbers to take up the subject. Selvidge has a masters degree in math from Berkeley, and worked at the time programming satellites for NASA. The theme for the climb was inspired by the climb's tremendous steepness.

Approach / Descent
See page 161



Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 3 ea .5"-4"
1-2 ea 5"
2 ea 7" (for Planks Constant)

Photo on page 163

Northside

North Dome

North Dome Approach

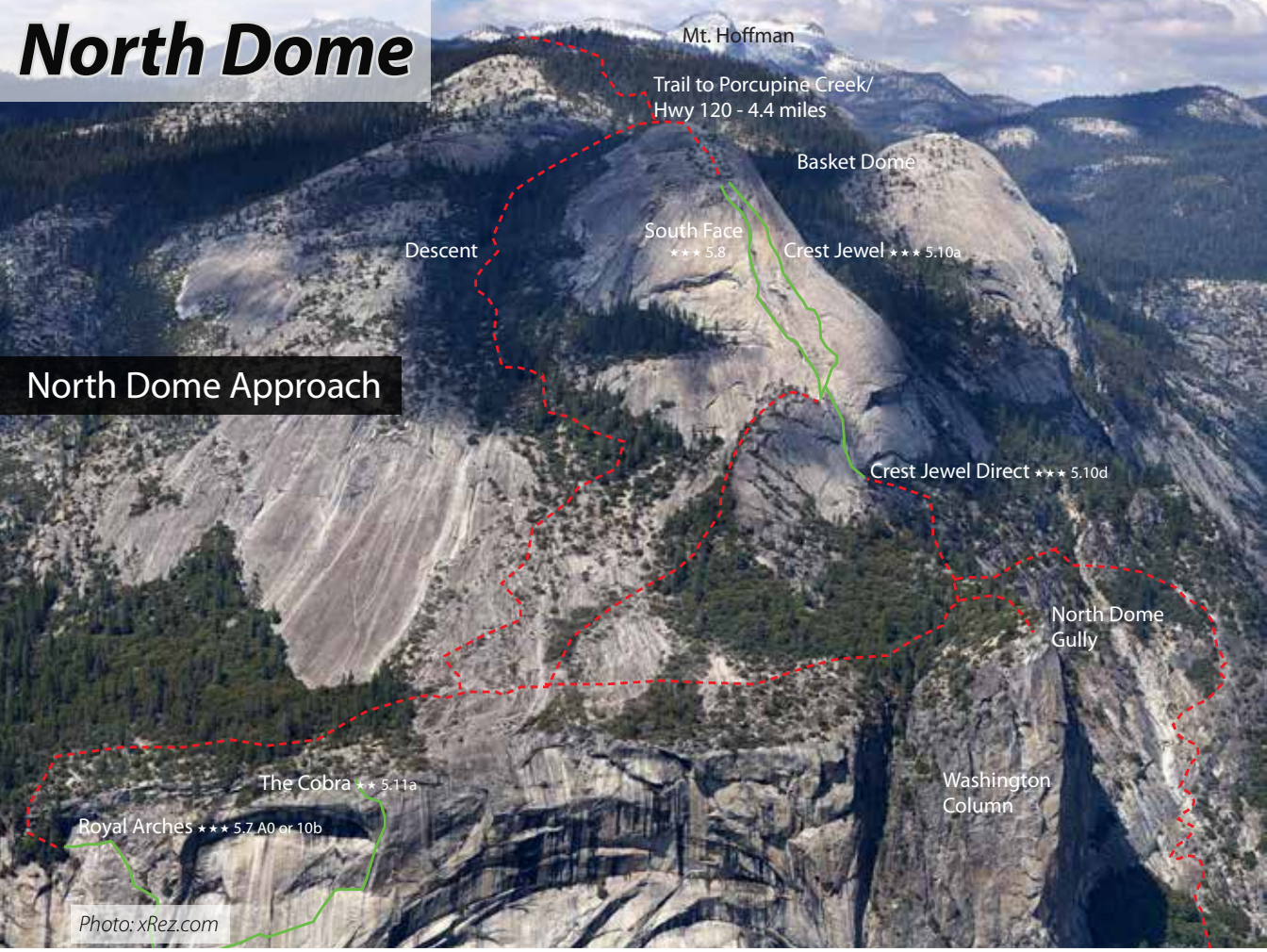


Photo: xRez.com

North Dome Gully Descent

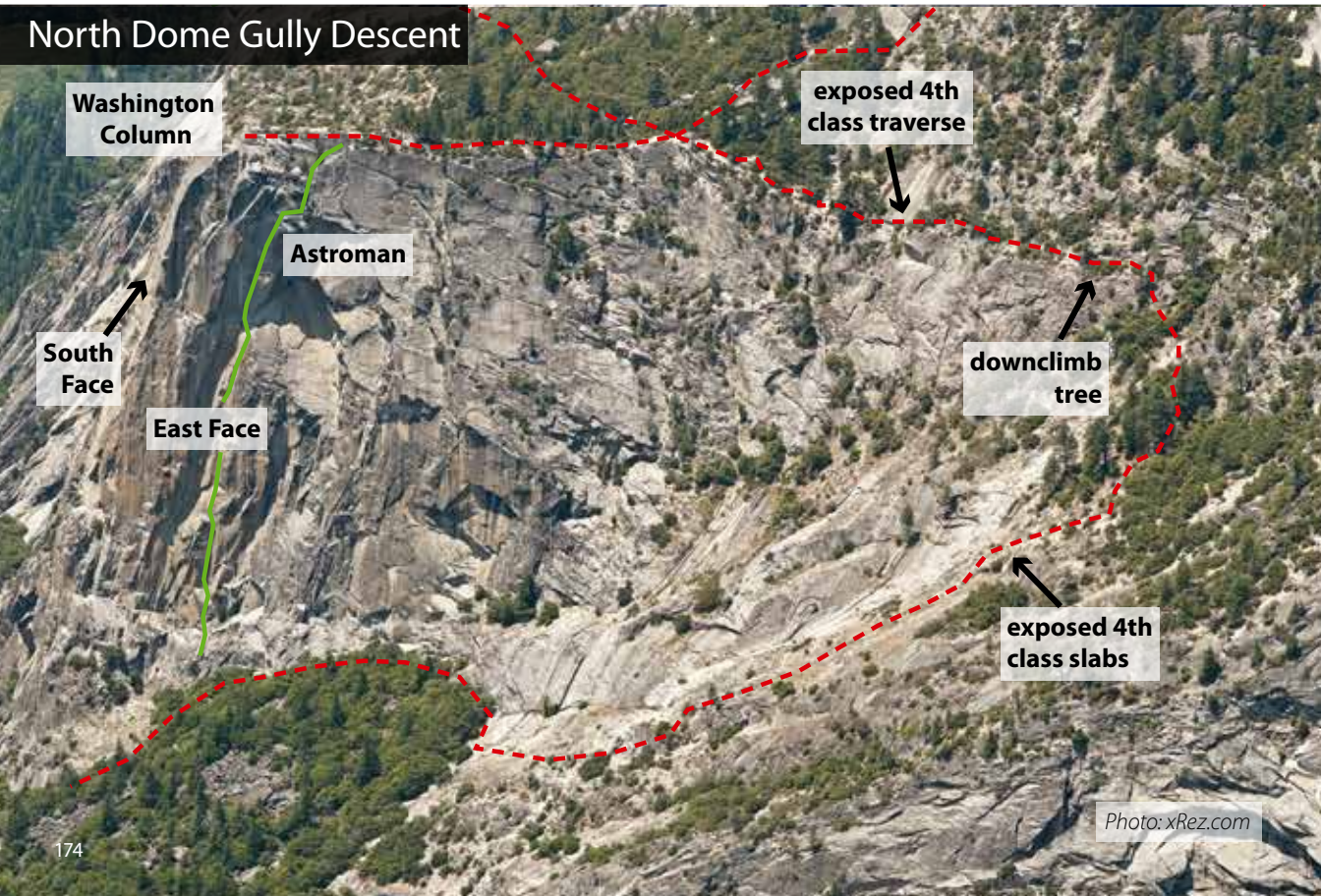
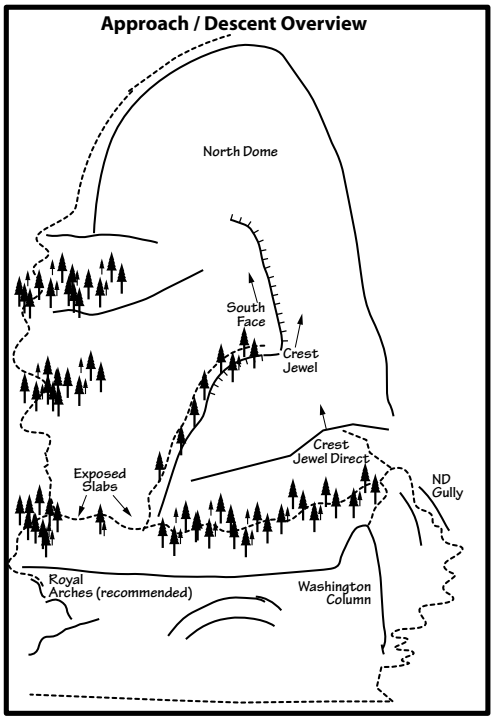


Photo: xRez.com

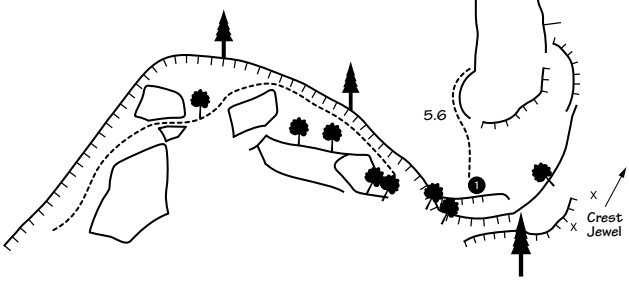
South Face III 5.8

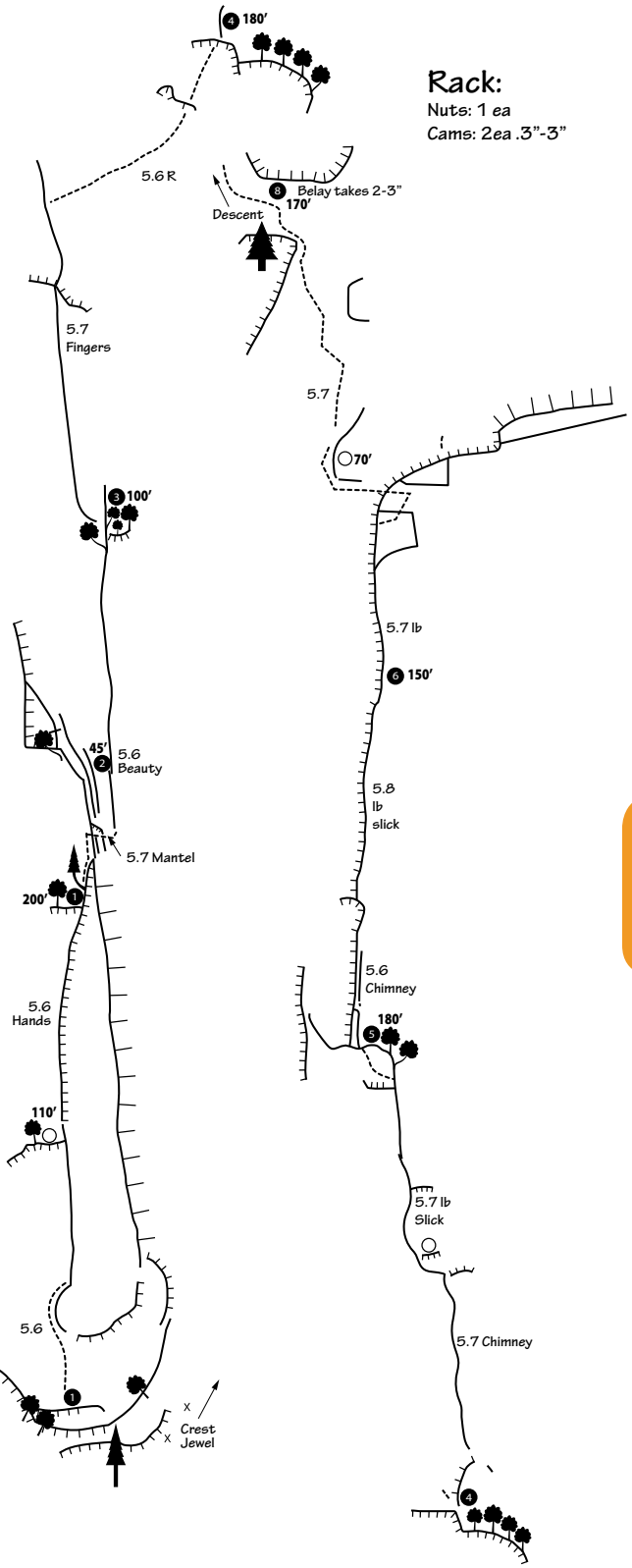
FFA: 1960. Mort Hempel, Irene Ortenburger, Steve Roper

North Dome, similar to *Snake Dike* on Half Dome, is a moderate adventure climb with a significant approach. The setting defines idyllic. The views are topnotch. The climbing is as good as you can imagine: perfectly smooth, well-protected slab on *Crest Jewel* and beautiful cracks on the *South Face*. Most parties opt for *Crest Jewel* to avoid carrying all the rack that the *South Face* requires. Both routes are must-do classics for their grade. For most parties, simul-climbing *Royal Arches* (5.7 A0, but mostly 5.5) is faster than doing the brutal hike up the North Dome gully. Either way, North Dome is a long climb with a very long descent. Plan accordingly and bring plenty of water (there is a seasonal spring at the top of *Royal Arches*), food, headlamps, and clothes – North Dome tops out over 7,500 feet.



Ahwahnee Parking





Northside

Crest Jewel III/IV 5.10a or 5.10d (Direct Start)

FA: 1981 - Dan Dingle, Michael Lucero

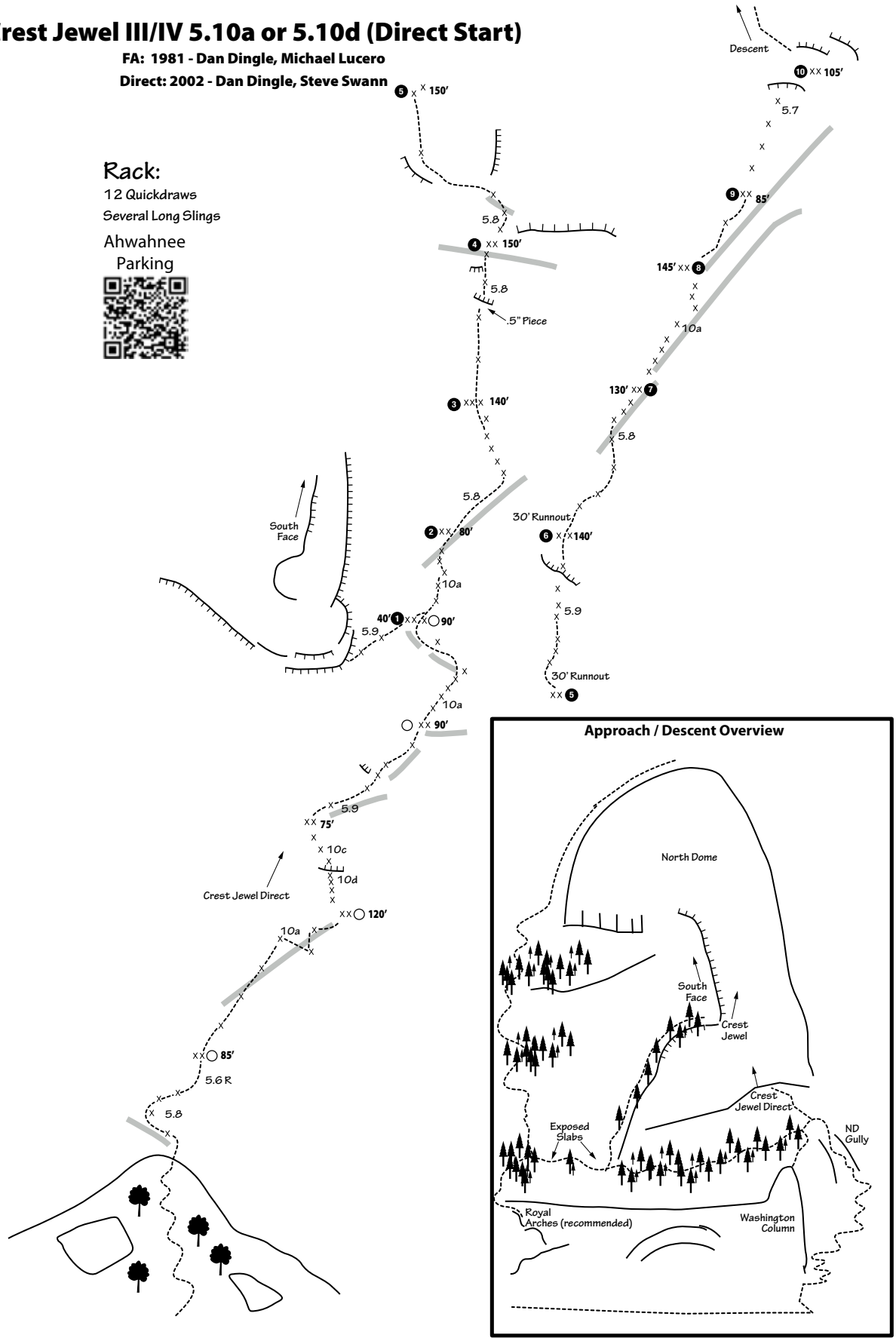
Direct: 2002 - Dan Dingle, Steve Swann

Rack:

12 Quickdraws

Several Long Slings

Ahwahnee Parking



Northside

Lucas Barth on Crest Jewel, 5.10a
Photo: Eric Bissell

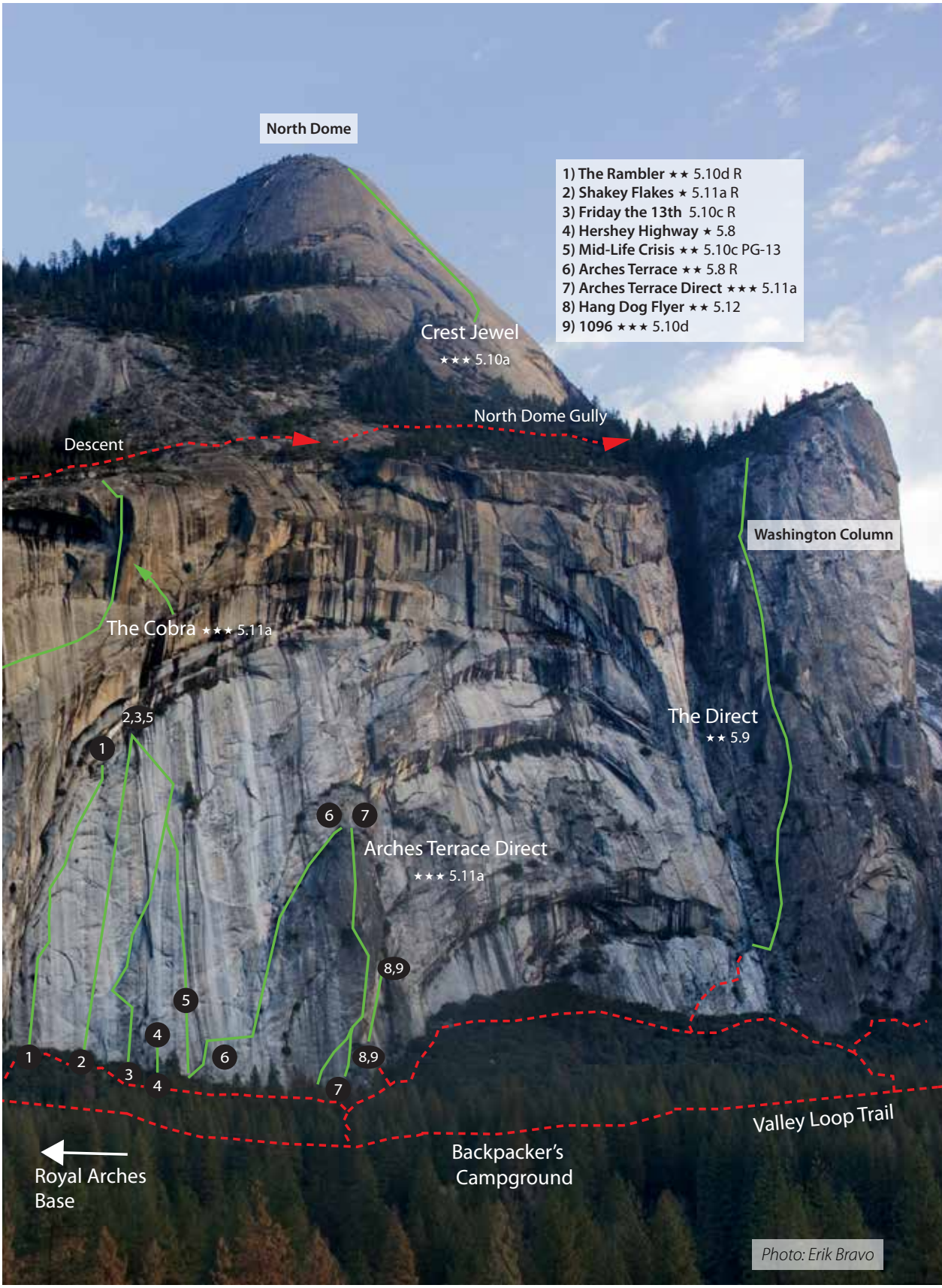
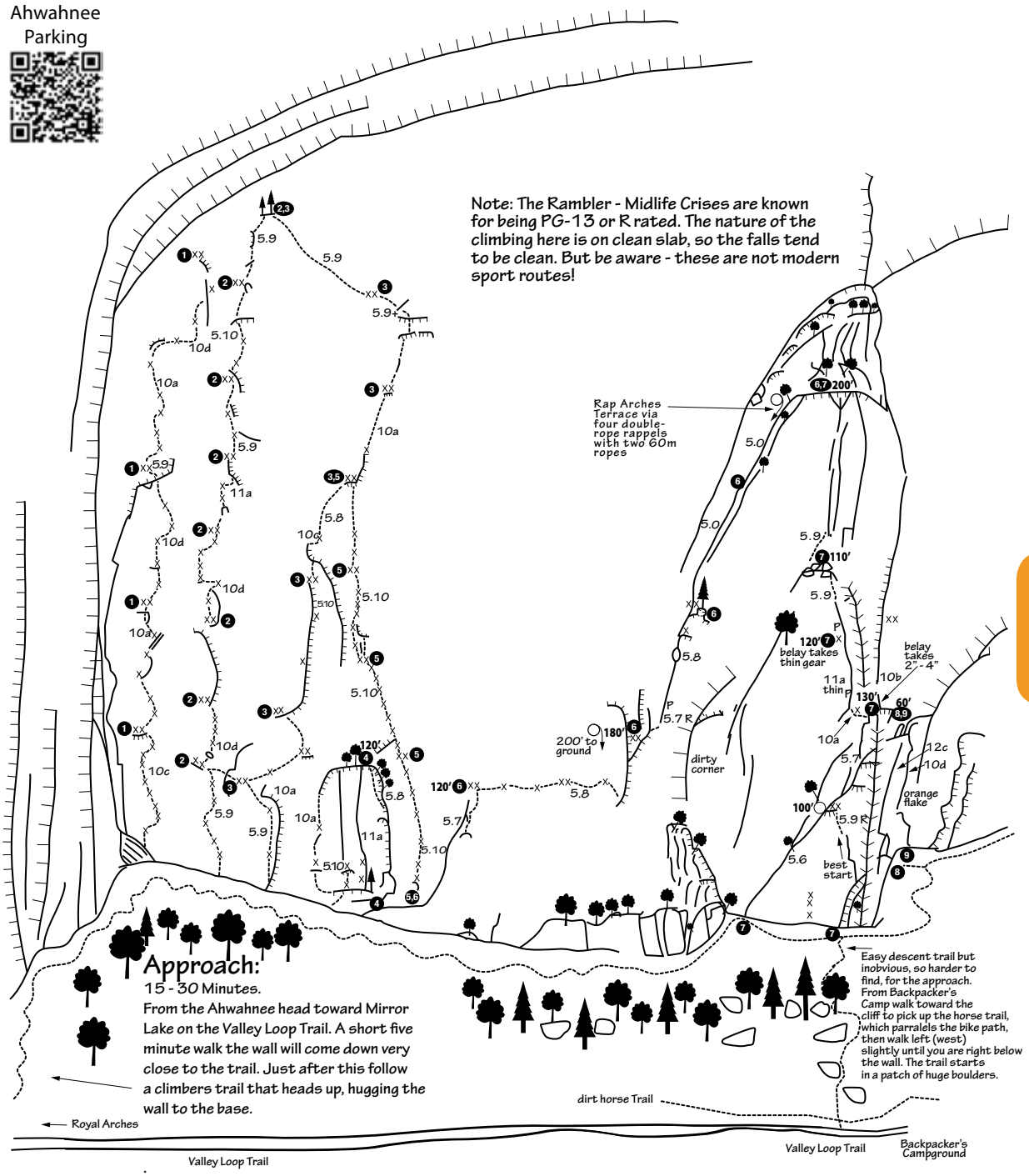


Photo: Erik Bravo

Northside

1) The Rambler (R) ★★★ 10c, 10a, 10d, 10a, 10d. Pro: 1ea .3" - 1", 3".
Impeccable, bold slab climbing.
2) Shakey Flakes(R) ★ 5.9, 10d, 10a, 10d, 10d, 11a, 5.9, 5.10, 5.9. Pro: 1ea .3" - 2"
3) Friday the 13th(R) 5.9, 5.9, 5.10, 10c, 10a, 5.9+, 5.9. Pro: 1ea .3" - 4"
4) Hershey Highway ★ 5.8. Pro: 1-2ea .3" -3"
5) Mid-Life Crisis(PG-13) ★★ 5.10. Pro: 1ea .4" - 1.5". Well protected for this area, lol, but far from a sport climb.
6) Arches Terrace ★★ 5.8 R. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3." A cool, old school adventure climb that, because of its traversing nature, can be as challenging to follow as to lead. Better for the solid 5.9/10- leader/follower.
7) Arches Terrace Direct ★★★ 5.9, 5.7,11a, 5.9. Pro: Extra Small Brass Nuts, 2ea .3" - 3"
8) Hang Dog Flyer ★★ 12c. Pro: 2-3ea .3" - 1.5". Beautiful, thin, leaning corner.
9) 1096 ★★★ 10d. Pro: 1ea .3" - 1.5", 2ea 2" - 4". Epic Chimney / Flare / Fist Crack / Lieback. Shady in the afternoon.

Ahwahnee Parking



Northside

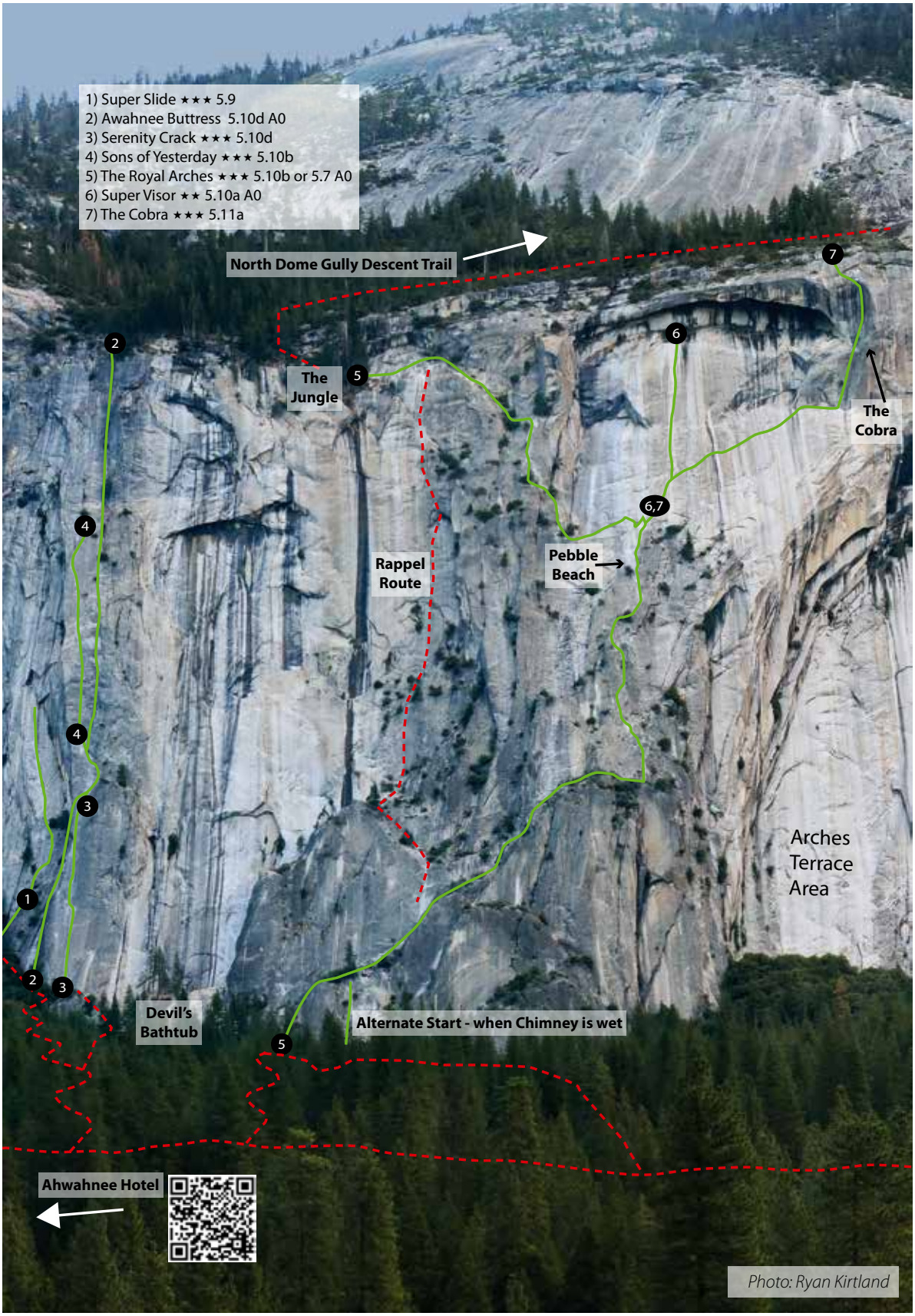


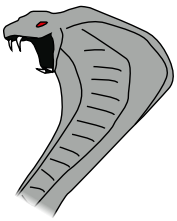
Photo: Ryan Kirtland

Northside

The Arches Wall is the sunny, iconic wall on the north side of the Valley, which was named for a series of large, beautiful arches on the right side of the cliff. The *Royal Arches* route, confusingly, climbs to the left of these. *Royal Arches* is arguably the greatest rock climb on earth, or is a close second to the *Nose* of El Cap. Some of the most classic 5.7 – 5.10 routes are here: *Serenity Crack* (5.10d), *Sons of Yesterday* (5.10b), *Super Slide* (5.9), and of course *Royal Arches* (5.7 A0 or 5.10b) are the mega-classics. Expect crowds!

Camden Clements on Arches Terrace Direct, 5.11a
Photo: Dana Felthauser

Erik Sloan and Garret Randall jamming on Royal Arches, 5.7 A0 or 5.10b, pg 185
Photo: Samuel Crossley



The Cobra IV 5.11a

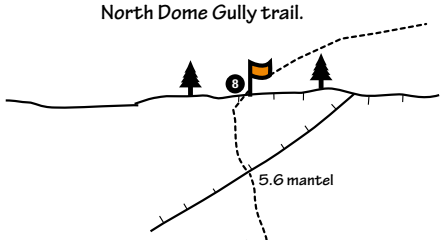
FA: June 1966 - Mark Powell, Bob Kamps
FFA: 1975 - Tobin & Tim Sorenson

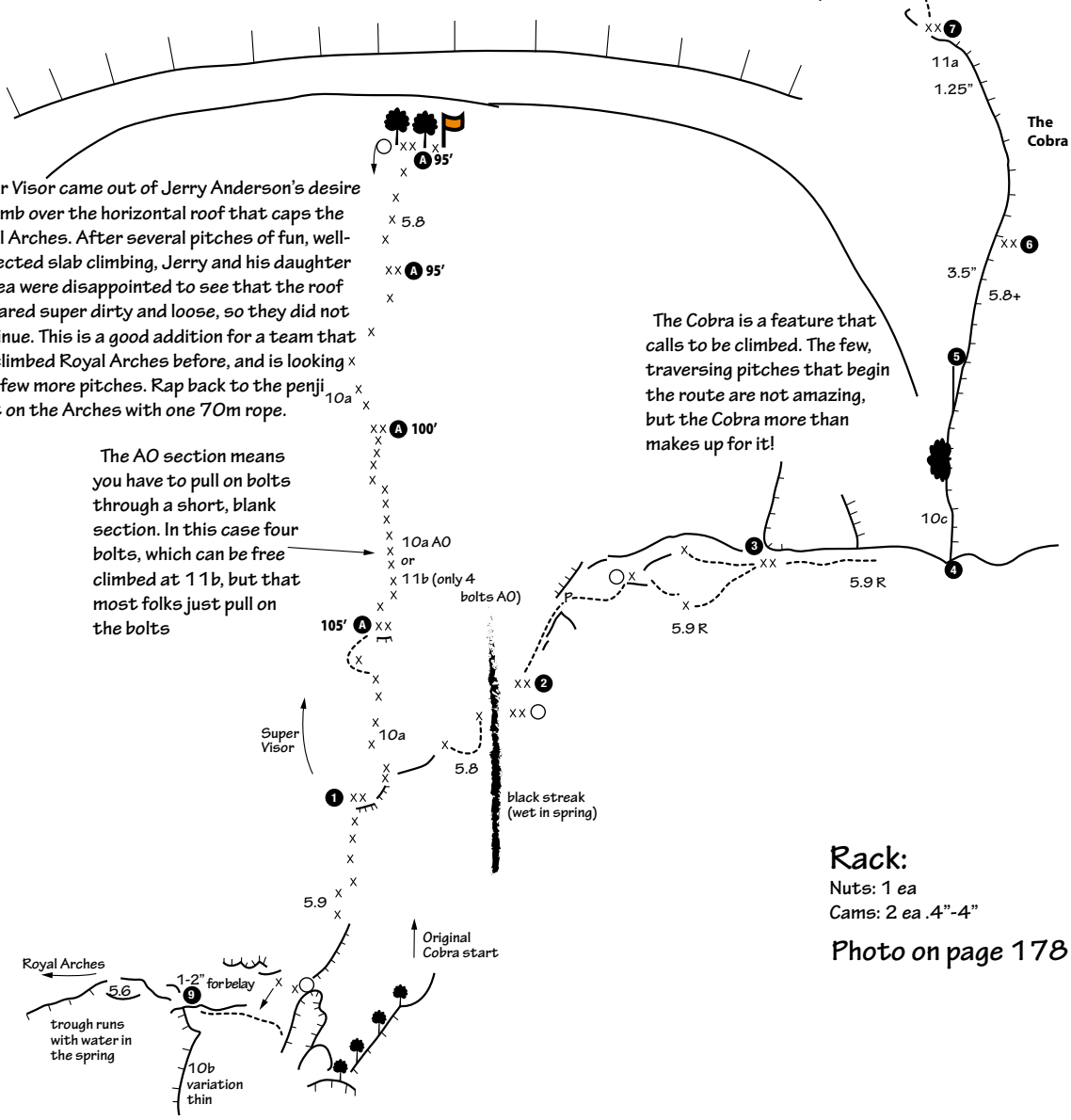
Super Visor IV 5.10a A0 or 5.11b

FA: 1998 - Jerry, Sigrid, and Lynnea Anderson

Descent:

Walk east along the rim on the North Dome Gully trail.





Super Visor came out of Jerry Anderson's desire to climb over the horizontal roof that caps the Royal Arches. After several pitches of fun, well-protected slab climbing, Jerry and his daughter Lynnea were disappointed to see that the roof appeared super dirty and loose, so they did not continue. This is a good addition for a team that has climbed Royal Arches before, and is looking for a few more pitches. Rap back to the penji point on the Arches with one 70m rope.

The A0 section means you have to pull on bolts through a short, blank section. In this case four bolts, which can be free climbed at 11b, but that most folks just pull on the bolts

The Cobra is a feature that calls to be climbed. The few, traversing pitches that begin the route are not amazing, but the Cobra more than makes up for it!

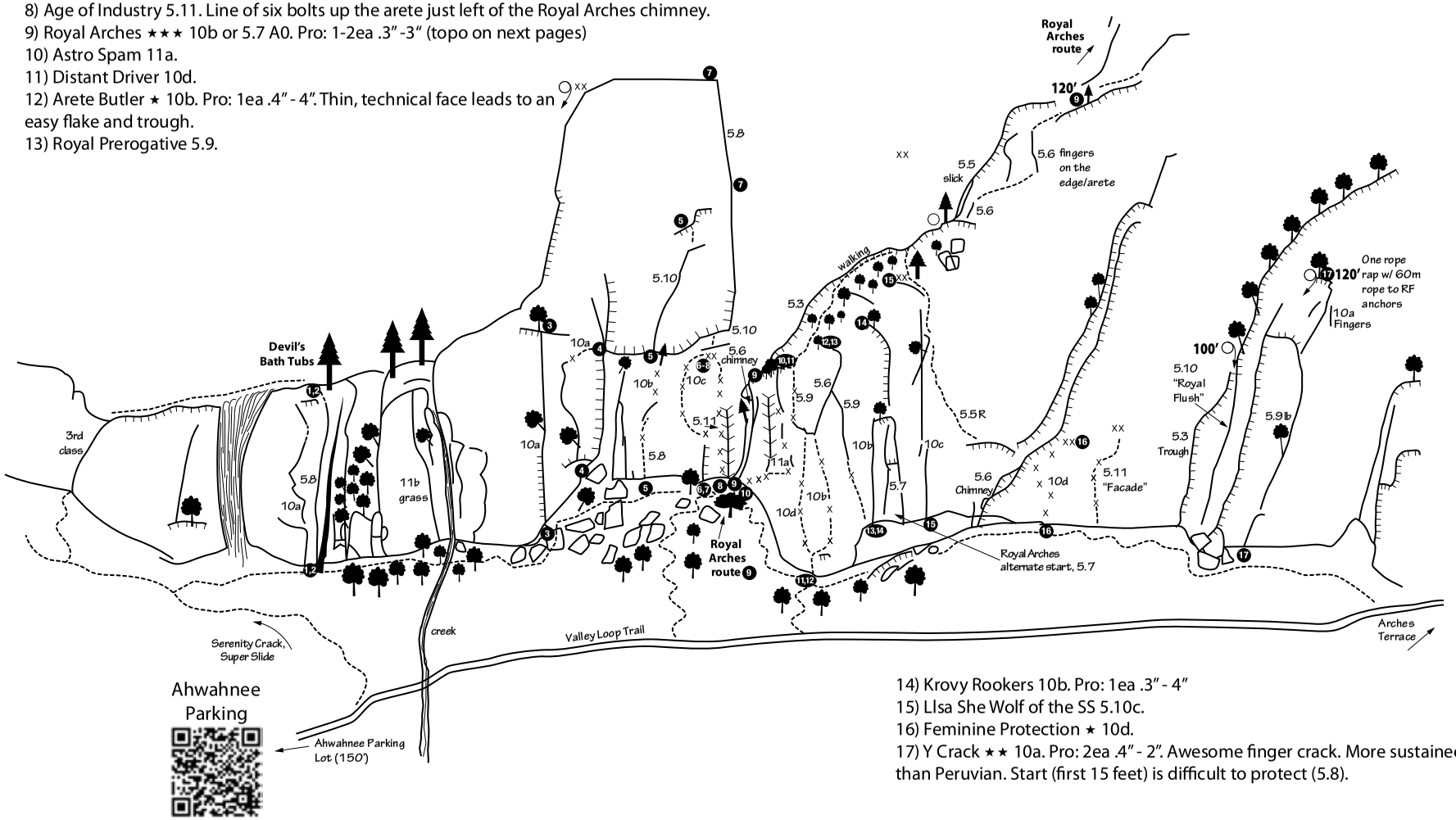
Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .4"-4"

Photo on page 178

The Both of these routes start after the first 8.5 pitches (never harder than 5.7 to this point) of the Royal Arches route, which has some of the most fun, easy cruising crack / face / scrambling you can imagine.

1) Peruvian Flake, Left ★★ 10a. Pro: 1-2ea .4" - 3", 1ea 4". Crux is a few, thin fingers moves. Varied and fun!
2)Peruvian Flake, Right ★ 5.8. Pro: 1-2ea .4" - 3". Dirty, but fun toprope.
3) Fine Line ★ 10a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4". Challenging thin crack for thirty feet to mellower ground. Harder than Peruvian!
4) Peeping Tom ★ 10a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4". Some grass and flaky rock. Good for setting up a toprope in the corner.
5) Sea Hag 5.10.
6) Surplus Cheaper Hands ★ 10b PG-13. Pro: Few finger-sized pieces. Decent if you're waiting for RA.
7) Sea Cow 5.10.
8) Age of Industry 5.11. Line of six bolts up the arete just left of the Royal Arches chimney.
9) Royal Arches ★★★ 10b or 5.7 A0. Pro: 1-2ea .3" -3" (topo on next pages)
10) Astro Spam 11a.
11) Distant Driver 10d.
12) Arete Butler ★ 10b. Pro: 1ea .4" - 4". Thin, technical face leads to an easy flake and trough.
13) Royal Prerogative 5.9.



Ahwahnee Parking

14) Krovy Rookers 10b. Pro: 1ea .3" - 4"
15) Llsa She Wolf of the SS 5.10c.
16) Feminine Protection ★ 10d.
17) Y Crack ★★ 10a. Pro: 2ea .4" - 2". Awesome finger crack. More sustained than Peruvian. Start (first 15 feet) is difficult to protect (5.8).

Royal Arches III/IV 5.7 AO or 5.10b

FA: October 1936 - Ken Adam, Morgan Harris, W. Kenneth Davis

Royal Arches is arguably the best climb in Yosemite. Epically long, varied, and mellow, this climb has it all. There are many variations on the lower pitches, which makes passing parties easier. Most folks spend six to eight hours on the climb! So make sure to bring snacks, water, and headlamps. If appropriate for your team, simul-climbing can speed things up considerably, with most parties who simul-climb spending two and half to four hours en route. Definitely double your rope if you are simul-climbing, meaning have one leader tie into both ends and then the follower just ties in with a knot at the midway point in the rope - othewise you will be too far apart to hear each other due to the ledgy terrain, and the leader will have awful rope drag. I like to use a 9mm x 70m rope for simul-climbing, which is also all you want for the rappel route.

Now the descent route takes two to four hours also, so really plan for a long day. Which descent is best? To rappel or to walk off? There are times, and teams, for each. Love to hike and have plenty of daylight left? Go for the walk off, which has the bonus that you climb over to a spring just after the end of the route, so you will be hydrated! Super tired, out of hiking shape, or someone in the team has had leg injuries or issues? Go for the rappel route for sure. It takes a long time (sixteen rappels with one rope!), but puts you right back at the base, which is a minute or two from your car, the bathrooms, and the Ahwahnee Bar. If the Arches starts feeling too easy, combine it with North Dome for a full, Grade IV climbing day!

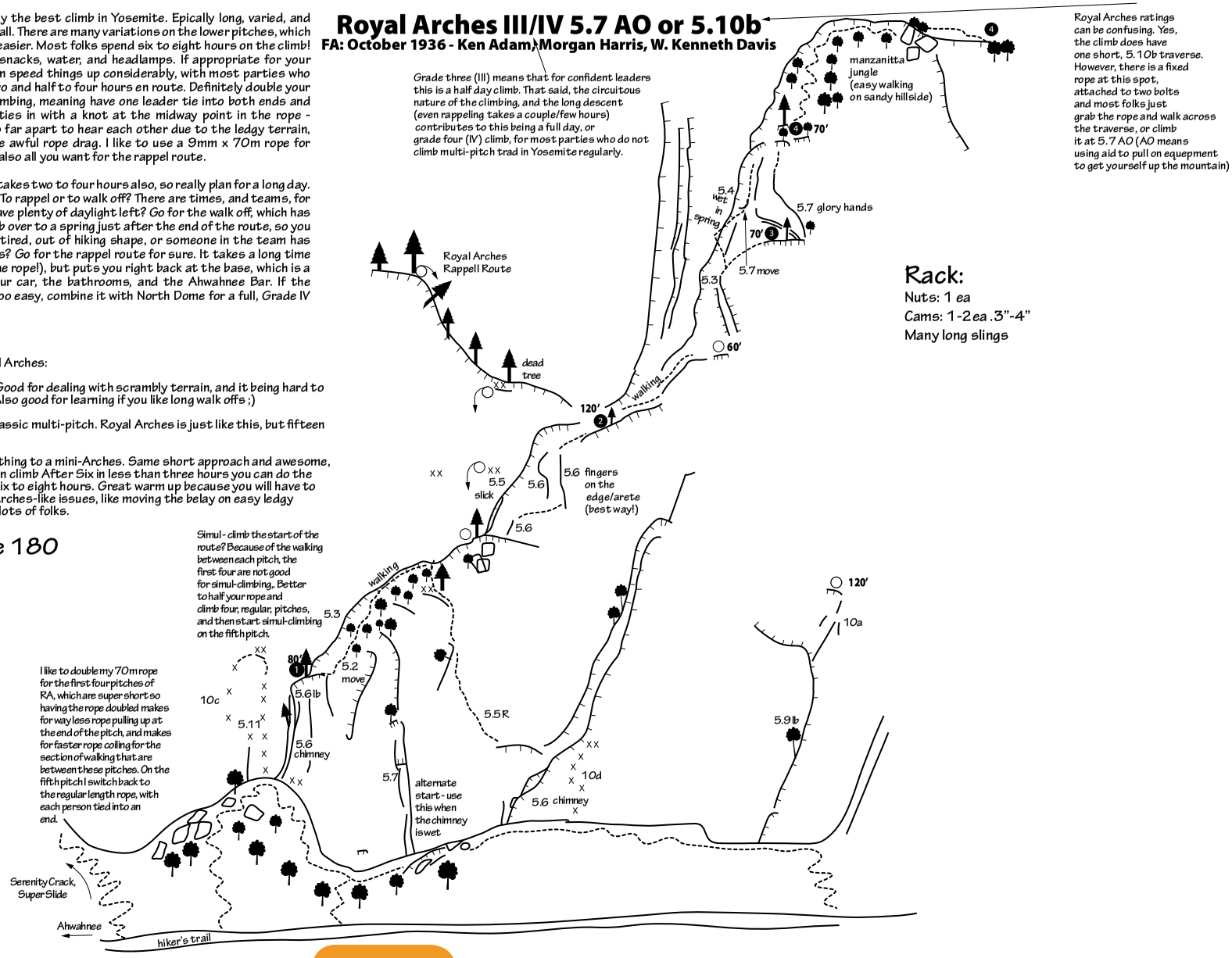
Best warmups for Royal Arches:

Sunnyside Bench, 5.5: Good for dealing with scrambly terrain, and it being hard to hear or see the leader. Also good for learning if you like long walk offs ;)

Swan Slab Gully, 5.6: Classic multi-pitch. Royal Arches is just like this, but fifteen hundred feet longer!

After Six, 5.7: Closest thing to a mini-Arches. Same short approach and awesome, varied climbing. If you can climb After Six in less than three hours you can do the Arches comfortably in six to eight hours. Great warm up because you will have to deal with unique Royal Arches-like issues, like moving the belay on easy ledgy terrain, and potentially lots of folks.

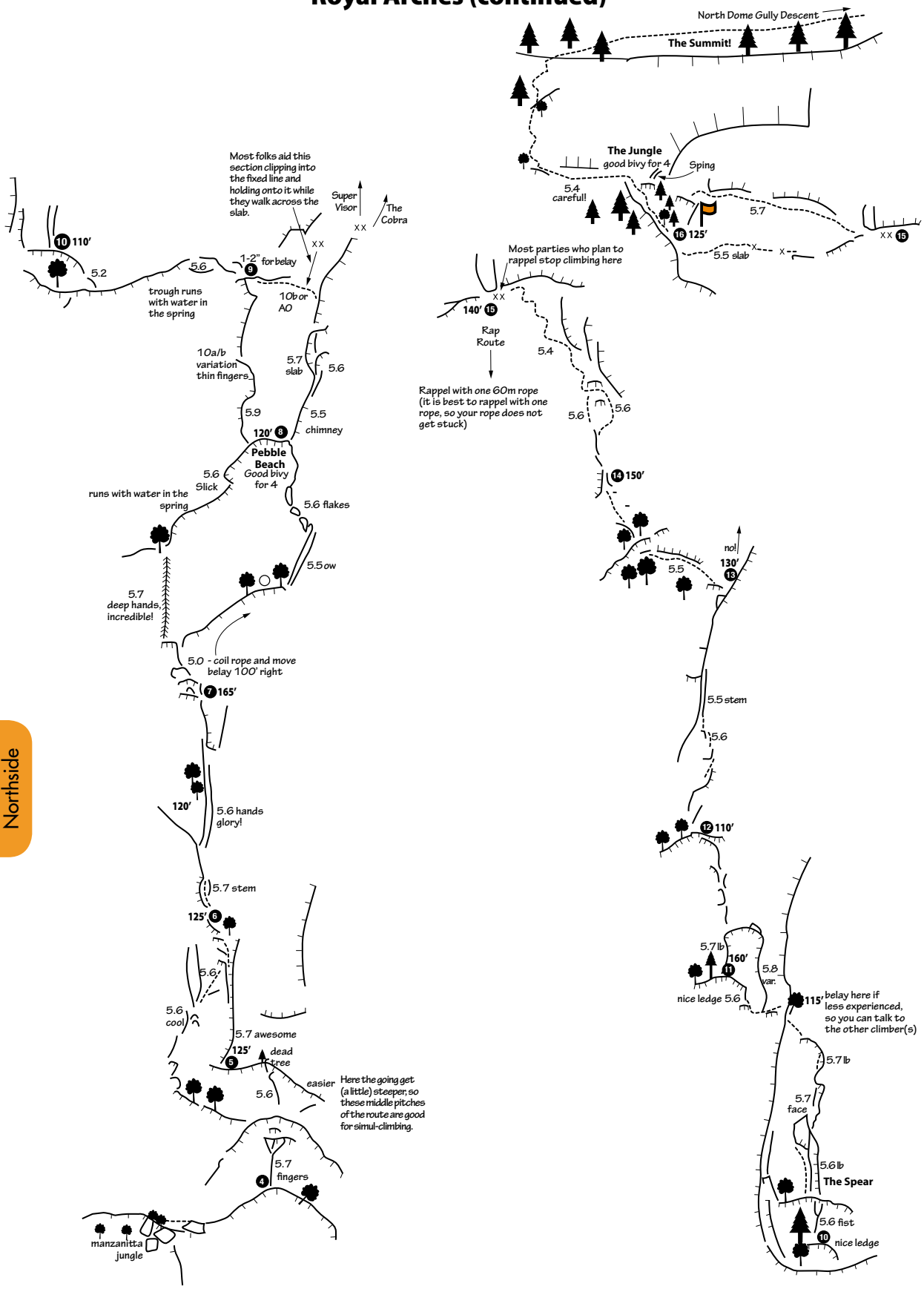
Photo on page 180



Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 1-2 ea .3"-4"
Many long slings

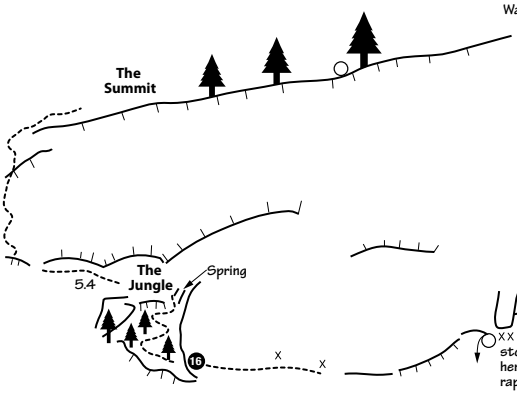
Royal Arches (continued)



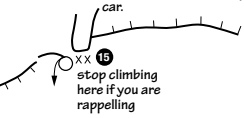
Northside

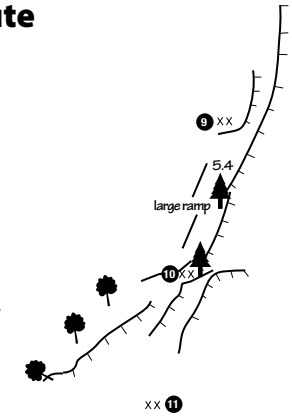
Royal Arches Rappel Route

Watch the ends of your rope!

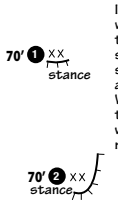


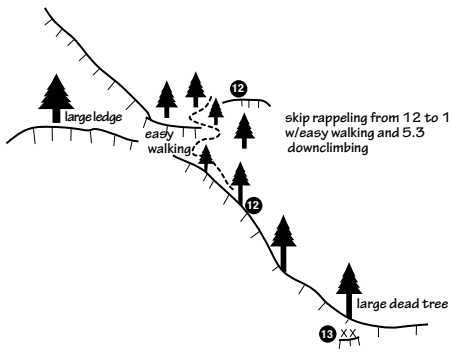
Rappel if you are not a strong, cross - country hiker. The North Dome Gully descent trail is awesome, and fairly easy, but long, loose, and has some route finding in spots. Rappeling takes 2 - 3 hours, but you come out right back at the base, a couple minutes from your car.



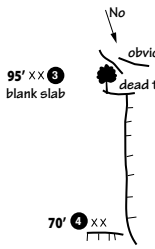


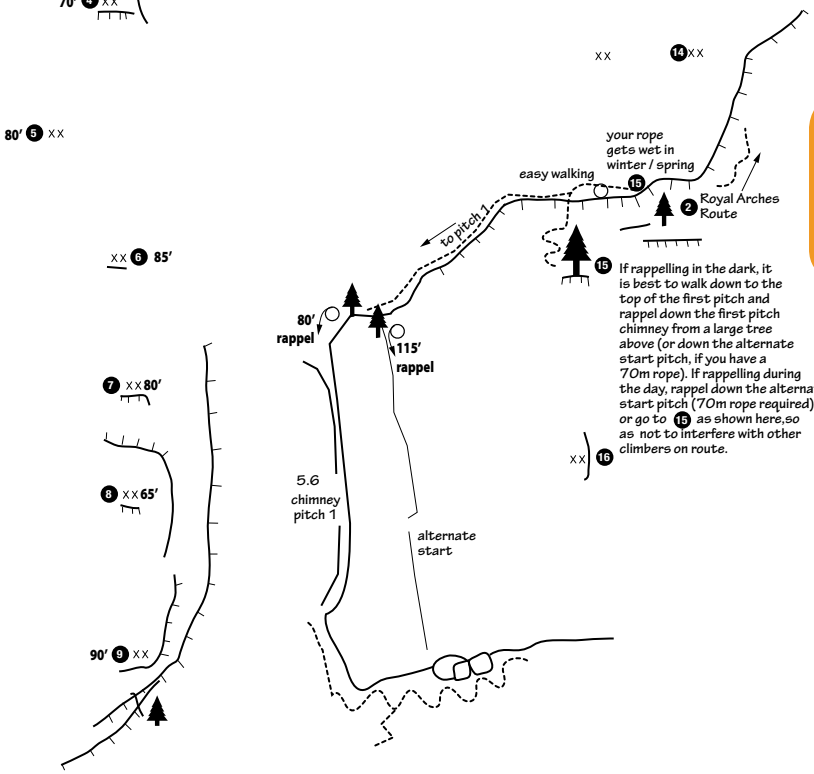
It is best to rappel with one (60 or 70m) rope, to avoid getting your rope stuck and being in a situation where you are on unfamiliar terrain. With one - rope rapping, there is no knot, so it is very unlikely that your rope will ever get stuck.





skip rappeling from 12 to 13 w/easy walking and 5.3 downclimbing





If rappelling in the dark, it is best to walk down to the top of the first pitch and rappel down the first pitch chimney from a large tree above (or down the alternate start pitch, if you have a 70m rope). If rappelling during the day, rappel down the alternate start pitch (70m rope required), or go to 15 as shown here,so as not to interfere with other climbers on route.

Northside

Arguably the most classic multi-pitch 5.10 route in the world, Serenity to Sons is always popular. In 2018, a single, 60m rappel route was added (you rap down a nearby route)

Serenity Crack II 5.10d

FA: October 1961 - Glen Denny, Les Wilson
FFA: 1967 - Tom Higgins, Chris Jones

Sons of Yesterday III 5.10b

FFA: 1986 - John Tuttle, Drew Davol, Vince Depasque

Ahwahnee Buttress(A) IV 5.10d A0
FA: January 1961 - George Sessions, George Whitmore, Jerry Dixon, Merle Alley

climb the last pitch so you can use the dedicated, single 60m rappel route, which uses different anchors

Descent:

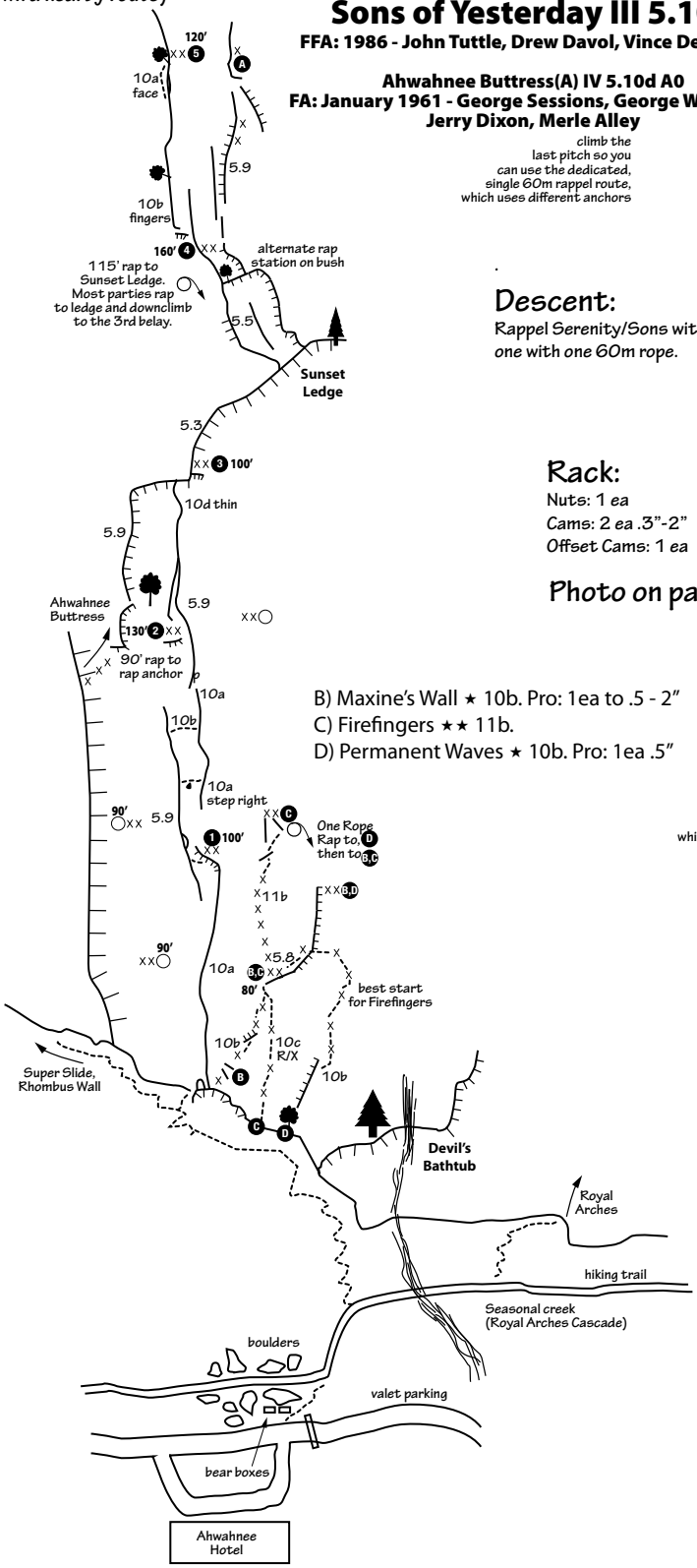
Rappel Serenity/Sons with one with one 60m rope.

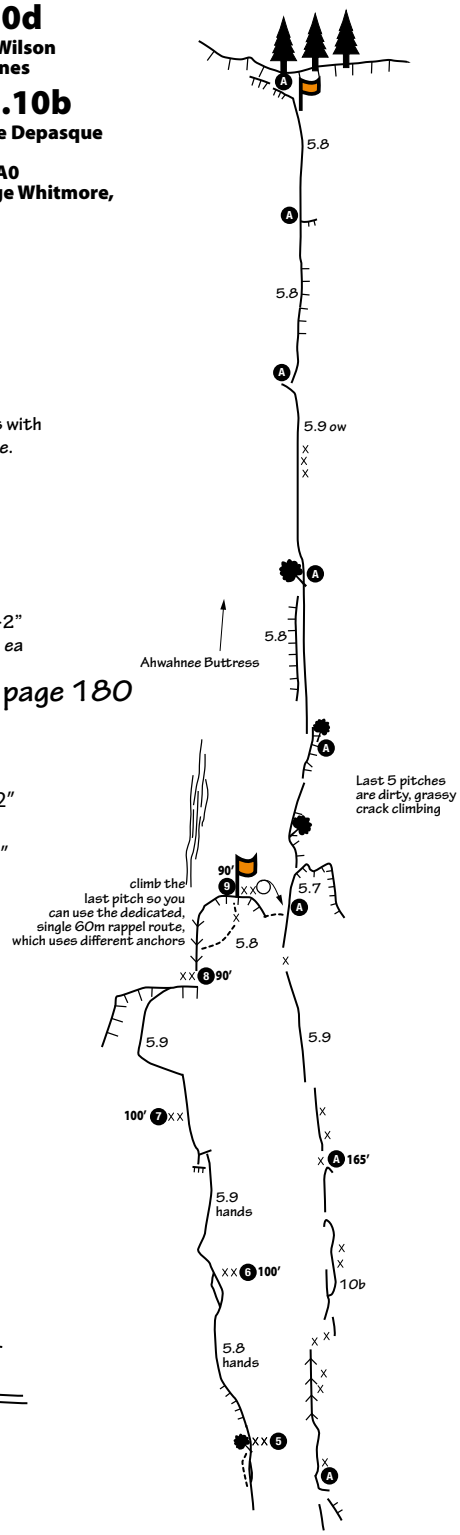
Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .3"-2"
Offset Cams: 1 ea

Photo on page 180

B) Maxine's Wall ★ 10b. Pro: 1ea to .5 - 2"
C) Firefingers ★★ 11b.
D) Permanent Waves ★ 10b. Pro: 1ea .5"



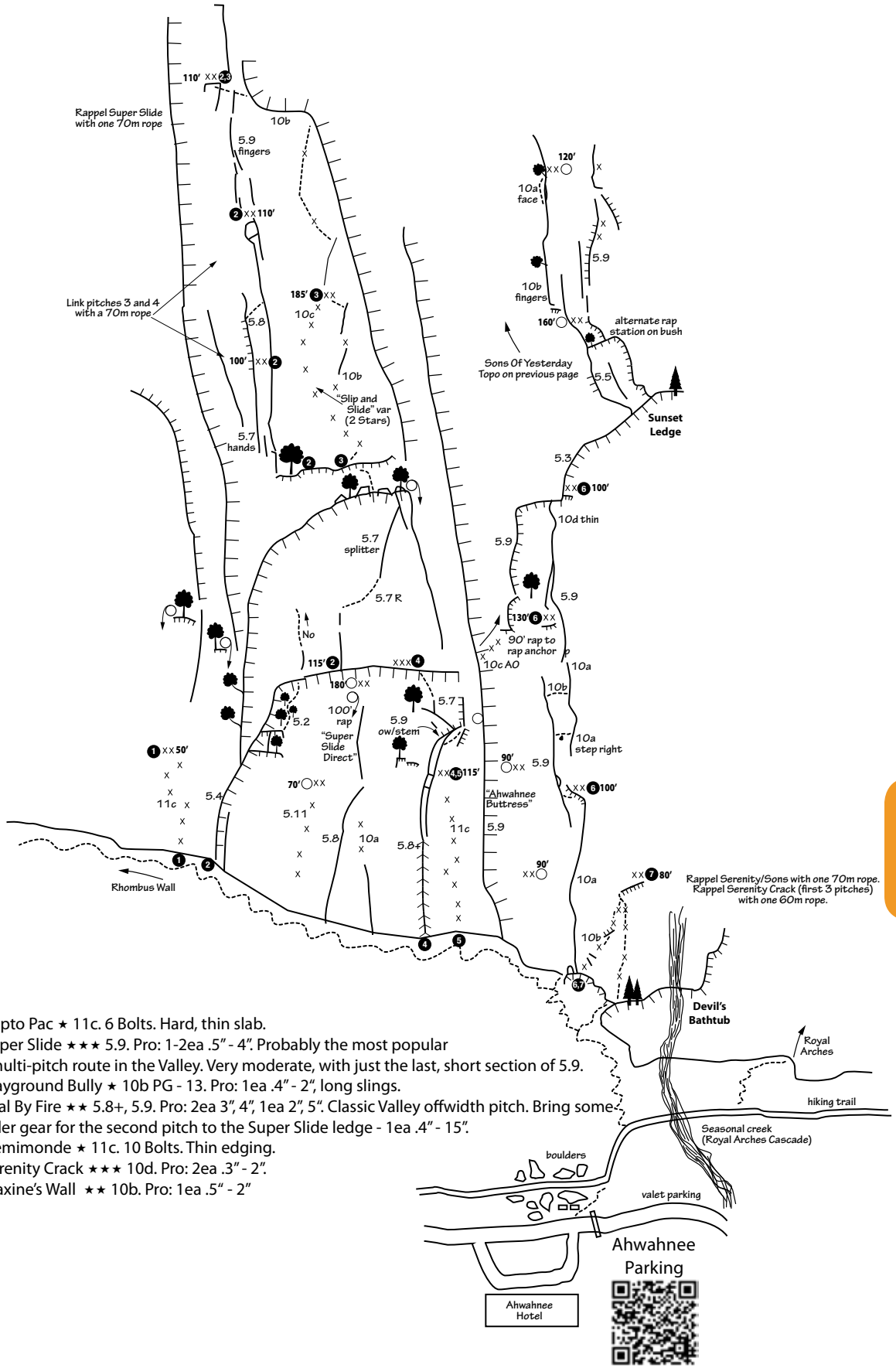


Ahwahnee Parking

Northside

John Bolte about to pull the crux on Serenity Crack, 5.10d
Photo: Michael Bolte

Tom Lambert on the crux of Super Slide, 5.9
Photo: Erik Sloan

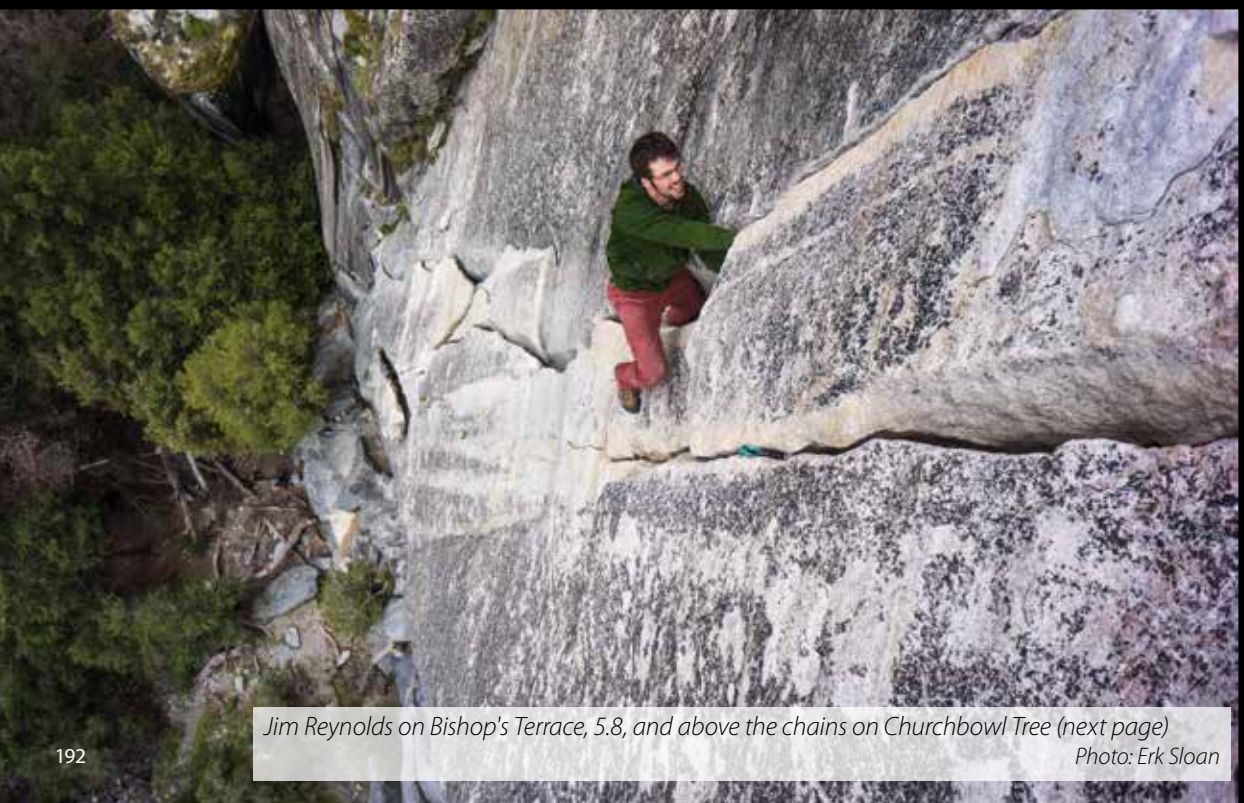


1) Rupto Pac ★ 11c. 6 Bolts. Hard, thin slab.
2) Super Slide ★★★ 5.9. Pro: 1-2ea .5" - 4". Probably the most popular 5.9 multi-pitch route in the Valley. Very moderate, with just the last, short section of 5.9.
3) Playground Bully ★ 10b PG - 13. Pro: 1ea .4" - 2", long slings.
4) Trial By Fire ★★ 5.8+, 5.9. Pro: 2ea 3", 4", 1ea 2", 5". Classic Valley offwidth pitch. Bring some smaller gear for the second pitch to the Super Slide ledge - 1ea .4" - 15".
5) Demimonde ★ 11c. 10 Bolts. Thin edging.
6) Serenity Crack ★★★ 10d. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2".
7) Maxine's Wall ★★ 10b. Pro: 1ea .5" - 2"

Church Bowl

Church Bowl offers roadside cragging, a picnic area with bathrooms, and a picturesque meadow right across the street. The climbing is mostly moderate and fun. Rare for Yosemite, there are even a couple toprope friendly climbs here.

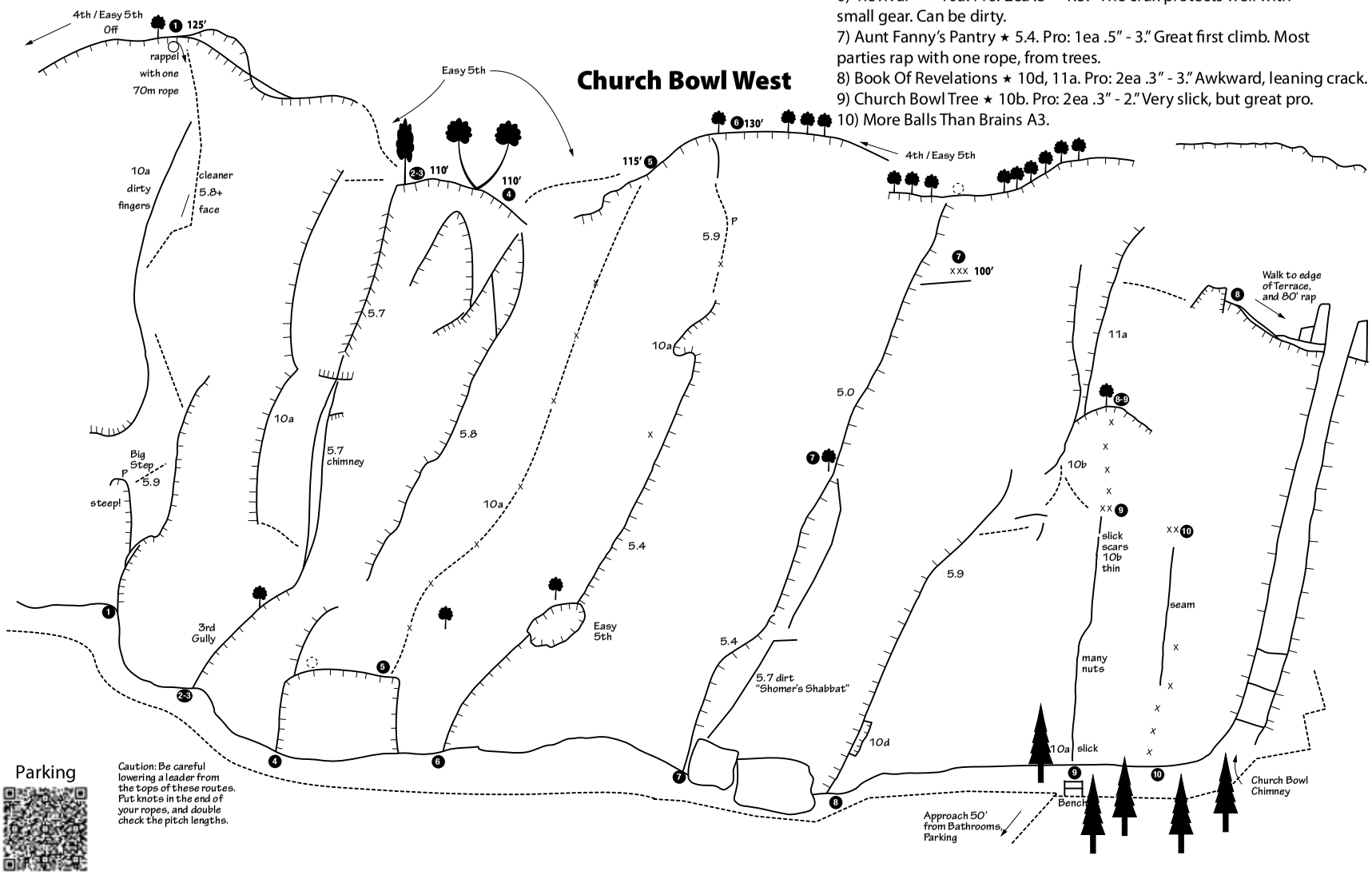
Book of Revelations
★ 5.10d



Jim Reynolds on Bishop's Terrace, 5.8, and above the chains on Churchbowl Tree (next page)
Photo: Erk Sloan

X
X
XX
Energizer
★★★ 5.11b
X
X
X
X
XX
Churchbowl Tree
★ 5.10b
Churchbowl
Chimney
★★ 5.6
Forty feet to
Bishop's Terrace
★★★ 5.8,
Bitches' Terror
★★ 5.11a
Parking
Forty feet to
bathrooms / parking

1) Black Is Brown ★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.5." Variety of techniques. Tends to be dirty.
2) Deja Thorus ★ 10a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3." Good jams / liebacking mixed with funky rock.
3) Uncle Fanny ★★ 5.7. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3." Classic (burly) Yosemite chimney. Protects well.
4) Church Bowl Lieback ★★ 5.8. Pro: Many Nuts, 1ea .3" - 1.5." Good beginner lead because it takes bomber nuts.
5) Pole Position ★ 10a. Pro: 1ea .3" - .75" + 8 Bolts. Slab / crimpfest.
6) Revival ★★ 10a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.5." The crux protects well with small gear. Can be dirty.
7) Aunt Fanny's Pantry ★ 5.4. Pro: 1ea .5" - 3." Great first climb. Most parties rap with one rope, from trees.
8) Book Of Revelations ★ 10d, 11a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3." Awkward, leaning crack.
9) Church Bowl Tree ★ 10b. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2." Very slick, but great pro.
10) More Balls Than Brains A3.



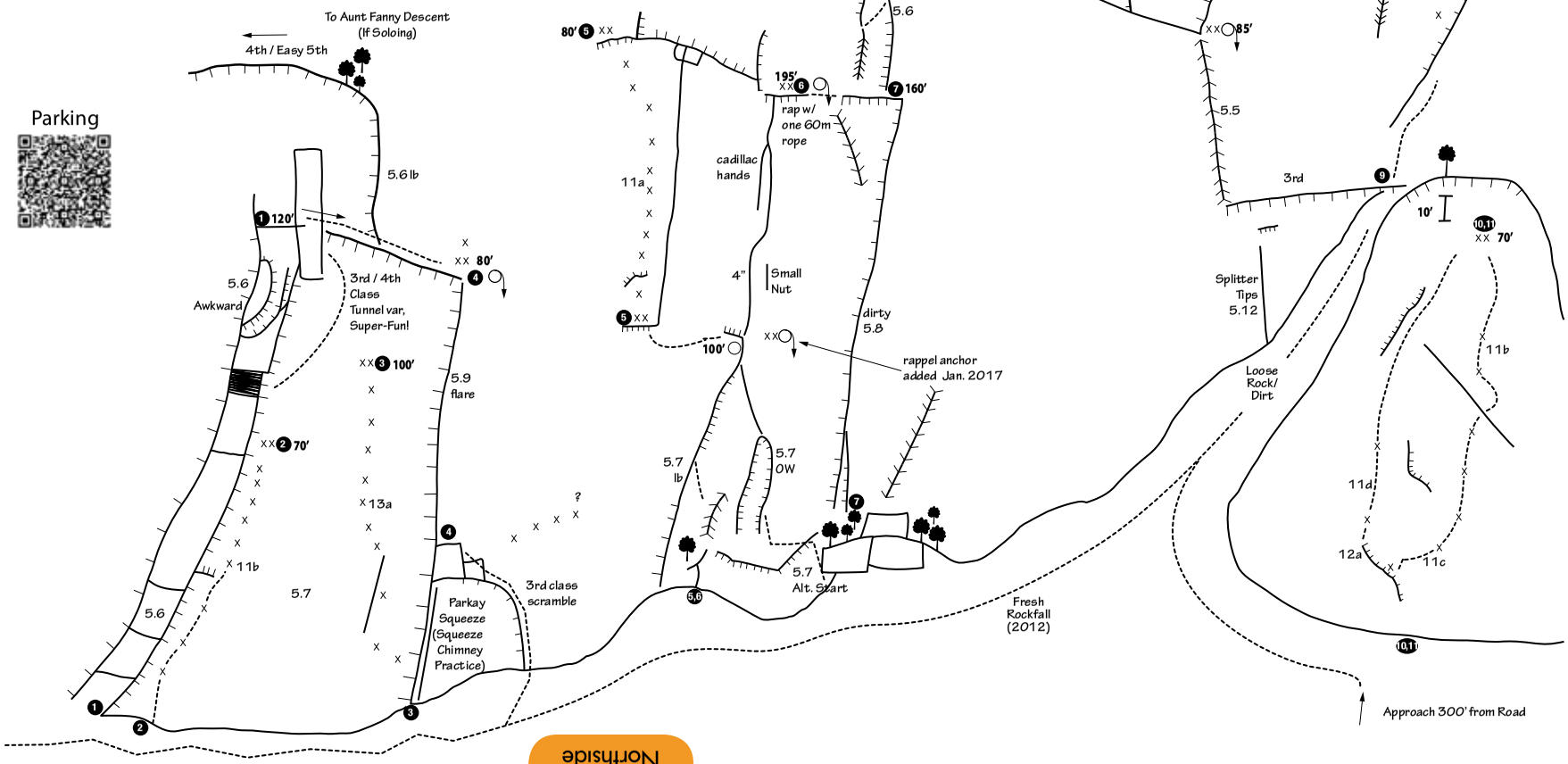
Parking

Caution: Be careful lowering a leader from the tops of these routes. Put knots in the end of your ropes, and double check the pitch lengths.

Church Bowl East

1) Church Bowl Chimney ★★ 5.6. Pro: 1ea .3"-3". Fun, and easy to protect without wide cams. Walk right and rappel down Church Bowl Terrace.
2) Energizer ★★★ 11b. 10 Bolts. Sustained, powerful slab and liebacking.
3) Atheist ★★ 13a. Pro: 1ea .3" - .6", 9 Bolts
4) Church Bowl Terrace ★ 5.9. Pro: 1ea .3" - 5". Stout, sustained chimney action.
5) Bitches' Terror ★★ 11a. 10 Bolts. Awesome edge fest to a wild top out move. If this was on the ground level it would be packed all day. Most folks climb Bishop's Terrace as a warm up, and then rap to the belay for Bitches'.
6) Bishop's Terrace ★★★ 5.8. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3", 1ea 4." Incredible, varied crack climbing. Popular!
7) Stephanie's Corner 5.8.
8) Bishop's Balcony ★★ A2F.
9) No Rest For The Wicked ★ 11b. Pro: Many .3" - 1"
10) Oral Roberts ★ 12a. Pro: 1ea .3" - 3". Popular to set up a toprope on this and 700 club. Tough lead.
11) 700 Club ★★ 11c. Pro: 1ea .2" - .4" + 7 Bolts

Parking



Northside

Arrowhead Arête

Arrowhead Arête is one of the best moderate adventure routes in the Valley. In a stunning setting, the climbing on the Arrowhead is more loose than many Valley classics, but is still very enjoyable. Don't miss this unique adventure!

Approach: 75 - 90 minutes

From the Visitor's Center walk west a hundred feet to the road that leads back (north) to the NPS Fire Yard. Turn right and walk to the yard, skirting to the left and around, and past the (NPS) stables, to the Valley Loop Trail. Turn right on the Valley Loop trail for five hundred feet, passing a boulder field on your left (Sunnyside Bench descent) and finally coming to the top of a hill, where the climber approach trail cuts up the mountain away from the Loop Trail (from just below the climbers trail you can look back down the hill and still see the boulder field that is the Sunnyside Descent, so if you are in thick woods you went too far).

Photo: xRez.com

Arrowhead Arête IV 5.9 / Arrowhead Spire 5.6

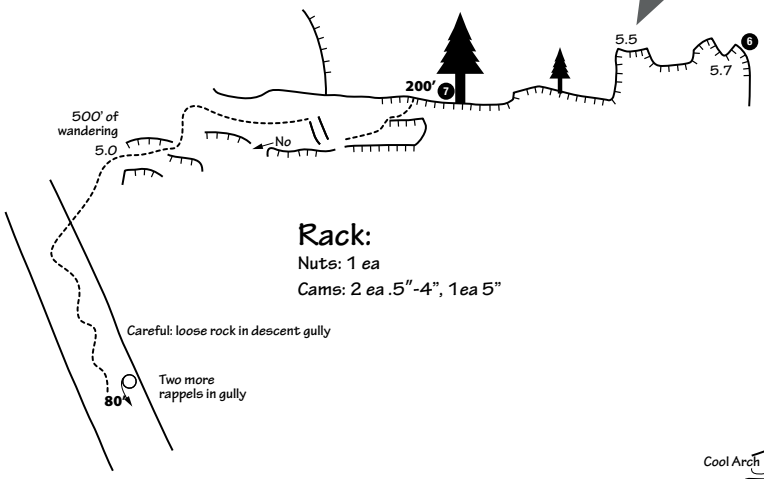


Photo: Marta Czajkowska

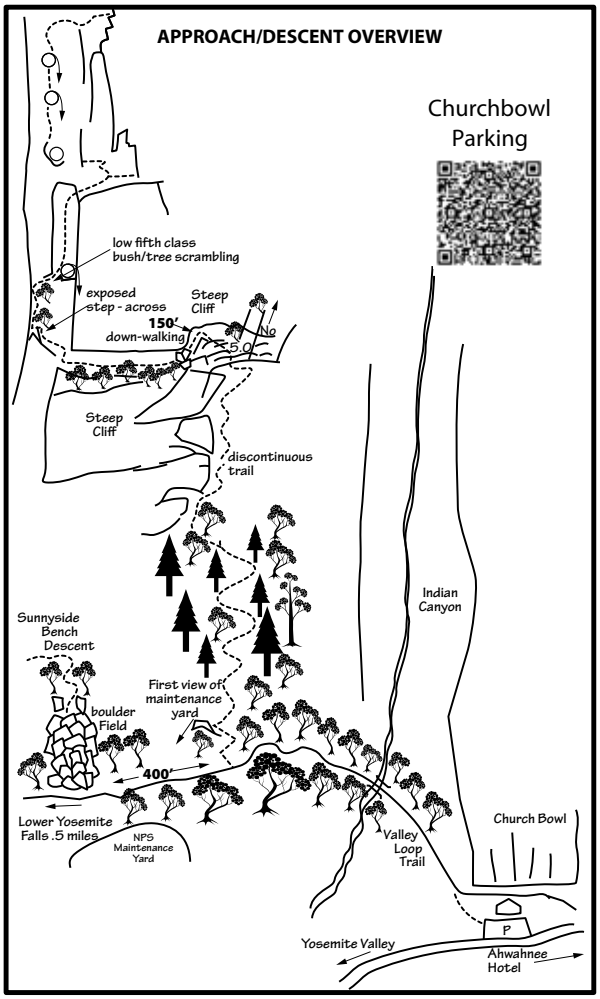
Rack:

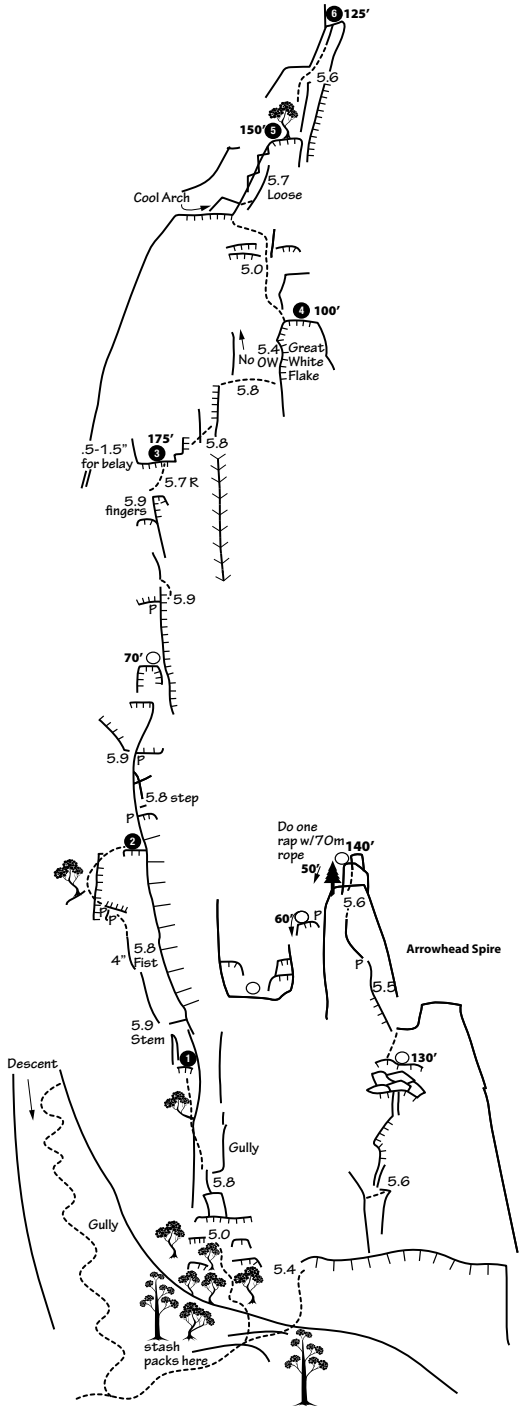
Nuts: 1 ea

Cams: 2 ea .5"-4", 1ea 5"

Descent:

Rappel down the gully to the west, with one 60m rope.





Northside

Yosemite Falls Wall

Old school, adventure climbing in a spectacular setting. The approach to the Falls Wall is long and arduous, but worth it. On the right side of this face is the detached Lost Arrow Spire, an iconic Valley formation.

Caution: in spring, when the waterfall is roaring, it can be very difficult to hear your partner. Consider bringing radios.

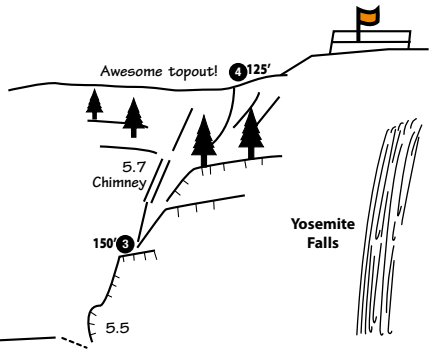
Respect Raptors! Some routes may be closed for nesting Peregrine Falcons, usually from the beginning of March to mid July. See page 18 for more info.

Photo: Ryan Kirtland

Via Aqua III 5.8

FA: April 1960 - Dave Rearick, Herb Swedlund, Glen Denny, Dick McCracken, Steve Roper

Via Aqua is an awesome adventure climb with outrageous exposure, that starts after a traverse across an obvious, exposed ledge, two-thirds of the way (about three miles) up the Upper Yosemite Falls trail. Experienced climbers often choose to start on routes that end on the Yosemite Falls Trail below this climb, like Munginella to Saleginella (seven pitches, up to 5.8), but plenty of other folks just hike up specifically for this climb. The exposure is intense, and the climbing, while not difficult, does not protect as easily as other climbs at this grade, so best if the leader has led Nutcracker, or Braille Book, before. Glory Summit!

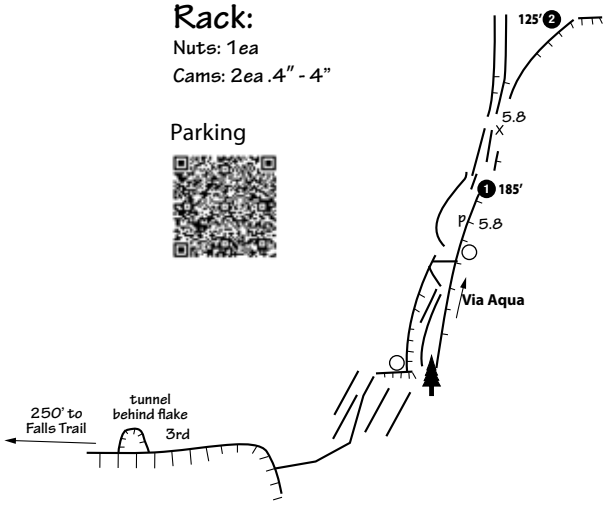


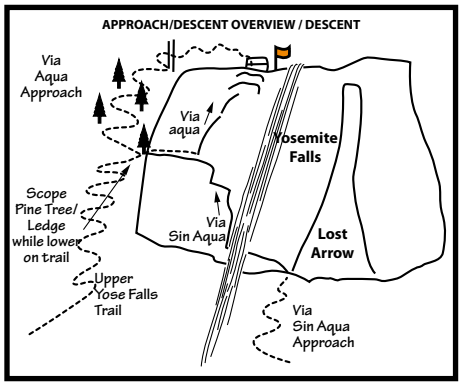
Rack:

Nuts: 1ea

Cams: 2ea .4" - 4"

Parking



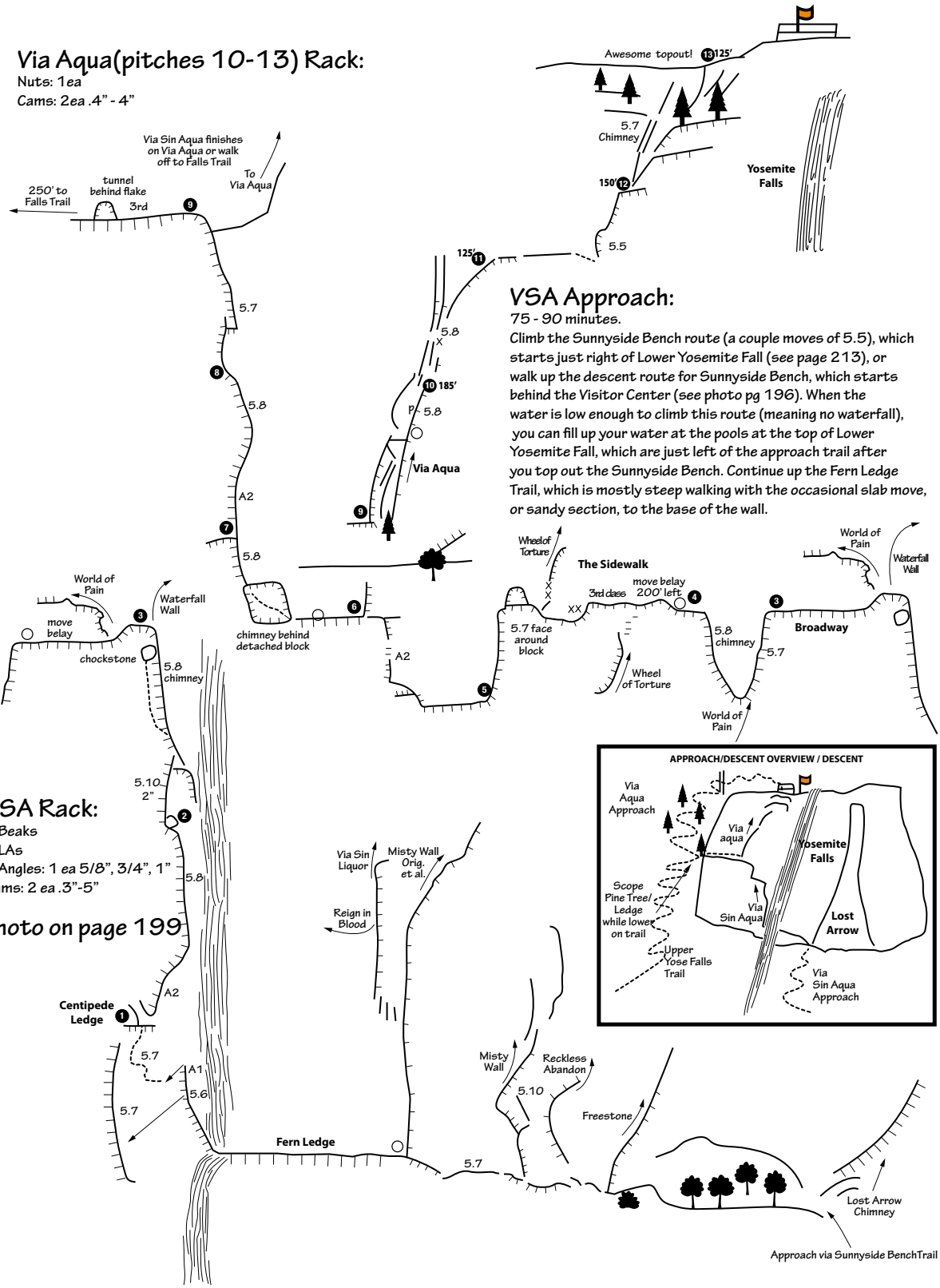


Via Sin Aqua IV 5.10 A2

FA: September 1970 - Rick Sylvester, Bugs McKeith

Via Aqua(pitches 10-13) Rack:

Nuts: 1ea
Cams: 2ea .4" - 4"



VSA Approach:

75 - 90 minutes.

Climb the Sunnyside Bench route (a couple moves of 5.5), which starts just right of Lower Yosemite Fall (see page 213), or walk up the descent route for Sunnyside Bench, which starts behind the Visitor Center (see photo pg 196). When the water is low enough to climb this route (meaning no waterfall), you can fill up your water at the pools at the top of Lower Yosemite Fall, which are just left of the approach trail after you top out the Sunnyside Bench. Continue up the Fern Ledge Trail, which is mostly steep walking with the occasional slab move, or sandy section, to the base of the wall.

VSA Rack:

4 Beaks
2 LAs
3 Angles: 1 ea 5/8", 3/4", 1"
Cams: 2 ea .3"-5"

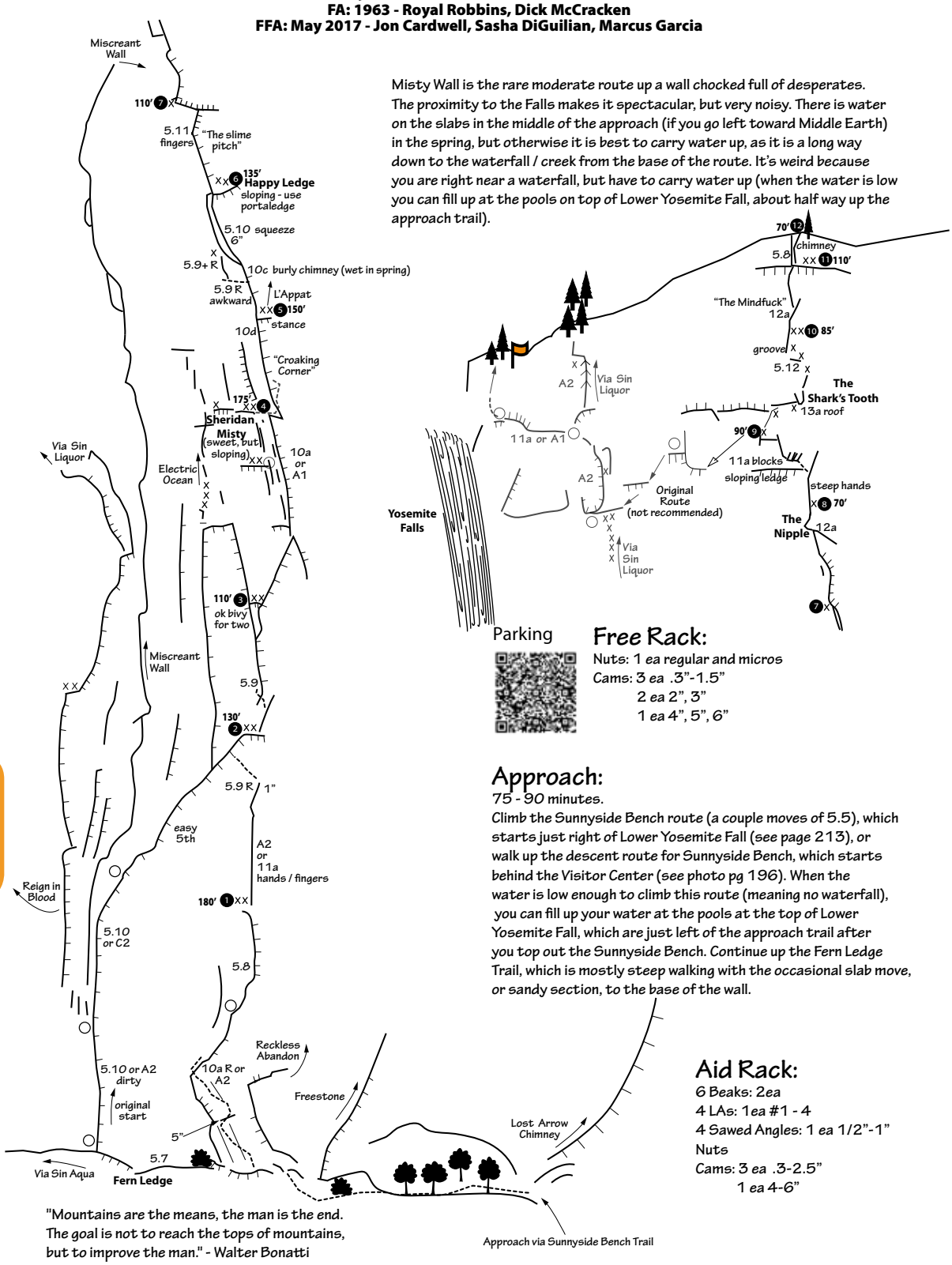
Photo on page 199

Northside

Misty Wall VI 5.9 A2 or 5.13a

FA: 1963 - Royal Robbins, Dick McCracken
FFA: May 2017 - Jon Cardwell, Sasha DiGuilian, Marcus Garcia

Misty Wall is the rare moderate route up a wall chocked full of desperates. The proximity to the Falls makes it spectacular, but very noisy. There is water on the slabs in the middle of the approach (if you go left toward Middle Earth) in the spring, but otherwise it is best to carry water up, as it is a long way down to the waterfall / creek from the base of the route. It's weird because you are right near a waterfall, but have to carry water up (when the water is low you can fill up at the pools on top of Lower Yosemite Fall, about half way up the approach trail).



Parking

Free Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea regular and micros
Cams: 3 ea .3"-1.5"
2 ea 2", 3"
1 ea 4", 5", 6"

Approach:

75 - 90 minutes.
Climb the Sunnyside Bench route (a couple moves of 5.5), which starts just right of Lower Yosemite Fall (see page 213), or walk up the descent route for Sunnyside Bench, which starts behind the Visitor Center (see photo pg 196). When the water is low enough to climb this route (meaning no waterfall), you can fill up your water at the pools at the top of Lower Yosemite Fall, which are just left of the approach trail after you top out the Sunnyside Bench. Continue up the Fern Ledge Trail, which is mostly steep walking with the occasional slab move, or sandy section, to the base of the wall.

Aid Rack:

6 Beaks: 2ea
4 LAs: 1ea #1 - 4
4 Sawed Angles: 1 ea 1/2"-1"
Nuts
Cams: 3 ea .3-2.5"
1 ea 4-6"

"Mountains are the means, the man is the end. The goal is not to reach the tops of mountains, but to improve the man." - Walter Bonatti

Photo on page 199

Sasha DiGiulian on the First Free Ascent of the Misty Wall, 5.13a
Photo: John Evans

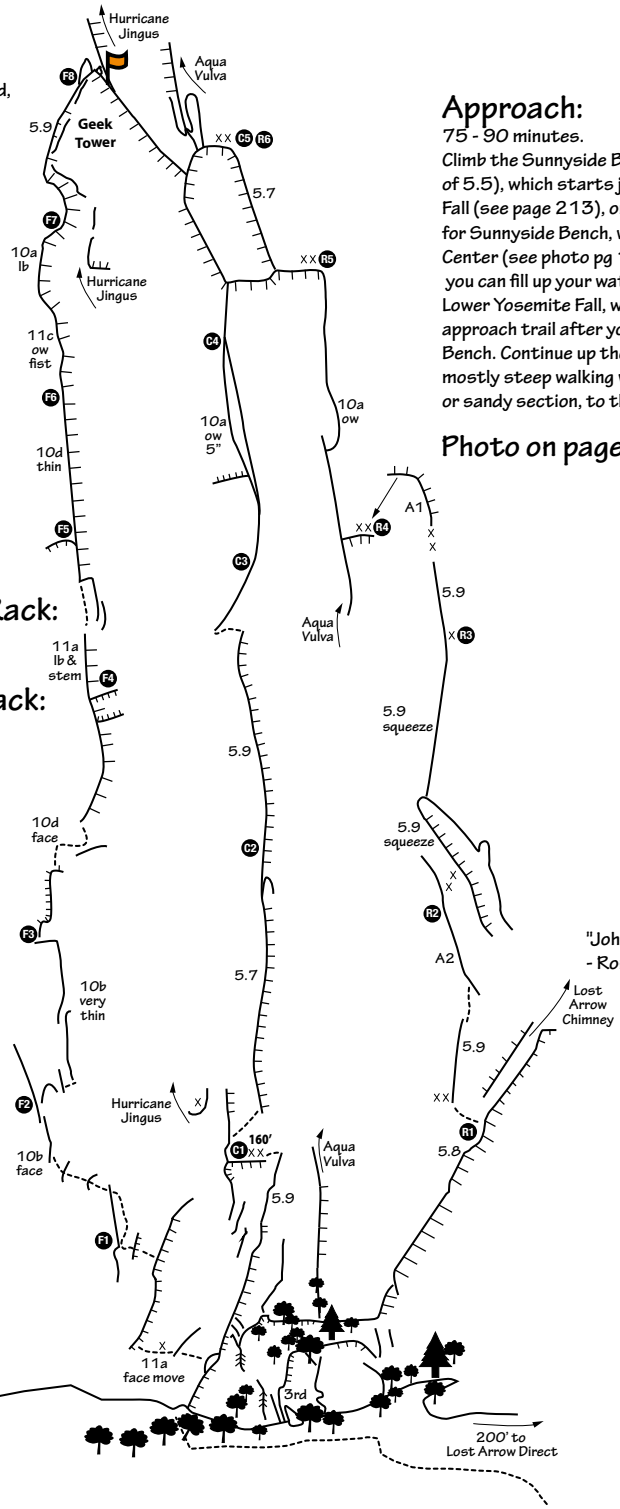
GEEK

Freestone IV 5.11c
FA: October 1974 - Jim Bridwell, Ron Kauk, Dale Bard

Geek Towers Center III 5.10a
FA: June 1974 - Jim Bridwell, John Syrett

Geek Towers Right Side IV 5.10a A2
FA: July 1971 - Mark Klemens, Jim Bridwell

Freestone ranks up there with Astroman as one of the most coveted 5.11+ climbs in Yosemite, or the world. Bold, and incredibly varied, climbing in a superb location.



Approach:
75 - 90 minutes.
Climb the Sunnyside Bench route (a couple moves of 5.5), which starts just right of Lower Yosemite Fall (see page 213), or walk up the descent route for Sunnyside Bench, which starts behind the Visitor Center (see photo pg 196). When the water is low, you can fill up your water at the pools at the top of Lower Yosemite Fall, which are just left of the approach trail after you top out the Sunnyside Bench. Continue up the Fern Ledge Trail, which is mostly steep walking with the occasional slab move, or sandy section, to the base of the wall.

Photo on page 199

Freestone Rack:
Nuts: 1 ea inc. wired
Cams: 3 ea .3"-.75"
2 ea 1" - 3"
1 ea 4"
1ea 5" (optional)

Geek Tower, Center Rack:
Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .3"-4"

Geek Tower, Right Rack:
Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .3"-4"
Dowell hangers

Descent: Rappel the Geek, Right route w/ two 60m ropes

"John Wayne never wore lycra."
- Ron Kauk about why he climbs in jeans

Northside

Parking

Eric Bissell on Lost Arrow Spire Direct, 5.12c A0, p207
Photo: Drew Smith

Lost Arrow Chimney IV 5.10a

FA: September, 1947 - John Salathé, Anton Nelson
FFA: 1964 - Chuck Pratt, Frank Sacherer

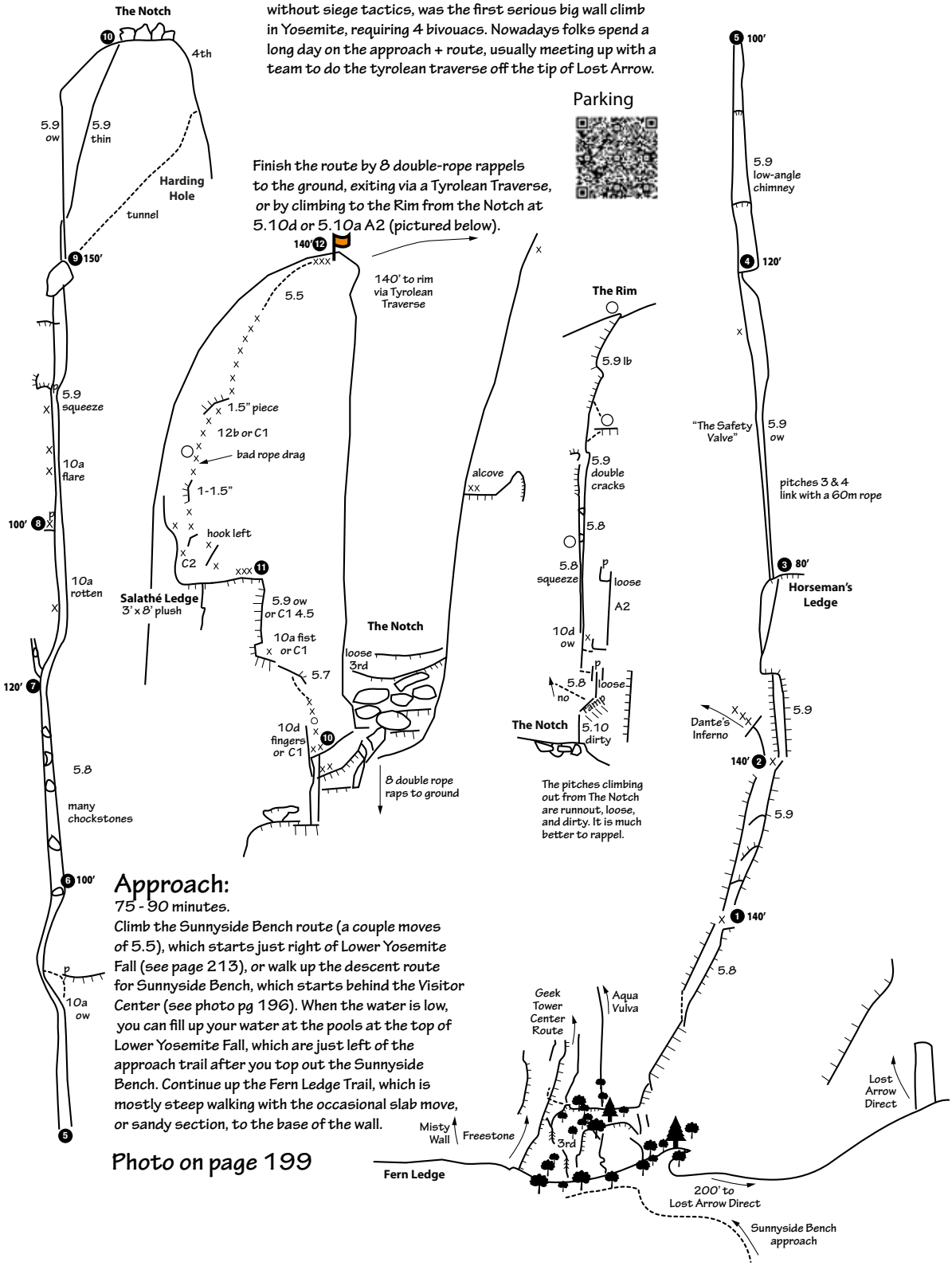
LA Chimney is old school, burly, wide climbing at its best. An incredible location and summit! This climb, established without siege tactics, was the first serious big wall climb in Yosemite, requiring 4 bivouacs. Nowadays folks spend a long day on the approach + route, usually meeting up with a team to do the tyrolean traverse off the tip of Lost Arrow.

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .4"-2"
1 ea 3"-5"
1 ea 7" (optional)

Parking

Finish the route by 8 double-rope rappels to the ground, exiting via a Tyrolean Traverse, or by climbing to the Rim from the Notch at 5.10d or 5.10a A2 (pictured below).



Approach:

75 - 90 minutes.

Climb the Sunnyside Bench route (a couple moves of 5.5), which starts just right of Lower Yosemite Fall (see page 213), or walk up the descent route for Sunnyside Bench, which starts behind the Visitor Center (see photo pg 196). When the water is low, you can fill up your water at the pools at the top of Lower Yosemite Fall, which are just left of the approach trail after you top out the Sunnyside Bench. Continue up the Fern Ledge Trail, which is mostly steep walking with the occasional slab move, or sandy section, to the base of the wall.

Photo on page 199

Lost Arrow Spire Direct VI 5.8 C2+ or 5.12c A0

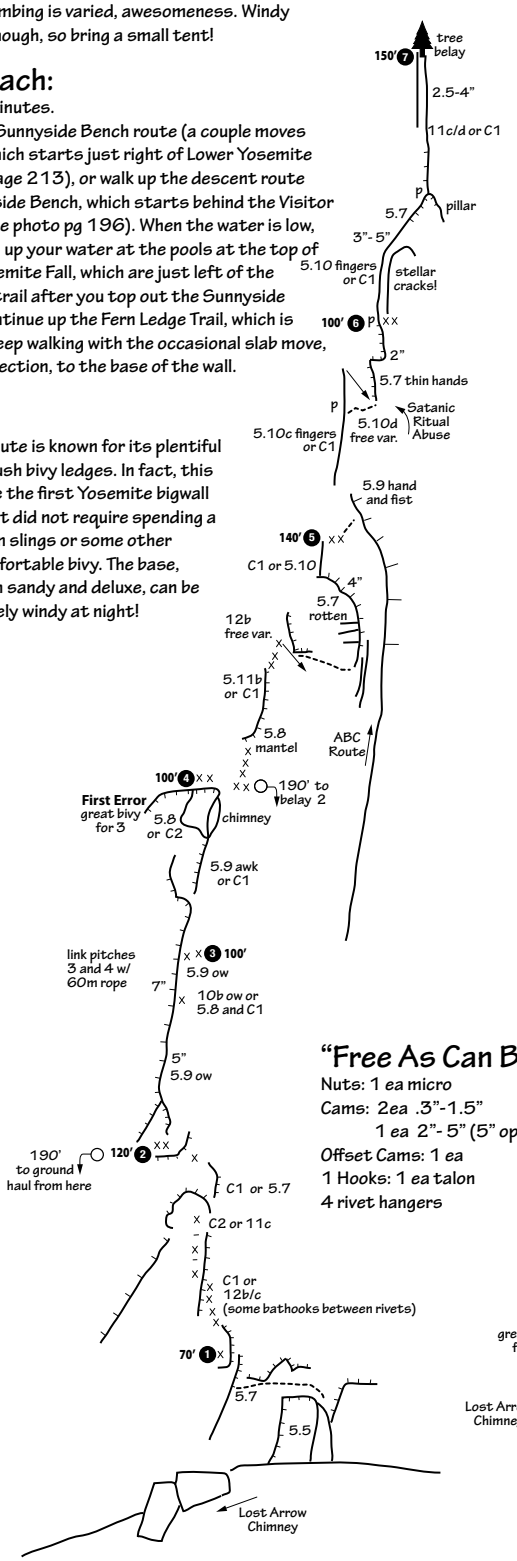
FA: June 1968 - Warren Harding, Pat Callis
90% FFA: September 2013 - Eric Bissell

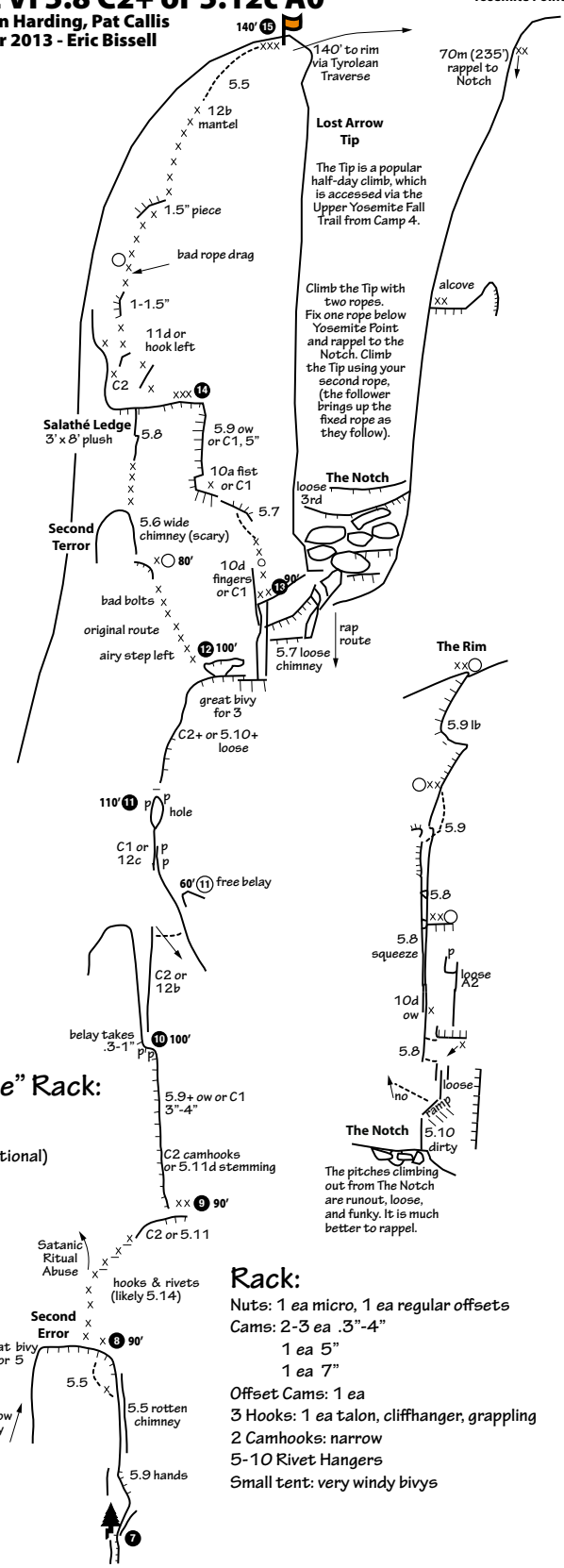
LA Direct is an amazing beginner bigwall climb. Not good for your first wall, because the approach / logistics are too much, the position is idyllic, and the climbing is varied, awesomeness. Windy at night though, so bring a small tent!

Approach:

75 - 90 minutes.
Climb the Sunnyside Bench route (a couple moves of 5.5), which starts just right of Lower Yosemite Fall (see page 213), or walk up the descent route for Sunnyside Bench, which starts behind the Visitor Center (see photo pg 196). When the water is low, you can fill up your water at the pools at the top of Lower Yosemite Fall, which are just left of the approach trail after you top out the Sunnyside Bench. Continue up the Fern Ledge Trail, which is mostly steep walking with the occasional slab move, or sandy section, to the base of the wall.

This route is known for its plentiful and plush bivy ledges. In fact, this may be the first Yosemite bigwall FA that did not require spending a night in slings or some other uncomfortable bivy. The base, though sandy and deluxe, can be exremely windy at night!





"Free As Can Be" Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea micro
Cams: 2ea .3"-1.5"
1 ea 2"- 5" (5" optional)
Offset Cams: 1 ea
1 Hooks: 1 ea talon
4 rivet hangers

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea micro, 1 ea regular offsets
Cams: 2-3 ea .3"-4"
1 ea 5"
1 ea 7"
Offset Cams: 1 ea
3 Hooks: 1 ea talon, cliffhanger, grappling
2 Camhooks: narrow
5-10 Rivet Hangers
Small tent: very windy bivys

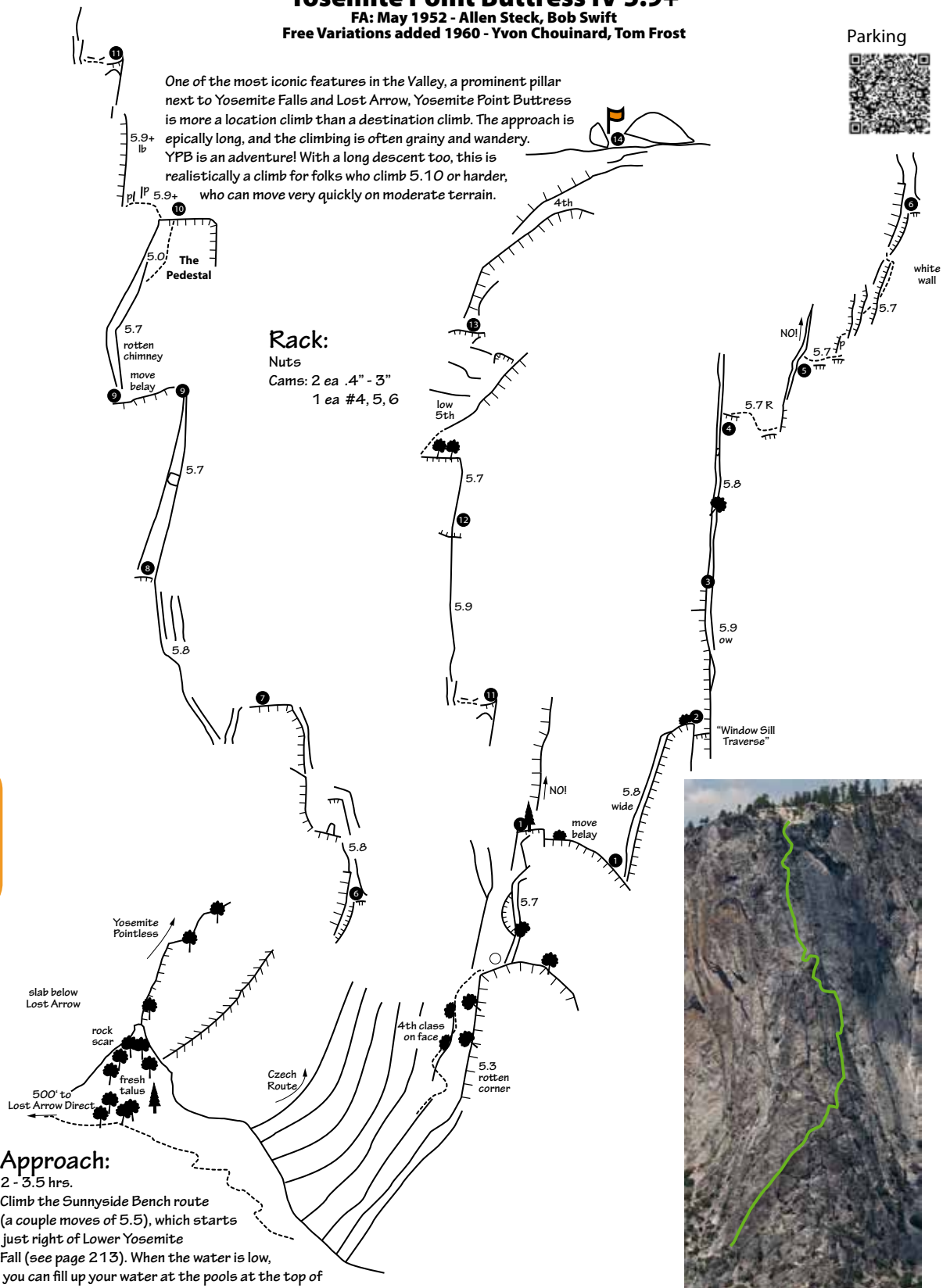
Photo on page 199

Yosemite Point Buttress IV 5.9+

FA: May 1952 - Allen Steck, Bob Swift
Free Variations added 1960 - Yvon Chouinard, Tom Frost

Parking

One of the most iconic features in the Valley, a prominent pillar next to Yosemite Falls and Lost Arrow, Yosemite Point Buttress is more a location climb than a destination climb. The approach is epically long, and the climbing is often grainy and wandery. YPB is an adventure! With a long descent too, this is realistically a climb for folks who climb 5.10 or harder, who can move very quickly on moderate terrain.



Rack:

Nuts
Cams: 2 ea .4" - 3"
1 ea #4, 5, 6

Approach:

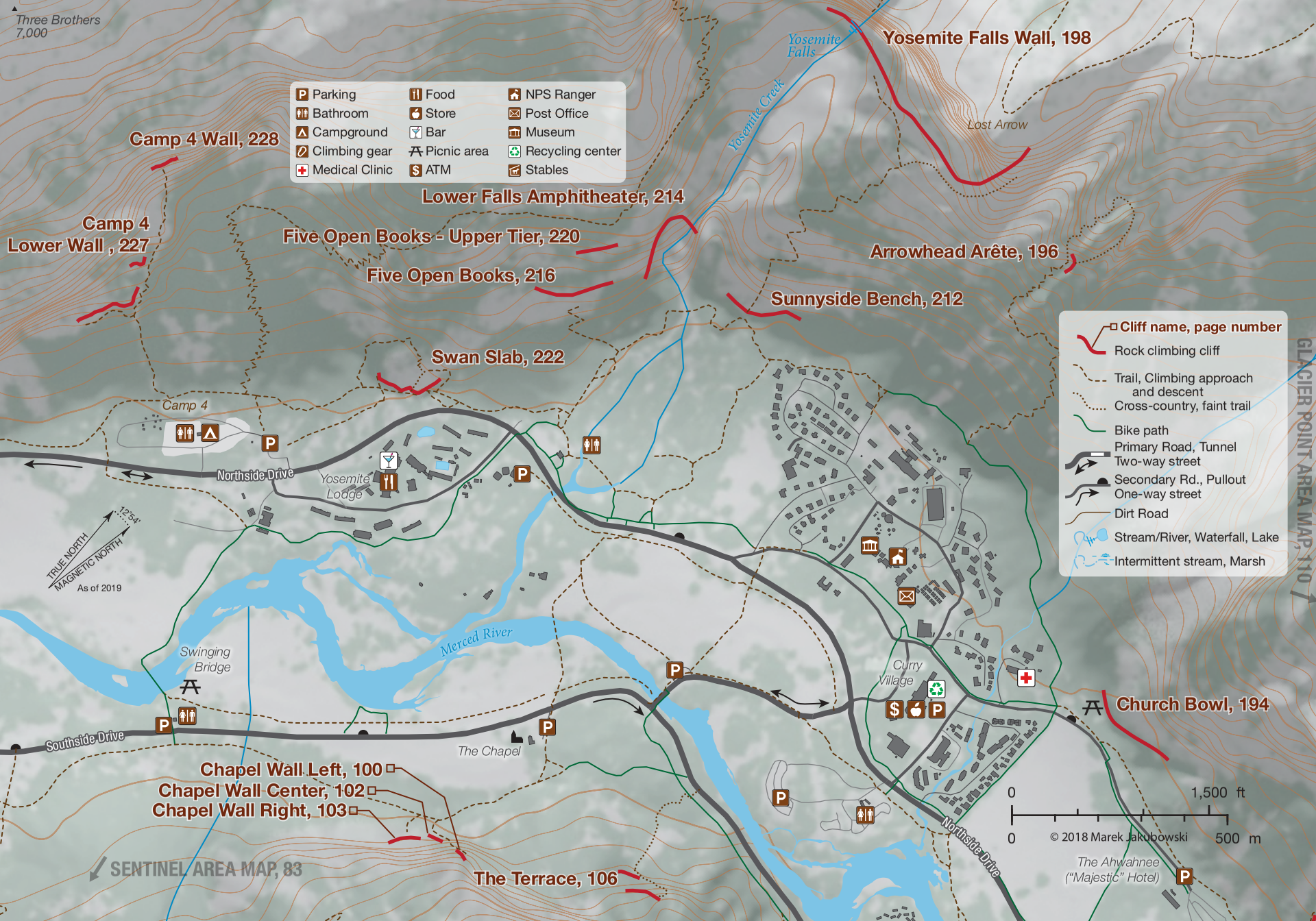
2 - 3.5 hrs.
Climb the Sunnyside Bench route (a couple moves of 5.5), which starts just right of Lower Yosemite Fall (see page 213). When the water is low, you can fill up your water at the pools at the top of Lower Yosemite Fall, which are just left of the approach trail after you top out the Sunnyside Bench. Continue up the Fern Ledge Trail, which is mostly steep walking with the occasional slab move, or sandy section, to close to the base of the wall, where you can cut across sandy slopes, and eventually down to the fourth class approach slabs.

Photo: xRez.com

The Lost Arrow Spire Tip III 5.12b or 5.7 C2

Is a popular, super-adventurous half-day climb where you rappel from the rim of the Valley, climb two pitches (second pitch shown here), and then perform an airy, tyrolean, traverse back over to the rim. The Tip is accessed from Yosemite Point, which is via the Upper Yosemite Fall trail (four miles each way). Topo on pg 207.

Sasha DiGiulian on the Lost Arrow Spire Tip, 5.12b, pg 207
Photo: Cheyne Lempe


Three Brothers
7,000
Parking
Bathroom
Campground
Climbing gear
Medical Clinic
Food
Store
Bar
Picnic area
ATM
NPS Ranger
Post Office
Museum
Recycling center
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Lodge
TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
12°54'
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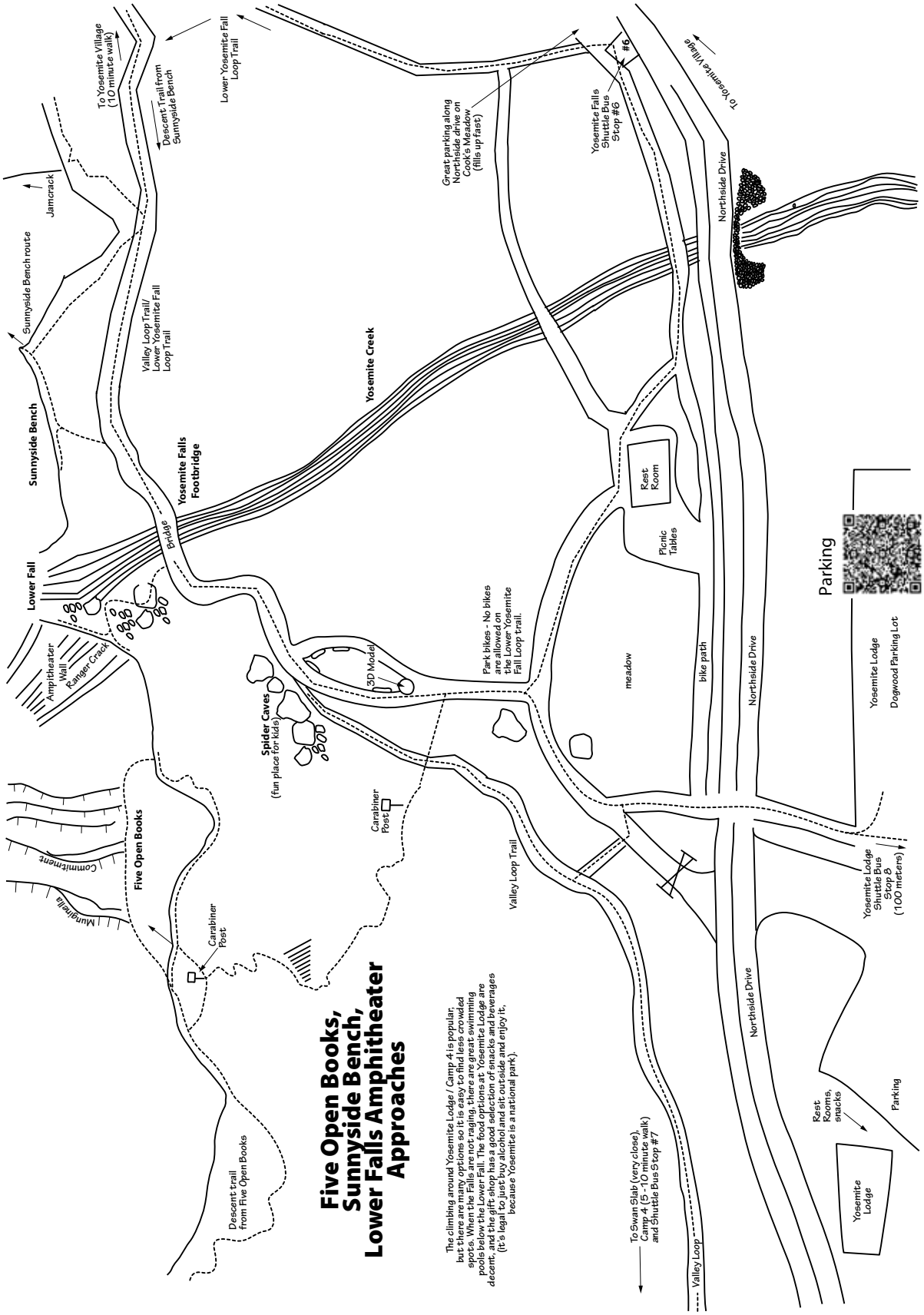
1,500 ft
0
500 m
© 2018 Marek Jakubowski
The Ahwahnee
("Majestic" Hotel)
Cliff name, page number
Rock climbing cliff
Trail, Climbing approach
and descent
Cross-country, faint trail
Bike path
Primary Road, Tunnel
Two-way street
Secondary Rd., Pullout
One-way street
Dirt Road
Stream/River, Waterfall, Lake
Intermittent stream, Marsh
GLACIER POINT AREA MAP, 110


To Yosemite Village (10 minute walk)
Lower Yosemite Fall Loop Trail
Descent Trail from Sunnyside Bench
Jamcrack
Sunnyside Bench route
Valley Loop Trail/ Lower Yosemite Fall Loop Trail
Sunnyside Bench
Yosemite Creek
Yosemite Falls Footbridge
Bridge
Lower Fall
Amphitheater Wall
Ranger Crack
Spider Caves
(fun place for kids)
3D Model
Five Open Books
Commitment
Mungarella
Carabiner Post
Carabiner Post
Descent trail from Five Open Books
Five Open Books, Sunnyside Bench, Lower Falls Amphitheater Approaches
The climbing around Yosemite Lodge / Camp 4 is popular, but there are many options so it is easy to find less crowded spots. When the Falls are not raging, there are great swimming pools below the Lower Fall. The food options at Yosemite Lodge are decent, and the gift shop has a good selection of snacks and beverages (it's legal to just buy alcohol and sit outside and enjoy it, because Yosemite is a national park).
Park bikes - No bikes are allowed on the Lower Yosemite Fall Loop trail.
Valley Loop Trail
Great parking along Northside drive on Cook's Meadow (fills up fast)
Yosemite Falls Shuttle Bus Stop #6
#6
To Yosemite Village
Northside Drive
Rest Room
Picnic Tables
meadow
bike path
Northside Drive
Parking
Yosemite Lodge
Dogwood Parking Lot
Yosemite Lodge Shuttle Bus Stop 8 (100 meters)
Northside Drive
Rest Rooms, snacks
Parking
Yosemite Lodge
To Swan Slab (very close), Camp 4 (5-10 minute walk) and Shuttle Bus Stop #7
Valley Loop

Northside

Sunnyside Bench

Sunnyside Bench is a great place to get acquainted with Yosemite climbing. The few climbs here are classic, and can be shady late in the afternoon. Don't miss the awesome swimming holes at the base (and top) of nearby Lower Yosemite Falls. (pictured is the swimming hole at the top of Lower Yosemite Fall, which you can access via the Sunnyside Bench route (5.5).

Photo: Carlos Antunez

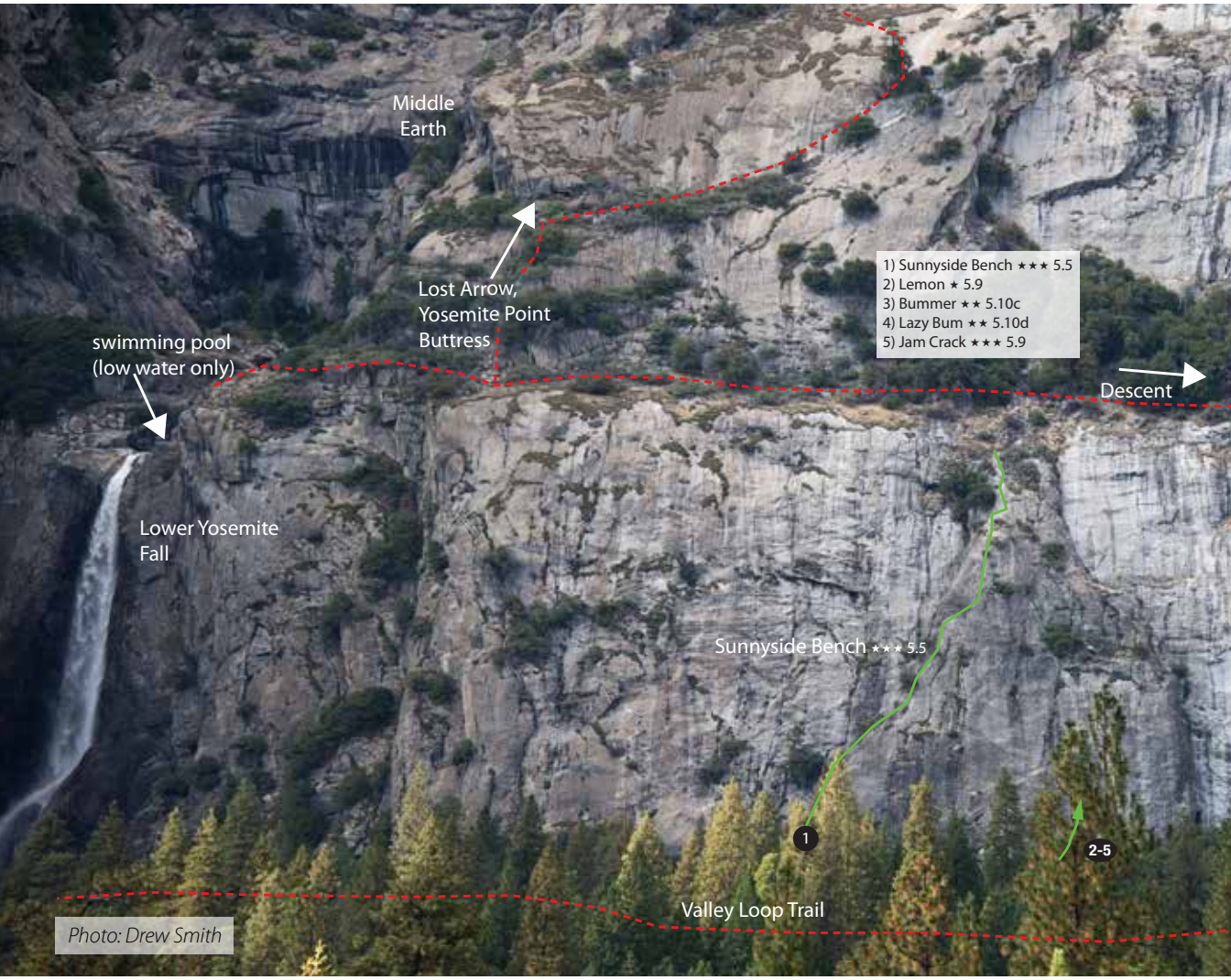
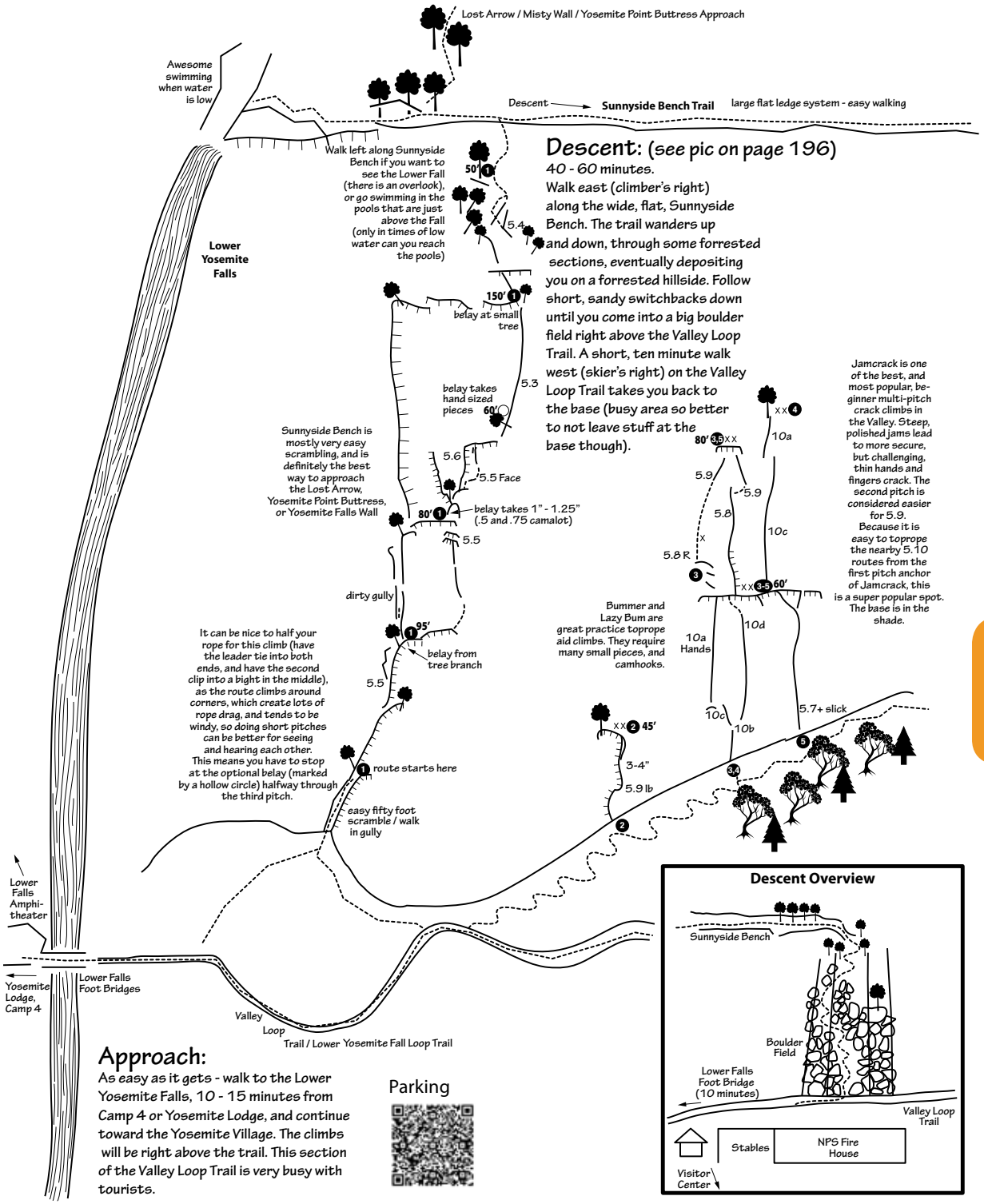


Photo: Drew Smith

1) Sunnyside Bench ★★★ 5.5. Pro: 2ea .5" - 3". An awesome way to get up a couple pitches, with amazing views. Awesome fun! Sunnyside starts in a wide gully, and climbs awkward an chimney for a pitch, then breaks out into glory, exposed climbing.
2) Lemon ★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .75" - 3", 1ea 4". Nice, short, lieback climb. You can rap to the anchors from the top of the 1st pitch of Jamcrack.
3) Bummer ★★ 10c. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2". Fun, super thin to finger crack. Bring the tiniest cams and micronuts to lead this!
4) Lazy Bum ★★ 10d. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1", 1ea 1.25" - 2". Sister climb to Bummer. Thin bliss.
5) Jamcrack(5.9) ★★★ 5.7+, 5.9. Pro: 1-2ea .4" - 3". Glory jamming - tight hands to fingers.



Descent: (see pic on page 196)

40 - 60 minutes.
Walk east (climber's right) along the wide, flat, Sunnyside Bench. The trail wanders up and down, through some forrested sections, eventually depositing you on a forrested hillside. Follow short, sandy switchbacks down until you come into a big boulder field right above the Valley Loop Trail. A short, ten minute walk west (skier's right) on the Valley Loop Trail takes you back to the base (busy area so better to not leave stuff at the base though).

Approach:

As easy as it gets - walk to the Lower Yosemite Falls, 10 - 15 minutes from Camp 4 or Yosemite Lodge, and continue toward the Yosemite Village. The climbs will be right above the trail. This section of the Valley Loop Trail is very busy with tourists.

Parking

Northside

Lower Falls Amphitheater

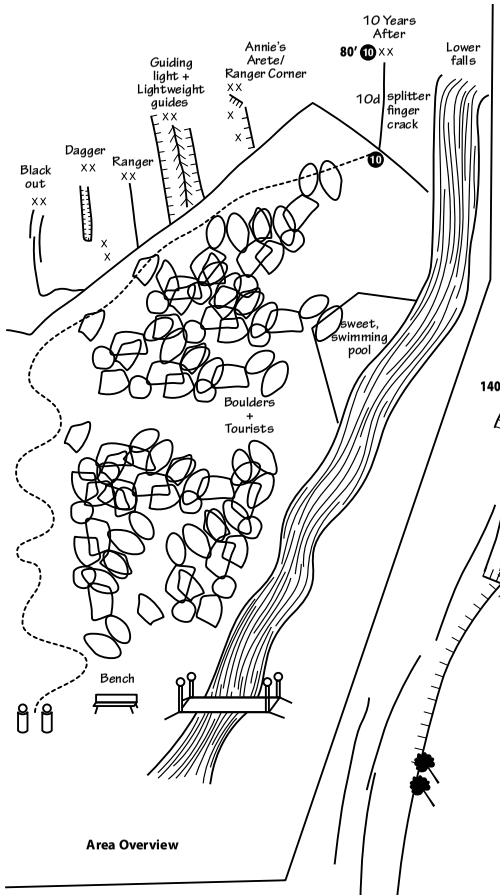
Lower Falls Amphitheater is one of the best summer cragging spots. The nearby swimming holes below Lower Yosemite Falls (there are also great pools above the Lower Falls, on top of Sunnyside Bench) are deluxe. The Falls Amphitheater is shady after midday. *Ranger Crack* (5.8) is one of the most splitter, right off the ground, cracks in Yosemite.

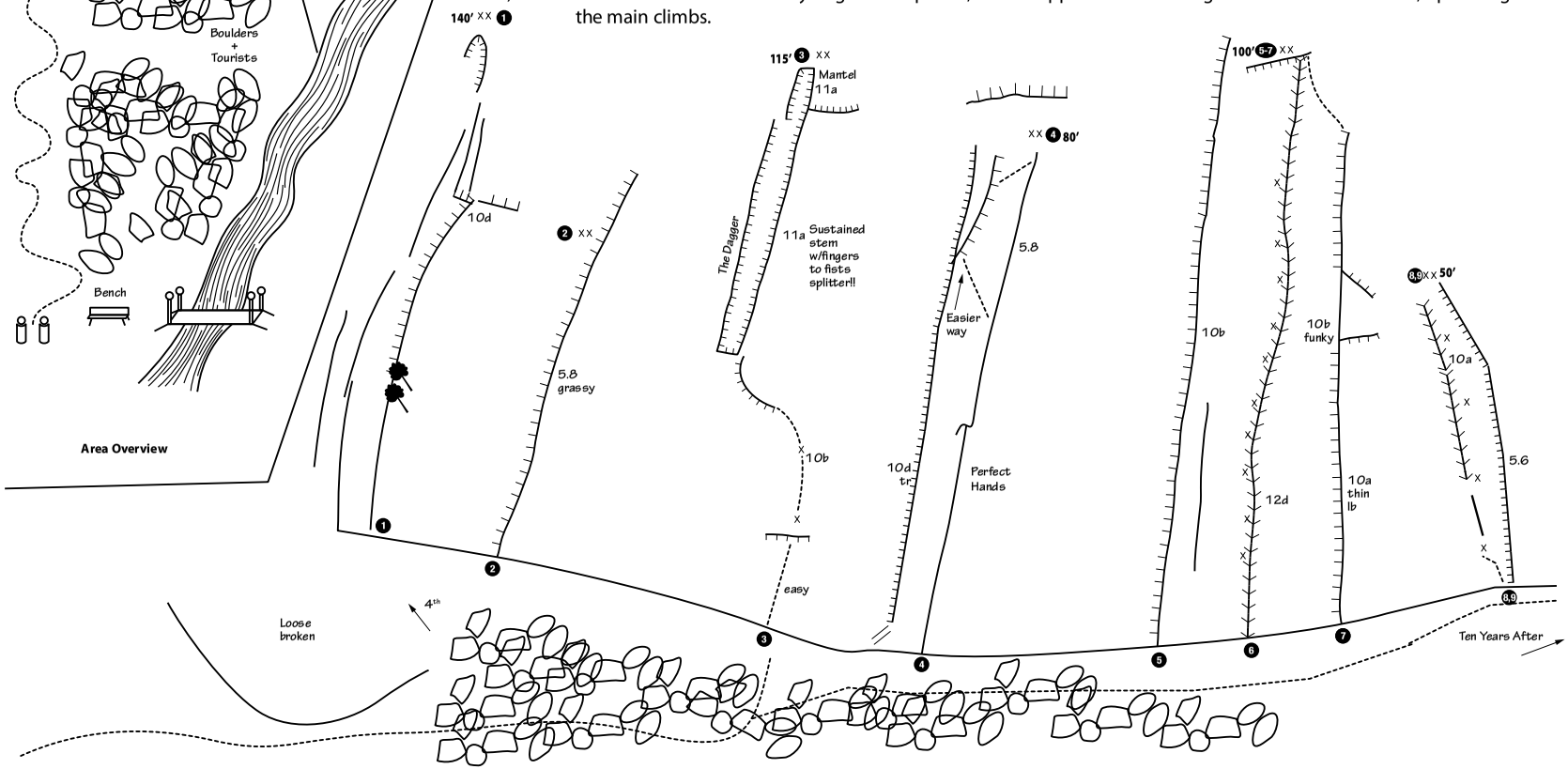
3) The Dagger ★★★ 5.11a
4) Ranger Crack ★★★ 5.8
5) Guiding Light ★★ 5.10b
6) Bear-Huggy Arete ★★ 5.12d
7) Lightweight Guides ★★ 5.10b
8) Annie's Arete ★ 5.10a
9) Ranger Corner ★★ 5.6

Northside

Parking

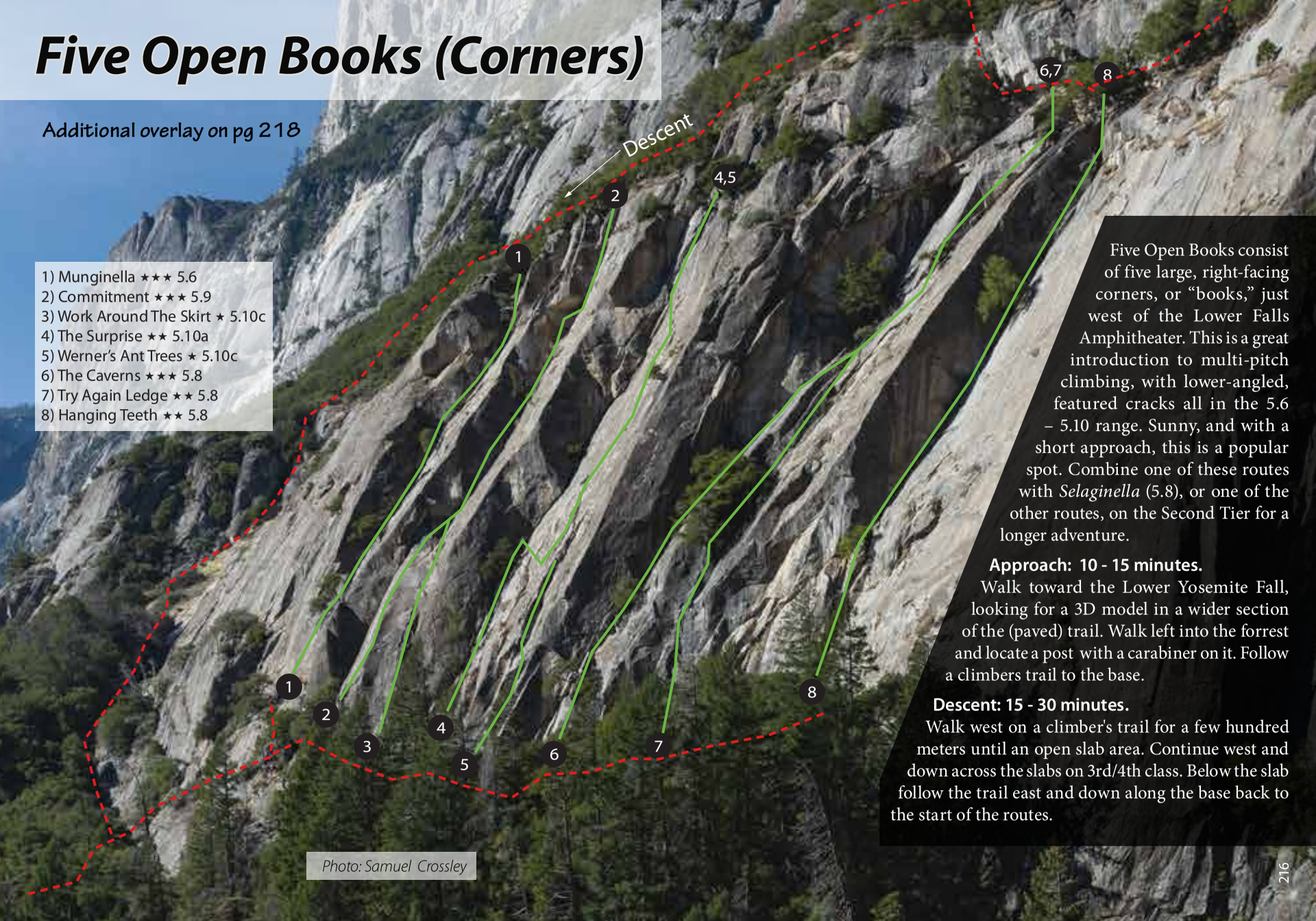
1) Blackout ★10d. Pro: 2ea .4" - 2", 1ea 4". Easier corner climbing leads to a fist crack / roof move crux. Anchors are hard to see from the ground.
2) Unknown 5.8.
3) The Dagger ★★★ 11a. Pro: 2ea .4" - 3", 3ea 1.5". Sustained, variety pitch of goodness.
4) Ranger Crack ★★★ 5.8. Pro: 2ea .4" -2". On of the all time hand cracks in the Valley.
5) Guiding Light ★★ 10b. Pro: 2ea .2" - 2". Smooth corner liebacking. Crux is a couple thin moves.
6) Bear-Huggy Arete ★★ 12d. 10 Bolts
7) Lightweight Guides ★★ 10b. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2". Extra tiny cams. Fun crack / corner cruising.
8) Annie's Arete ★ 10a. Pro: 1ea .4" - 2". Fun, mellow climb.
9) Ranger Corner ★★ 5.6. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2". Mellow corner. Often used to set up a toprope on Annie's Arete.
10) Ten Years After ★★★ 10d. Pro: Many finger-sized pieces, small stoppers. Beautiful finger crack on the back wall, up and right from the main climbs.





Five Open Books (Corners)

Additional overlay on pg 218



1) Munginella ★★★ 5.6
2) Commitment ★★★ 5.9
3) Work Around The Skirt ★ 5.10c
4) The Surprise ★★ 5.10a
5) Werner's Ant Trees ★ 5.10c
6) The Caverns ★★★ 5.8
7) Try Again Ledge ★★ 5.8
8) Hanging Teeth ★★ 5.8

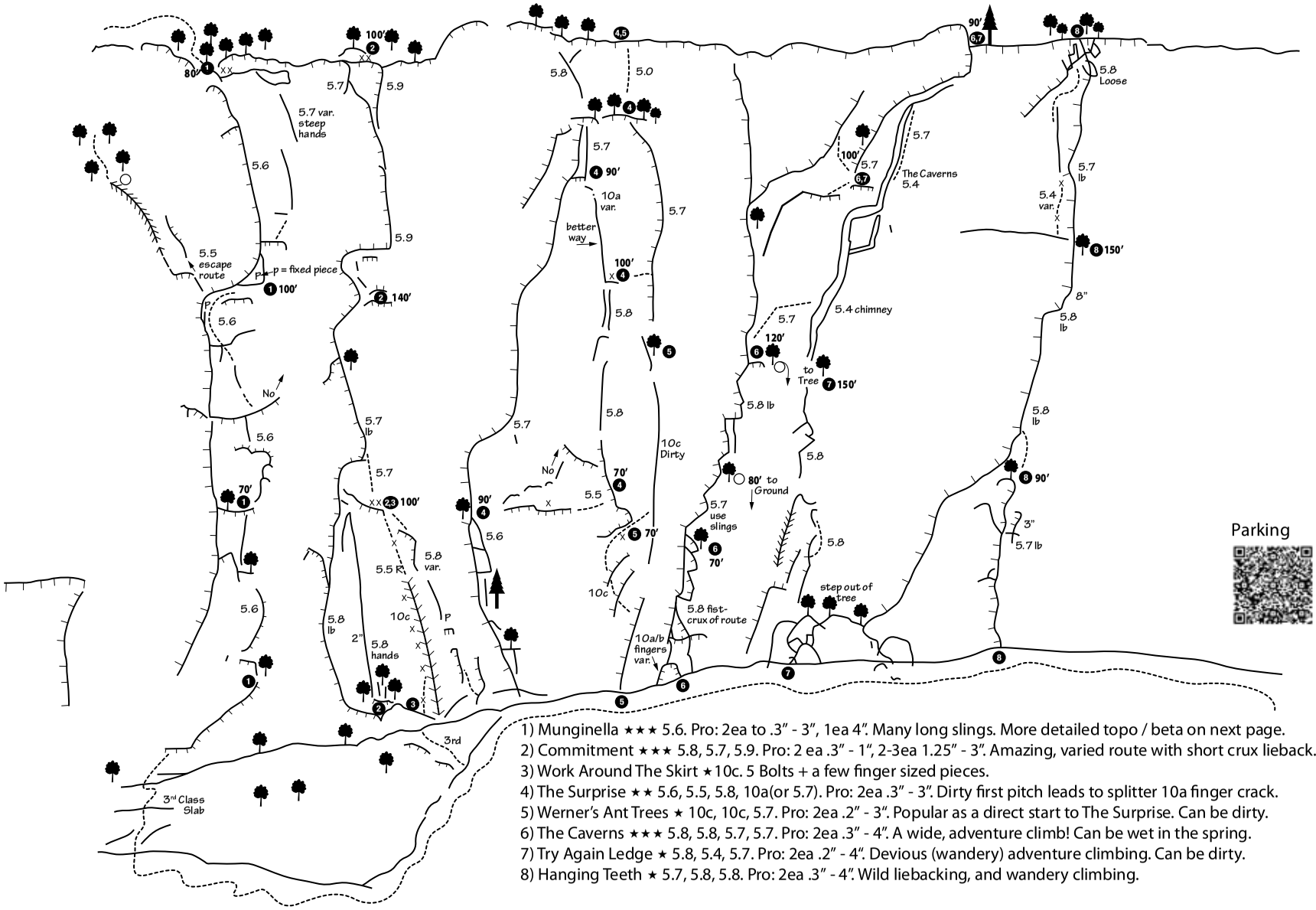
Photo: Samuel Crossley

Five Open Books consist of five large, right-facing corners, or "books," just west of the Lower Falls Amphitheater. This is a great introduction to multi-pitch climbing, with lower-angled, featured cracks all in the 5.6 – 5.10 range. Sunny, and with a short approach, this is a popular spot. Combine one of these routes with *Selaginella* (5.8), or one of the other routes, on the Second Tier for a longer adventure.

Approach: 10 - 15 minutes.
Walk toward the Lower Yosemite Fall, looking for a 3D model in a wider section of the (paved) trail. Walk left into the forrest and locate a post with a carabiner on it. Follow a climbers trail to the base.

Descent: 15 - 30 minutes.
Walk west on a climber's trail for a few hundred meters until an open slab area. Continue west and down across the slabs on 3rd/4th class. Below the slab follow the trail east and down along the base back to the start of the routes.

Northside



1) Munginella ★★★ 5.6. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 3", 1ea 4". Many long slings. More detailed topo / beta on next page.
2) Commitment ★★★ 5.8, 5.7, 5.9. Pro: 2 ea .3" - 1", 2-3ea 1.25" - 3". Amazing, varied route with short crux lieback.
3) Work Around The Skirt ★10c. 5 Bolts + a few finger sized pieces.
4) The Surprise ★★ 5.6, 5.5, 5.8, 10a(or 5.7). Pro: 2ea .3" - 3". Dirty first pitch leads to splitter 10a finger crack.
5) Werner's Ant Trees ★ 10c, 10c, 5.7. Pro: 2ea .2" - 3". Popular as a direct start to The Surprise. Can be dirty.
6) The Caverns ★★★ 5.8, 5.8, 5.7, 5.7. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4". A wide, adventure climb! Can be wet in the spring.
7) Try Again Ledge ★ 5.8, 5.4, 5.7. Pro: 2ea .2" - 4". Devious (wandery) adventure climbing. Can be dirty.
8) Hanging Teeth ★ 5.7, 5.8, 5.8. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4". Wild liebacking, and wandery climbing.

Five Open Books

Selaginella

Descent

1) Munginella ★★★ 5.6
2) Commitment ★★★ 5.9
3) Work Around The Skirt ★ 5.10c
4) The Surprise ★★ 5.10a
5) Werner's Ant Trees ★ 5.10c
6) The Caverns ★★★ 5.8
7) Try Again Ledge ★★ 5.8
8) Hanging Teeth ★★ 5.8

Photo: Drew Smith

Five Open Books Descent

Selaginella
★★★ 5.8

Easy walking down 3rd class slabs - 15 - 20 minutes back the base.

Descent Trail

xx

Optional rappel if running with water

Commitment
★★★ 5.9

The Caverns
★★★ 5.8

Munginella
★★★ 5.6

Dr. Scott Dyer climbs Munginella, 5.6
Photo: Alton Richardson

Five Open Books - Second Tier

Five Open Books Second Tier is accessed exclusively from the climbs below, on the Five Open Books (or by walking up the descent trail for the Five Open Books). These Second Tier climbs allow you to get in a few more pitches, and enjoy a leisurely walk down the scenic Upper Yosemite Falls Trail.

Photo: xRez.com

1) Selaginella ★★★ 5.8. Pro: 2ea .4" - 3", 1ea 4". Many long slings
2) Observation Point 5.9.
3) Indica Point ★ 5.6, 10a, 10b, 5.9. Pro: 2ea .4" - 3"
4) Mischief 5.8 A2.

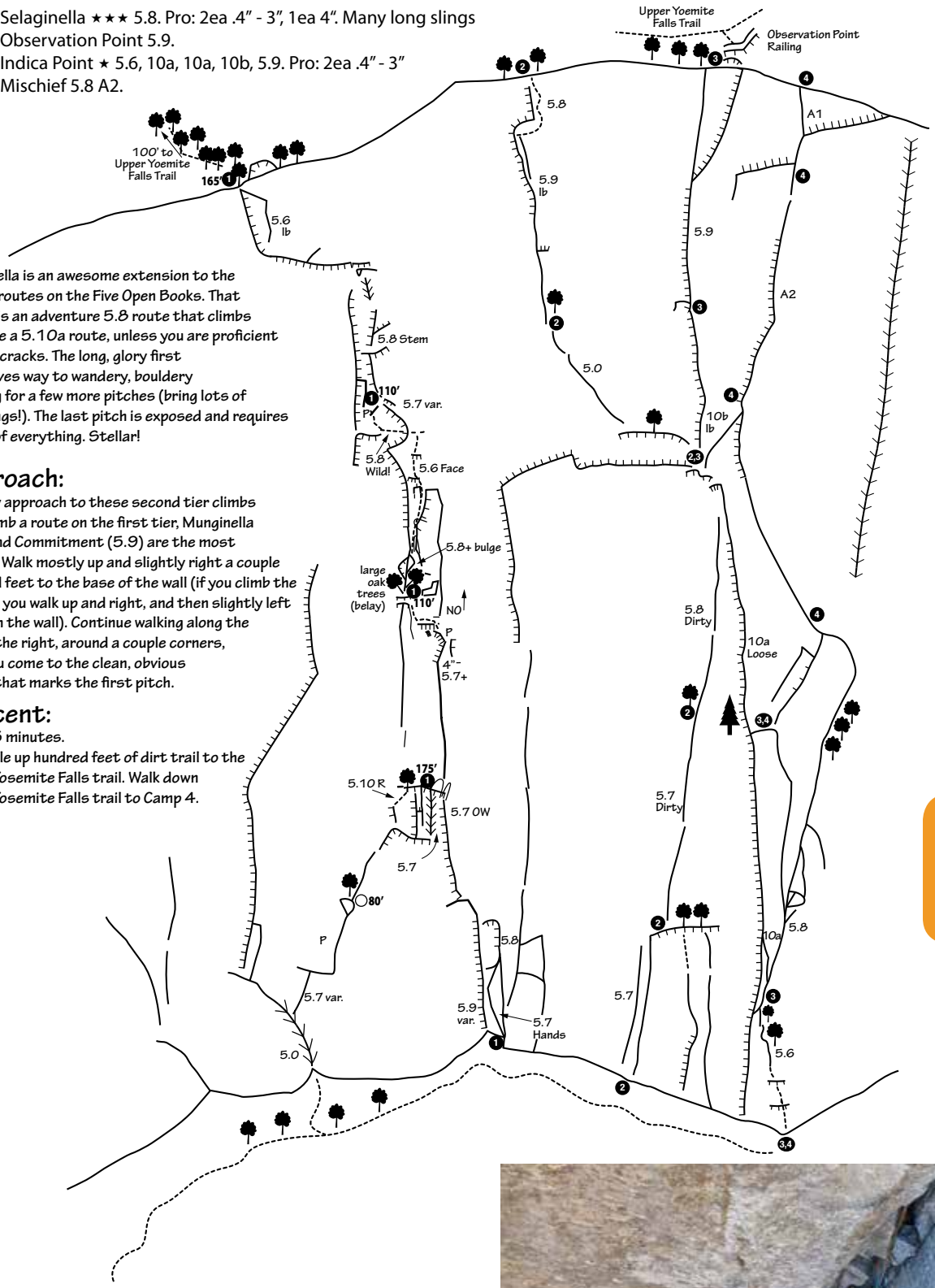
Selaginella is an awesome extension to the classic routes on the Five Open Books. That said, it is an adventure 5.8 route that climbs more like a 5.10a route, unless you are proficient at wide cracks. The long, glory first pitch gives way to wandery, bouldery climbing for a few more pitches (bring lots of long slings!). The last pitch is exposed and requires a little of everything. Stellar!

Approach:

The only approach to these second tier climbs is to climb a route on the first tier, Munginella (5.6) and Commitment (5.9) are the most classic. Walk mostly up and slightly right a couple hundred feet to the base of the wall (if you climb the caverns you walk up and right, and then slightly left to reach the wall). Continue walking along the wall to the right, around a couple corners, until you come to the clean, obvious corner that marks the first pitch.

Descent:

30 - 45 minutes.
Scramble up hundred feet of dirt trail to the Upper Yosemite Falls trail. Walk down Upper Yosemite Falls trail to Camp 4.



Nyasa Mitchell on the first pitch of Selaginella, 5.8
Photo: Erik Sloan

Middle of Swan Slab

Swan Slab has super fun, mostly 5.6 – 5.9, climbing right by the road and Camp 4. This is a popular toprope spot, though you often have to lead an easy, nearby climb to set up your toprope. The summit of Swan Slab has one of the best, easily accessible views of the valley. Swan Slab Gully (5.6) is not to be missed.

5) Oak Tree Flake ★★ 5.6
6) Grant's Crack ★★ 5.9
7) Seamalicious ★ 5.10c
8) Penelope's Problem ★★ 5.7
9) Swan Slab Gully ★★★ 5.6

Photo: Chris Edmands

2) Penthouse Cracks ★★★ 5.8 - 5.11a
3) Patio Cracks ★★ 5.7 - 5.9
5) Oak Tree Flake ★★ 5.6
6) Grant's Crack ★★ 5.9
9) Swan Slab Gully ★★★ 5.6
11) Aid Route ★ 5.11b or 5.9 C2+
12) Lena's Lieback ★★★ 5.9
15) Swan Song ★ 5.9+

Descent

short 4th Class section

4th class descent

15

5.5 move

2

Penthouse Cracks

12

Lena's Lieback

12

6

Patio Cracks

3

West Slabs

5

9

bench

11

Valley Loop Trail

Photo: Chris Edmands

Oak Tree Flake

Patio Cracks

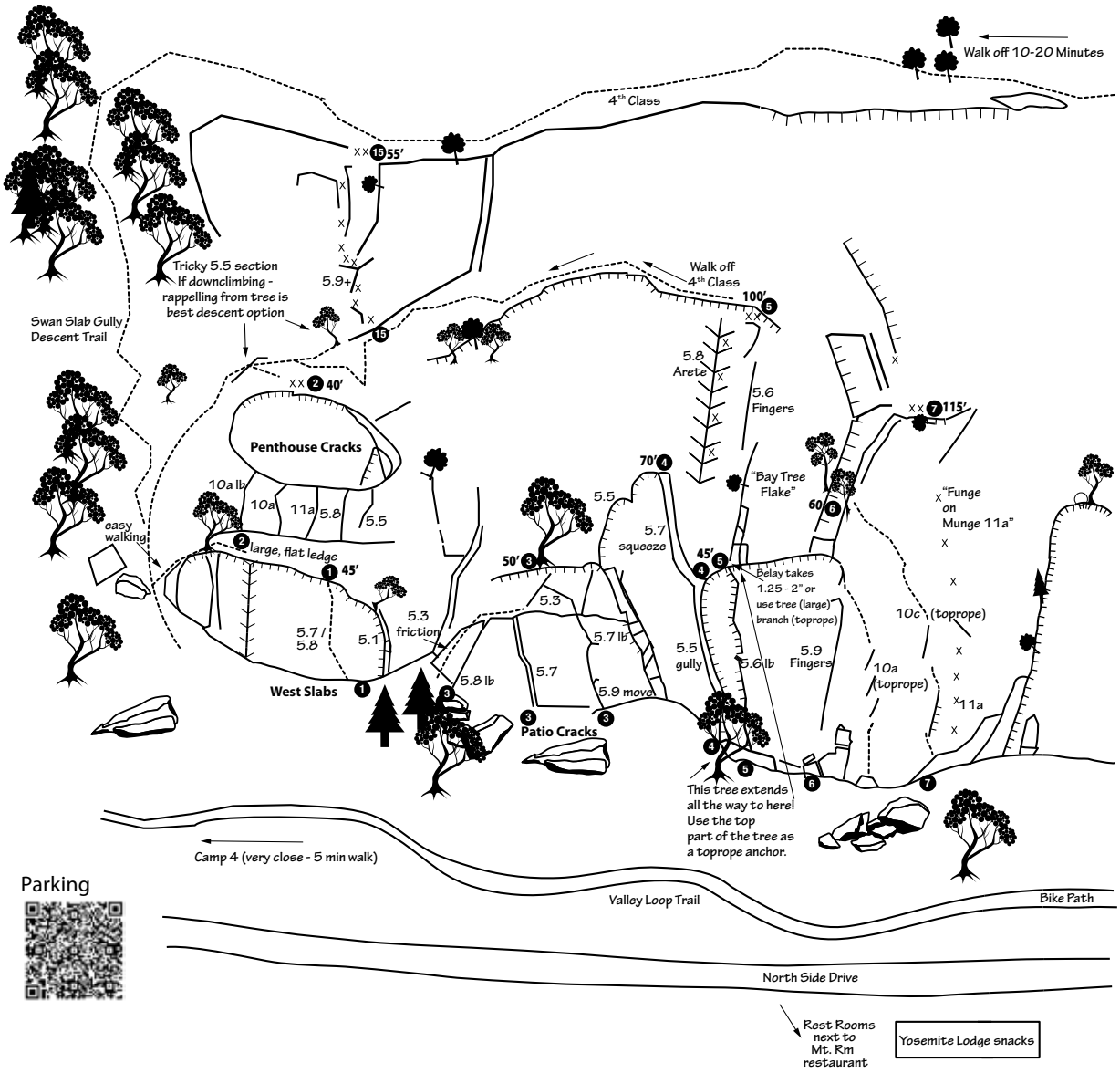
Penthouse Cracks

Camp 4

Grant's Crack

Photo: Chris Edmands

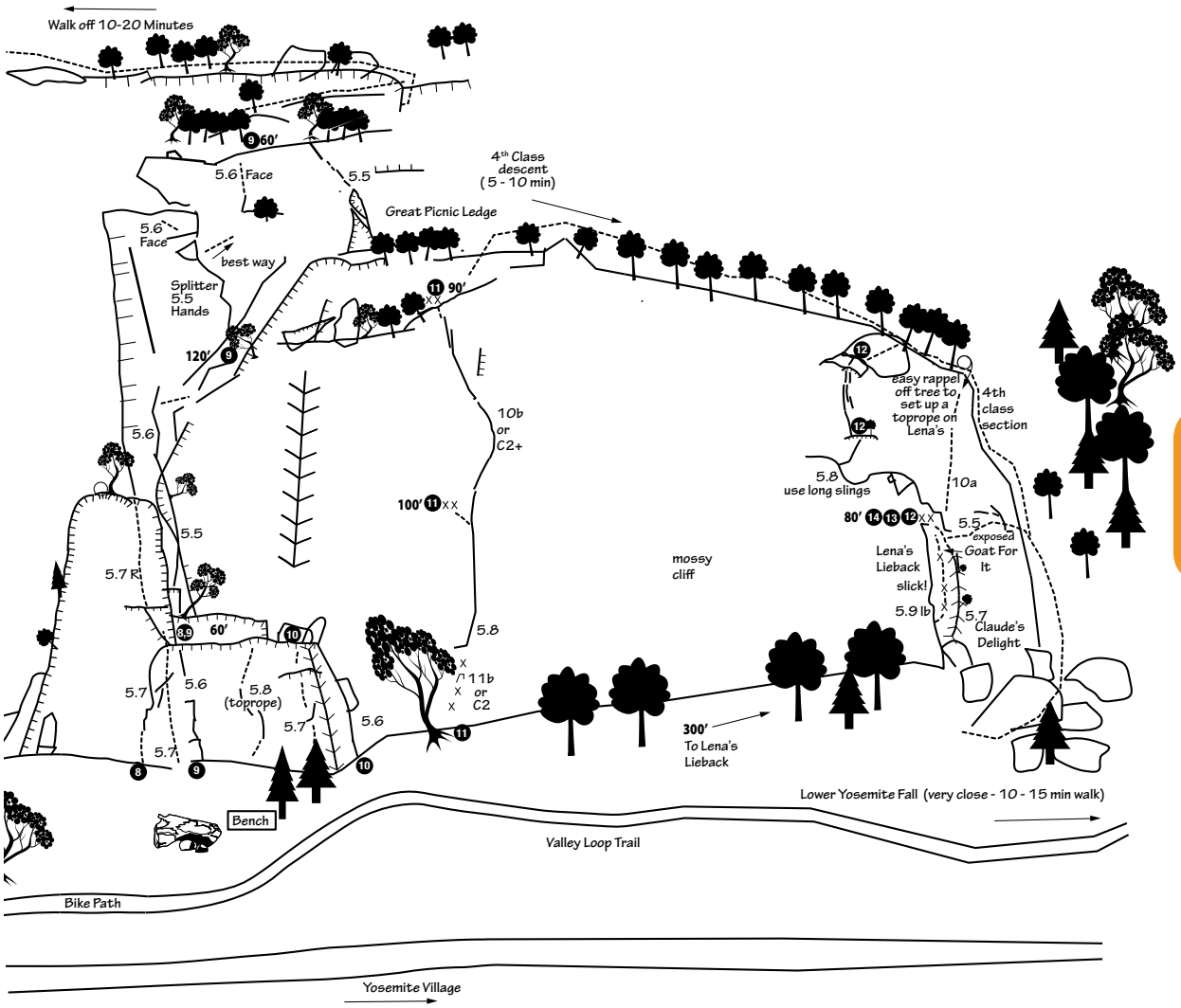
1) West Slabs 5.4 - 5.8. Super polished slab with few holds, West Slabs get traffic because it is easy to set up a toprope, and is in the shade.
2) Penthouse Cracks ★★★ 5.8 - 11a. Perfect toprope spot, though there is a short 5.5 crack you have to climb, up the backside, to set up the toprope.
3) Patio Cracks ★★ 5.7 - 5.9. Valley floor level toproping paradise! However, you do have to climb 5.3 to set up a toprope. Great crack technique practice area!
4) Swan Slab Chimney ★ 5.5, 5.7. Pro: 1-2ea .5" - 2". A good introduction to the unique, wide, world of chimney climbing.
5) Oak Tree Flake ★★ 5.6. Pro: 1-2ea to .3" - 3". Good beginner toprope if you can scramble up the 5.5 gully/chimney that is the left side of the flake. The first pitch, requiring some liebacking, is not the easiest to protect. The second pitch 'Bay Tree Flake' is an amazing finger crack, and a perfect first lead climb.
6) Grant's Crack ★★ 5.9. Pro: Many stopper - finger-sized pieces. Secure finger jams with difficult / smeary feet.
7) Seamilicious ★ 10c toprope.



Parking

Northside

8) Penelope's Problem ★★ 5.7. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 2." A great alternative start to Swan Slab Gully, or a runout independent climb that stays left of the gully.
9) Swan Slab Gully ★★★ 5.6. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 2." A few awkward moves give way to one of the most fun 5.6 routes in Yosemite. Plenty of folks just set up a toprope from the first pitch anchor, but the second and third pitches are where this route really shines. An awesome summit!
10) Hanging Flake ★★ 5.6. Pro: 1ea .3"-3." A slippery, but fun alternative start to Swan Slab Gully. A good toprope (takes 2 - 3" cams) for people climbing with kids.
11) Aid Route ★ 11b or 5.9 C2+. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 3." A challenging route that can be difficult to protect at times. This is a perfect practice for the longer route Serenity Crack to Sons of Yesterday.
12) Lena's Lieback ★★★ 5.9, 5.8, 5.8. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 3." Slippery, liebacking fun! Most folks just do the first pitch, or set up a toprope.
13) Goat For It ★★ 10a. Pro: 1ea to .3" - 2"
14) Claude's Delight ★★ 5.7. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 3." Stellar first 5.7 lead, with different sized cracks. (watch rope drag). Allows you to toprope the harder routes to the left.
15) Swan Song ★ 5.9+. This climb is on the second tier, above the Penthouse cracks. 8 Bolts



Northside

Camp 4 Wall

Camp 4 Wall is the tougher big brother to Swan Slab, which flanks Camp 4 on the other side. Known for its stout wide cracks, Camp 4 Wall is convenient, and gets afternoon shade.

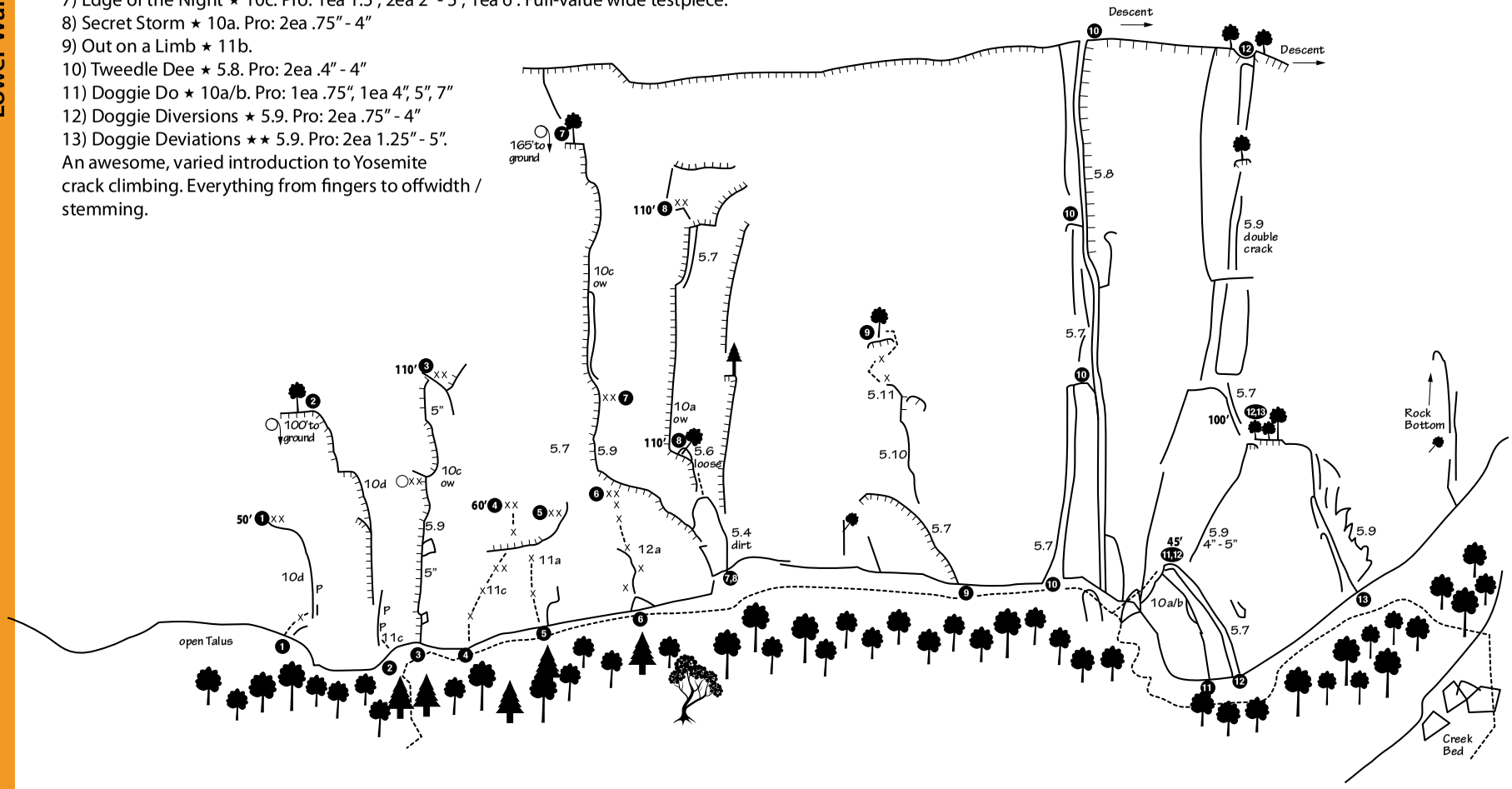
Approach: 15 - 20 minutes.
From the bathrooms in the middle of Camp 4 walk uphill past the Columbia Boulder, crossingthe Valley Loop Trail on a faint trail that leads to the Camp 4 Wall Gully. Follow the gully up until the wall is close.

6) The Buttocks 5.9
10) Cid's Embrace ★ 5.8
11) Lancelot ★ 5.9

3) Chopper ★ 5.10c
11) Doggie Do ★ 5.10a
12) Doggie Diversions ★★ 5.9
13) Doggie Deviations ★★ 5.9

Photo: Lucas Barth

1) Santa Barbara 10d.
2) General Hospital 11c R. Pro: 1-2ea to .3" - 3"
3) Chopper ★ 10c. Pro: 2ea to 1" - 5", extra 3"-5". Good wide crack practice.
4) No Love-Chump Sucker ★ 11c.
5) Days of our Lives 11a.
6) Sample the Dog ★ 12a.
7) Edge of the Night ★ 10c. Pro: 1ea 1.5", 2ea 2" - 5", 1ea 6". Full-value wide testpiece.
8) Secret Storm ★ 10a. Pro: 2ea .75" - 4"
9) Out on a Limb ★ 11b.
10) Tweedle Dee ★ 5.8. Pro: 2ea .4" - 4"
11) Doggie Do ★ 10a/b. Pro: 1ea .75", 1ea 4", 5", 7"
12) Doggie Diversions ★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .75" - 4"
13) Doggie Deviations ★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea 1.25" - 5".
An awesome, varied introduction to Yosemite crack climbing. Everything from fingers to offwidth / stemming.



1) Bottom Line 11d.
2) Rock Bottom ★ 11d. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 2.5"
3) The Buttocks 5.9. Pro: 2ea to .5" - 4". Deep, chimney horror.
4) Cheek 5.10d R. Thin face with lichen.
5) Christina ★★ 10a, 11b. Pro: 2ea to 4" - 7". Pumpy liebacking on first pitch. Often toproped when rapping off HQ.
6) Henley Quits ★★ 10b. Pro: 2ea to .75" - 7". Wild, challenging climbing. Save some finger-sized for the top.
7) Cid's Embrace ★ 5.8. Pro: 2ea to .5" - 4". Classic Camp 4 wall struggle.
8) Lancelot ★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea to .5" - 4" (optional extra 3"). Challenging, fist and off-fist size crack.
9) Dynamo Hum ★ 11d. Pro: 3ea to .3" - 2"

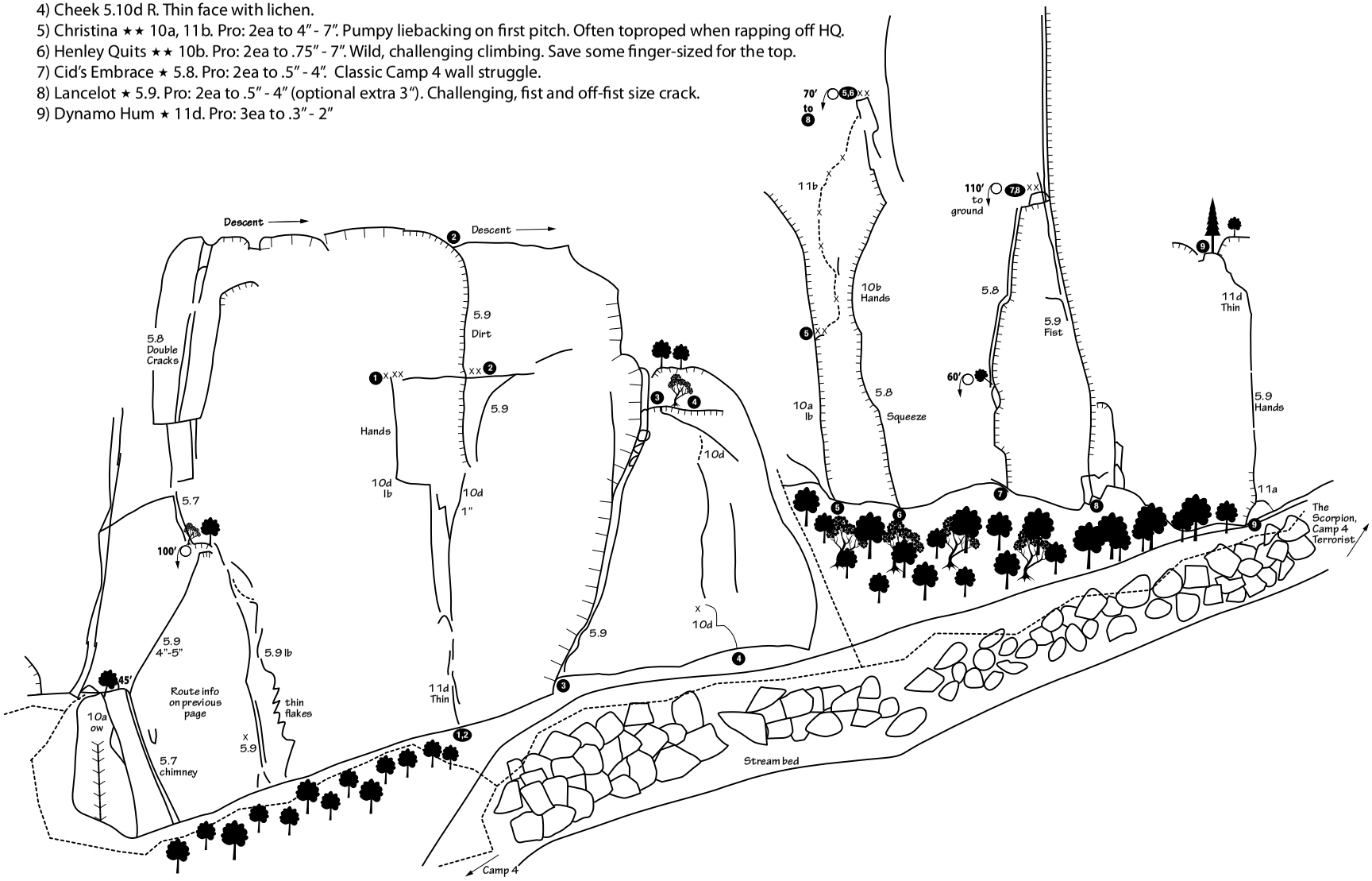
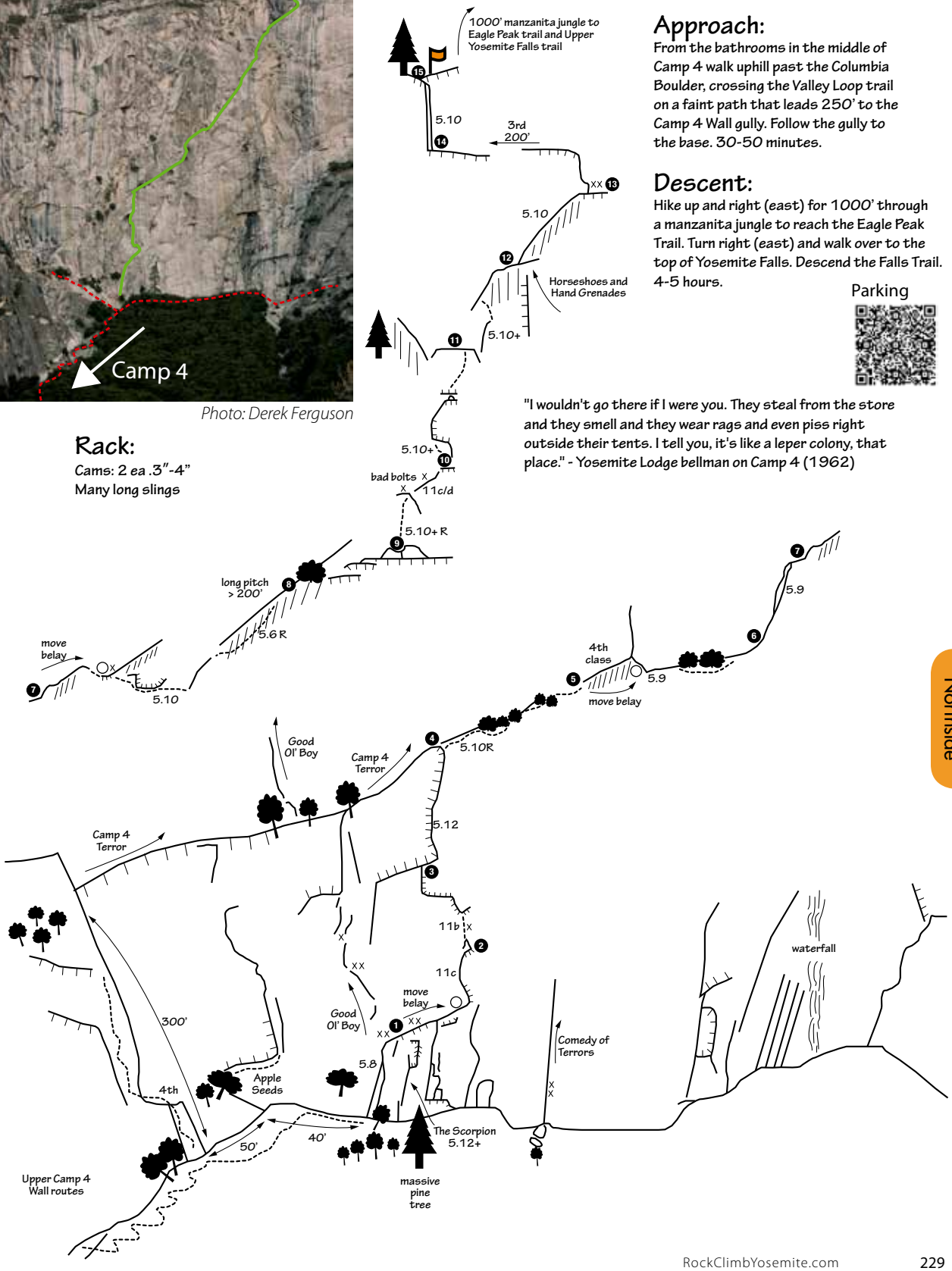


Photo: Derek Ferguson

Camp 4 Terrorist V 5.12 R

FA: 2004 - Lucho Rivera, Cedar Wright

The Scorpion 5.12 + (single pitch)



Approach:

From the bathrooms in the middle of Camp 4 walk uphill past the Columbia Boulder, crossing the Valley Loop trail on a faint path that leads 250' to the Camp 4 Wall gully. Follow the gully to the base. 30-50 minutes.

Descent:

Hike up and right (east) for 1000' through a manzanita jungle to reach the Eagle Peak Trail. Turn right (east) and walk over to the top of Yosemite Falls. Descend the Falls Trail. 4-5 hours.

Parking

"I wouldn't go there if I were you. They steal from the store and they smell and they wear rags and even piss right outside their tents. I tell you, it's like a leper colony, that place." - Yosemite Lodge bellman on Camp 4 (1962)

Rack:

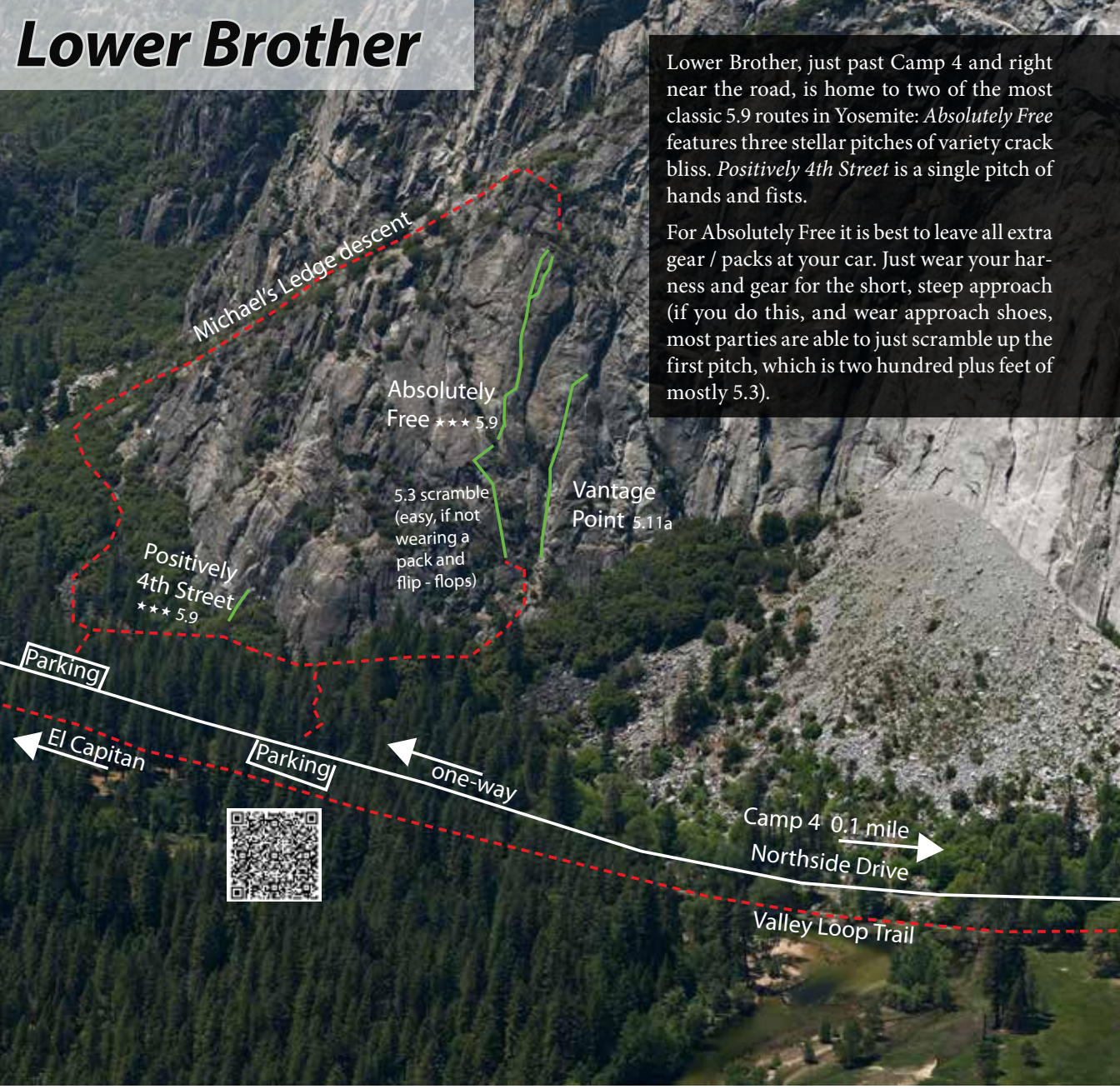
Cams: 2 ea .3"-4"
Many long slings

Northside

Lower Brother

Lower Brother, just past Camp 4 and right near the road, is home to two of the most classic 5.9 routes in Yosemite: *Absolutely Free* features three stellar pitches of variety crack bliss. *Positively 4th Street* is a single pitch of hands and fists.

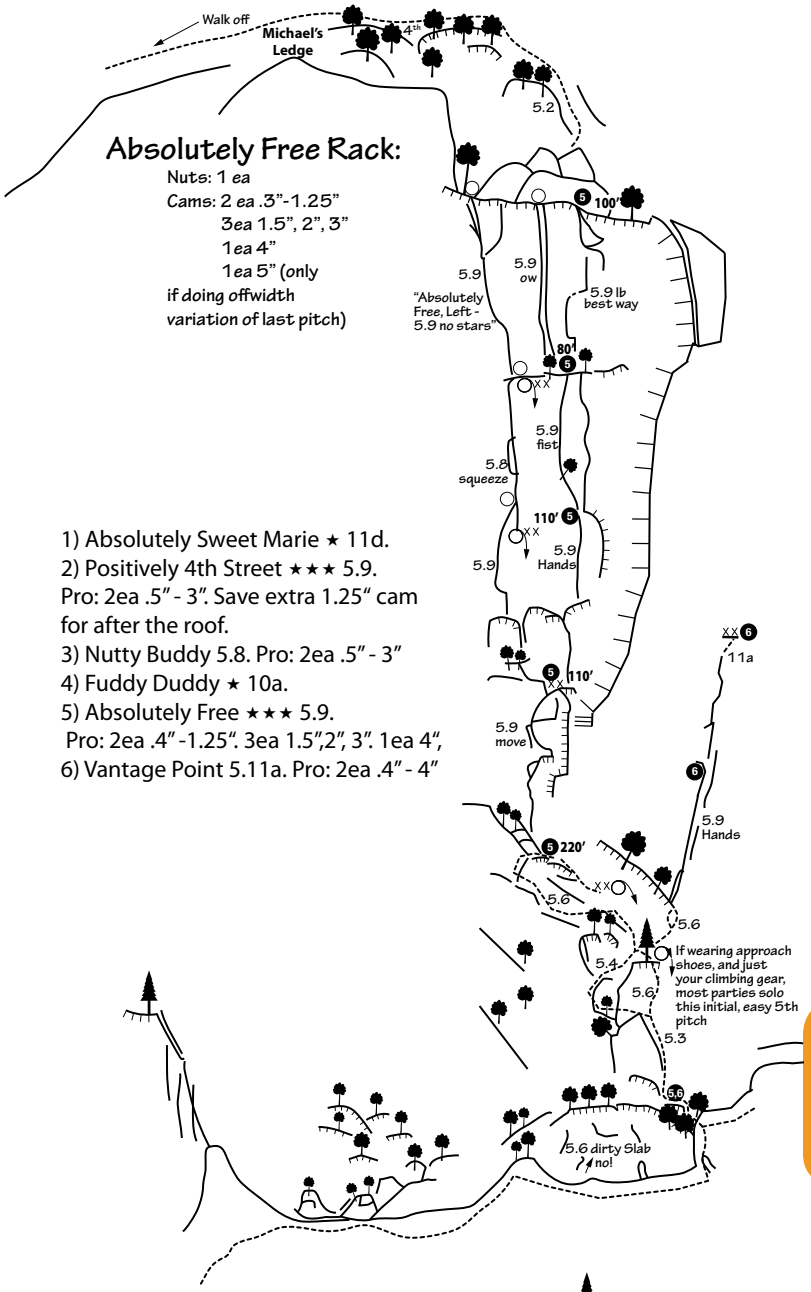
For Absolutely Free it is best to leave all extra gear / packs at your car. Just wear your harness and gear for the short, steep approach (if you do this, and wear approach shoes, most parties are able to just scramble up the first pitch, which is two hundred plus feet of mostly 5.3).



Approach:
From Camp 4 or Yosemite Lodge, head west on the one-way Northside Drive toward El Capitan. Park your bike or car at the first pullout on the left after Camp 4. Cross the road and look for the faint climber's trail that zigzags 400 feet up to the base. This short approach wanders through downed trees and boulders. When you reach the cliff head left, or west, for *Positively 4th Street*. Head right, and up, another few hundred feet past dirty, low angle slabs until the gully that you are in makes a hard right. Walk left a few feet onto an exposed ledge,for *Absolutely Free*,

Descent:
Rappel the route with one 70m rope, using trees and rap anchors next to (just left of) the route (until you get back to the top of the first 5.9 pitch). Rappel the first 5.9 pitch and then continue walking down the hillside, until a short down scramble leads to a ledge skier's left, with a rap anchor, and straight down raps to the base of the wall.

Michael's Ledge descent: Scramble up and right two hundred feet of meandering 4th and low 5th class terrain until you reach a cliff, which you skirt to the left to gain Michael's Ledge. Continue left and down easy walking, with some short, steep dirt sections, avoiding sucker trails that lead down or left. Stay on easy Michael's Ledge until it joins a boulder-filled drainage that wraps back around to the road and parking.

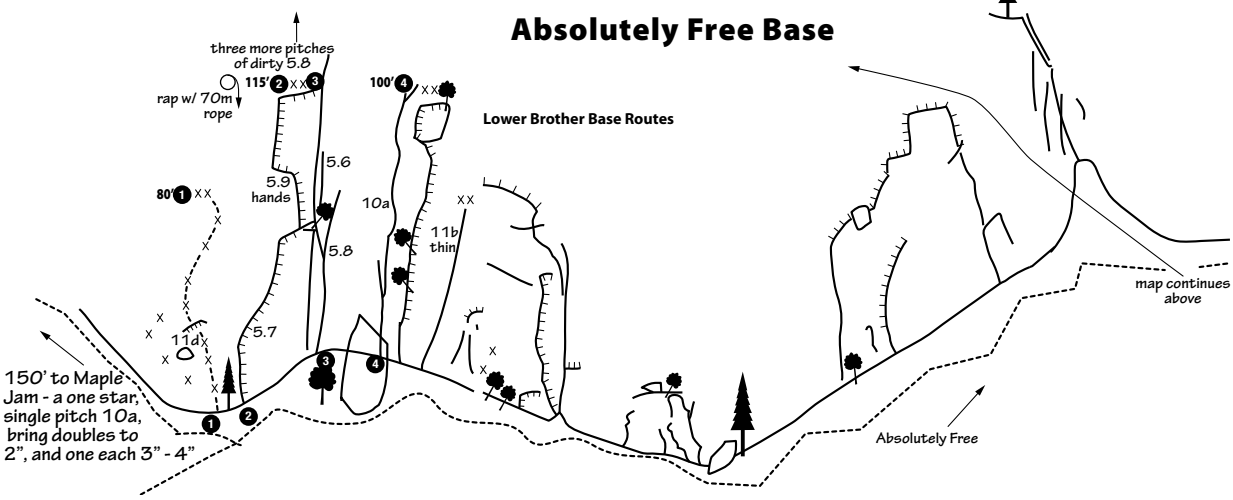


Absolutely Free Rack:

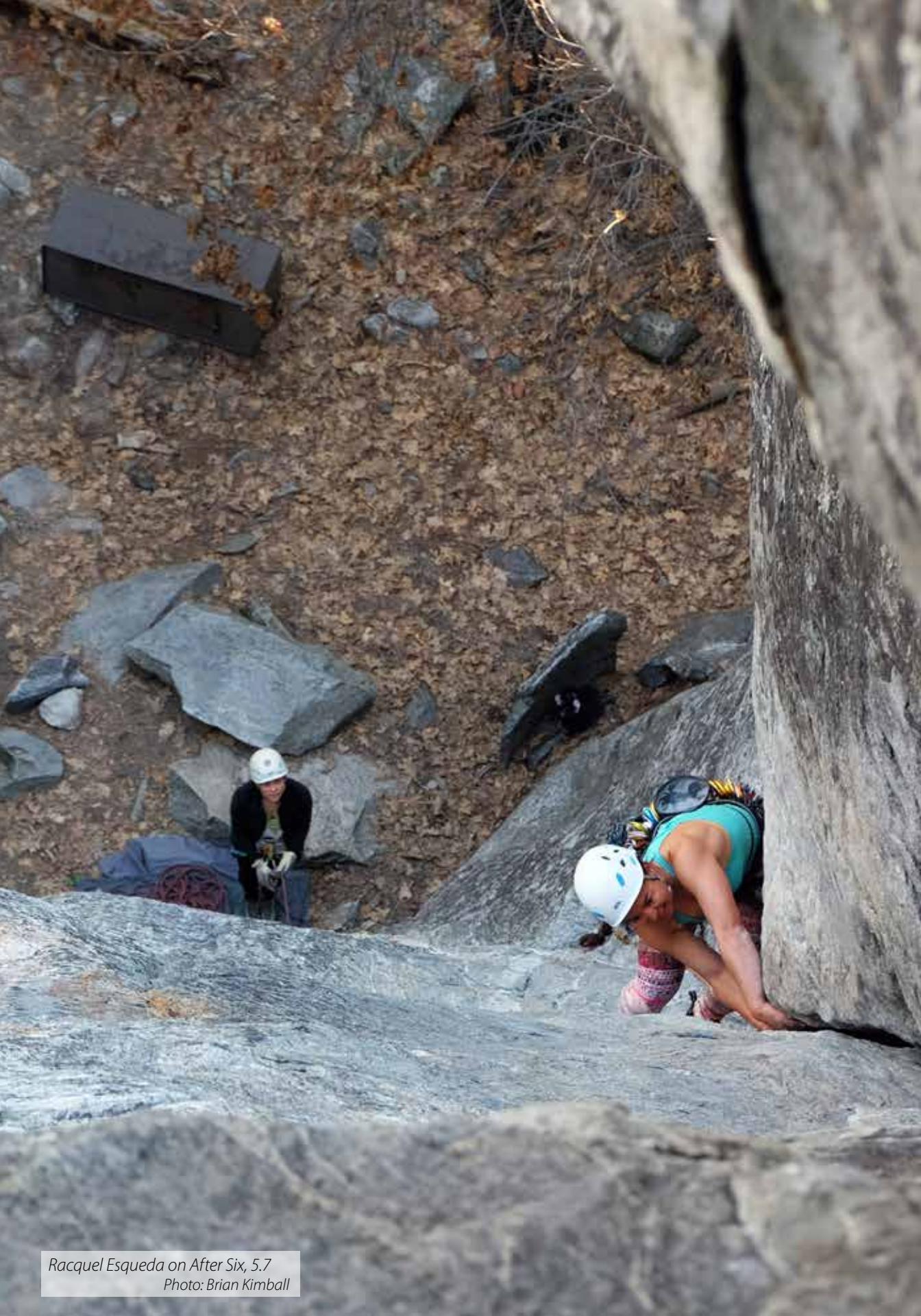
Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .3"-1.25"
3ea 1.5", 2", 3"
1ea 4"
1ea 5" (only if doing offwidth variation of last pitch)

1) Absolutely Sweet Marie ★ 11d.
2) Positively 4th Street ★★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .5" - 3". Save extra 1.25" cam for after the roof.
3) Nutty Buddy 5.8. Pro: 2ea .5" - 3"
4) Fuddy Duddy ★ 10a.
5) Absolutely Free ★★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .4" -1.25". 3ea 1.5",2", 3". 1ea 4",
6) Vantage Point 5.11a. Pro: 2ea .4" - 4"

Absolutely Free Base



Zachary Karcher on Absolutely Free, 5.9
Photo: Samuel Crossley



Racquel Esqueda on After Six, 5.7
Photo: Brian Kimball

Ranger Rock

Ranger Rock, located at the El Cap Picnic Area a quarter mile before the El Cap Meadow on (one-way) Northside Drive, with its 600 feet of beautiful cracks and featured face, is second only to Five Open Books as the most popular multi-pitch moderate (5.6 – 5.9) area. Mostly sunny and hot, this area is perfect in fall, winter and spring and can be okay late in the afternoon in the summer. This is the perfect place to experience an awesome, long climb, and then have a bar-beque at the convenient picnic area right next to the parking lot. Don't leave Yosemite without climbing *After Six* (5.7)!

After Six III 5.7

FA: June 1965 - Yvon Chouinard, Ruth Schneider

Grade three means that After Six is a half-day climb. Grade IV would be a full day, Grade V a one night, etc.

After Six is a mega-classic Yosemite moderate (there are no bolted anchors). The first pitch is slick and challenging, but well protected. After that a wide pitch with lots of face holds, so you hardly have to stay in the crack if you don't want to, leads to a few more pitches of super fun, wandering 5.6 face and crack. The higher you get the more featured the rock gets, and the better the views get!

The cruxes for new climbers are 1) Routefinding - there are often a couple ways to go, or variations, to the pitches. The climbing is never harder than 5.7 though, so not too much to worry about, and 2) Natural Belays - you can belay at many spots on every pitch (optional belay spots are shown as hollow circles on the topo). Some folks feel more comfortable and quickly do long pitches, whlle others like to stop to belay whenever they hit a comfy ledge. The more you stop and build belays the longer, and more complicated, your climb will be, so best to strike a happy balance for your team.

Parking? Usually plenty of parking right below the cliff, at the El Capitan Picnic Area. Or at the paved pullout on the road right near the entrance to the picnic area.

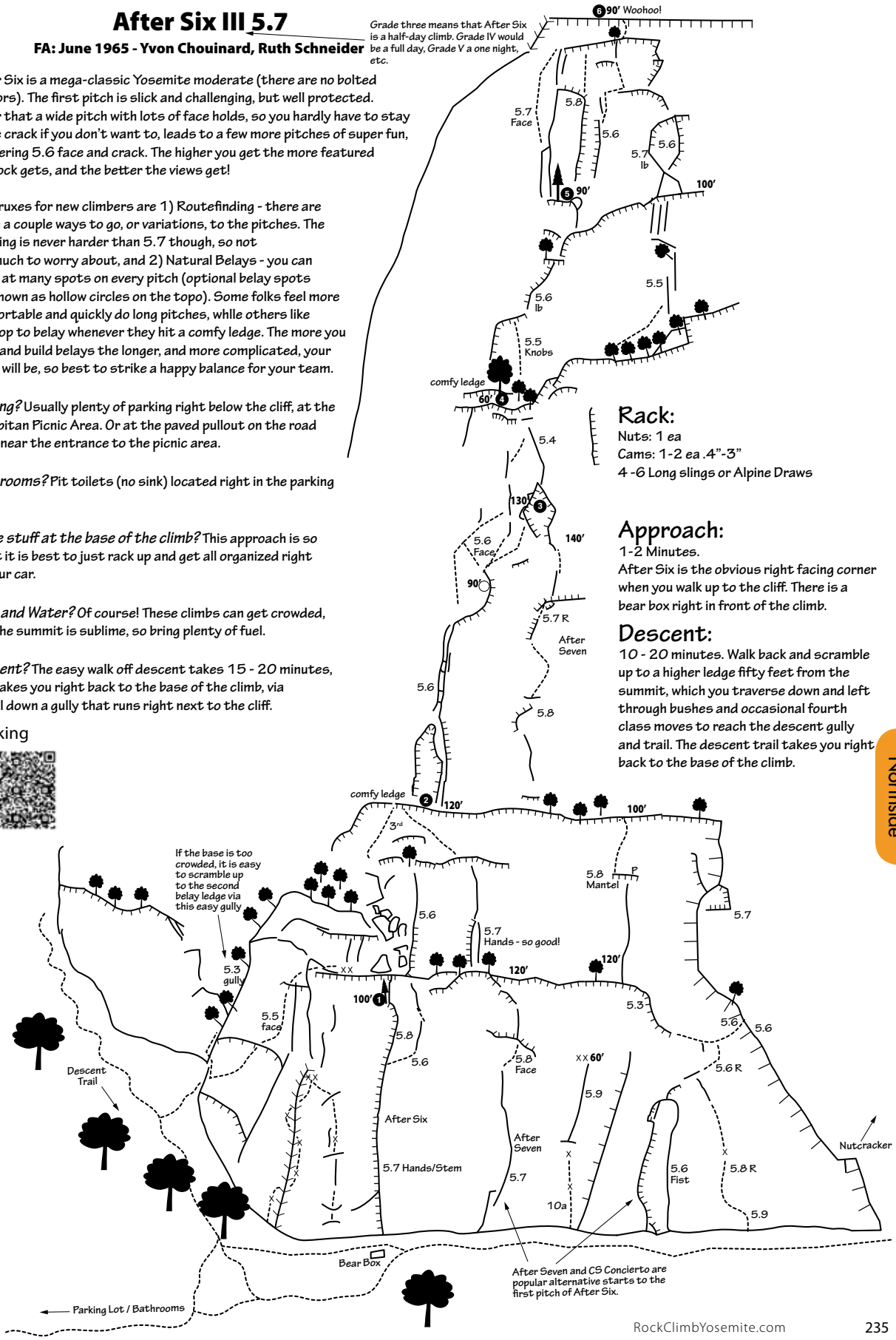
Bathrooms? Pit toilets (no sink) located right in the parking lot.

Leave stuff at the base of the climb? This approach is so short it is best to just rack up and get all organized right at your car.

Food and Water? Of course! These climbs can get crowded, and the summit is sublime, so bring plenty of fuel.

Descent? The easy walk off descent takes 15 - 20 minutes, and takes you right back to the base of the climb, via a trail down a gully that runs right next to the cliff.

Parking



Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 1-2 ea .4"-3"
4 -6 Long slings or Alpine Draws

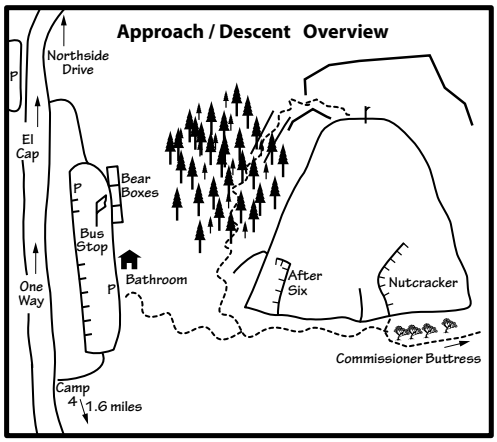
Approach:

1-2 Minutes.
After Six is the obvious right facing corner when you walk up to the cliff. There is a bear box right in front of the climb.

Descent:

10 - 20 minutes. Walk back and scramble up to a higher ledge fifty feet from the summit, which you traverse down and left through bushes and occasional fourth class moves to reach the descent gully and trail. The descent trail takes you right back to the base of the climb.

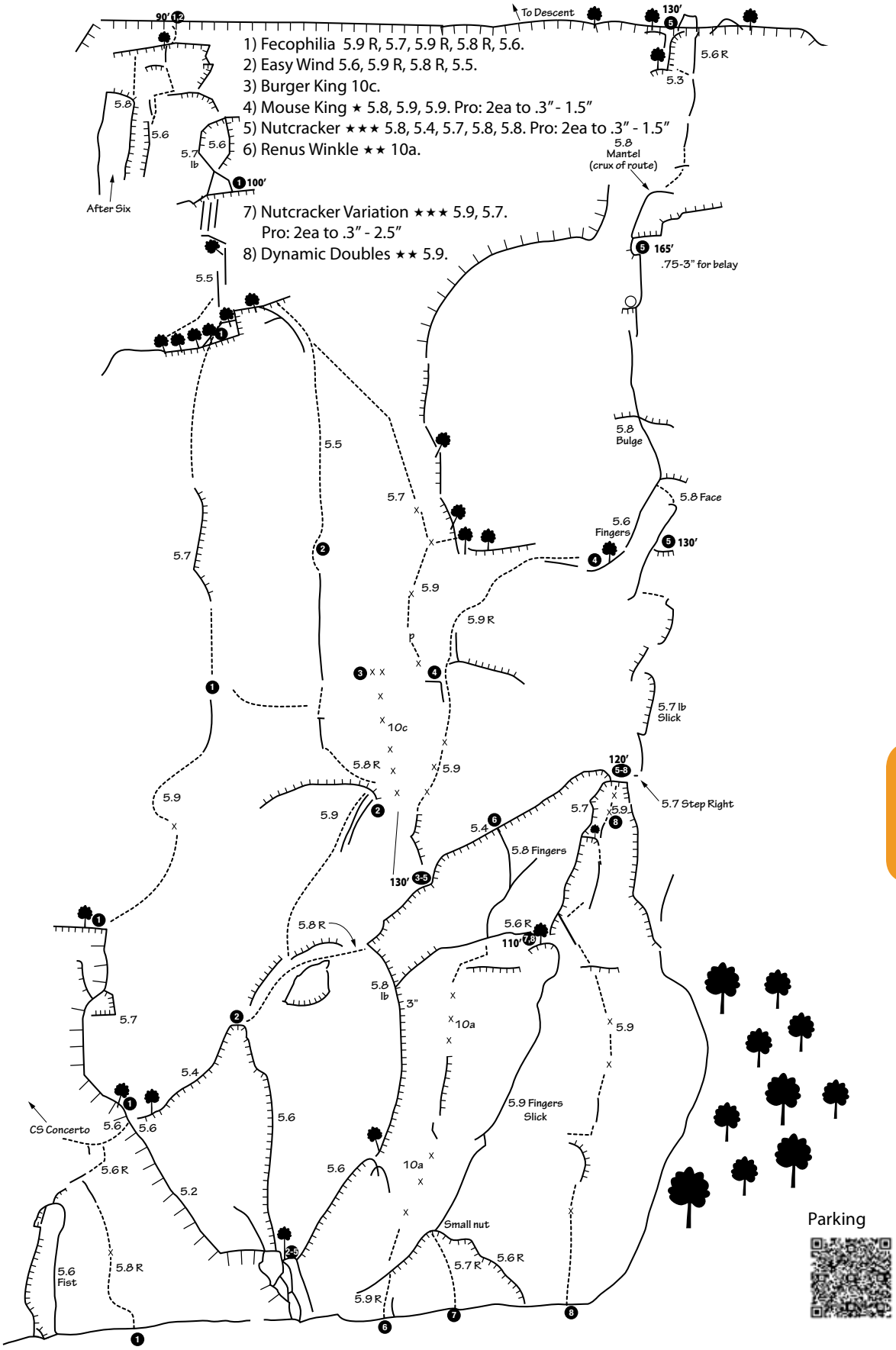
Northside



1) Haley's Comet ★ 10a R. 4 Bolts
2) Jump For Joy ★ 5.9 R.
Pro: 1ea .5" - .75"
3) After Six ★★★ 5.7, 5.6.
Pro: 1-2ea .3" - 3"
4) After Seven ★★★ 5.8, 5.7.
Pro: 1-2ea .3" - 3"
5) Just Do-Do It ★★ 10a.
Pro: 2ea .4" - 1", 1ea 1.25" - 1.5"
6) CS Concerto ★★ 5.6, 5.8, 5.7, 5.6.
Pro: 1-2ea .4" - 3"
7) Fecophilia 5.9 R, 5.7, 5.9 R, 5.8 R, 5.6
Pro: 1-2ea .4" - 3"

Parking

Northside

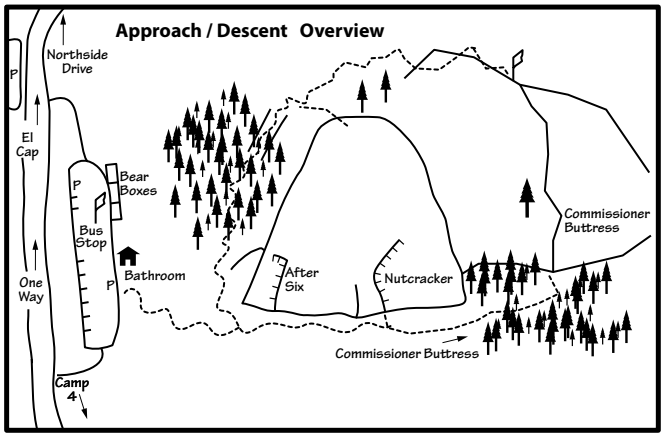

1) Fecophilia 5.9 R, 5.7, 5.9 R, 5.8 R, 5.6.
2) Easy Wind 5.6, 5.9 R, 5.8 R, 5.5.
3) Burger King 10c.
4) Mouse King ★ 5.8, 5.9, 5.9. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 1.5"
5) Nutcracker ★★★ 5.8, 5.4, 5.7, 5.8, 5.8. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 1.5"
6) Renus Winkle ★★ 10a.
7) Nutcracker Variation ★★★ 5.9, 5.7.
Pro: 2ea to .3" - 2.5"
8) Dynamic Doubles ★★ 5.9.
To Descent
90'
130'
5.6 R
5.3
5.8
5.6
5.7 lb
5.6
100'
After Six
5.8 Mantel (crux of route)
165'
.75-3" for belay
5.5
5.8 Bulge
5.8 Face
5.6 Fingers
130'
5.7
5.7
5.9
5.9 R
10c
5.8 R
5.9
5.7 lb Slick
120'
5-8
5.7 Step Right
5.9
5.9
5.4
5.8 Fingers
130'
3-5
5.8 R
5.6 R
110'
7-8
5.8 lb
3"
10a
5.9
5.7
5.4
5.9 Fingers Slick
CS Concerto
5.6
5.6
5.6
5.6 R
5.2
5.6
10a
Small nut
5.6 Fist
5.8 R
5.7 R
5.6 R
5.9 R
Parking

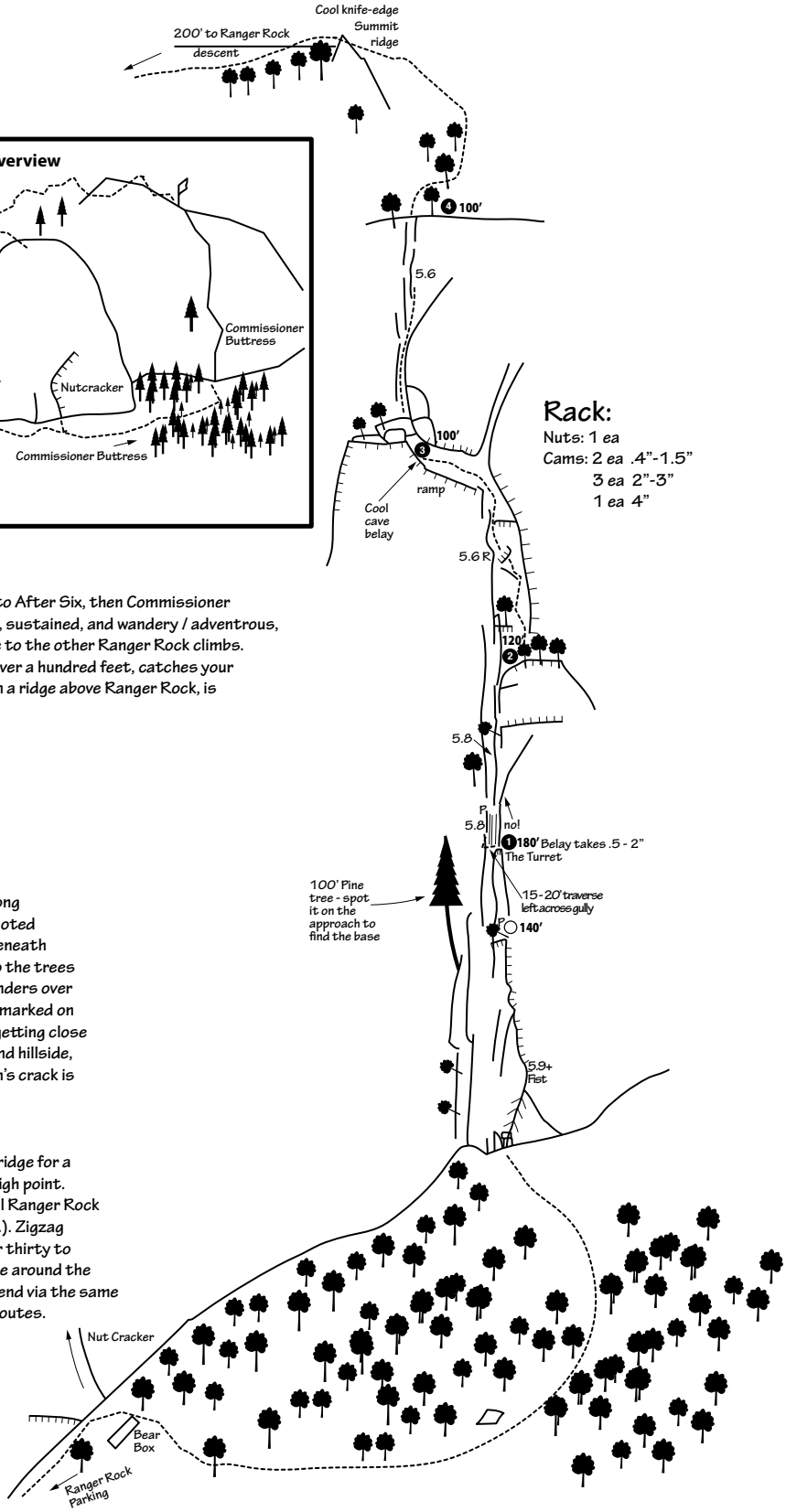
Northside

Priscilla Mewborne on Nutcracker, 5.8
Photo: Samuel Crossley

Commissioner Buttress III 5.9

FA: 1969. Galen Rowell, Joe Faint





If Nutrcracker is the older brother to After Six, then Commissioner Buttress is the unruly cousin - wide, sustained, and wandery / adventrous, this route is a super fun alternative to the other Ranger Rock climbs. The first pitch, which is 3" - 4" for over a hundred feet, catches your attention right away. The top out on a ridge above Ranger Rock, is sublime.

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .4"-1.5"
3 ea 2"-3"
1 ea 4"

Approach:

Walk up to Ranger Rock and continue along the base to underneath Nutcracker, denoted by a second bear box (first bear box is beneath After Six). Walk behind the bear box into the trees and follow a faint climbers trail that wanders over rolling hills. Look for the large pine tree (marked on the topo) to get an idea of when you're getting close to the base. The base area is a steep sand hillside, and has lots of brush, but the first pitch's crack is clean and very obvious.

Descent:

Scramble along the knife-edge summit ridge for a hundred feet or so until you reach the high point. You will be directly above the traditional Ranger Rock topouts (for After Six, Nutcracker, etc.). Zigzag down the fourth class cliff below you for thirty to forty feet, where you can easily traverse around the corner and into the descent gully. Descend via the same trail down the gully as all Ranger Rock routes.

Parking

Northside

Schultz's Ridge

Shultz's Ridge offers awesome right by the road climbing. The massive Southeast Face of El Capitan looms above the crag. Perfect, sandy beaches and the El Capitan Meadow are right around the corner. Park at one of two small pullouts 1.8 miles west of Camp 4. In winter, spring, and fall, Dan and Jerry's gets more sun because it faces southeast.

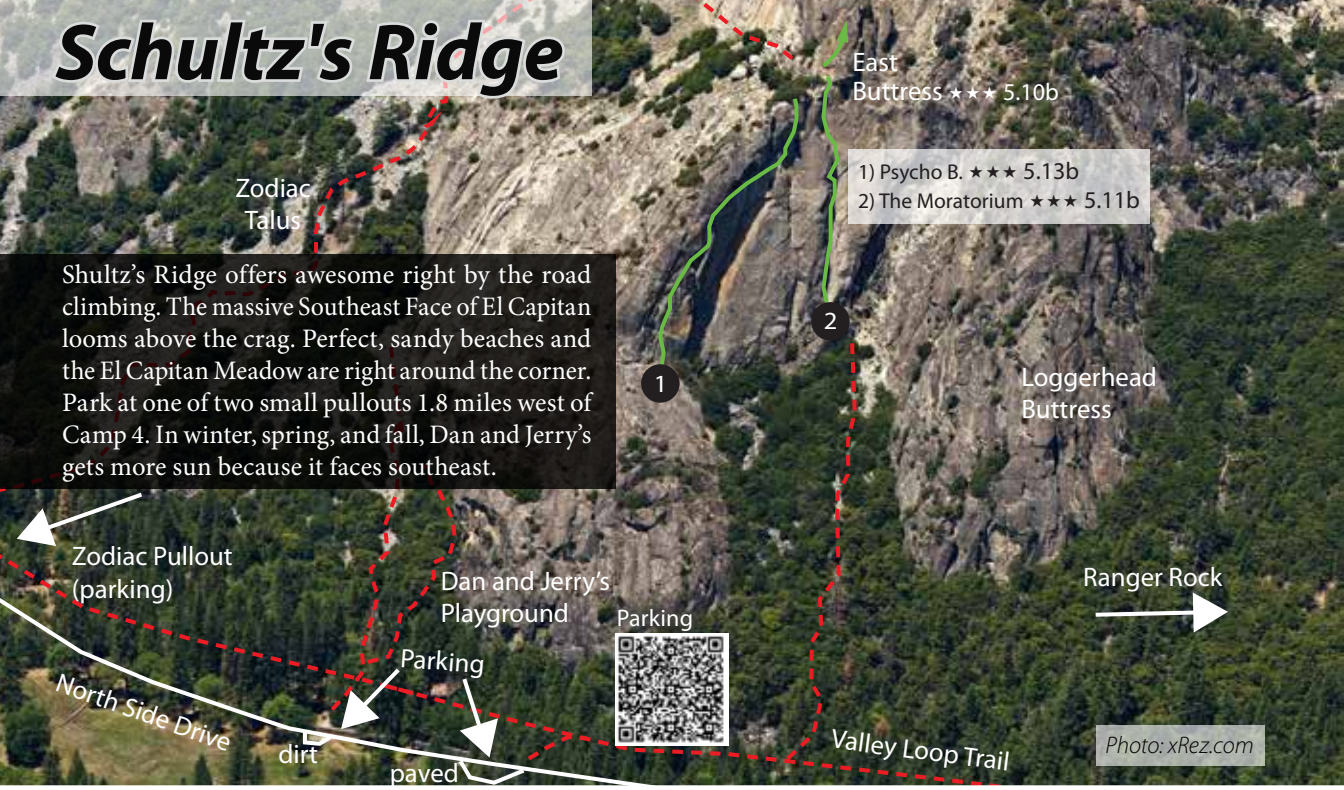


Photo: xRez.com

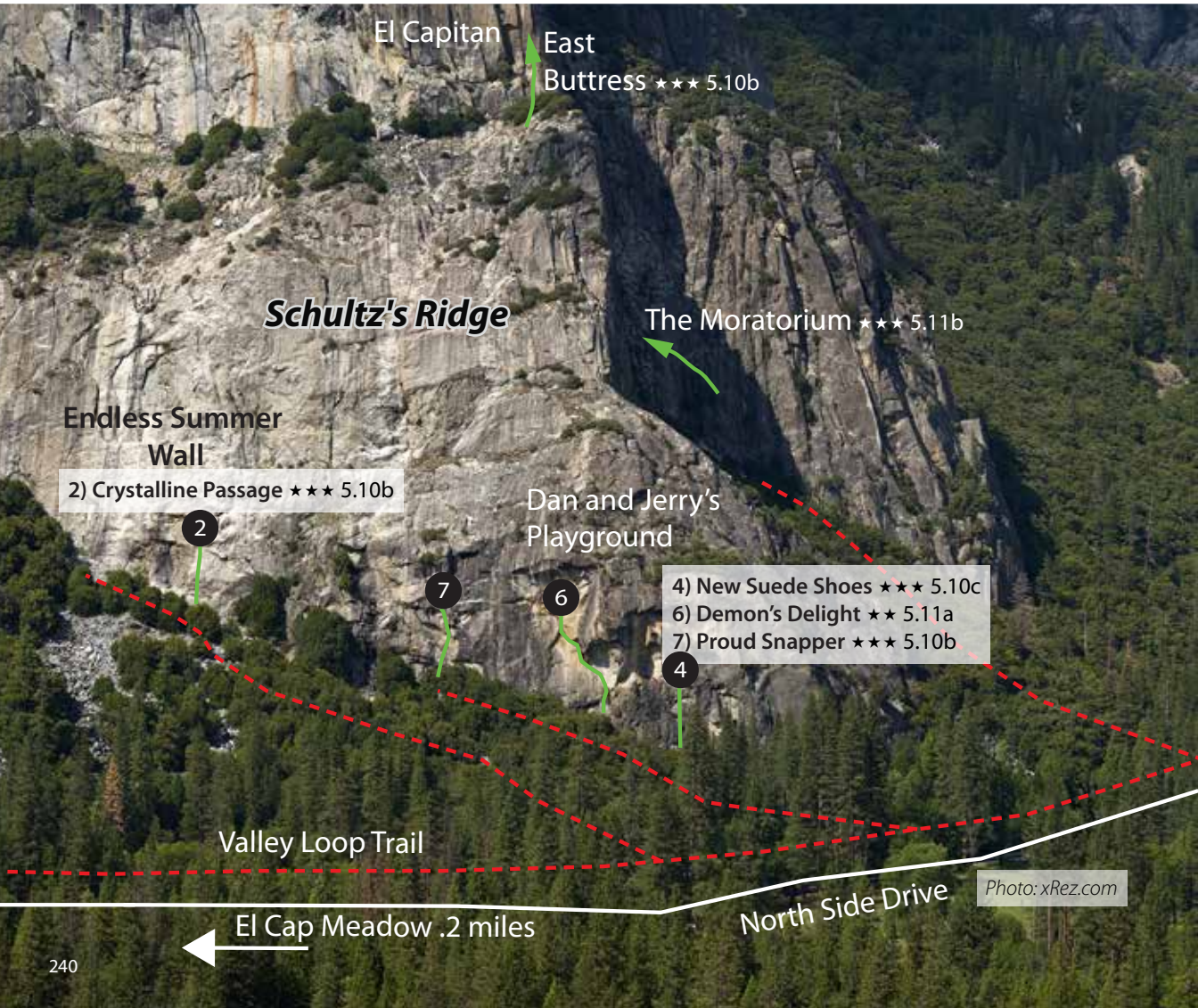
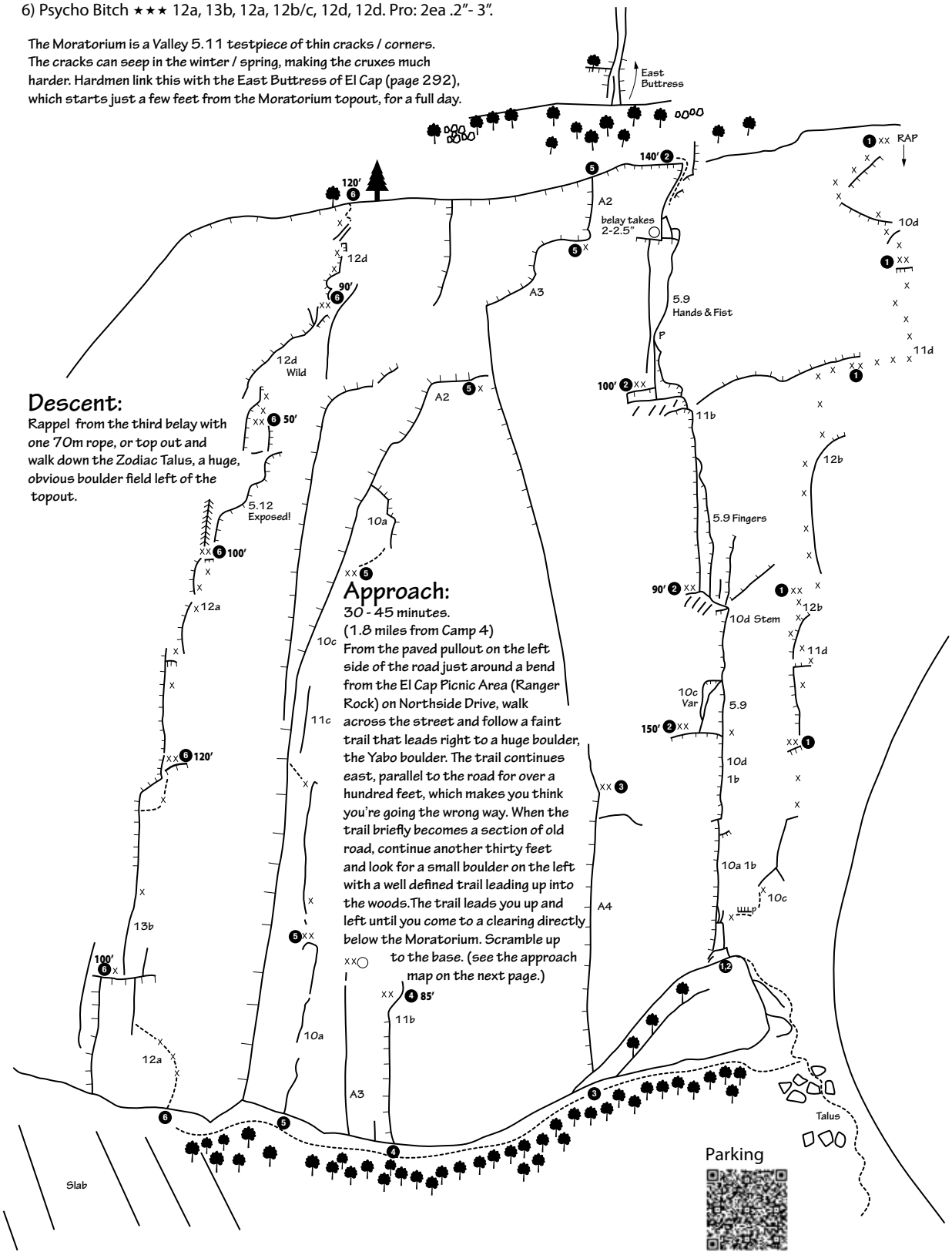


Photo: xRez.com

1) Burden of Dreams ★★ 10c, 12b, 12b, 11d, 10d. Pro: 1-2ea .3"-3". Stout, technical face climbing.
2) The Moratorium ★★★ 10d, 10d, 11b, 5.9. Pro: 2ea .2" - 2", 1ea 3". Tips liebacking / stemming forever. Maybe tough for the grade.
3) Creamatorium A4.
4) End Game 11b. Pro: 2-3ea 1.5" -3"
5) Abazaba 11b/c A3.
6) Psycho Bitch ★★★ 12a, 13b, 12a, 12b/c, 12d, 12d. Pro: 2ea .2"- 3".

The Moratorium is a Valley 5.11 testpiece of thin cracks / corners. The cracks can seep in the winter / spring, making the cruxes much harder. Hardmen link this with the East Buttress of El Cap (page 292), which starts just a few feet from the Moratorium topout, for a full day.



Descent:

Rappel from the third belay with one 70m rope, or top out and walk down the Zodiac Talus, a huge, obvious boulder field left of the topout.

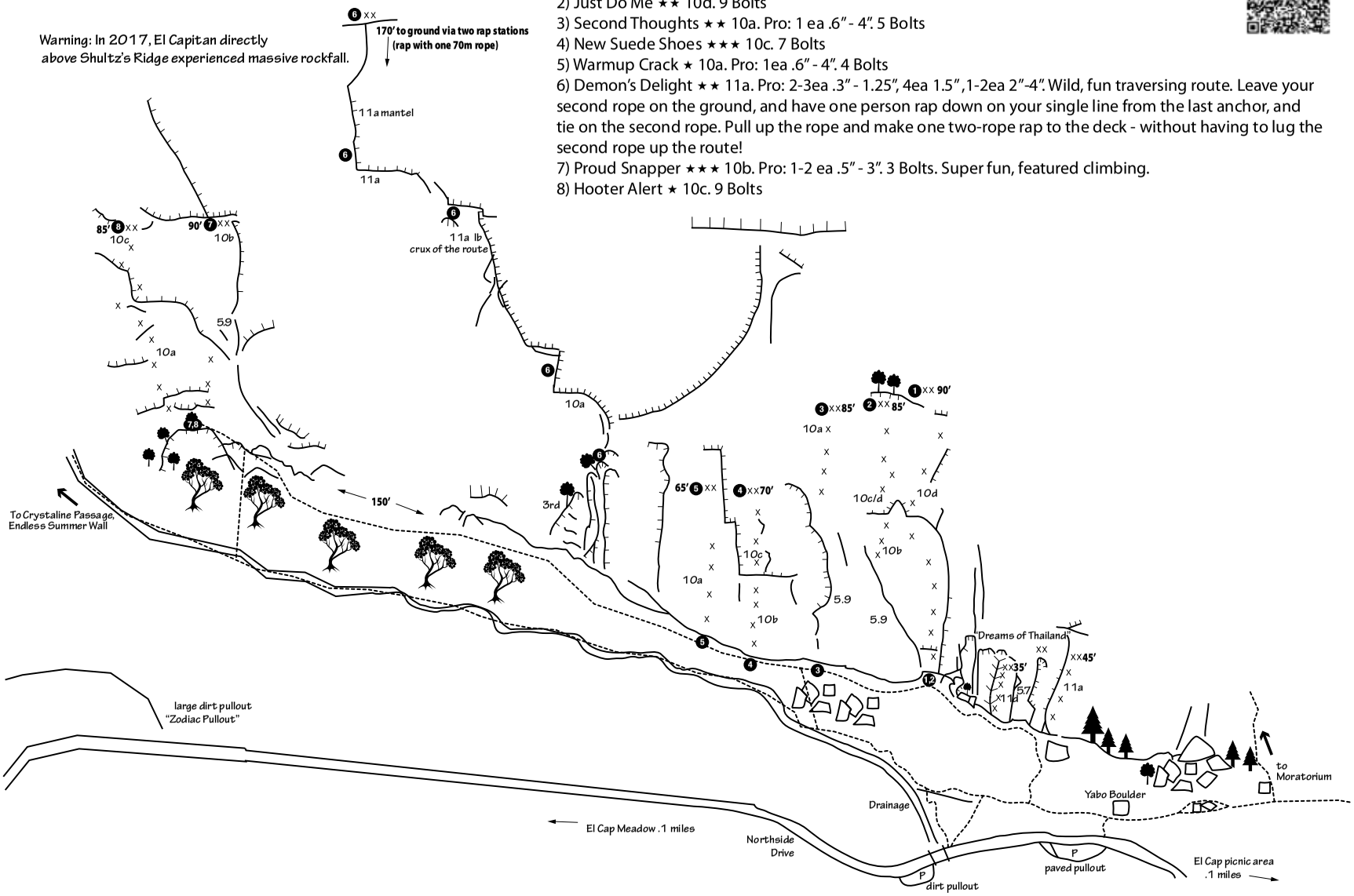
Approach:

30 - 45 minutes.
(1.8 miles from Camp 4)
From the paved pullout on the left side of the road just around a bend from the El Cap Picnic Area (Ranger Rock) on Northside Drive, walk across the street and follow a faint trail that leads right to a huge boulder, the Yabo boulder. The trail continues east, parallel to the road for over a hundred feet, which makes you think you're going the wrong way. When the trail briefly becomes a section of old road, continue another thirty feet and look for a small boulder on the left with a well defined trail leading up into the woods.The trail leads you up and left until you come to a clearing directly below the Moratorium. Scramble up to the base. (see the approach map on the next page.)

Northside

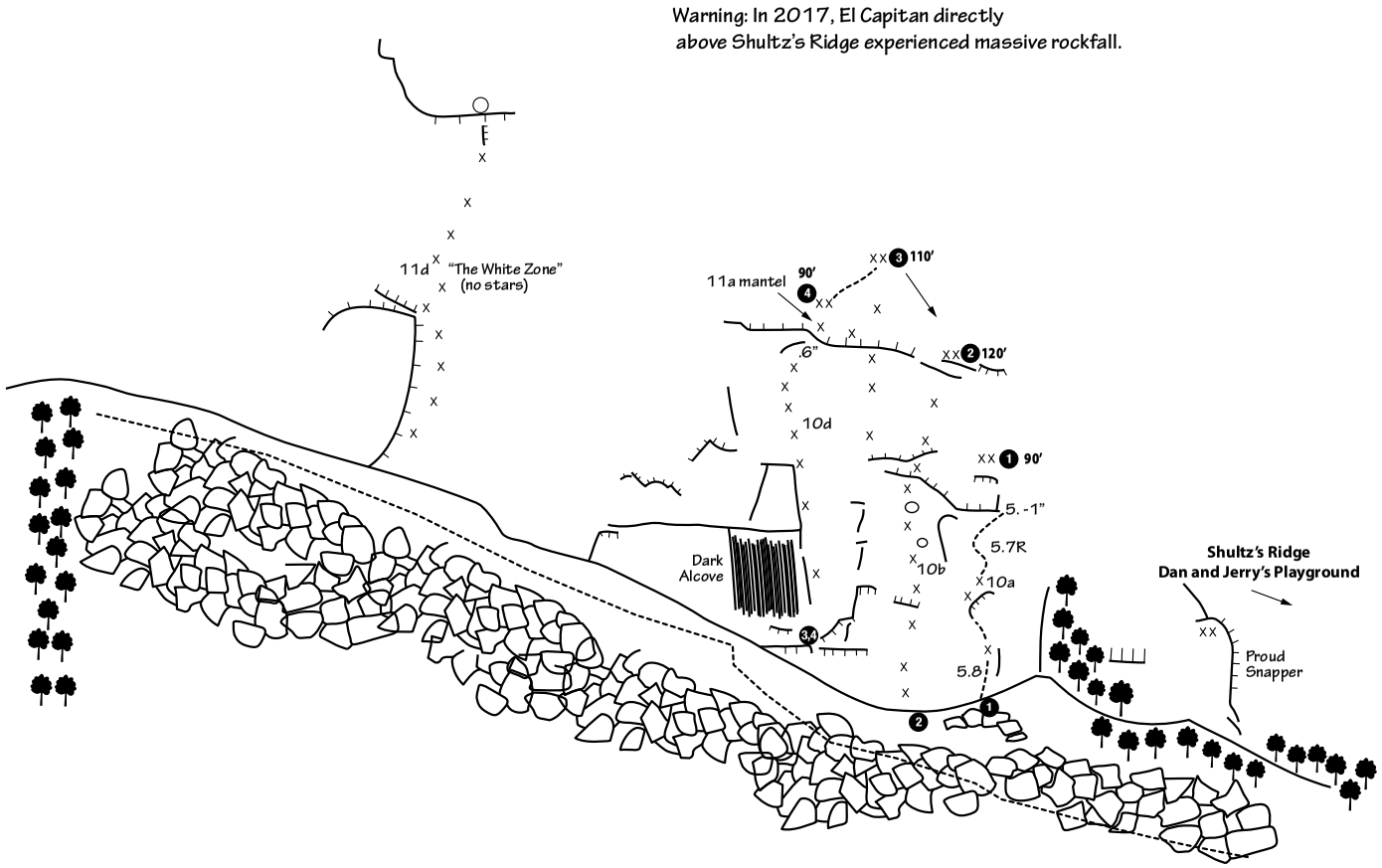
Parking

1) Are You Hard Enough ★★ 10d. 9 Bolts
2) Just Do Me ★★ 10d. 9 Bolts
3) Second Thoughts ★★ 10a. Pro: 1 ea .6" - 4". 5 Bolts
4) New Suede Shoes ★★★ 10c. 7 Bolts
5) Warmup Crack ★ 10a. Pro: 1ea .6" - 4". 4 Bolts
6) Demon's Delight ★★ 11a. Pro: 2-3ea .3" - 1.25", 4ea 1.5",1-2ea 2"-4". Wild, fun traversing route. Leave your second rope on the ground, and have one person rap down on your single line from the last anchor, and tie on the second rope. Pull up the rope and make one two-rope rap to the deck - without having to lug the second rope up the route!
7) Proud Snapper ★★★ 10b. Pro: 1-2 ea .5" - 3". 3 Bolts. Super fun, featured climbing.
8) Hooter Alert ★ 10c. 9 Bolts



Parking

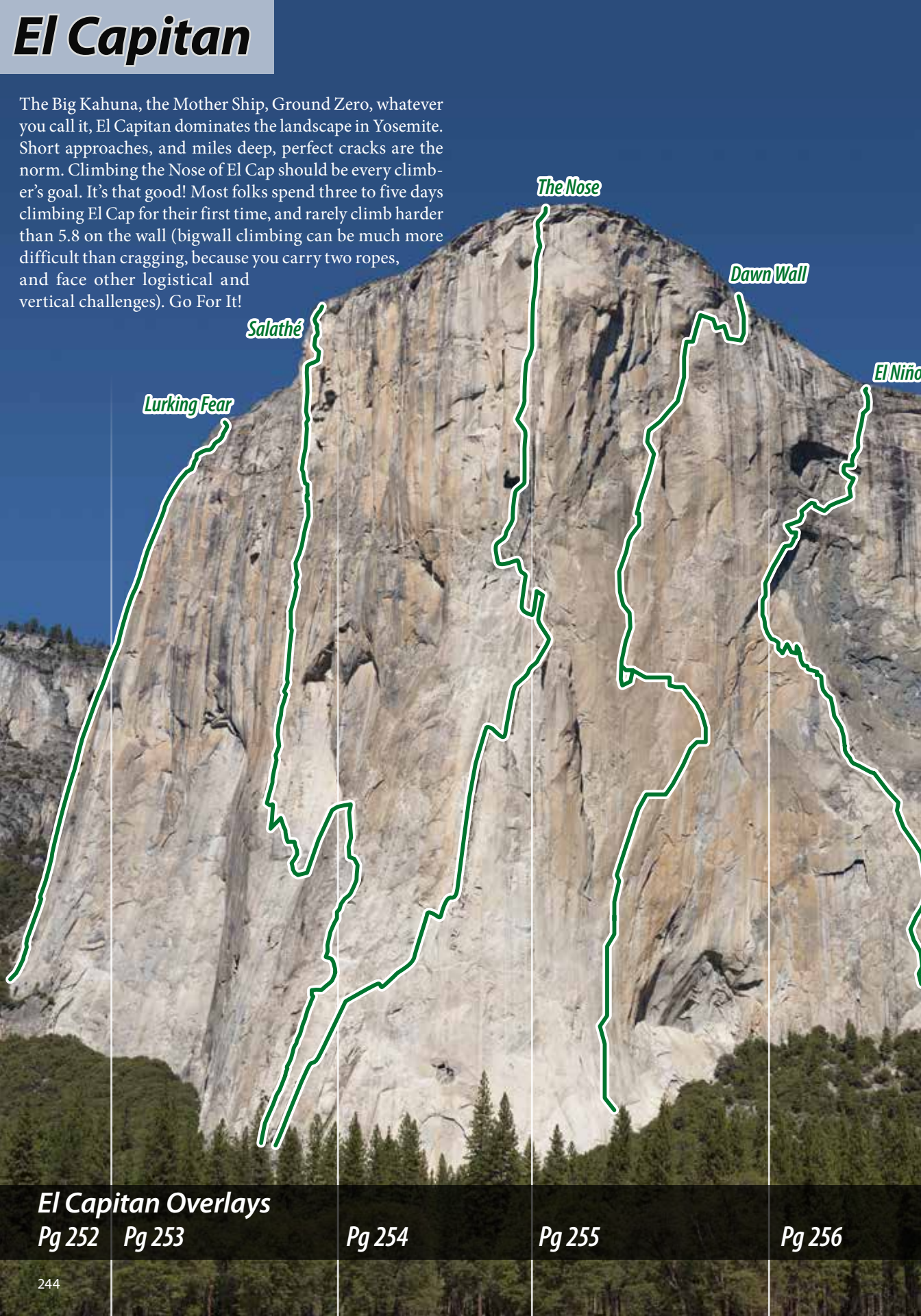
1) Bikini Beach Party ★ 10a R. Pro: 1ea .75",1.25". The crux is well protected, but plenty of runnout 5.7 / 5.8 on this pitch.
2) Crystalline Passage ★★★ 10b. 10 Bolts.
3) Gidget Goes To Yosemite ★ 5.9. Pro: 1ea .3" - 1". Challenging, hard to protect climbing at the beginning.
4) Caught At The Lip ★ 11a. 8 Bolts, 1ea .6" piece (optional)



Northside

El Capitan

The Big Kahuna, the Mother Ship, Ground Zero, whatever you call it, El Capitan dominates the landscape in Yosemite. Short approaches, and miles deep, perfect cracks are the norm. Climbing the Nose of El Cap should be every climber's goal. It's that good! Most folks spend three to five days climbing El Cap for their first time, and rarely climb harder than 5.8 on the wall (bigwall climbing can be much more difficult than cragging, because you carry two ropes, and face other logistical and vertical challenges). Go For It!



El Capitan Overlays

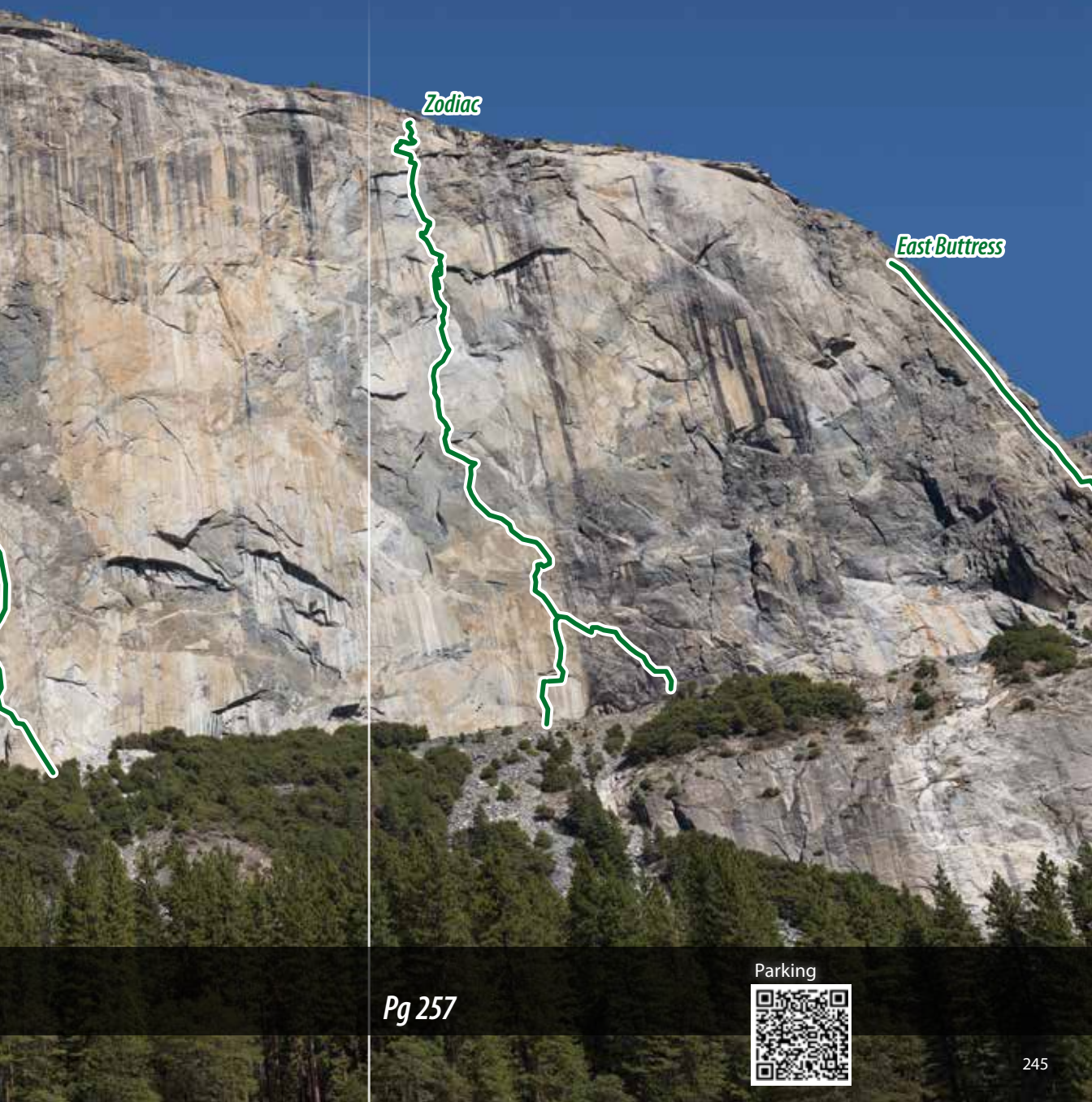
Pg 252 Pg 253 Pg 254 Pg 255 Pg 256

Approach

Approach most El Cap routes by parking on Northside Drive by the meadow directly below the cliff. Take the obvious trail just west of the intersection of Northside Drive and El Cap Crossover ten - fifteen minutes to the base of the *Nose*. For the routes from Lurking Fear to Zodiac you just follow a trail along the base of the wall. For routes to the right of the *North America Wall (dark rock to the right of El Niño)*, park at the large 'Zodiac Pullout' on the right of Northside drive ~500' before (east of) El Cap Meadow. Walk into a clearing and then go right, around a large boulder and angle up to the talus field above. Hike directly up the talus to the base of the wall. If you have a particularly heavy load, you may want to use the standard (Nose) approach - but better to just take two, moderate loads. Bear boxes are located at both this turnout and at El Capitan Bridge.

Descent

See page 294 for the East Ledges Descent.



To West Face

SW Face

The Freeblast

The Nose

Delectable Pinnacle

Sickle Ledge

The Alcove

The Gollum

The Footstool

SW Face

1) La Escuela ★★ 5.11b
8) La Cosita, Right ★★★ 5.9
9) Little John, Left ★★ 5.8
11) Little John, Right ★★ 5.8

Nose/Salathe Base

8) Freeblast ★★★ 5.11b
11) Pine Line ★★★ 5.7

SE Face

1) Footstool, Right ★★ 5.6
5) Footstool, Left ★ 5.8 R

The El Cap Base offers some slick, splitter cracks. Super popular, there is also more rockfall and falling gear here. Many of the long El Cap routes, like the *Salathé Wall*, climb right above these base routes. So wear your helmet as soon as you get to the wall. The base gets good sun—it's perfect in the fall, winter, and spring. You have to go early to catch a little shade in the summer. The Footstool is an amazing lunch ledge!

Northside Drive

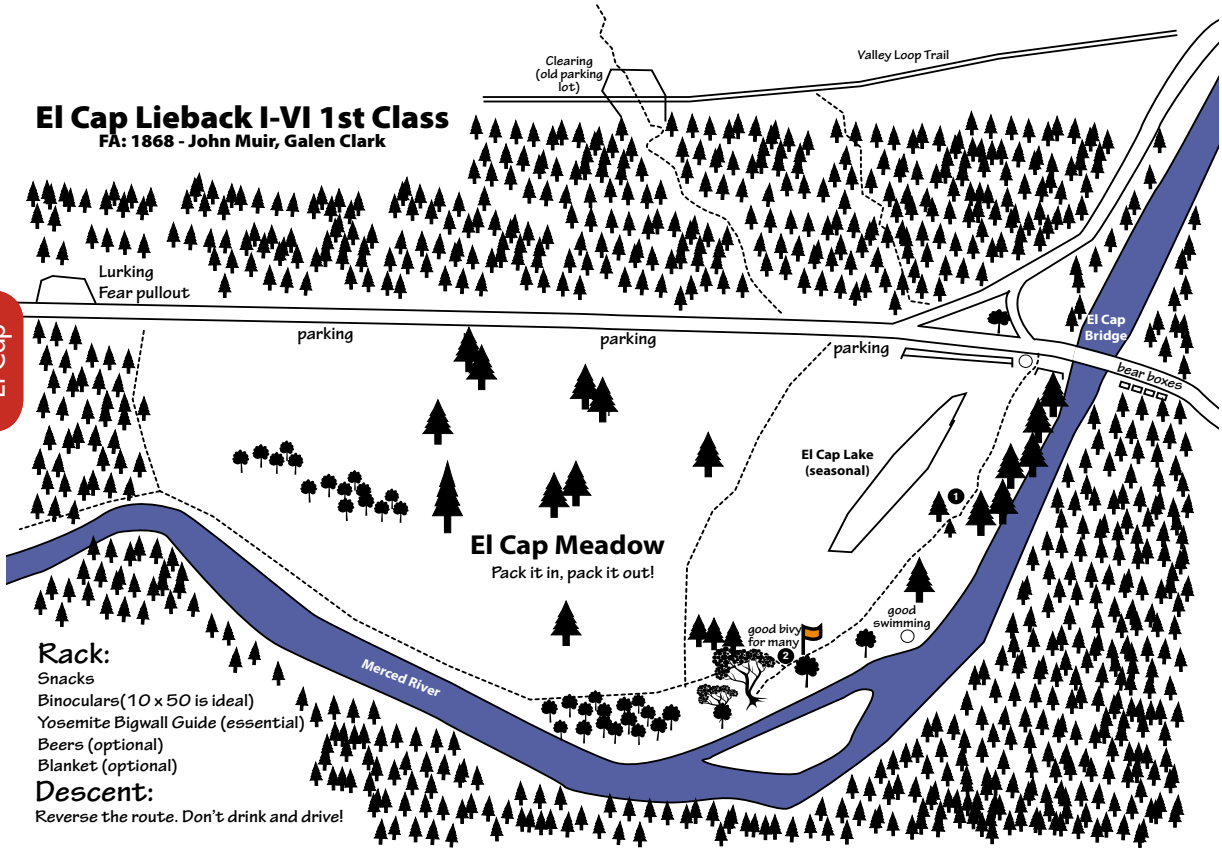
Photo: xRez.com

El Cap Meadow

El Cap Crossover

El Cap Lieback I-VI 1st Class

FA: 1868 - John Muir, Galen Clark



Rack:

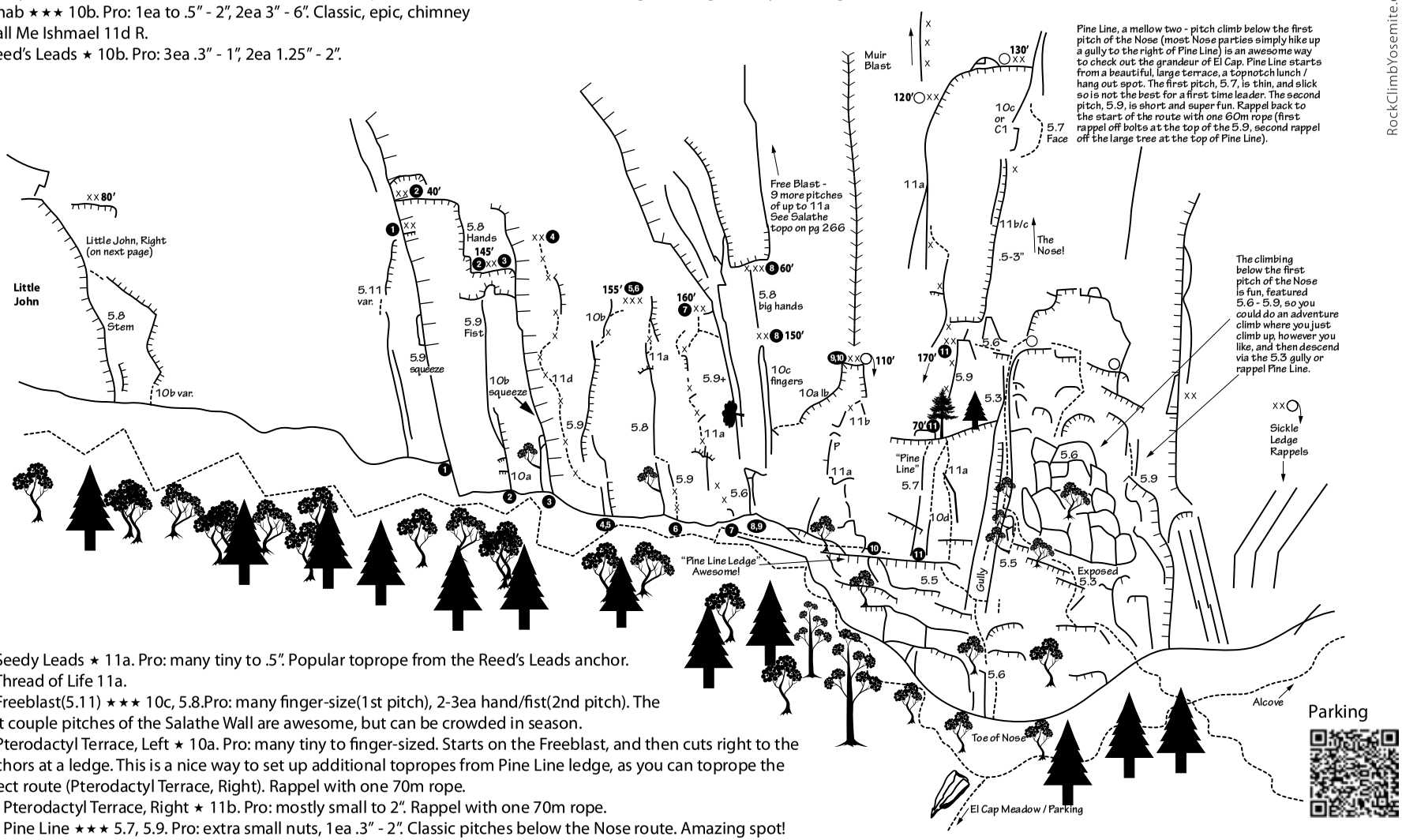
Snacks
Binoculars(10 x 50 is ideal)
Yosemite Bigwall Guide (essential)
Beers (optional)
Blanket (optional)

Descent:

Reverse the route. Don't drink and drive!

El Cap Base - Nose/Salathe Base

1) Moby Dick, Left ★★ 5.9+. Pro: 2ea to .5" - 4". Leaning, polished, burly chimney-fest. Lots of pro in the back at least - so no need for bigger cams.
2) Moby Dick, Center ★★★ 10a, 5.8. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 4" (optional 3 ea 4"). A short, technical finger crack gives way to a long fist and off-fist crack.
3) Ahab ★★★ 10b. Pro: 1ea to .5" - 2", 2ea 3" - 6". Classic, epic, chimney
4) Call Me Ishmael 11d R.
5) Reed's Leads ★ 10b. Pro: 3ea .3" - 1", 2ea 1.25" - 2".



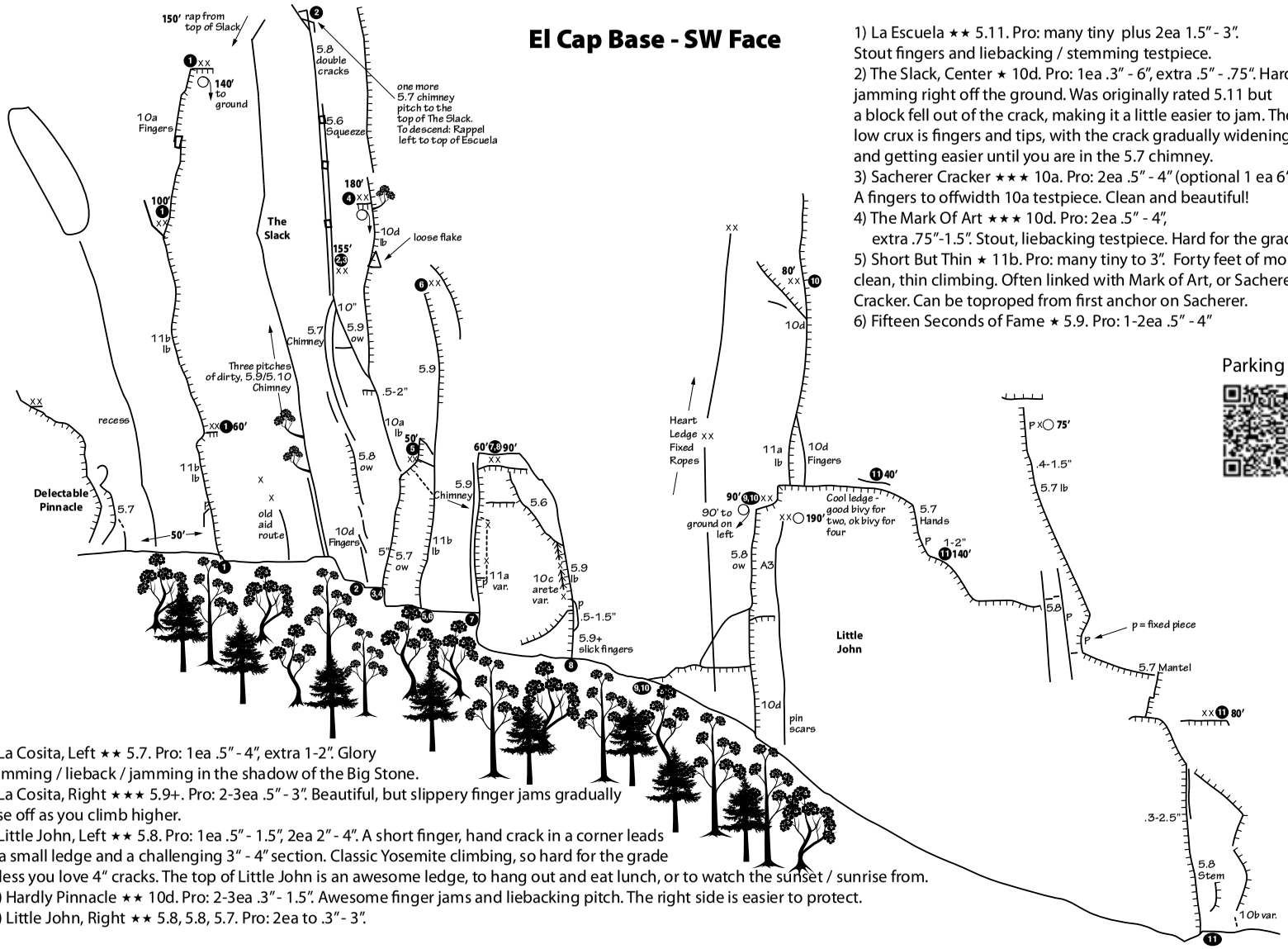
6) Seedy Leads ★ 11a. Pro: many tiny to .5". Popular toprope from the Reed's Leads anchor.
7) Thread of Life 11a.
8) Freeblast(5.11) ★★★ 10c, 5.8.Pro: many finger-size(1st pitch), 2-3ea hand/fist(2nd pitch). The first couple pitches of the Salathe Wall are awesome, but can be crowded in season.
9) Pterodactyl Terrace, Left ★ 10a. Pro: many tiny to finger-sized. Starts on the Freeblast, and then cuts right to the anchors at a ledge. This is a nice way to set up additional topropes from Pine Line ledge, as you can toprope the direct route (Pterodactyl Terrace, Right). Rappel with one 70m rope.
10) Pterodactyl Terrace, Right ★ 11b. Pro: mostly small to 2". Rappel with one 70m rope.
11) Pine Line ★★★ 5.7, 5.9. Pro: extra small nuts, 1ea .3" - 2". Classic pitches below the Nose route. Amazing spot!

RockClimbYosemite.com

El Cap Base - SW Face

1) La Escuela ★★ 5.11. Pro: many tiny plus 2ea 1.5" - 3". Stout fingers and liebacking / stemming testpiece.
2) The Slack, Center ★ 10d. Pro: 1ea .3" - 6", extra .5" - .75". Hard jamming right off the ground. Was originally rated 5.11 but a block fell out of the crack, making it a little easier to jam. The low crux is fingers and tips, with the crack gradually widening, and getting easier until you are in the 5.7 chimney.
3) Sacherer Cracker ★★★ 10a. Pro: 2ea .5" - 4" (optional 1 ea 6"). A fingers to offwidth 10a testpiece. Clean and beautiful!
4) The Mark Of Art ★★★ 10d. Pro: 2ea .5" - 4", extra .75"-1.5". Stout, liebacking testpiece. Hard for the grade.
5) Short But Thin ★ 11b. Pro: many tiny to 3". Forty feet of mostly clean, thin climbing. Often linked with Mark of Art, or Sacherer Cracker. Can be toproped from first anchor on Sacherer.
6) Fifteen Seconds of Fame ★ 5.9. Pro: 1-2ea .5" - 4"

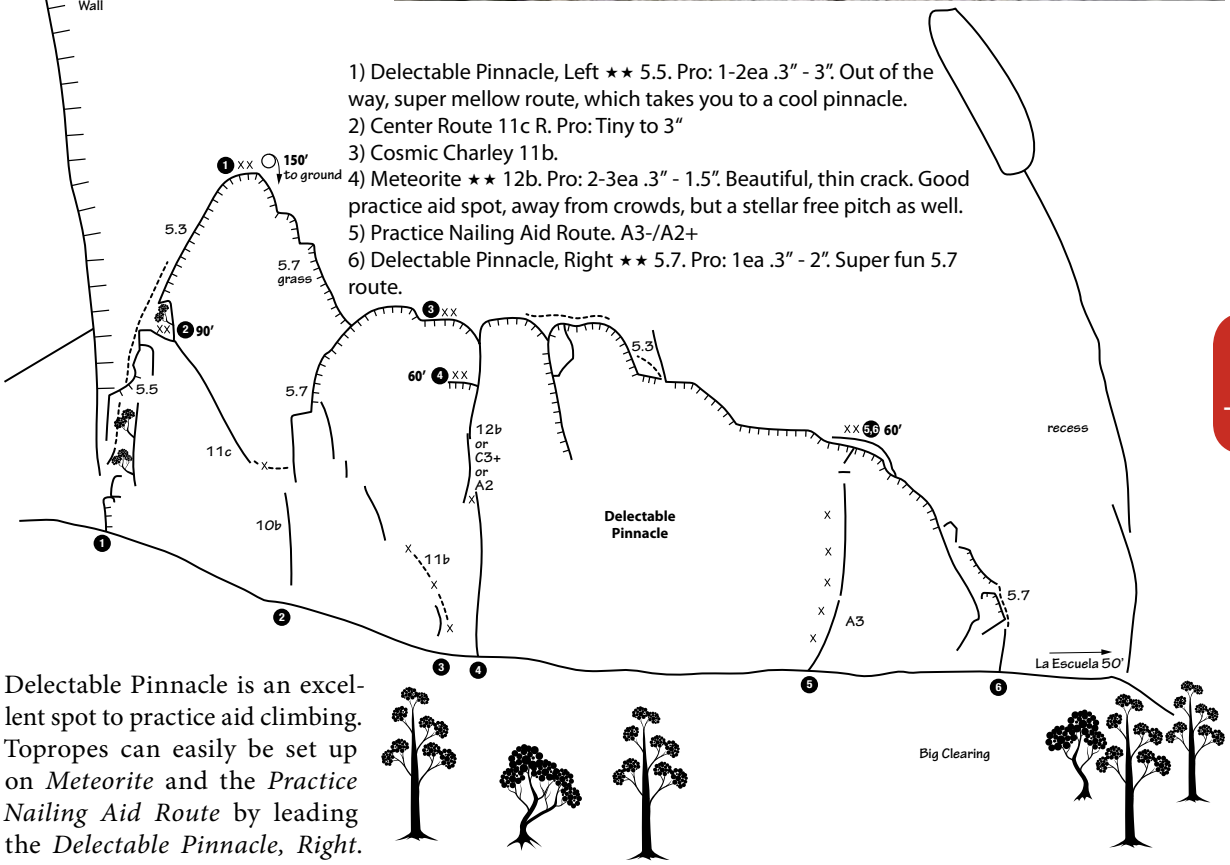
Parking



7) La Cosita, Left ★★ 5.7. Pro: 1ea .5" - 4", extra 1-2". Glory stemming / lieback / jamming in the shadow of the Big Stone.
8) La Cosita, Right ★★★ 5.9+. Pro: 2-3ea .5" - 3". Beautiful, but slippery finger jams gradually ease off as you climb higher.
9) Little John, Left ★★ 5.8. Pro: 1ea .5" - 1.5", 2ea 2" - 4". A short finger, hand crack in a corner leads to a small ledge and a challenging 3" - 4" section. Classic Yosemite climbing, so hard for the grade unless you love 4" cracks. The top of Little John is an awesome ledge, to hang out and eat lunch, or to watch the sunset / sunrise from.
10) Hardly Pinnacle ★★ 10d. Pro: 2-3ea .3" - 1.5". Awesome finger jams and liebacking pitch. The right side is easier to protect.
11) Little John, Right ★★ 5.8, 5.8, 5.7. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 3".

Gina Edwards on Moby Dick, 5.10b
Photo: Adam Freund

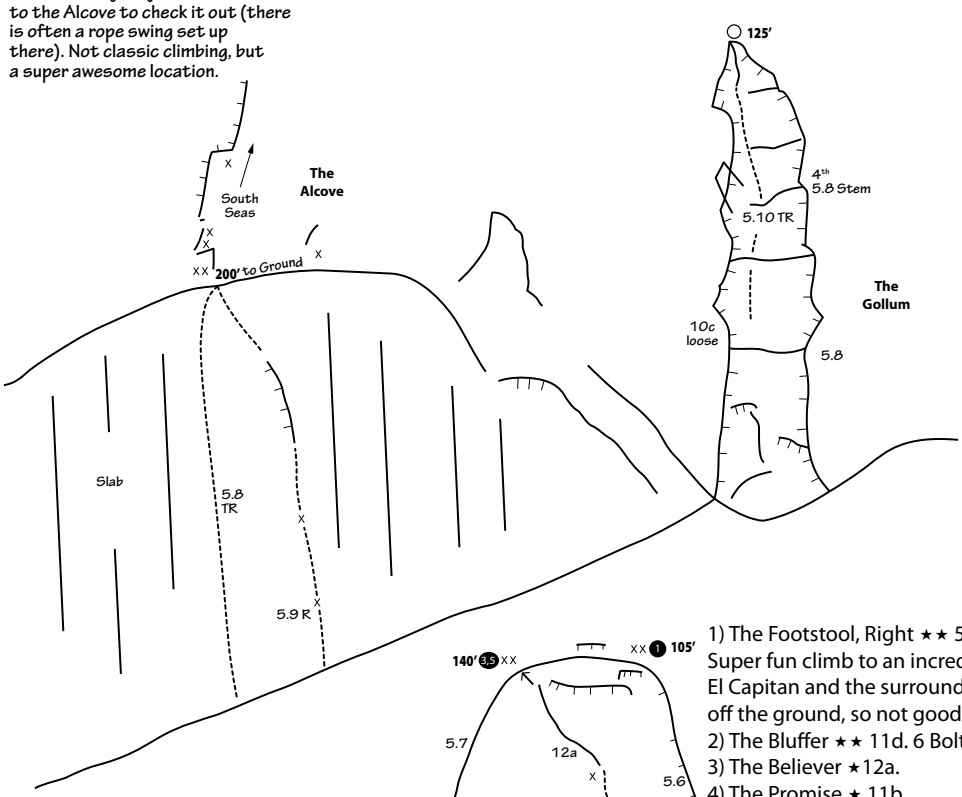
1) Delectable Pinnacle, Left ★★ 5.5. Pro: 1-2ea .3" - 3". Out of the way, super mellow route, which takes you to a cool pinnacle.
2) Center Route 11c R. Pro: Tiny to 3"
3) Cosmic Charley 11b.
4) Meteorite ★★ 12b. Pro: 2-3ea .3" - 1.5". Beautiful, thin crack. Good practice aid spot, away from crowds, but a stellar free pitch as well.
5) Practice Nailing Aid Route. A3-/A2+
6) Delectable Pinnacle, Right ★★ 5.7. Pro: 1ea .3" - 2". Super fun 5.7 route.

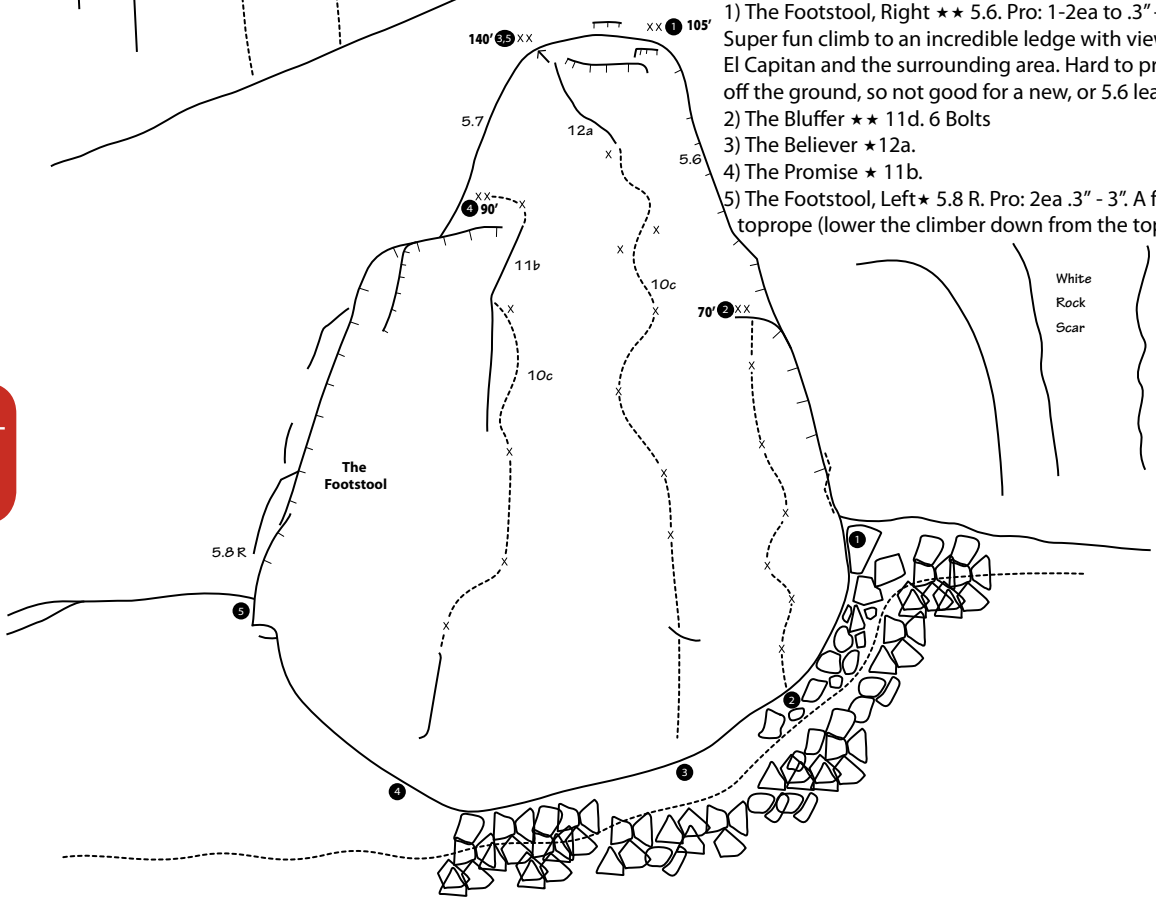


Delectable Pinnacle is an excellent spot to practice aid climbing. Topropes can easily be set up on *Meteorite* and the *Practice Nailing Aid Route* by leading the *Delectable Pinnacle, Right*.

El Cap Base - Southeast Face

The Alcove and Gollum climbs are more consolation climbs if the weather looks sketchy, or you want to hike to the Alcove to check it out (there is often a rope swing set up there). Not classic climbing, but a super awesome location.





1) The Footstool, Right ★★ 5.6. Pro: 1-2ea to .3" - 2". Super fun climb to an incredible ledge with views of El Capitan and the surrounding area. Hard to protect off the ground, so not good for a new, or 5.6 leader.
2) The Bluffer ★★ 11d. 6 Bolts
3) The Believer ★12a.
4) The Promise ★ 11b.
5) The Footstool, Left★ 5.8 R. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3". A fun toprope (lower the climber down from the top)

Trevor Violette on La Cosita, Right 5.9
Photo: Adam Freund

El Cap - West Face

Respect Raptors! Some routes may be closed for nesting Peregrine Falcons, usually from the beginning of March to mid July. See page 18 for more info.

Photo: Ryan Kirtland

Southwest Face

1) Lurking Fear ★★ 5.13c
2) West Buttress ★ 5.13c
3) Dihedral Wall ★★★ 5.14a
4) Free Heart Route ★★★ 5.13c
5) Salathé Wall ★★★ 5.13
5a) Freerider ★★★ 5.12d
6) Golden Gate ★★★ 5.13a
7) El Corazón ★★★ 5.13c
8) Magic Mushroom ★★★ 5.14a

Photo: xRez.com

Southwest Face

Respect Raptors! Some routes on Southwest Face may be closed for nesting Peregrine Falcons, usually from the beginning of March to mid July. See page 18 for more info.

1) Dihedral Wall ★★★ 5.14a
2) Golden Gate ★★★ 5.13a
3) Free Heart Route ★★★ 5.13c
4) El Corazon ★★★ 5.13b
5) Free Magic Mushroom ★★★ 5.14a
6) Muir Wall - The Shaft ★★★ 5.13c
6a) Muir Wall - The Premuir ★★★ 5.13c
7) Salathé Wall ★★★ 5.13
7a) Freerider ★★★ 5.12d
8) Triple Direct ★★★ 5.14a
9) The Direct (Platinum Wall) ★★★ 5.13d
10) The Nose ★★★ 5.14a

Photo: xRez.com

The Dawn Wall

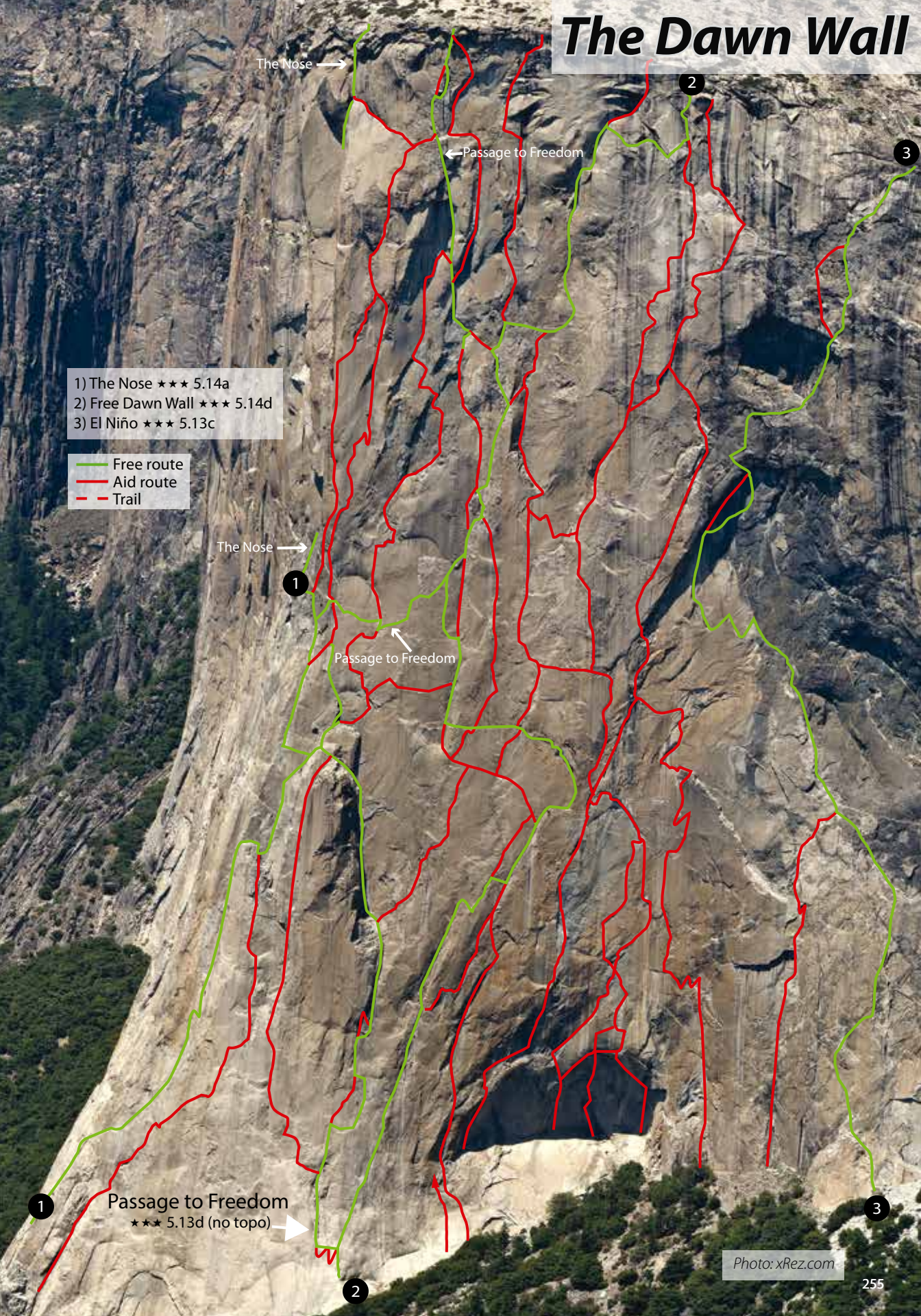
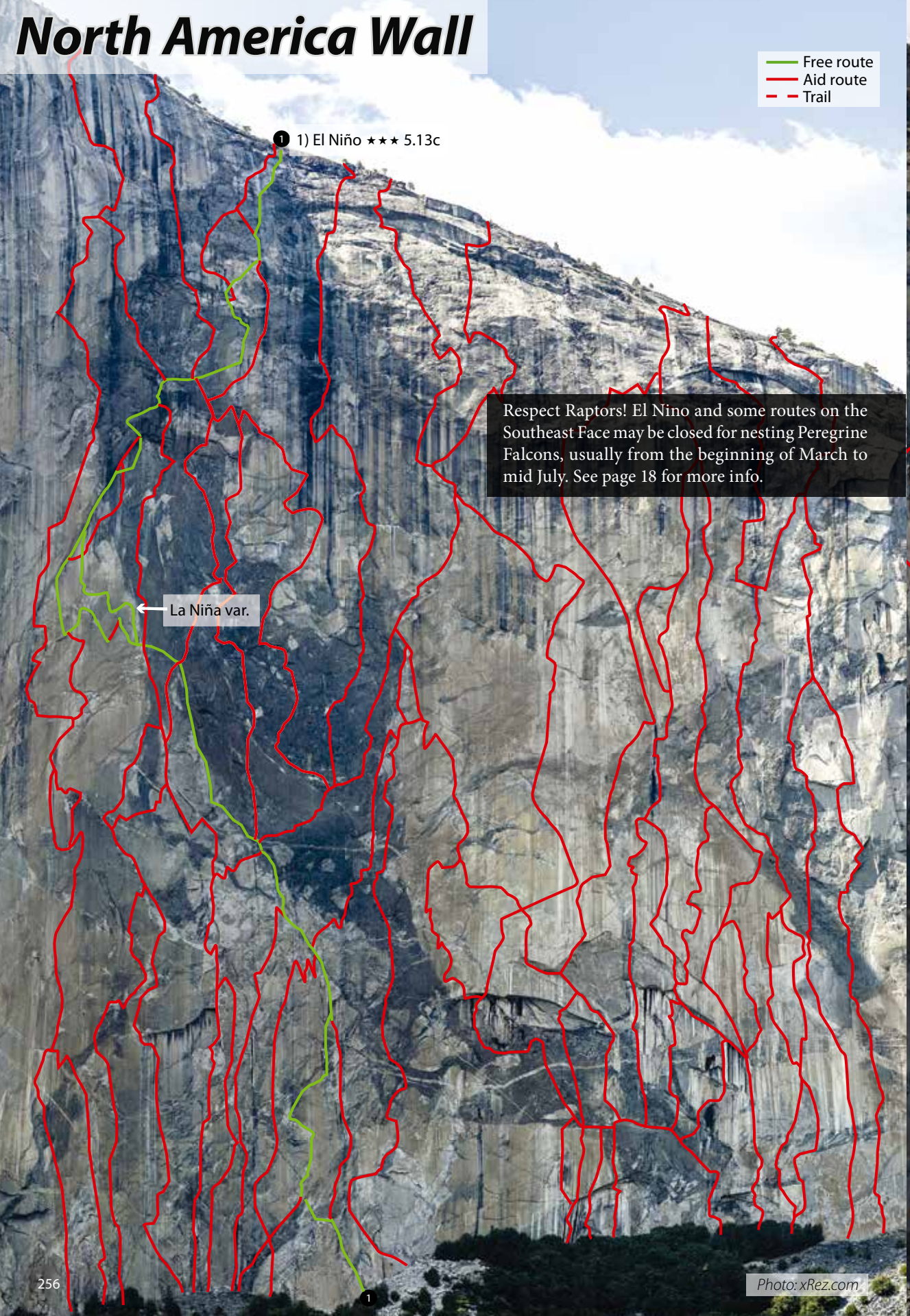


Photo: xRez.com

North America Wall



Respect Raptors! El Nino and some routes on the Southeast Face may be closed for nesting Peregrine Falcons, usually from the beginning of March to mid July. See page 18 for more info.

Photo: xRez.com

Southeast Face

Photo: xRez.com

West Face IV 5.11c or V 5.10 C1+

FA: June 1967 - TM Herbert, Royal Robbins
FFA: May 1979 - Ray Jardine, Bill Price

History:

Ray Jardine led the push to free climb the West Face two years after establishing Yosemite's first 5.13, the Phoenix (5.13a, at Cascade Falls). Jardine invented caming devices, which he called 'Friends'.

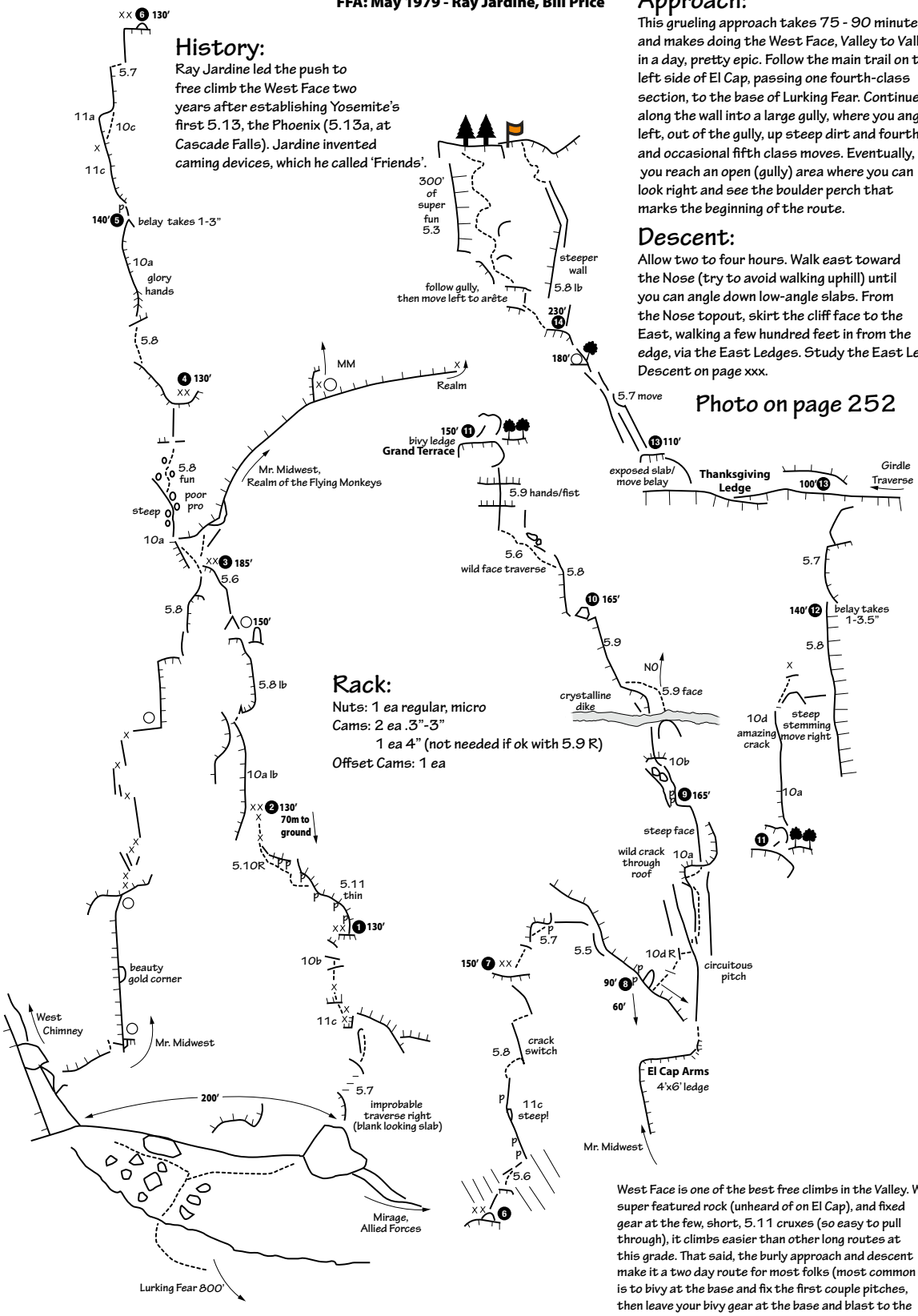
Approach:

This grueling approach takes 75 - 90 minutes, and makes doing the West Face, Valley to Valley in a day, pretty epic. Follow the main trail on the left side of El Cap, passing one fourth-class section, to the base of Lurking Fear. Continue along the wall into a large gully, where you angle left, out of the gully, up steep dirt and fourth and occasional fifth class moves. Eventually, you reach an open (gully) area where you can look right and see the boulder perch that marks the beginning of the route.

Descent:

Allow two to four hours. Walk east toward the Nose (try to avoid walking uphill) until you can angle down low-angle slabs. From the Nose topout, skirt the cliff face to the East, walking a few hundred feet in from the edge, via the East Ledges. Study the East Ledges Descent on page xxx.

Photo on page 252



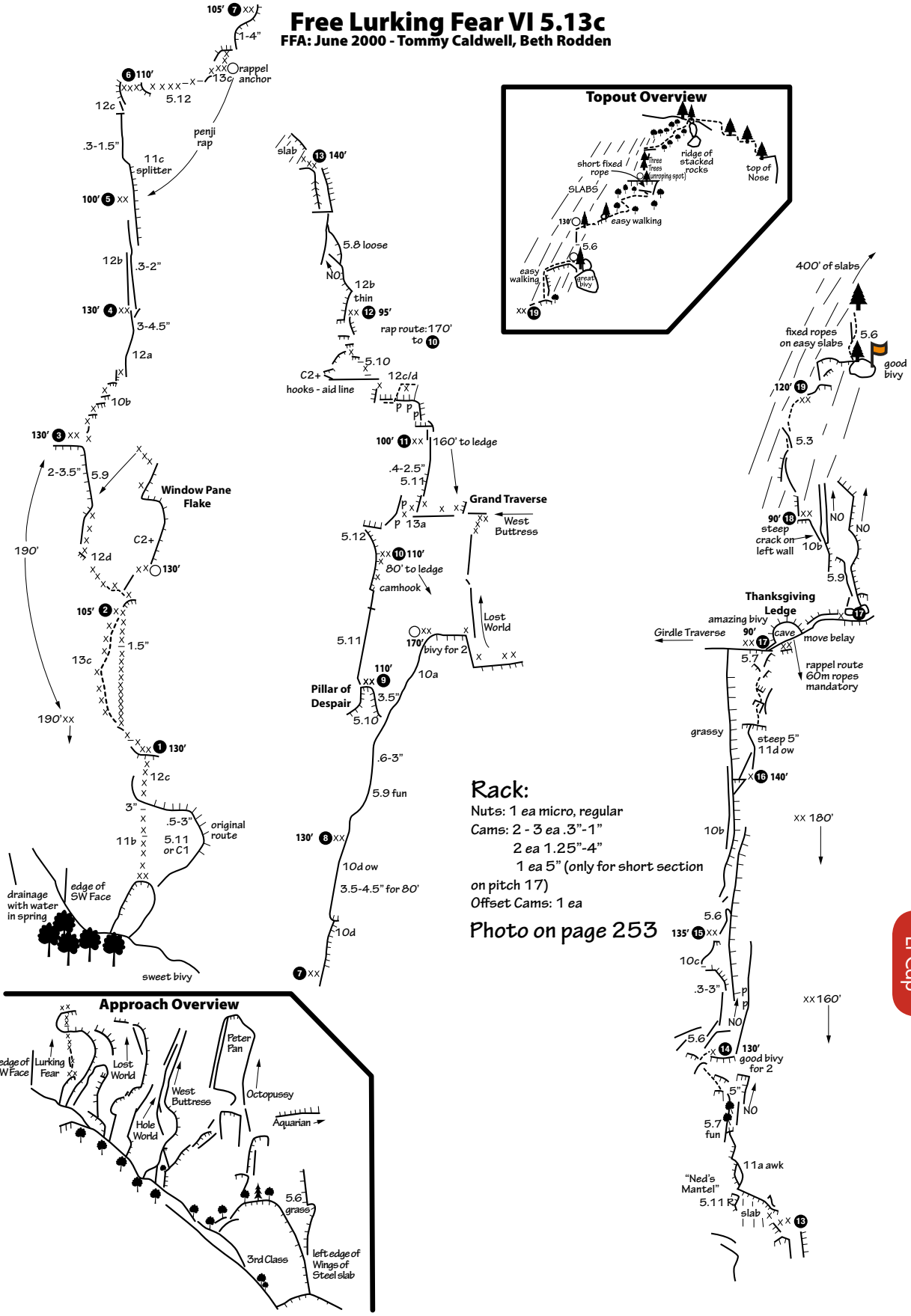
Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea regular, micro
Cams: 2 ea .3"-3"
1 ea 4" (not needed if ok with 5.9 R)
Offset Cams: 1 ea

West Face is one of the best free climbs in the Valley. With super featured rock (unheard of on El Cap), and fixed gear at the few, short, 5.11 cruxes (so easy to pull through), it climbs easier than other long routes at this grade. That said, the burly approach and descent make it a two day route for most folks (most common is to bivy at the base and fix the first couple pitches, then leave your bivy gear at the base and blast to the top, returning later to grab your sleeping stuff).

Free Lurking Fear VI 5.13c

FFA: June 2000 - Tommy Caldwell, Beth Rodden



Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea micro, regular
Cams: 2 - 3 ea .3"-1"
2 ea 1.25"-4"
1 ea 5" (only for short section on pitch 17)
Offset Cams: 1 ea

Photo on page 253

Free West Buttress VI 5.13c

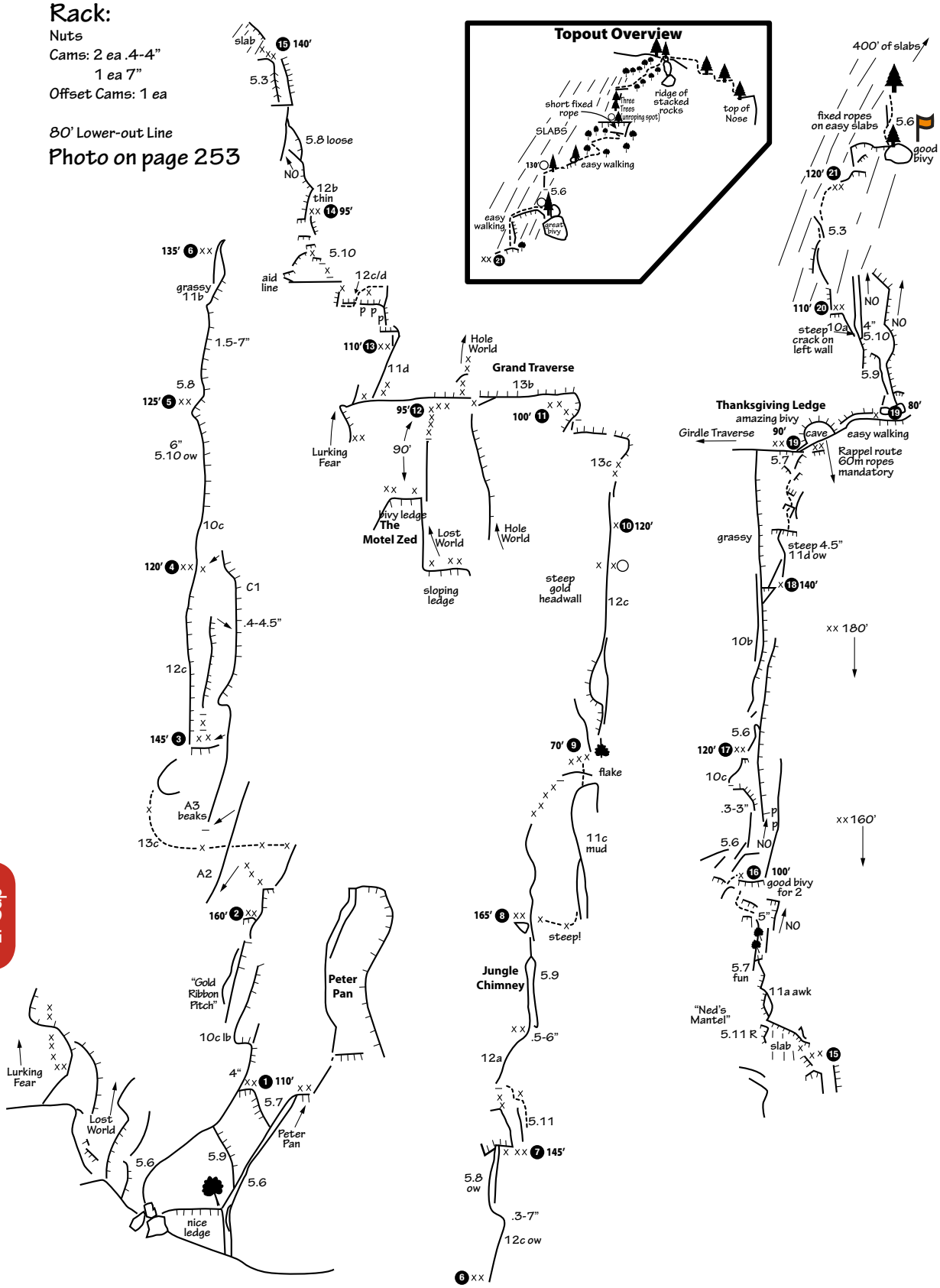
FFA: June 2003 - Tommy Caldwell, Beth Rodden

Rack:

Nuts
Cams: 2 ea .4-4"
1 ea 7"
Offset Cams: 1 ea

80' Lower-out Line

Photo on page 253



The West Face of El Cap is one of the most incredible long free routes in the Valley. The rock is super featured. Fixed pieces at the cruxes make it easy to pull through the 5.11 parts. Go For It!

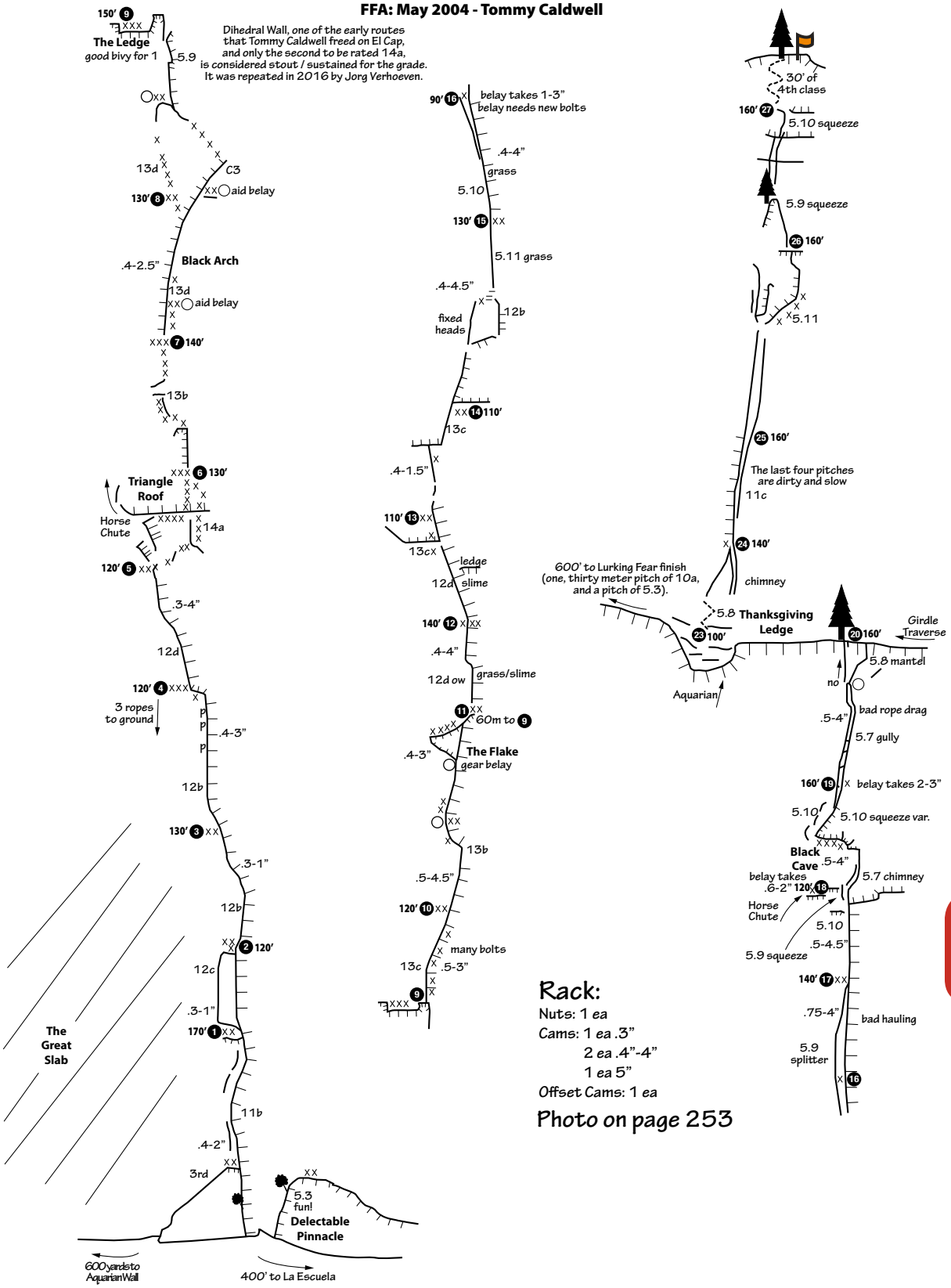
Adam Long on the West Face, 5.11c
Photo: Lucas Barth

Tommy Caldwell on the first free ascent of the Dihedral Wall, 5.14a
Photo: Corey Rich

Free Dihedral Wall VI 5.14a

FFA: May 2004 - Tommy Caldwell

Dihedral Wall, one of the early routes that Tommy Caldwell freed on El Cap, and only the second to be rated 14a, is considered stout / sustained for the grade. It was repeated in 2016 by Jorg Verhoeven.



Rack:

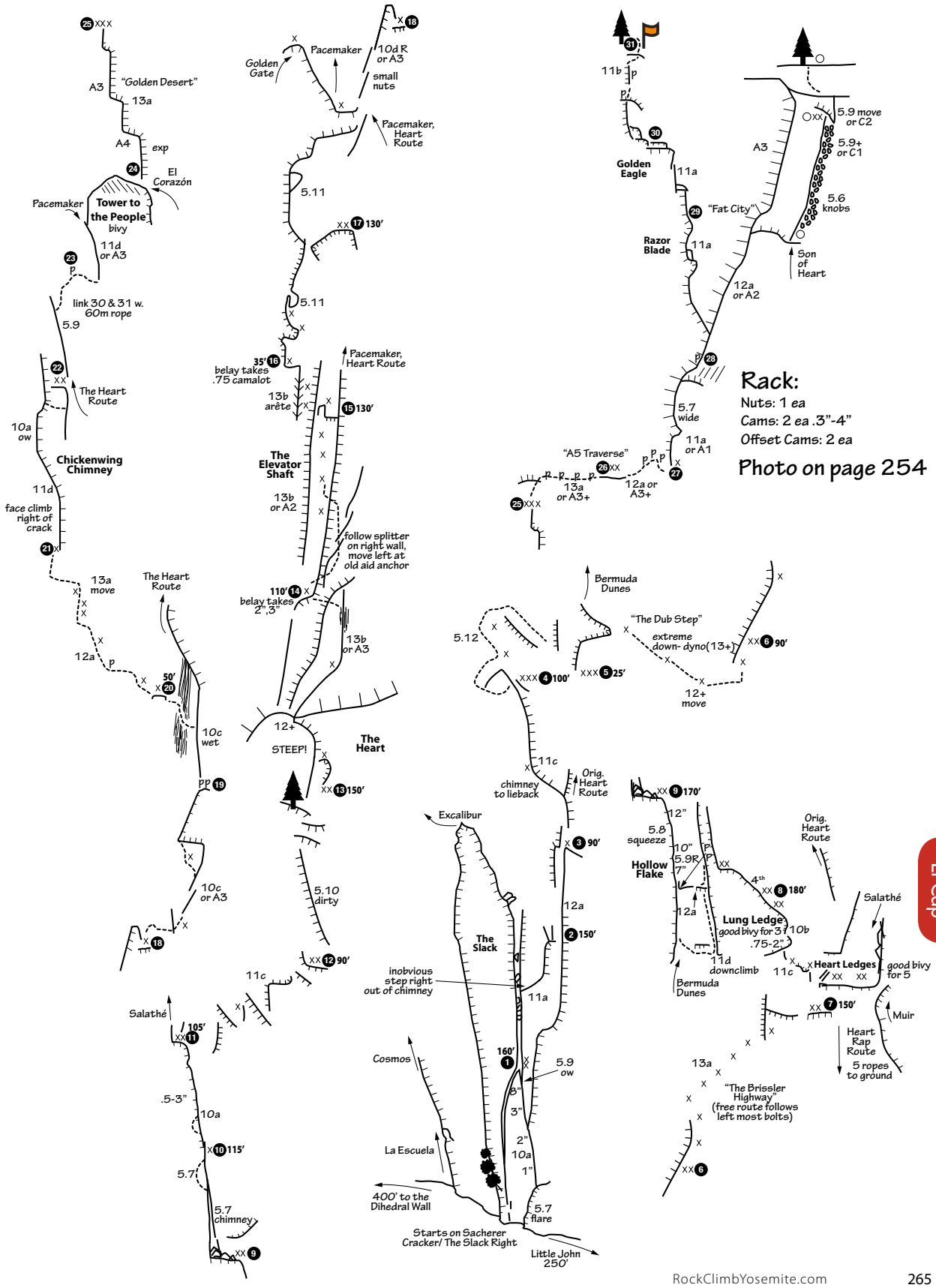
Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 1 ea .3"
2 ea .4"-4"
1 ea 5"
Offset Cams: 1 ea

Photo on page 253

Mason Earle on the first free ascent of The Heart Route, 5.13c
Photo: Ben Ditto

The Free Heart Route VI 5.13c

FA: June 2015 - Mason Earle, Brad Gobright



Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .3"-3"
1 ea 4", 5"
1-2 ea 8" (for the Monster Offwidth)
Offset Cams: 1 ea

Free Salathé Wall VI 5.13b/c

FFA: 1988 - Todd Skinner, Paul Piana

Freerider VI 5.13a

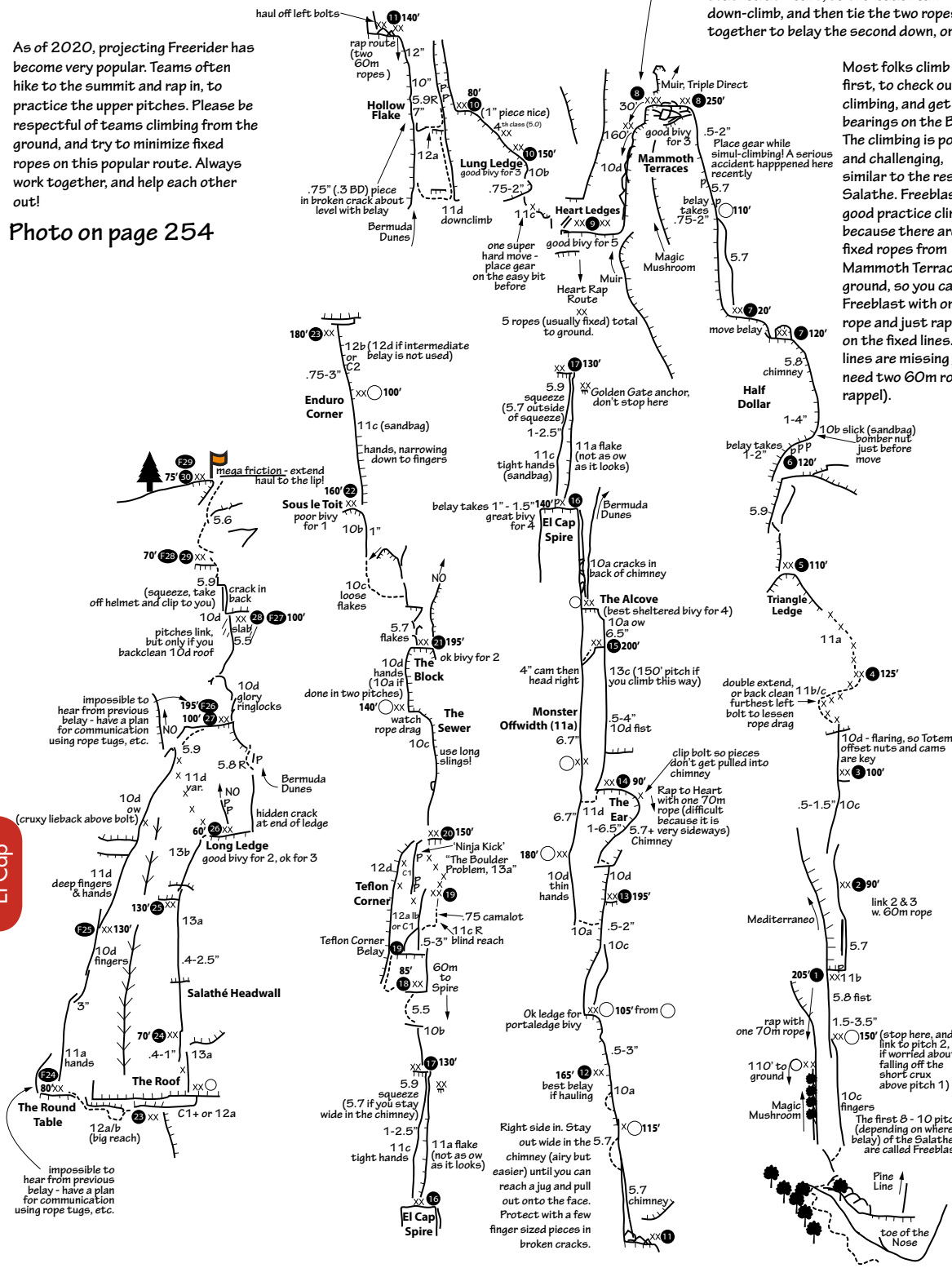
FA: May 1998 - Alex Huber

As of 2020, projecting Freerider have become very popular. Teams often hike to the summit and rap in, to practice the upper pitches. Please be respectful of teams climbing from the ground, and try to minimize fixed ropes on this popular route. Always work together, and help each other out!

Photo on page 254

Scramble down to lowest anchor for downclimb. If only one person wants to free, then leader down-climbs and second raps (on a rope that is usually fixed). If both climbers want to free climb, it can be nice to have a second rope stashed at Heart, so the leader can down-climb, and then tie the two ropes together to belay the second down, on toprope.

Most folks climb Freeblast first, to check out the climbing, and get their bearings on the Big Stone. The climbing is polished, and challenging, similar to the rest of the Salathe. Freeblast is a good practice climb because there are usually fixed ropes from Mammoth Terrace to the ground, so you can climb Freeblast with one 60m rope and just rappel down on the fixed lines. (if the lines are missing you would need two 60m ropes to rappel).



Dean Potter on the Enduro Corner (5.12d), Salathé Wall, 5.13b/c
Photo: Jimmy Chin

Jacob Cook on the A5 Traverse, 5.13a, of Golden Gate
Photo: Bradford Pope McArthur

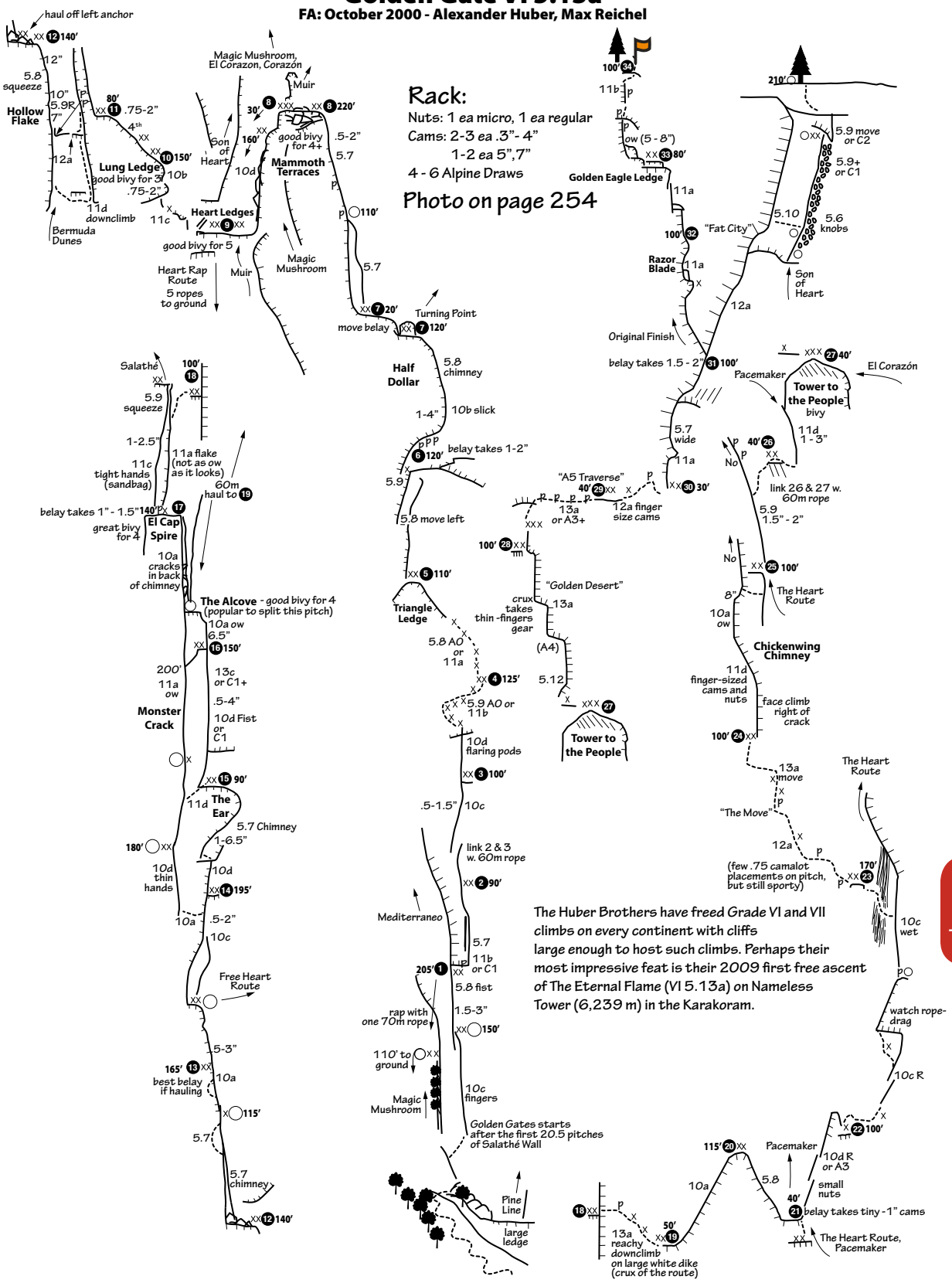
Golden Gate VI 5.13a

FA: October 2000 - Alexander Huber, Max Reichel

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea micro, 1 ea regular
Cams: 2-3 ea .3"- 4"
1-2 ea 5",7"
4 - 6 Alpine Draws

Photo on page 254

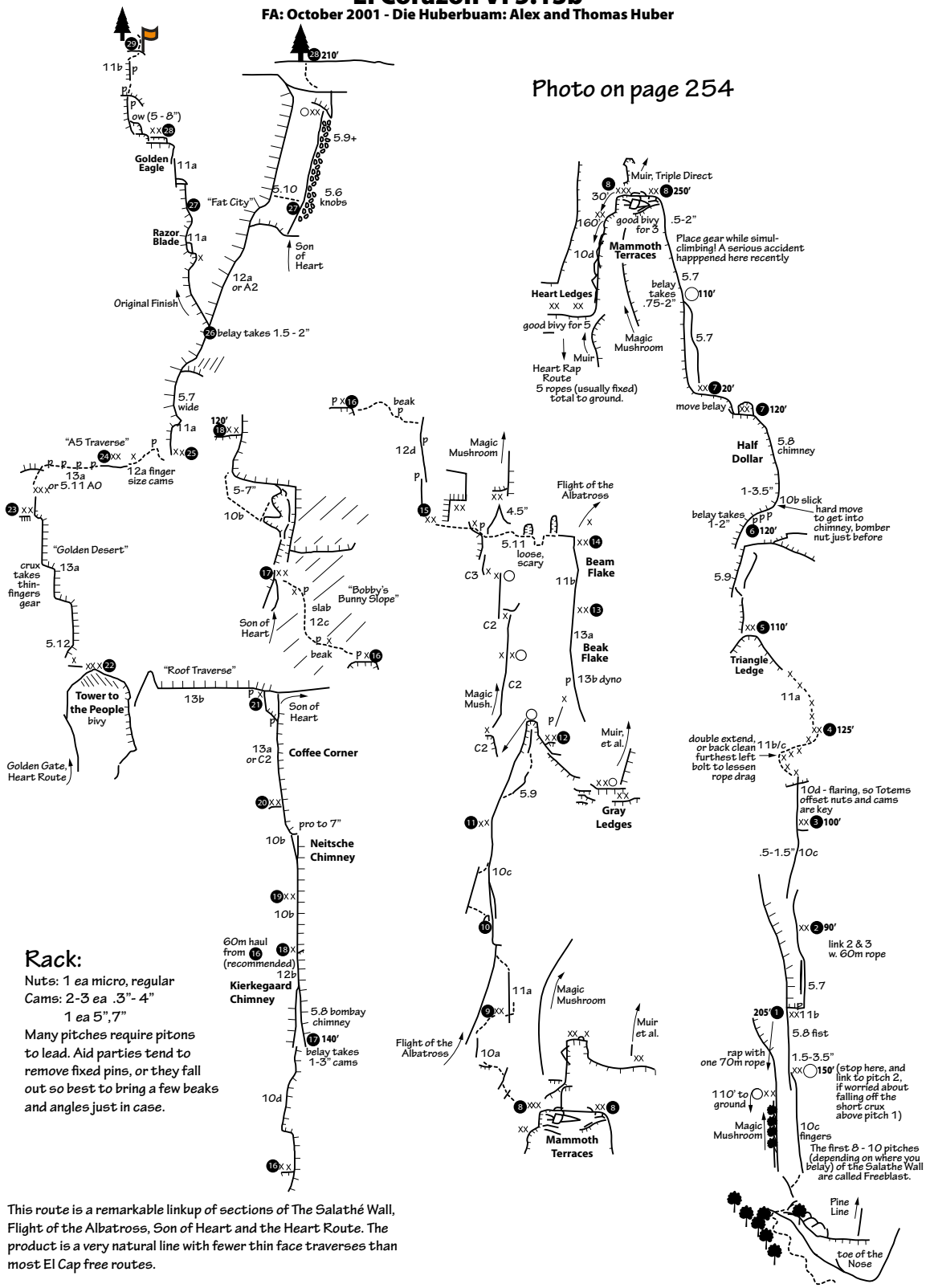


The Huber Brothers have freed Grade VI and VII climbs on every continent with cliffs large enough to host such climbs. Perhaps their most impressive feat is their 2009 first free ascent of The Eternal Flame (VI 5.13a) on Nameless Tower (6,239 m) in the Karakoram.

El Corazón VI 5.13b

FA: October 2001 - Die Huberbuam: Alex and Thomas Huber

Photo on page 254



Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea micro, regular
Cams: 2-3 ea .3"- 4"
1 ea 5",7"
Many pitches require pitons to lead. Aid parties tend to remove fixed pins, or they fall out so best to bring a few beaks and angles just in case.

This route is a remarkable linkup of sections of The Salathé Wall, Flight of the Albatross, Son of Heart and the Heart Route. The product is a very natural line with fewer thin face traverses than most El Cap free routes.

Free Magic Mushroom VI 5.14a

FFA: May 2008 - Tommy Caldwell, Justin Sjong

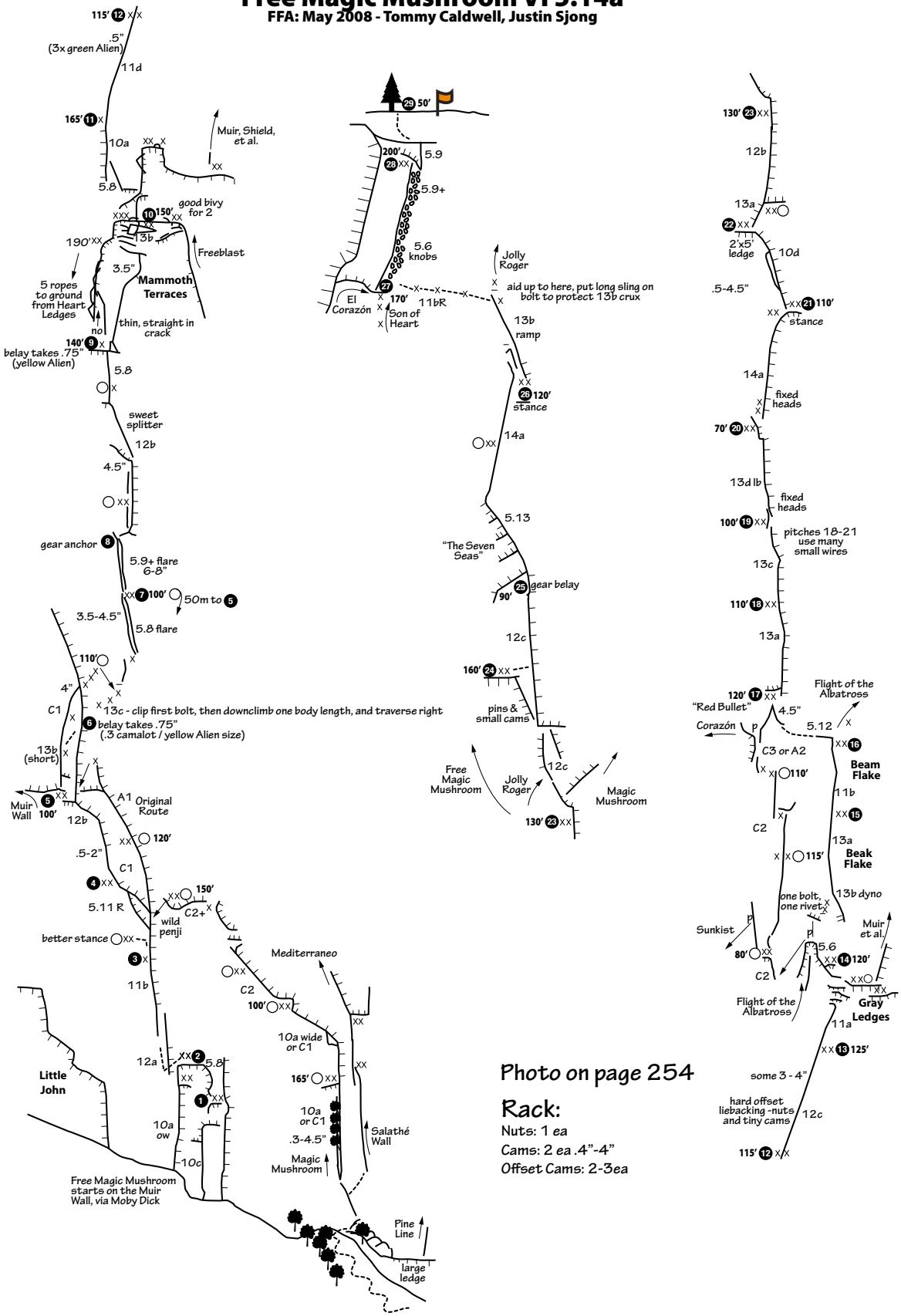


Photo on page 254

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea

Cams: 2 ea .4"-4"

Offset Cams: 2-3ea

The Shaft (Free Muir Wall) VI 5.13c

FFA: May 2001 - Tommy Caldwell, Nick Sagar

PreMuir VI 5.13c

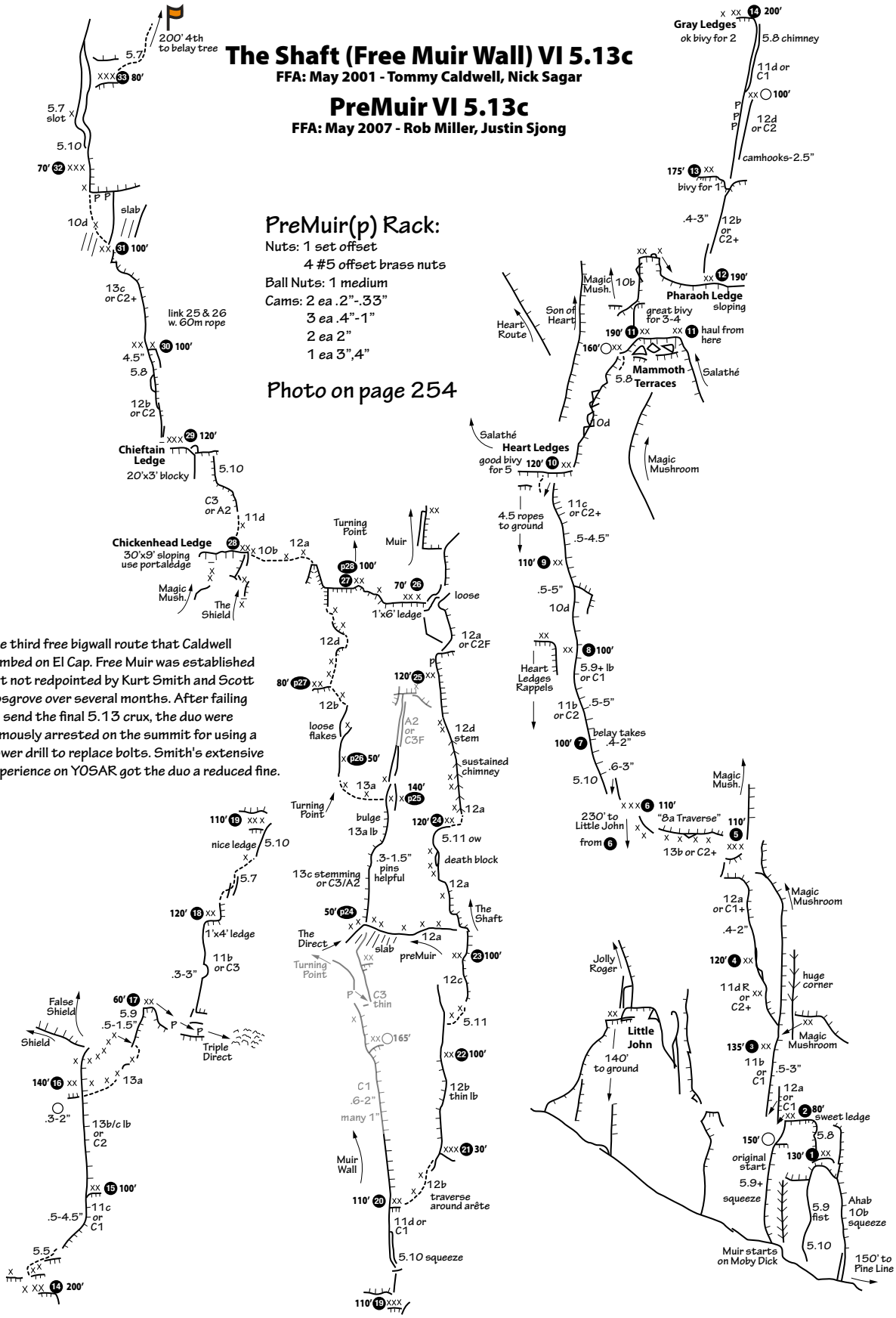
FFA: May 2007 - Rob Miller, Justin Sjong

PreMuir(p) Rack:

Nuts: 1 set offset
4 #5 offset brass nuts
Ball Nuts: 1 medium
Cams: 2 ea .2"-.33"
3 ea .4"-1"
2 ea 2"
1 ea 3",4"

Photo on page 254

The third free bigwall route that Caldwell climbed on El Cap. Free Muir was established but not redpointed by Kurt Smith and Scott Cosgrove over several months. After failing to send the final 5.13 crux, the duo were famously arrested on the summit for using a power drill to replace bolts. Smith's extensive experience on YOSAR got the duo a reduced fine.



Triple Direct VI 5.9 C2 or 5.14a

FA: September 1969 - Jim Bridwell, Kim Schmitz

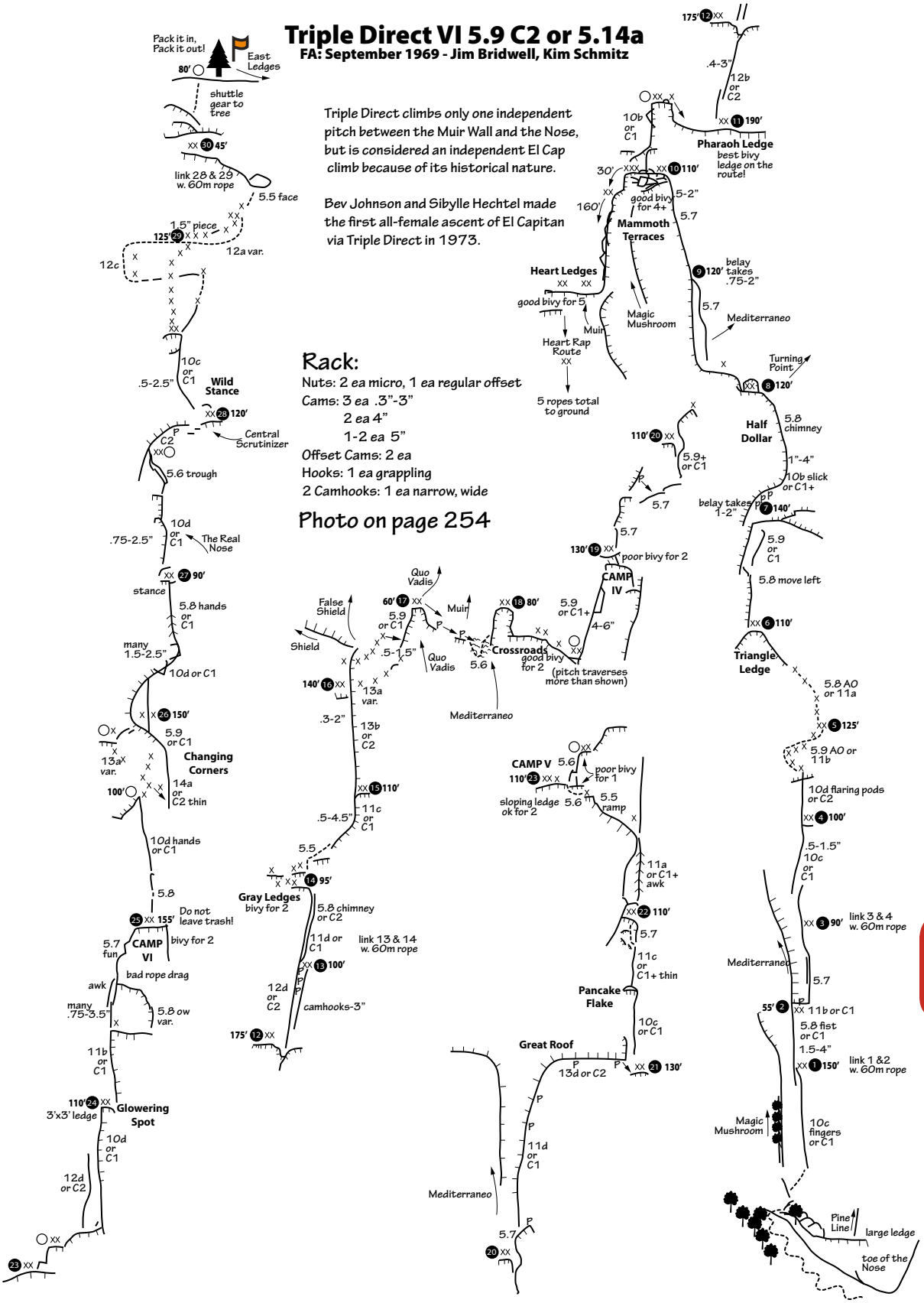
Triple Direct climbs only one independent pitch between the Muir Wall and the Nose, but is considered an independent El Cap climb because of its historical nature.

Bev Johnson and Sibylle Hechtel made the first all-female ascent of El Capitan via Triple Direct in 1973.

Rack:

Nuts: 2 ea micro, 1 ea regular offset
Cams: 3 ea .3"-3"
2 ea 4"
1-2 ea 5"
Offset Cams: 2 ea
Hooks: 1 ea grappling
2 Camhooks: 1 ea narrow, wide

Photo on page 254



In 1957, the South Face of El Capitan remained one of the greatest unclimbed walls in North America. Warren Harding, a surveyor from Lake Tahoe, attacked this challenge with a team of strong local friends. The team encountered many difficulties: wild pendulums, cracks wider than their primitive pitons, and a seemingly endless cliff. These hardships were softened by the comfortable ledges on the route and the fresh supplies of food and wine they hauled up their ropes, which were fixed to the ground. When winter came, the team left the valley with 1,200 feet of manila ropes fixed up to Dolt Tower. They returned the following spring, ascended to their high point and resumed the climb. The National Park Service required Harding to fix ropes for the entire length of the climb to facilitate retreat, as no rescue could be offered.

On November 1st, Harding, along with Dean Calderwood, Wayne Merry, and George Whitmore, started up their lines for the summit push. A few days later, Calderwood descended and Harding, Merry, and Whitmore continued on. Around sunset on November 11th, Harding started up the last pitch: a 60-foot crack leading to a blank, 120-foot overhanging wall. That night, Harding drilled 28 bolts through the overhang, and on the morning of November 12th, 1958 the trio finally stood on top.

The first ascent of the *Nose* was made, remarkably, with no cams or nuts (only pitons), no harnesses (they used seatbelt webbing wrapped around their waist), and no hauling system (they prussiked thousands of feet of fixed rope with 40 lbs duffel bags hanging from their waist).

In 1993, Lynn Hill stunned the Yosemite climbing community by becoming the first person to free climb the *Nose*. At the time, Lynn rated the *Nose* modestly at 5.13b. For years, many top climbers attempted the route without success. Surprisingly, no one was able to repeat the route free until 2005! By the time Tommy Caldwell and Beth Rodden became the second and third persons to free climb the *Nose*, the grade had been confirmed at a consensus of 5.14a. So Lynn Hill was not only the first person to free climb the *Nose*, she was also the first person to establish 5.14 on El Cap!

Lynn Hill on the Jardine Traverse 5.12a
Photo: Google, g.co/Yosemite

The Nose Facts

First ascent: Nov. 8, 1958. Warren Harding, Wayne Merry, George Whitmore

First free ascent: 1993. Lynn Hill

Typical ascent time: 3-4 days

Number of days spent on the first ascent: 45 (spread over 18 months)

First one-day ascent: June 21, 1975. Jim Bridwell, John Long, Billy Westbay

Fastest ascent: 1hrs 58min 7sec on June 6, 2018. Alex Honnold, Tommy Caldwell

First solo ascent: 1969. Thomas Bauman

Fastest solo ascent: 5:50 in July 2010. Alex Honnold

First all female ascent: 1977. Molly Higgins, Barb Eastman

Fastest female ascent: 4:43 in September 2014. Mayan Smith-Gobat, Libby Sauter

Youngest ascent: 2018. Pearl Johnson (9)

Youngest team ascent: 1977. Bill Price (14), Kurt Reider (15)

Number of people who attempt The Nose each year: 600-800

Success rate: Slightly less than 50%

Personal water ration on the FA: 1 liter/day

Personal water ration today: 4 liters/day

"As I hammered in the last bolt and staggered over the rim, it was not at all clear to me who was the conqueror and who was the conquered. I do recall that El Cap seemed to be in much better condition than I was."

-Warren Harding

The Free Nose VI 5.14a

FFA: September 1993 - Lynn Hill

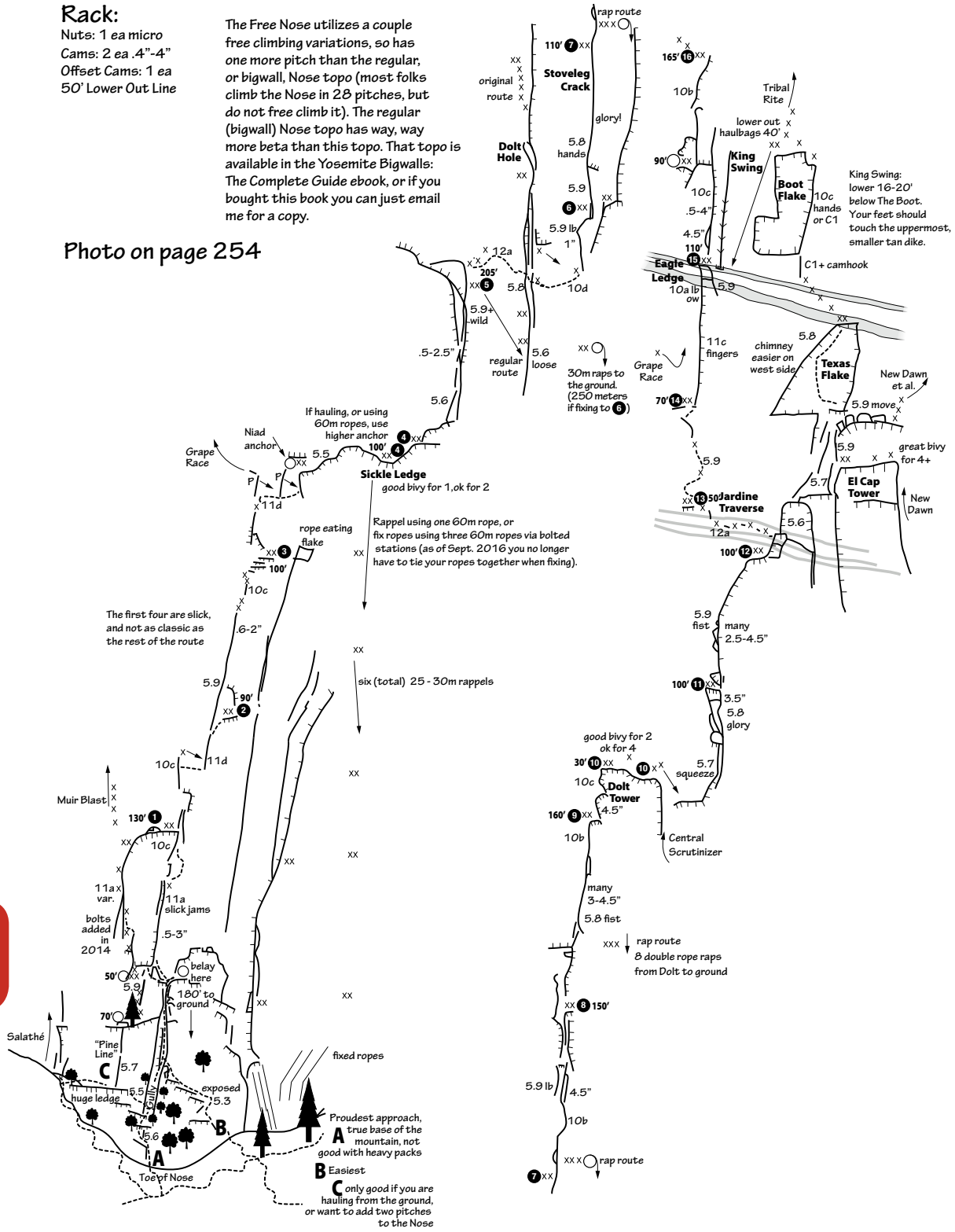
"It goes, boys!" -Lynn Hill

Rack:

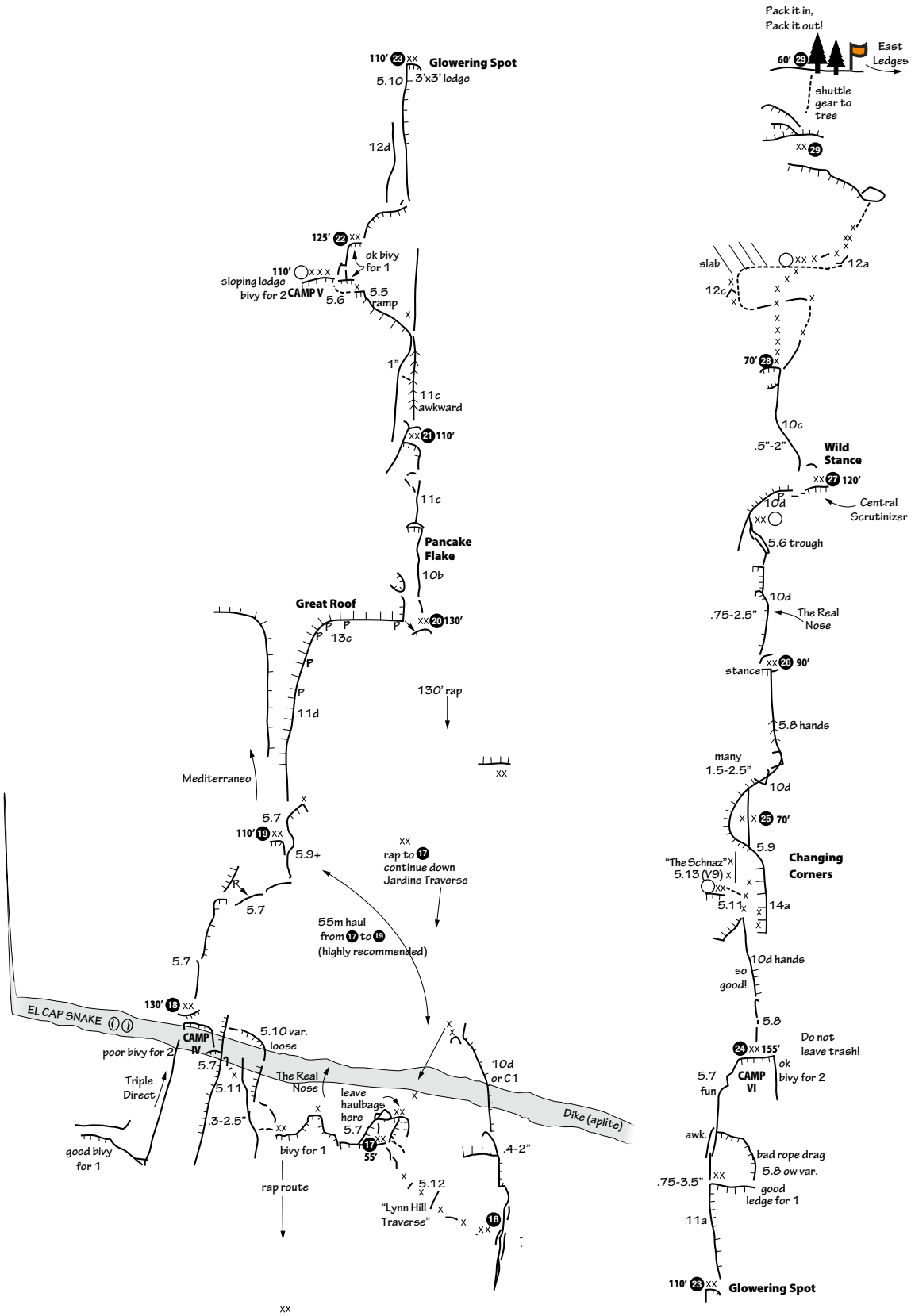
Nuts: 1 ea micro
Cams: 2 ea .4"-4"
Offset Cams: 1 ea
50' Lower Out Line

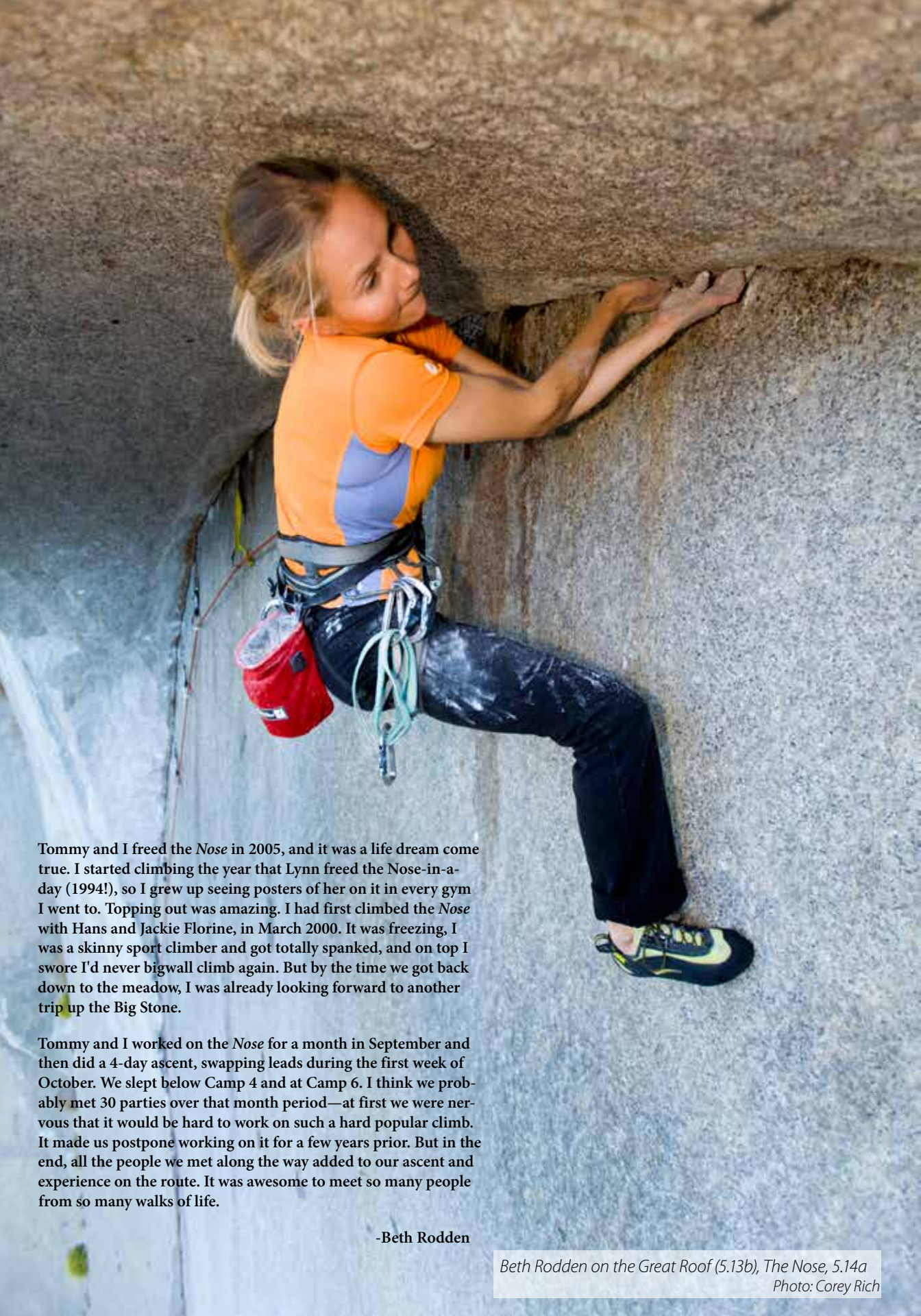
The Free Nose utilizes a couple free climbing variations, so has one more pitch than the regular, or bigwall, Nose topo (most folks climb the Nose in 28 pitches, but do not free climb it). The regular (bigwall) Nose topo has way, way more beta than this topo. That topo is available in the Yosemite Bigwalls: The Complete Guide ebook, or if you bought this book you can just email me for a copy.

Photo on page 254



The Free Nose (continued)





Tommy and I freed the *Nose* in 2005, and it was a life dream come true. I started climbing the year that Lynn freed the Nose-in-a-day (1994!), so I grew up seeing posters of her on it in every gym I went to. Topping out was amazing. I had first climbed the *Nose* with Hans and Jackie Florine, in March 2000. It was freezing, I was a skinny sport climber and got totally spanked, and on top I swore I'd never bigwall climb again. But by the time we got back down to the meadow, I was already looking forward to another trip up the Big Stone.

Tommy and I worked on the *Nose* for a month in September and then did a 4-day ascent, swapping leads during the first week of October. We slept below Camp 4 and at Camp 6. I think we probably met 30 parties over that month period—at first we were nervous that it would be hard to work on such a hard popular climb. It made us postpone working on it for a few years prior. But in the end, all the people we met along the way added to our ascent and experience on the route. It was awesome to meet so many people from so many walks of life.

-Beth Rodden

Beth Rodden on the Great Roof (5.13b), The Nose, 5.14a
Photo: Corey Rich

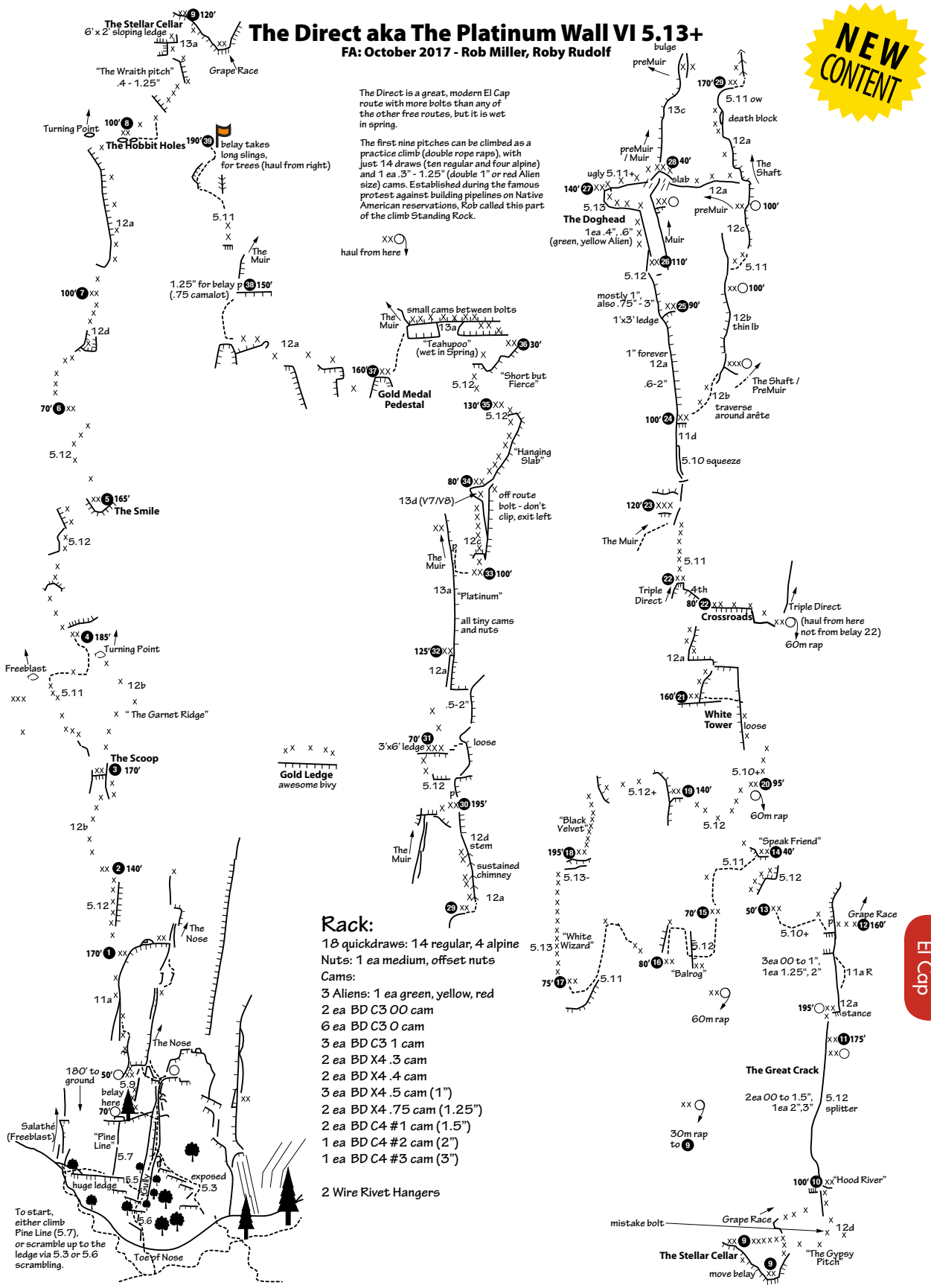
The Direct aka The Platinum Wall VI 5.13+

FA: October 2017 - Rob Miller, Roby Rudolf

NEW CONTENT

The Direct is a great, modern El Cap route with more bolts than any of the other free routes, but it is wet in spring.

The first nine pitches can be climbed as a practice climb (double rope raps), with just 14 draws (ten regular and four alpine) and 1 ea .3" - 1.25" (double 1" or red Alien size) cams. Established during the famous protest against building pipelines on Native American reservations, Rob called this part of the climb Standing Rock.



Rack:

18 quickdraws: 14 regular, 4 alpine
Nuts: 1 ea medium, offset nuts
Cams:
3 Aliens: 1 ea green, yellow, red
2 ea BD C3 00 cam
6 ea BD C3 0 cam
3 ea BD C3 1 cam
2 ea BD X4 .3 cam
2 ea BD X4 .4 cam
3 ea BD X4 .5 cam (1")
2 ea BD X4 .75 cam (1.25")
2 ea BD C4 #1 cam (1.5")
1 ea BD C4 #2 cam (2")
1 ea BD C4 #3 cam (3")

2 Wire Rivet Hangers

Editor's Note: The Platinum Wall, established in 2017, is a last minute addition to this book, so is placed here slightly out of order - it should come before the Nose topo.

Nose In A Day (NIAD) VI 5.8 C2 or 5.14a

FA: November 1958 - Warren Harding, Wayne Merry, George Whitmore

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea micro
Cams: 1 ea .3"
2 ea .4"-3"
1-2 ea 4"
Offset Cams: 2 ea (nice to bring 2ea so the first leader can make it to Sickle or Stovelegs in first block)
Camhook: 1ea Narrow

Note: 1 ea Link Cams #1, #2(red and gold) are VERY useful if aiding the last ten pitches.

The first half of the route tends to have mostly strenuous, (french)free climbing for niad parties. If you bring a 40', 4mm tagline, to pull up gear when shortfixing, consider not using it on the first half (or at least to Dolt) - the leader will be gunning it, and will benefit from just taking a break for a few minutes while the second quickly jugs up to give back gear and to give a drink of water, every few to several pitches or so. The tagline can be very helpful from the Great Roof to the top, where most folks tend to aid climb more.
With practice, you can get to Sickle or ideally to the pitch 6 belay without meeting up. Then your next meet up might be Dolt. After Dolt the leader goes through the King Swing, and gets all the gear slid back down to them on Eagle Ledge, so the next time you meet up after Dolt could be the base of the Lynn Hill Traverse, because folks usually liked to be belayed on that pitch. Then you meet at the base of the Great Roof pitch, and pull out the tagline.

(Not using your tagline on the first 1/3 - 1/2 of the route can be difficult, because you have to conserve gear, and could lead to more stress and less fun. I'm just suggesting it here because the first several pitches move around a lot, and if you can get even to the pitch 6 anchor before you start using the tagline, you will probably save yourself some time when the tag line got hung up on something, or messed with you in some way. For sure always do what feels fun and safe!)

Water:

14 - 24 hrs: 7 - 8 liters(jugging with more than eight liters is difficult)
8 - 13 hrs: 4 - 6 liters
4 - 7 hrs: 2 - 4 liters

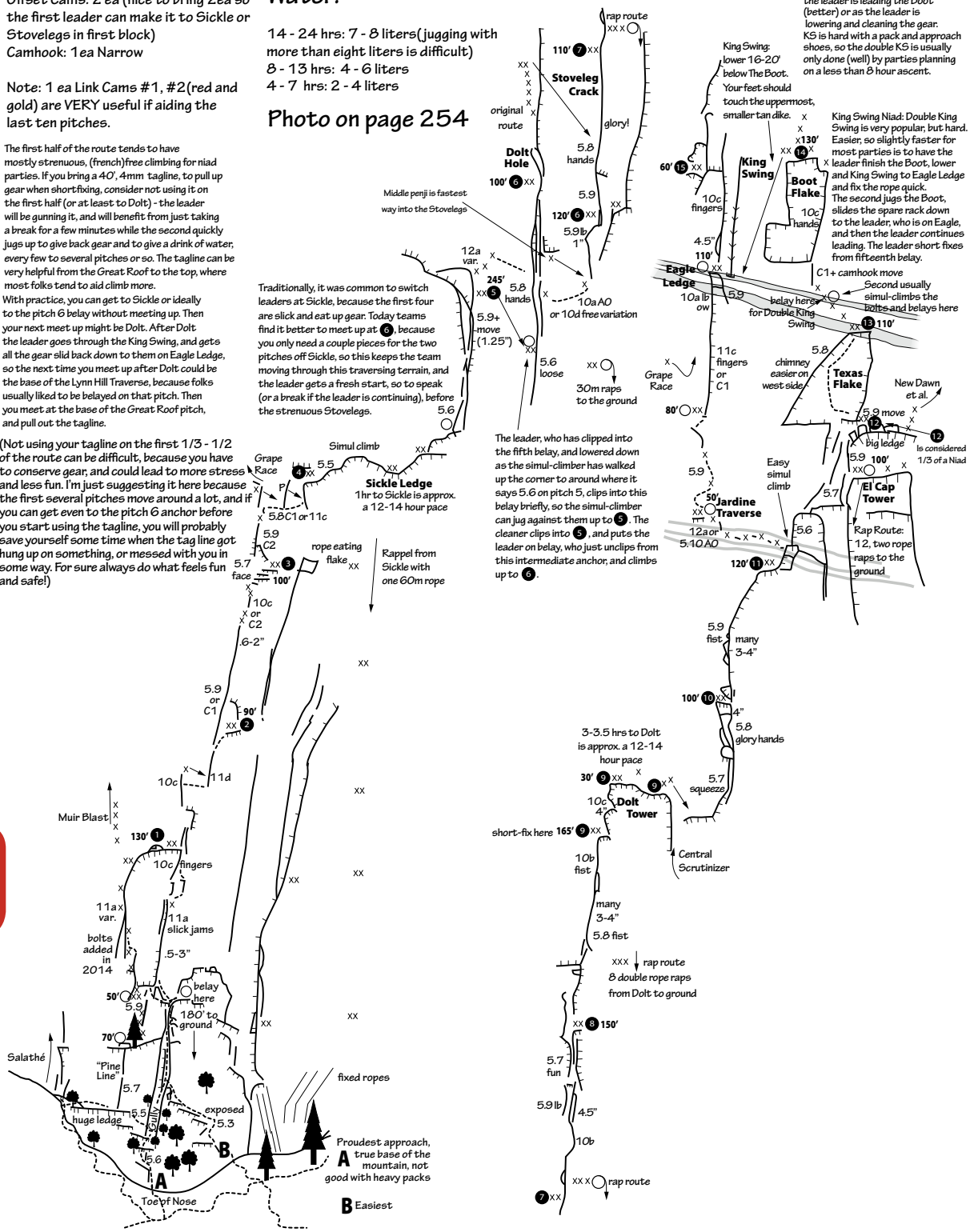
Photo on page 254

Traditionally, it was common to switch leaders at Sickle, because the first four are slick and eat up gear. Today teams find it better to meet up at 6, because you only need a couple pieces for the two pitches off Sickle, so this keeps the team moving through this traversing terrain, and the leader gets a fresh start, so to speak (or a break if the leader is continuing), before the strenuous Stovelegs.

The leader, who has clipped into the fifth belay, and lowered down as the simul-climber has walked up the corner to around where it says 5.6 on pitch 5, clips into this belay briefly, so the simul-climber can jug against them up to 5. The cleaner clips into 5, and puts the leader on belay, who just unclips from this intermediate anchor, and climbs up to 6.

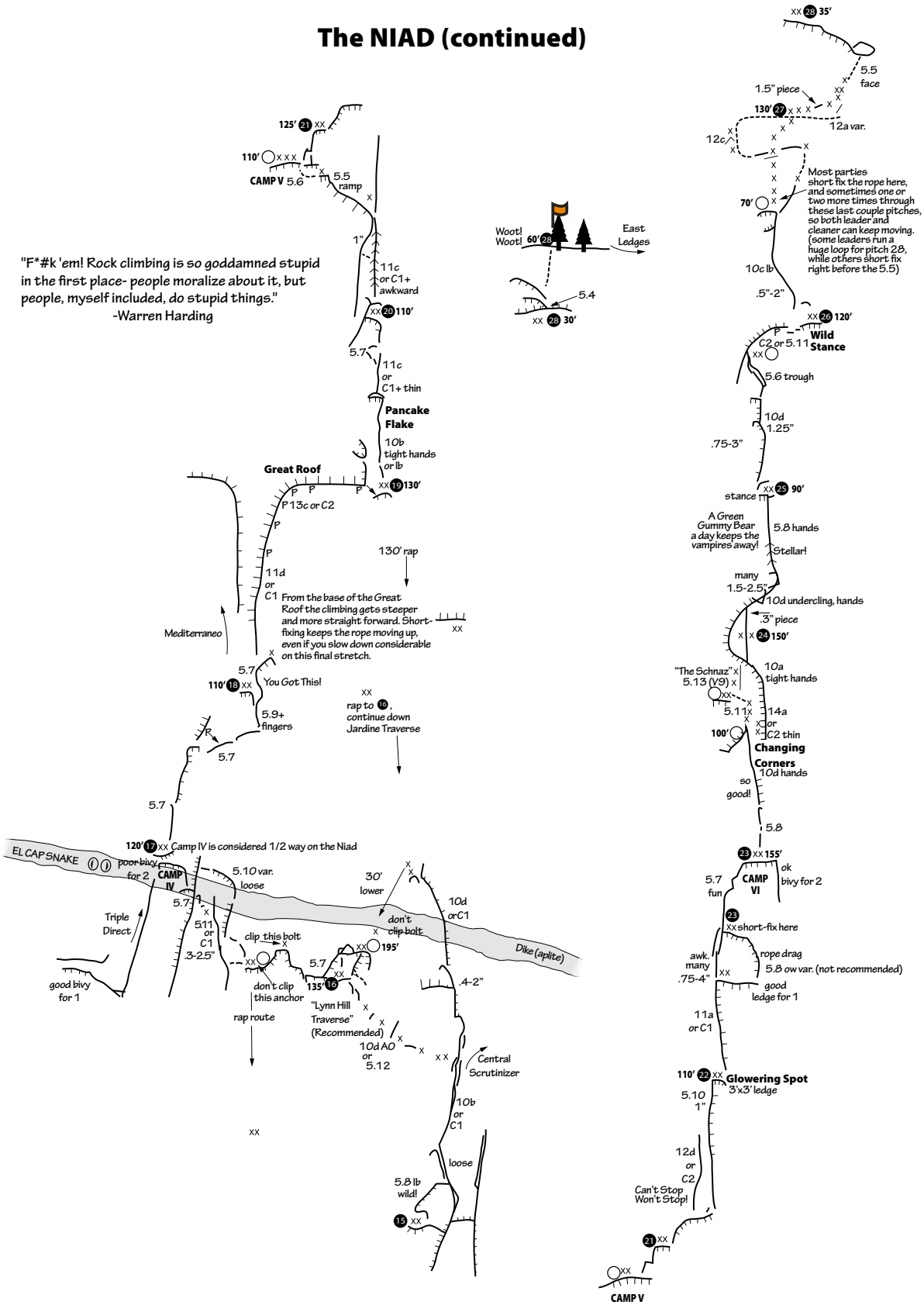
Double King Swing:
a popular, but strenuous for the second, way for both climbers to do the King Swing during a Niad. The leader leads the Boot, then lowers and cleans the gear down to the tan band. The second usually climbs up the bolt ladder, to right below the tan band, either while the leader is leading the Boot (better) or as the leader is lowering and cleaning the gear. KS is hard with a pack and approach shoes, so the double KS is usually only done (well) by parties planning on a less than 8 hour ascent.

King Swing Niad: Double King Swing is very popular, but hard. Easier, so slightly faster for most parties is to have the leader finish the Boot, lower and King Swing to Eagle Ledge and fix the rope quick. The second jugs the Boot, slides the spare rack down to the leader, who is on Eagle, and then the leader continues leading. The leader short fixes from fifteenth belay.



The NIAD (continued)

"F*#k 'em! Rock climbing is so goddamned stupid in the first place- people moralize about it, but people, myself included, do stupid things."
-Warren Harding

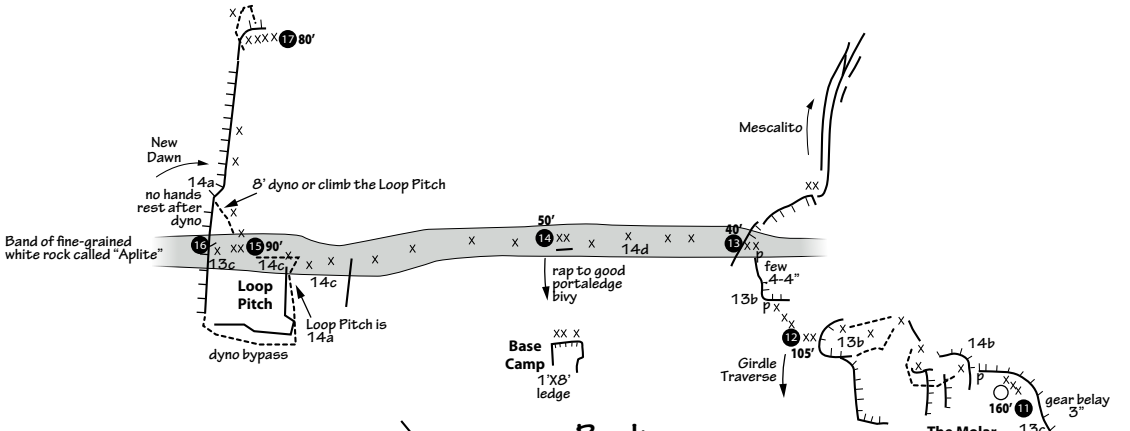


Beth Rodden on the Pancake Flake (5.10c), The Nose, 5.14a
Photo: Corey Rich

Brad Gobright on the Salathé headwall, 5.13c, pg 266
Photo: Drew Smith

Free Dawn Wall VII 5.14d

FA: Janurary 14, 2015 - Tommy Caldwell, Kevin Jorgeson



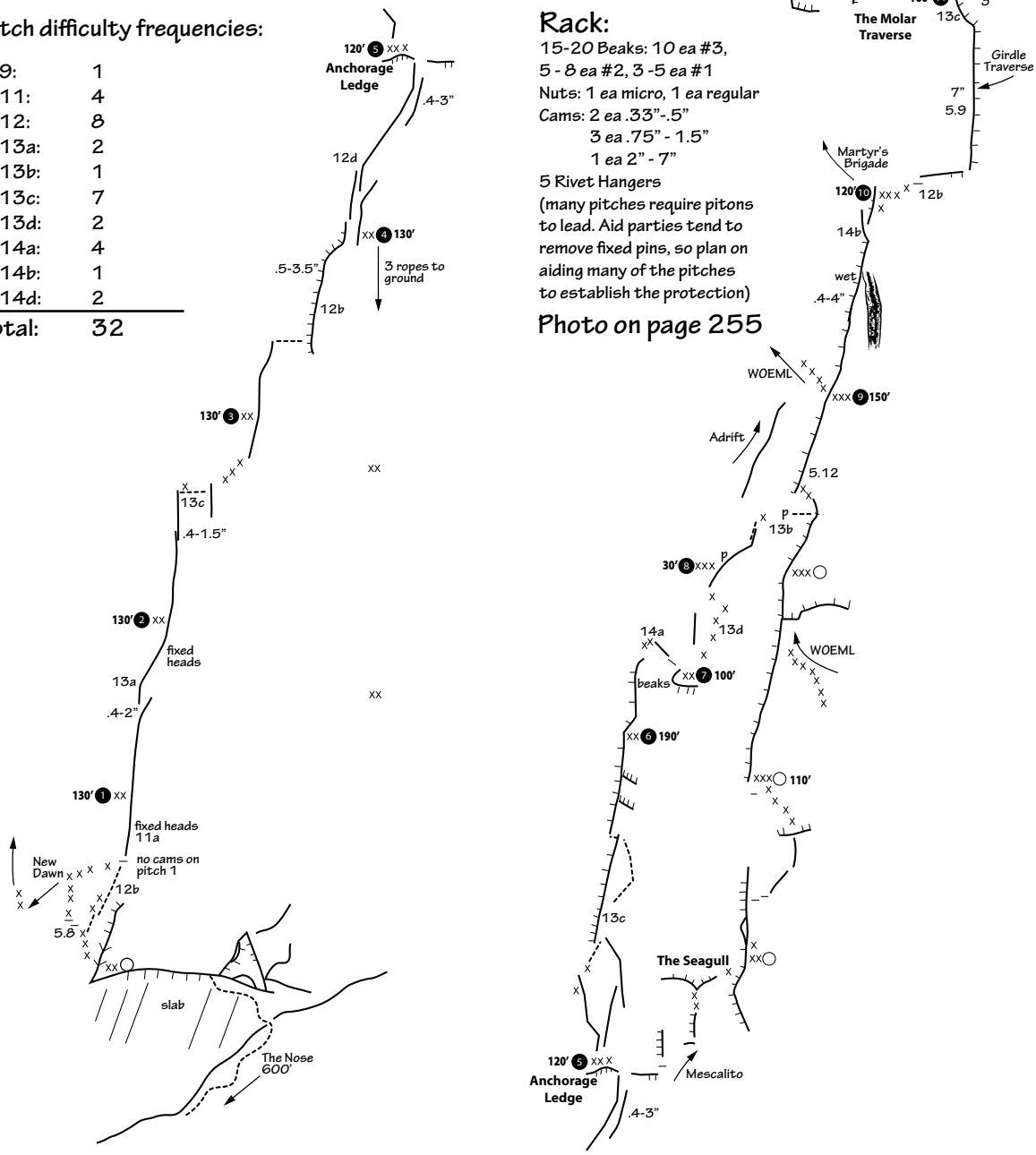
Pitch difficulty frequencies:

5.9:	1
5.11:	4
5.12:	8
5.13a:	2
5.13b:	1
5.13c:	7
5.13d:	2
5.14a:	4
5.14b:	1
5.14d:	2
Total:	**32**

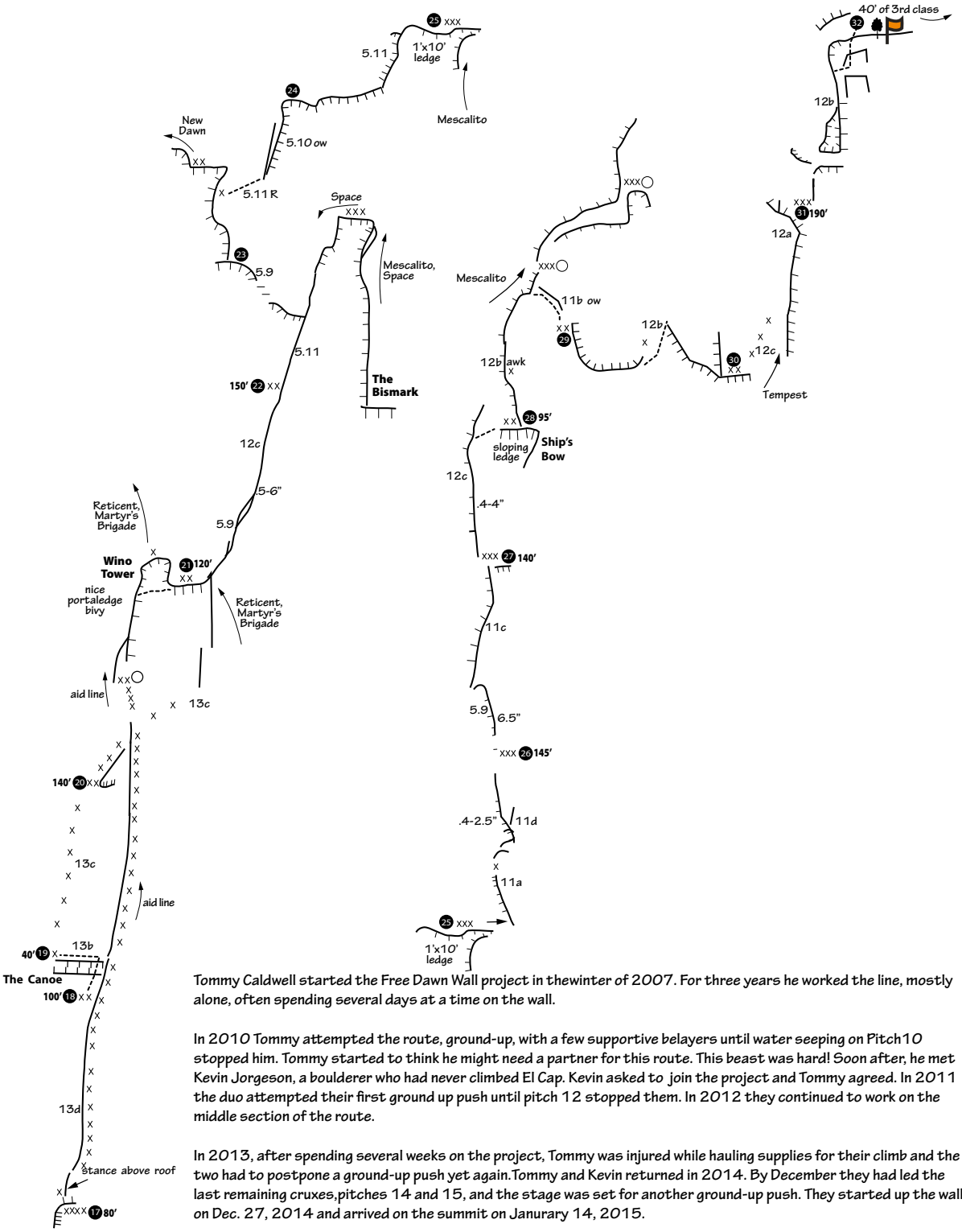
Rack:

15-20 Beaks: 10 ea #3,
5 - 8 ea #2, 3 -5 ea #1
Nuts: 1 ea micro, 1 ea regular
Cams: 2 ea .33"-.5"
3 ea .75" - 1.5"
1 ea 2" - 7"
5 Rivet Hangers
(many pitches require pitons to lead. Aid parties tend to remove fixed pins, so plan on aiding many of the pitches to establish the protection)

Photo on page 255



Free Dawn Wall Page 2



Tommy Caldwell started the Free Dawn Wall project in thewinter of 2007. For three years he worked the line, mostly alone, often spending several days at a time on the wall.

In 2010 Tommy attempted the route, ground-up, with a few supportive belayers until water seeping on Pitch10 stopped him. Tommy started to think he might need a partner for this route. This beast was hard! Soon after, he met Kevin Jorgeson, a boulderer who had never climbed El Cap. Kevin asked to join the project and Tommy agreed. In 2011 the duo attempted their first ground up push until pitch 12 stopped them. In 2012 they continued to work on the middle section of the route.

In 2013, after spending several weeks on the project, Tommy was injured while hauling supplies for their climb and the two had to postpone a ground-up push yet again.Tommy and Kevin returned in 2014. By December they had led the last remaining cruxes,pitches 14 and 15, and the stage was set for another ground-up push. They started up the wall on Dec. 27, 2014 and arrived on the summit on Janurary 14, 2015.

In 2016, Adam Ondra, age 23, astounded the climbing world by repeating this route (for his first ever Yosemite climb!) over five weeks. Adam dodged several storms during this time, finishing with an eight day push from bottom to top. Adam said the route was very high quality, and rated a few of the pitches harder than Tommy had rated them.

Tommy Caldwell cruising pitch 20 (5.13c), Dawn Wall, 5.14d

Photo: Corey Rich

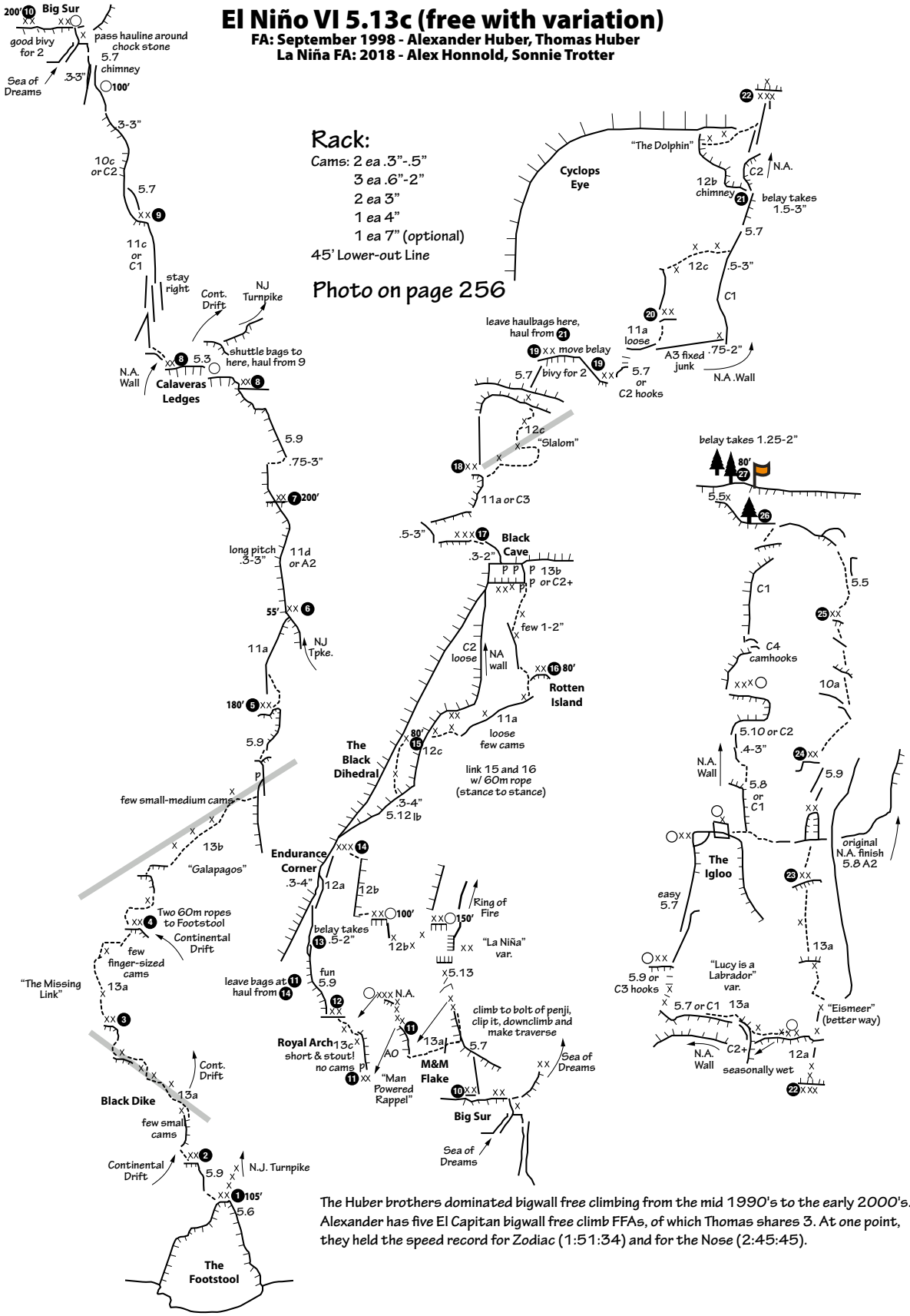
El Niño VI 5.13c (free with variation)

FA: September 1998 - Alexander Huber, Thomas Huber
La Niña FA: 2018 - Alex Honnold, Sonnie Trotter

Rack:

Cams: 2 ea .3"-.5"
3 ea .6"-2"
2 ea 3"
1 ea 4"
1 ea 7" (optional)
45' Lower-out Line

Photo on page 256



The Huber brothers dominated bigwall free climbing from the mid 1990's to the early 2000's. Alexander has five El Capitan bigwall free climb FFAs, of which Thomas shares 3. At one point, they held the speed record for Zodiac (1:51:34) and for the Nose (2:45:45).

Free Zodiac VI 5.13c/d or 5.7 A3

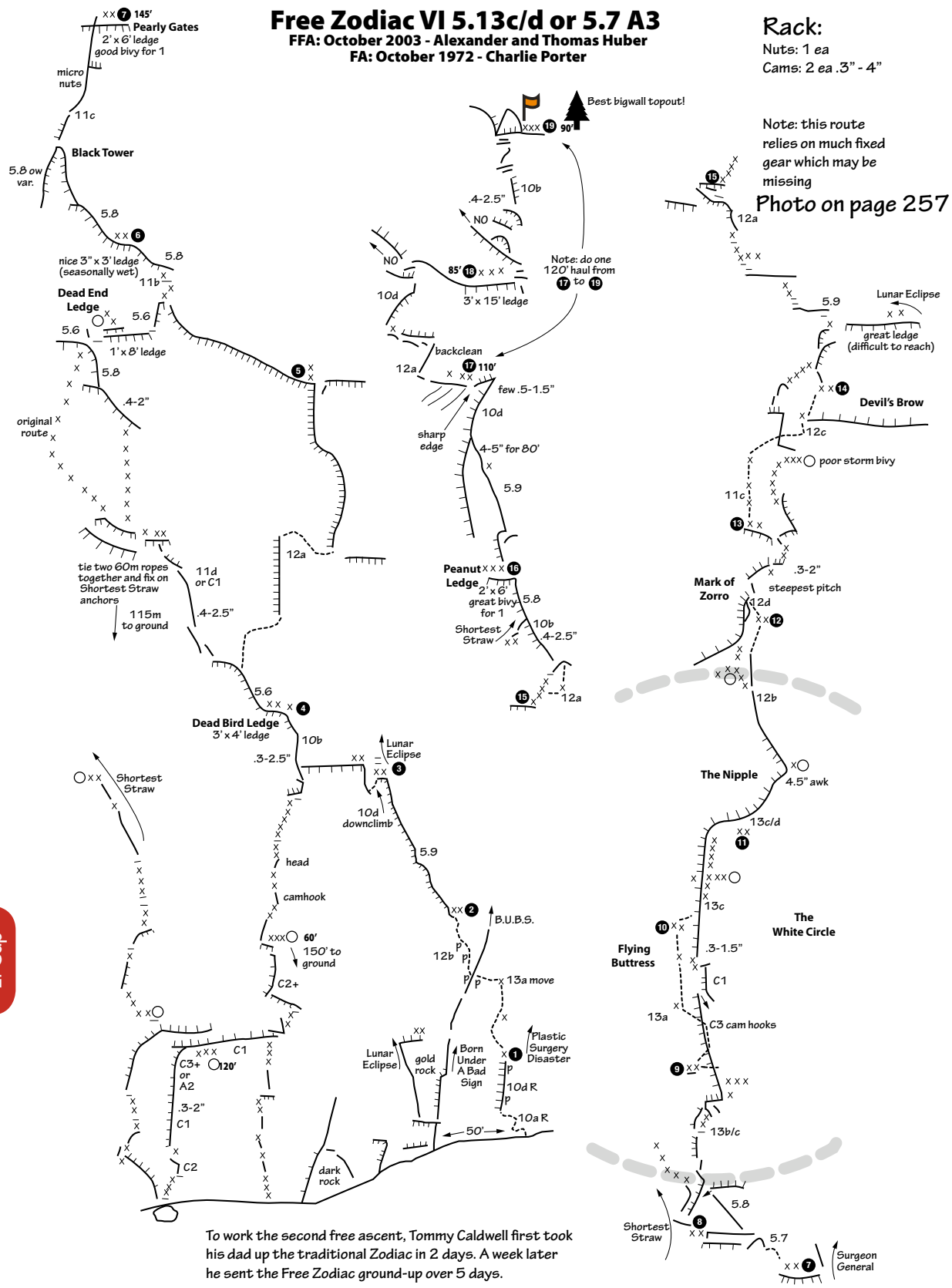
FFA: October 2003 - Alexander and Thomas Huber
FA: October 1972 - Charlie Porter

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .3" - 4"

Note: this route relies on much fixed gear which may be missing

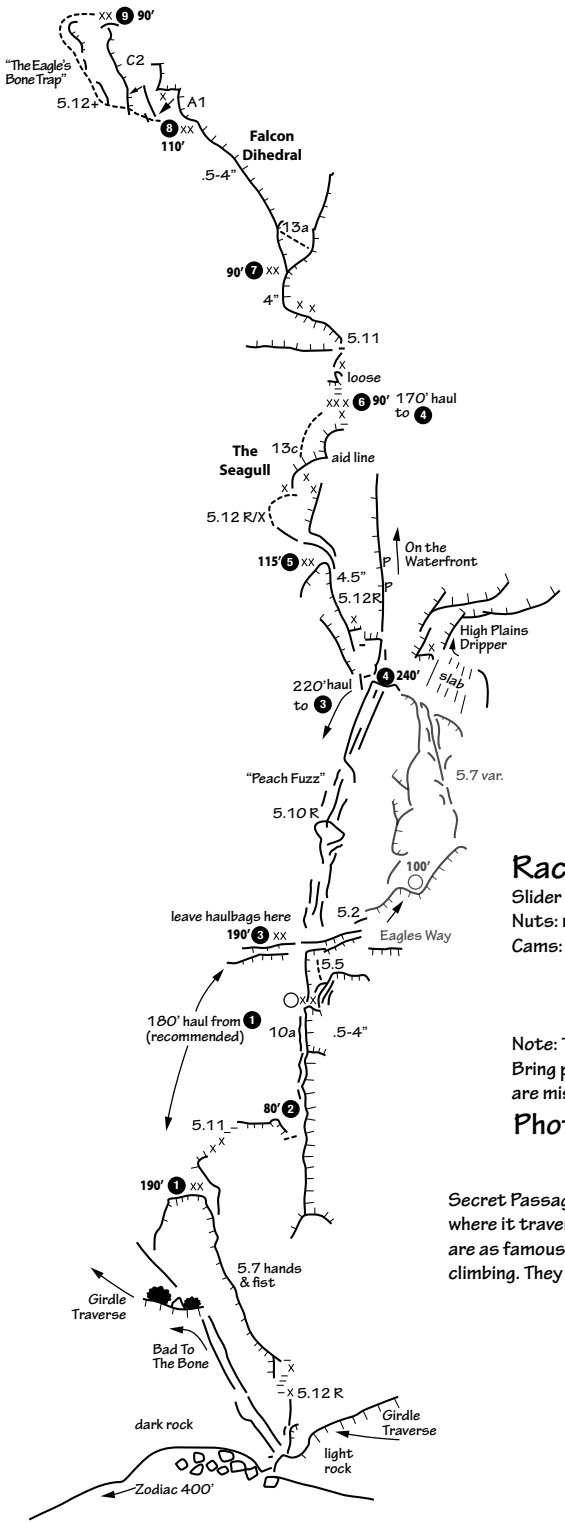
Photo on page 257

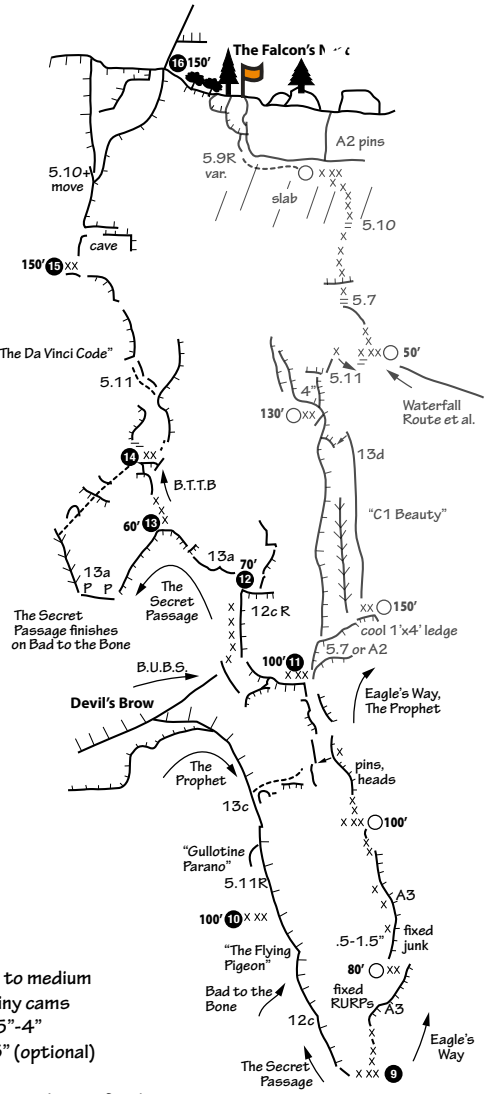


To work the second free ascent, Tommy Caldwell first took his dad up the traditional Zodiac in 2 days. A week later he sent the Free Zodiac ground-up over 5 days.

Secret Passage VI 5.13c (5.12 R)

FFA: October 2006 - Nico Favresse, Sean Villanueva





Rack:

Slider nuts
Nuts: micros to medium
Cams: 3 ea tiny cams
2 ea .5"-4"
1 ea 5" (optional)

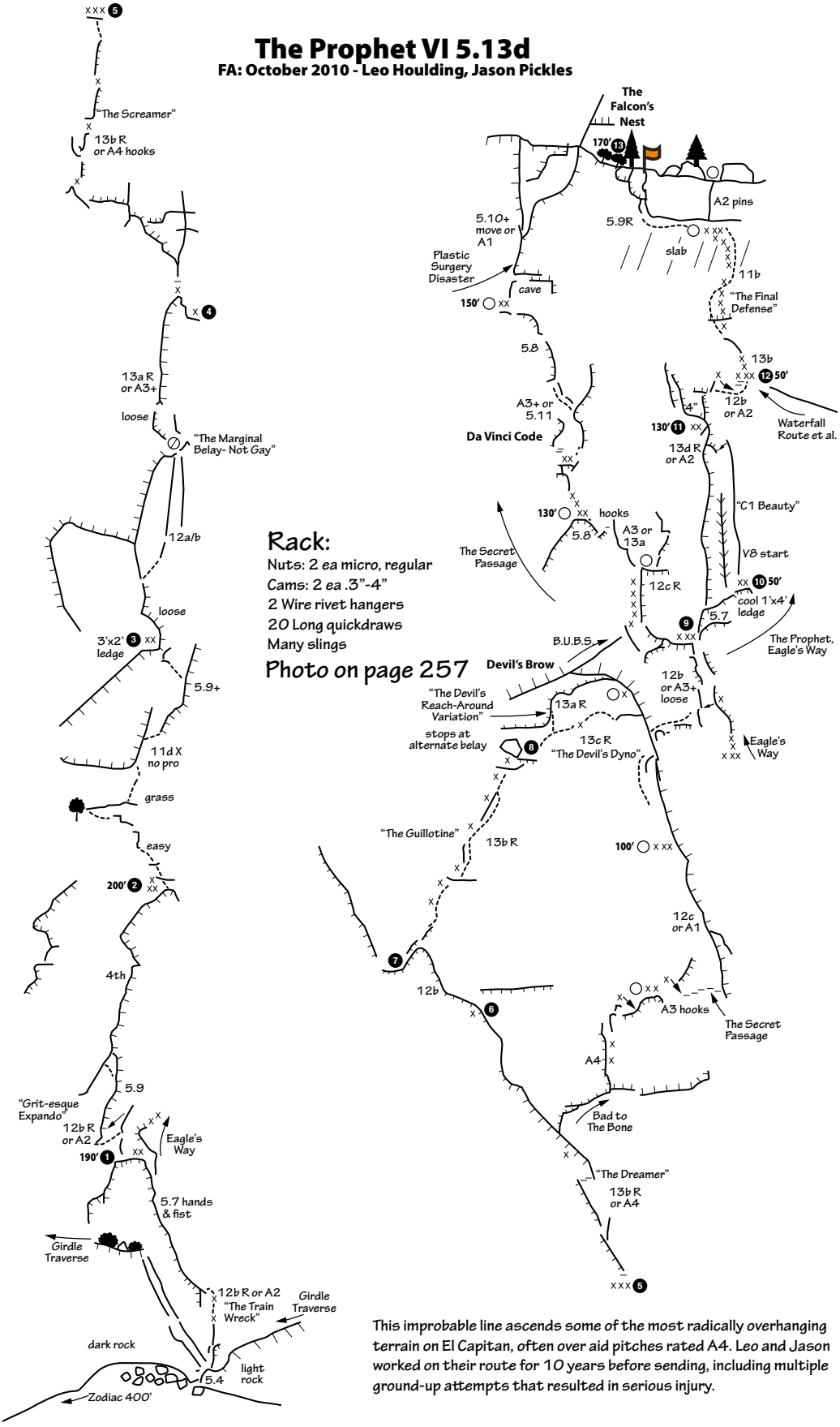
Note: This route relies on fixed gear. Bring pitons in case some fixed pieces are missing.

Photo on page 257

Secret Passage climbs mostly on or near Eagles Way, until a few pitches from the top where it traverses over to finish on Born Under A Bad Sign. Favresse and Villanueva are as famous for their continuous impromptu jam sessions as they are for their climbing. They brought a flute and a ukelele and jammed their way up the route.

The Prophet VI 5.13d

FA: October 2010 - Leo Houlding, Jason Pickles



Rack:

Nuts: 2 ea micro, regular
Cams: 2 ea .3"-4"
2 Wire rivet hangers
20 Long quickdraws
Many slings

Photo on page 257

This improbable line ascends some of the most radically overhanging terrain on El Capitan, often over aid pitches rated A4. Leo and Jason worked on their route for 10 years before sending, including multiple ground-up attempts that resulted in serious injury.

Leo Houlding on The Prophet, 5.13d
Photo: John Dickey

East Buttress IV 5.10b

FA: June 1953 - Allen Steck, Willi Unsoeld, Bill Long, Will Siri
FFA: July 1964 - Frank Sacherer, Wally Reed

East Buttress is one of the more classic multi-pitch trad routes in the Valley. Known for having a handful of super classic pitches, and a bit of low-angled wandering, this is a grade four route more because of the long approach and descent, and the sometimes tricky route finding and crowds you have to deal with. Fast parties regularly climb it in a half a day. East Buttress is popular, so start hiking in the dark, or if you're sure you can climb quickly consider starting midday, to avoid other parties. Approach via the four-pitch Moratorium (page 241) for a bigger challenge.

Approach:

40 - 60 Minutes.

Park at the Zodiac Pullout, the large dirt pullout five hundred feet before the El Cap Meadow on Northside Drive. Walk into a clearing in front of the parking, and walk to the right of the clearing and around a large boulder, picking up a faint trail that leads up and right through the woods for just a hundred feet to the drainage that becomes the Zodiac talus field. Follow this drainage and talus via a cairned path, more or less straight up, to the wall. Walk along the wall to the right, up, down and around a grassy terrace, until you reach the the base of the route.

Parking

Descent:

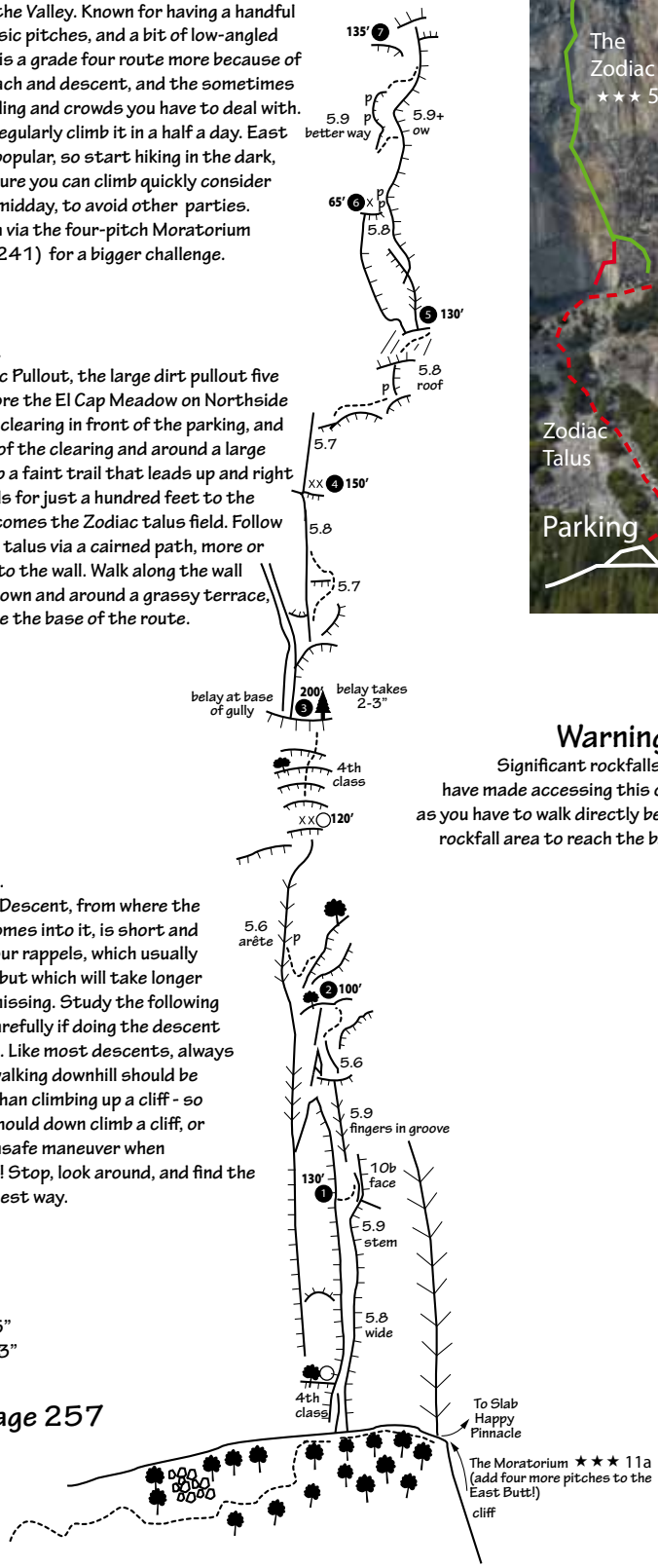
50 - 90 Minutes.

The East Ledges Descent, from where the East Buttress comes into it, is short and fast. There are four rappels, which usually have fixed ropes, but which will take longer if the ropes are missing. Study the following page (pg 294) carefully if doing the descent for the first time. Like most descents, always remember that walking downhill should be way, way easier than climbing up a cliff - so if you think you should down climb a cliff, or do some other unsafe maneuver when descending don't! Stop, look around, and find the appropriate, easiest way.

Rack:

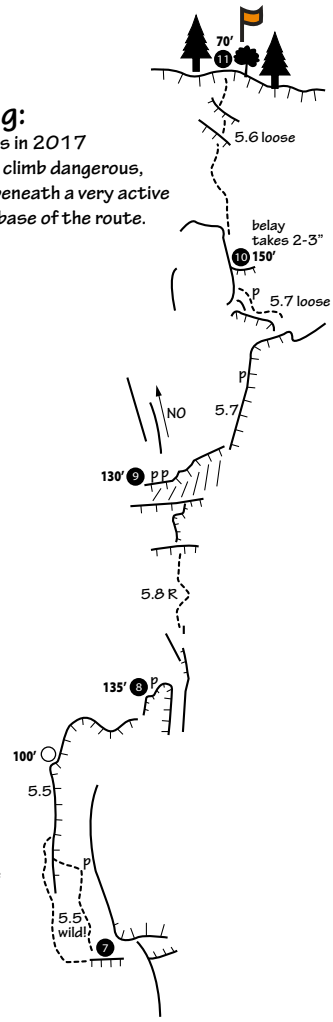
Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 1 ea .3"-.5"
2 ea .75"-3"
Long slings

Photo on page 257

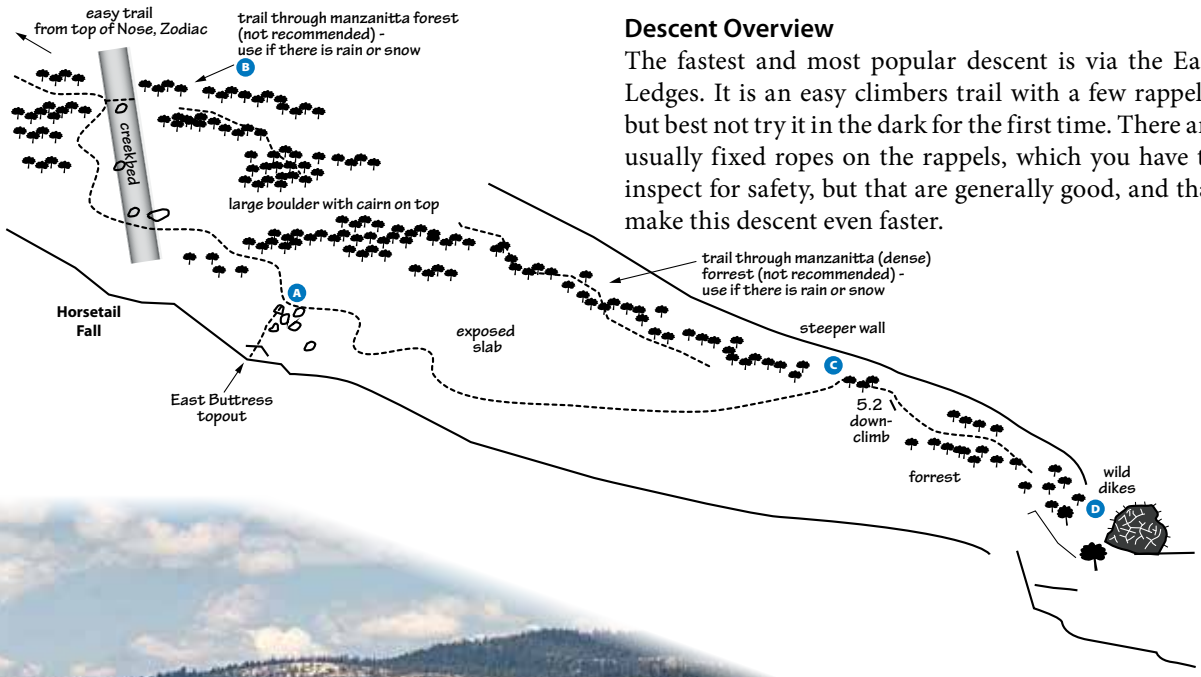


Warning:

Significant rockfalls in 2017 have made accessing this climb dangerous, as you have to walk directly beneath a very active rockfall area to reach the base of the route.



Timmy O'Neill on the East Buttress, 5.10b
Photo: Corey Rich



Descent Overview

The fastest and most popular descent is via the East Ledges. It is an easy climbers trail with a few rappels, but best not try it in the dark for the first time. There are usually fixed ropes on the rappels, which you have to inspect for safety, but that are generally good, and that make this descent even faster.

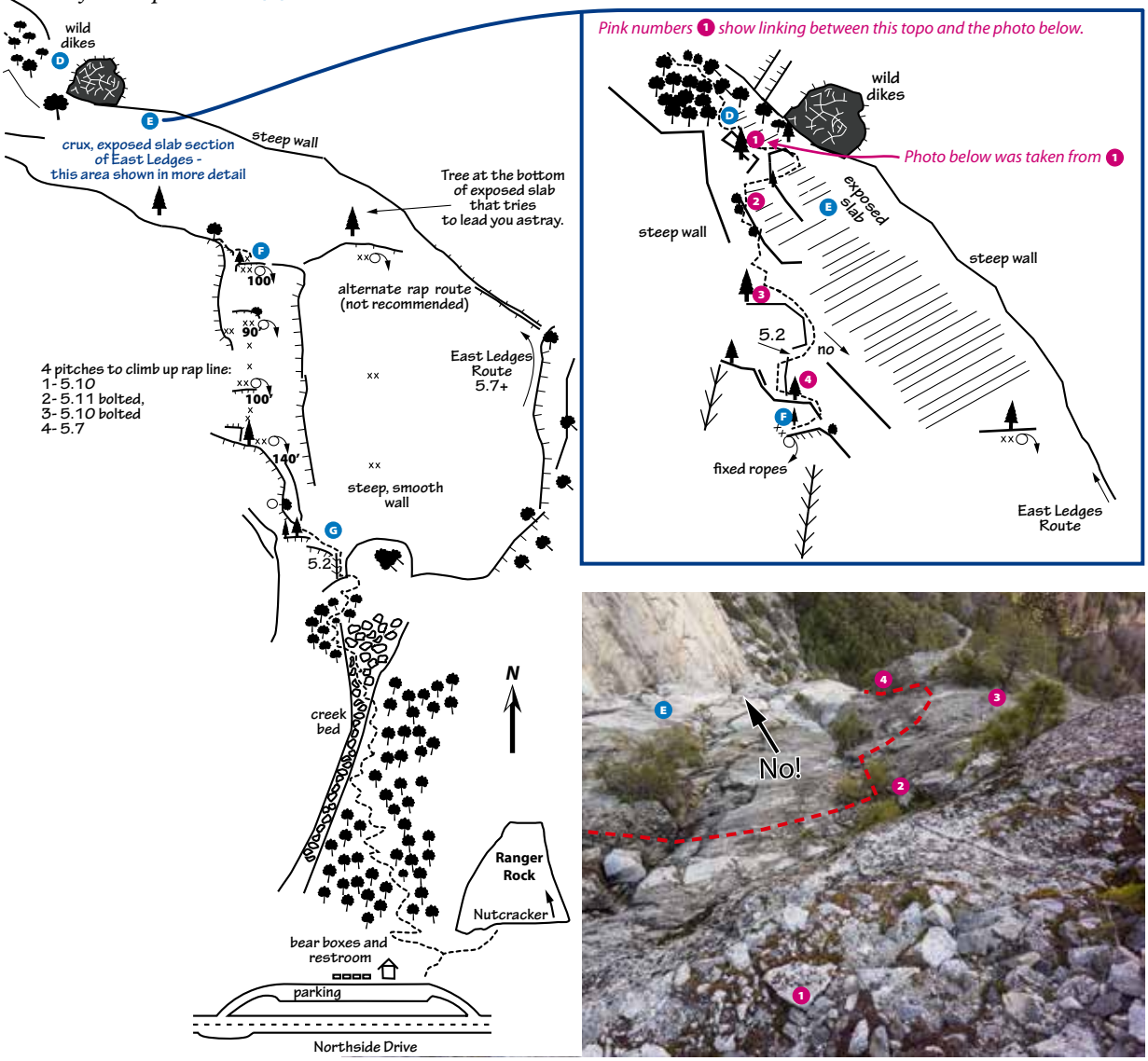
Descent from the Nose

From the summit of the Nose walk East along the edge of El Cap on mostly exposed slab, fifty to a hundred meters in from the edge, until you reach the Zodiac topout marked by a tree, fire ring, and flat spot. This first portion of the descent is very easy and straightforward—you are just walking down easy, exposed slab—staying near the edge of the cliff but not dangerously close to it. You never get more than a hundred meters away from the edge of the cliff. From Zodiac you zigzag down through manzanita to a creek bed. Follow the creek bed down toward the edge, where you will see a large boulder, with a cairn on top, that marks where the trail re-enters the manzanitta forest for a few hundred feet to the topout of the East Buttress. (a non-distinct area of slabs and trees). (A). *Alternative: If these initial slabs are wet or icy you will have to* ***traverse the slab to the north*** *and work your way* ***down an obvious manzanita forest*** *which runs down the side of the exposed slab* (B).

Descent from the East Buttress

From the East Buttress topout, walk down, zig-zagging along mostly exposed slab until you can traverse across skier's left to a forested trail next to the steep wall (C). This trail ends at a large slab that faces the "Wild Dikes" formation on the left (D). Move down a short 4th class section in front of the Wild Dikes and walk skier's right across the drainage (E). Scramble more or less straight down, until you reach a ledge with a small pine tree (F). Four rappels bring you to a large ledge above a drainage (G). Scramble east down some 4th class and take the climber's trail back to the El Capitan Picnic Area. The descent takes 1.5-3 hours.

Alternatively to the East Ledges, you can walk 0.25 miles to the summit of El Cap and follow the Eagle Peak and Upper Yosemite Falls trails for 8.5 miles to Camp 4.



Ribbon Fall

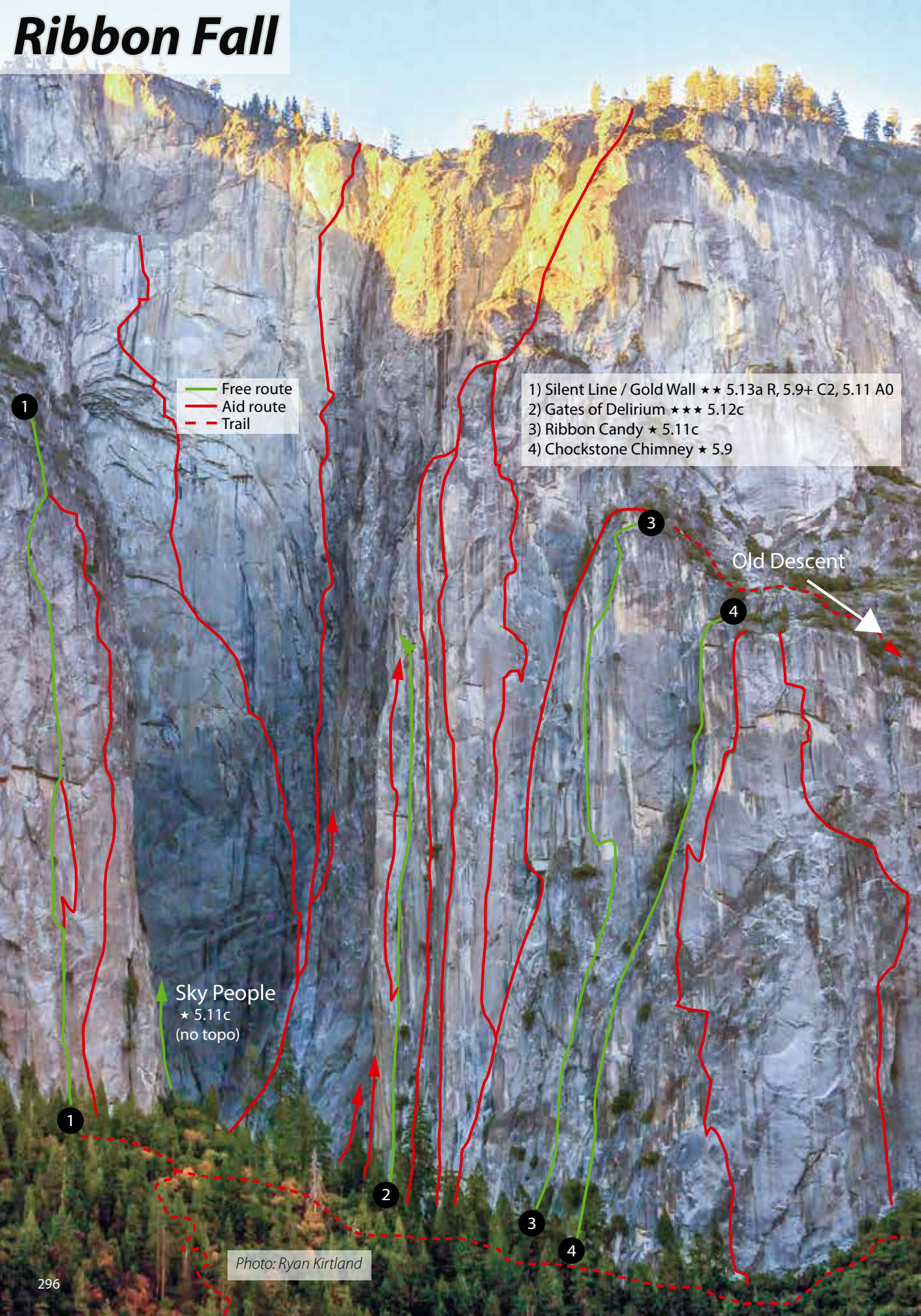
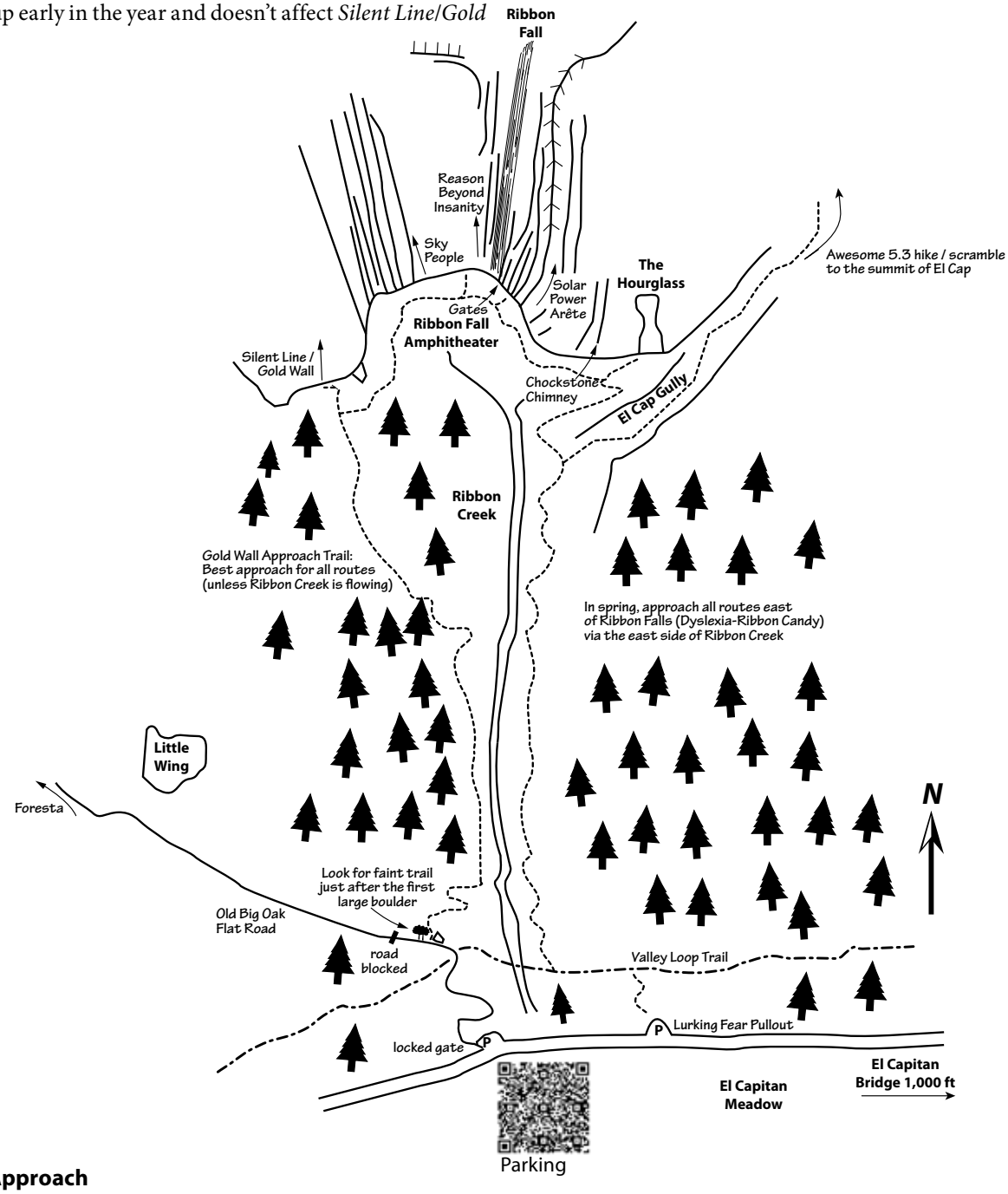


Photo: Ryan Kirtland

Ribbon Fall is one of the most unique places in Yosemite, and is not to be missed. Splitter cracks, many filled with grass, are everywhere. The waterfall dries up early in the year and doesn't affect *Silent Line/Gold Wall* even when it's roaring. Start early for these routes as the approach is a strenuous one-mile hike, with two thousand feet of elevation gain.



Approach

This approach is steep and strenuous; allow 1.5-2.5 hours with a heavy pack. From El Capitan continue west on Northside Drive. Just a few hundred yards after the meadow park in the first dirt pullout on your right, at a gated dirt road. Hike up the windy road 0.2 miles. A few hundred feet before the road is blocked by small boulders, look for a large boulder on the right side of the road, with a cairn and trail on its left (uphill) side. This is an excellent trail, though steep, which follows Ribbon Creek staying just on the left (west) side. The trail takes you to Silent Line. From there you can scramble directly right down to the creek to get water (if available), or continue hiking into the amphitheater for the other routes.

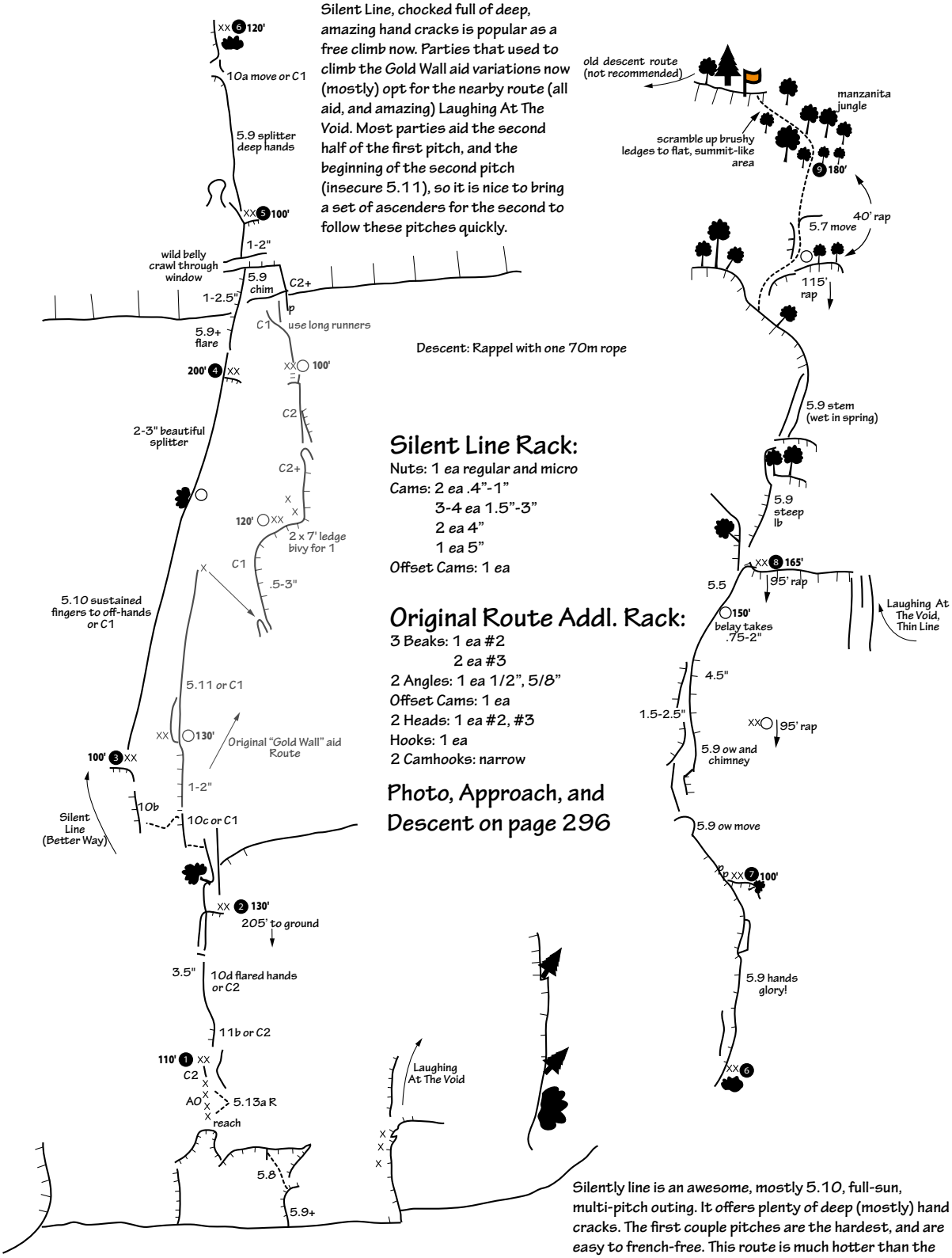
Descent

Rappel the route.

Silent Line (Gold Wall) V 5.13a R, 5.9+ C2, 5.11 A0

FA: May 1965 - Layton Kor, Tom Fender
FFA: 2004 - Dean Potter

Silent Line, chocked full of deep, amazing hand cracks is popular as a free climb now. Parties that used to climb the Gold Wall aid variations now (mostly) opt for the nearby route (all aid, and amazing) Laughing At The Void. Most parties aid the second half of the first pitch, and the beginning of the second pitch (insecure 5.11), so it is nice to bring a set of ascenders for the second to follow these pitches quickly.



Descent: Rappel with one 70m rope

Silent Line Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea regular and micro
Cams: 2 ea .4"-1"
3-4 ea 1.5"-3"
2 ea 4"
1 ea 5"
Offset Cams: 1 ea

Original Route Addl. Rack:

3 Beaks: 1 ea #2
2 ea #3
2 Angles: 1 ea 1/2", 5/8"
Offset Cams: 1 ea
2 Heads: 1 ea #2, #3
Hooks: 1 ea
2 Camhooks: narrow

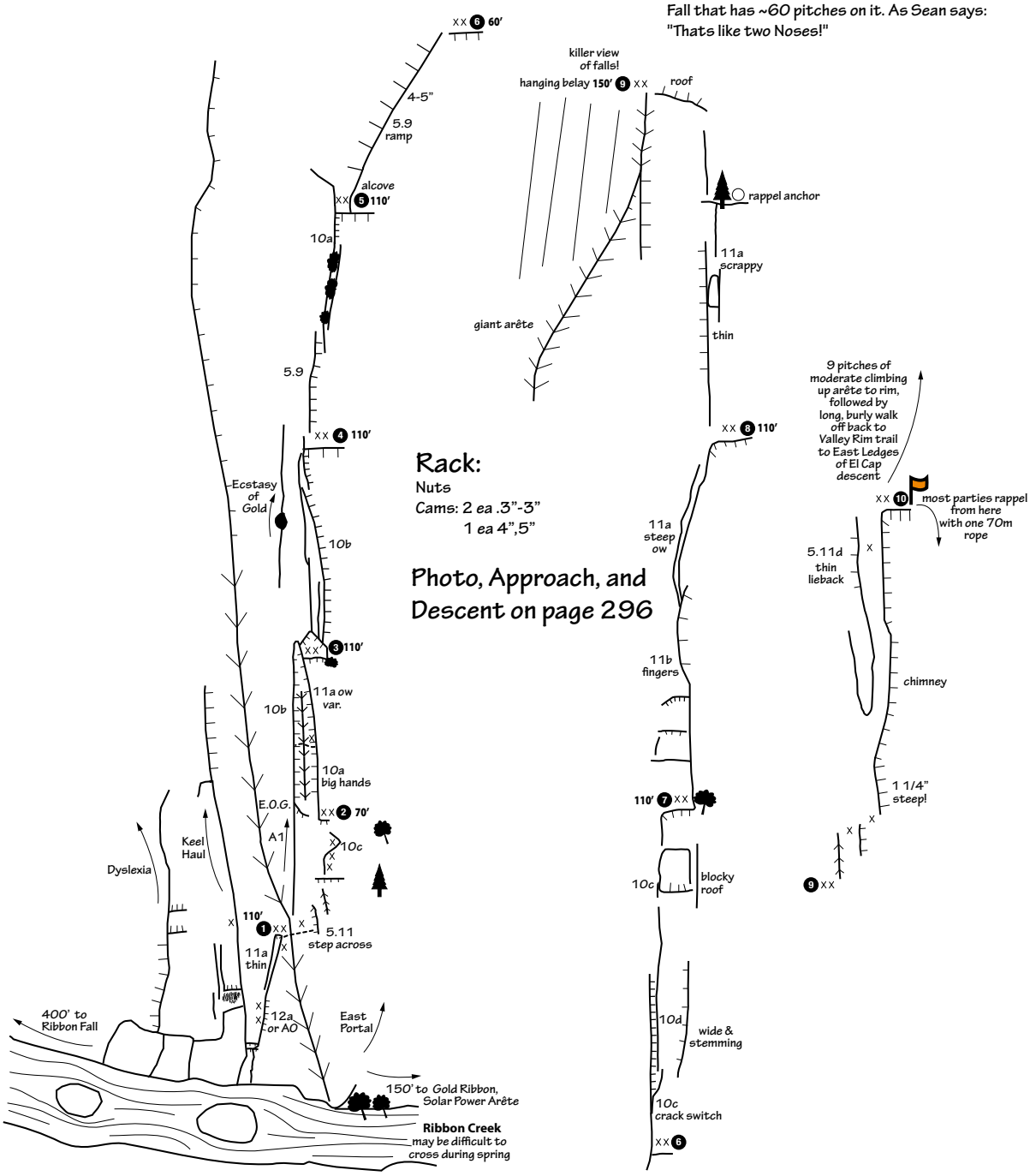
Photo, Approach, and Descent on page 296

Silently line is an awesome, mostly 5.10, full-sun, multi-pitch outing. It offers plenty of deep (mostly) hand cracks. The first couple pitches are the hardest, and are easy to french-free. This route is much hotter than the other climbs in Ribbon Fall, so is best in spring and fall. (It also dries up earlier in the spring, and does not suffer from mist like the other routes can).

Gates of Delirium V 5.12a or 5.11a A0

FA: 2002 - Sean Jones, Jake Jones

Sean Jones is one of the most prolific FA'ists in the modern era of Yosemite. He put up many hundreds of pitches in the valley including a whole new crag above and to the west of Ribbon Fall that has ~60 pitches on it. As Sean says: "Thats like two Noses!"



Rack:

Nuts
Cams: 2 ea .3"-3"
1 ea 4",5"

Photo, Approach, and Descent on page 296

Ribbon Candy IV 5.11c

FA (Star Drive): 1983 - Mike Corbett, Steve Bosque
FFA: May 1988 - Jonny Woodward, Scott Cosgrove

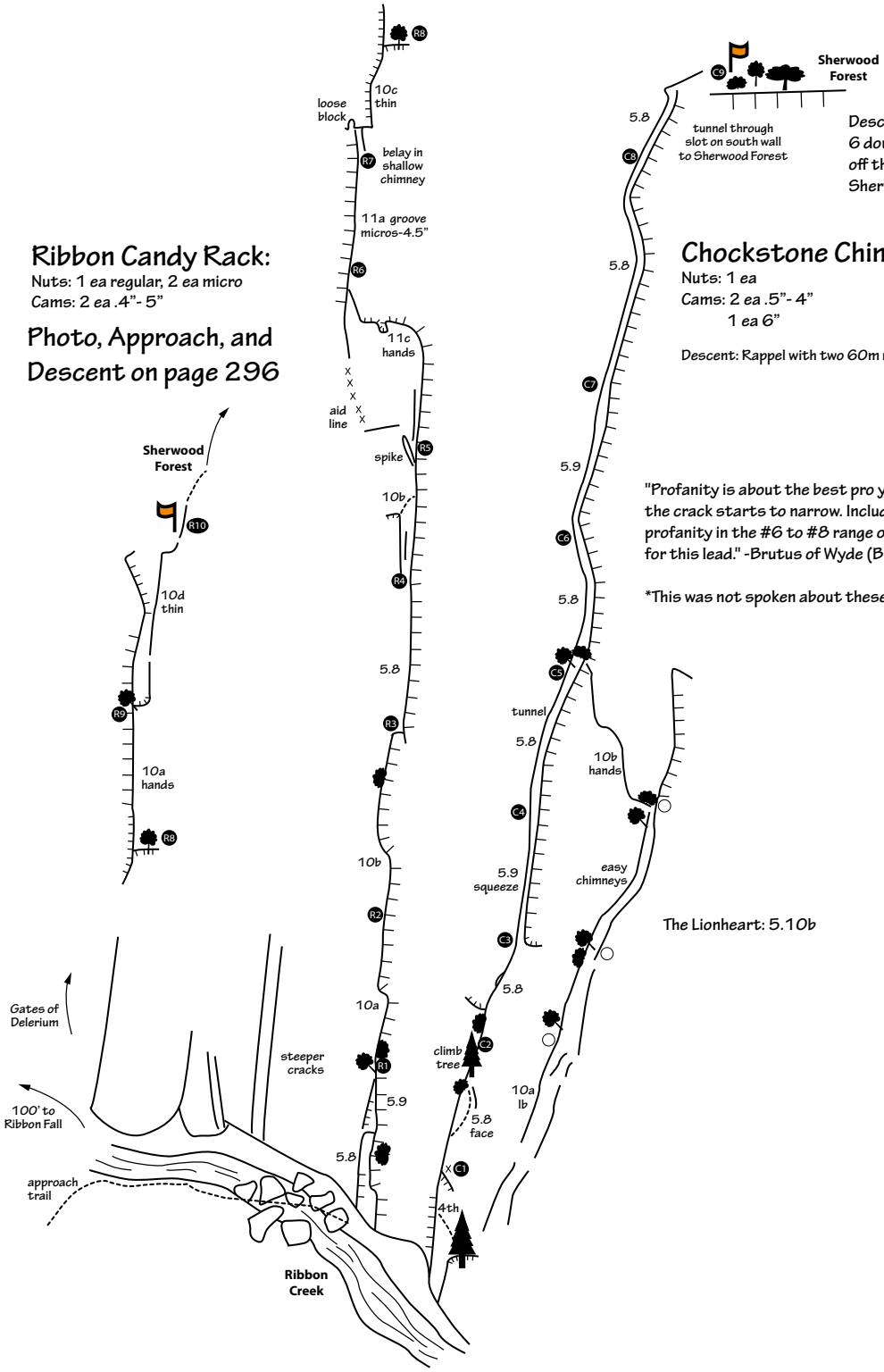
Chockstone Chimney IV 5.9

FA: December 1962 - Les Wilson, Wolfgang Heinritz, Andrezj Ehrenfeucht, Leif Patterson
FFA: May 1976 - Ray Jardine, Mark Moore

Ribbon Candy Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea regular, 2 ea micro
Cams: 2 ea .4"- 5"

Photo, Approach, and Descent on page 296



Descent:
6 double-rope rappels off the right side of Sherwood Forest

Chockstone Chimney Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .5"- 4"
1 ea 6"

Descent: Rappel with two 60m ropes

"Profanity is about the best pro you'll get until the crack starts to narrow. Include doubles of profanity in the #6 to #8 range on your rack for this lead." -Brutus of Wyde (Bruce Bindner)*

*This was not spoken about these climbs.

Sean Jones on pitch 3 (5.10b) of his route Gates of Delirium, 5.12c
Photo: Shawn Reeder

Down Canyon

Down Canyon climbing provides the perfect compliment to Yosemite Valley's towering cliffs. All of the cliffs outside the Valley proper, including Rostrum and Killer Pillar on hwy 41 south, and Reeds, Five and Dime and the Cascade Falls cliffs on the hwy 120, as well as the many cliffs down the highway 140 towards El Portal, are included in this Down Canyon section. All of these cliffs are less than a half hour drive from the Valley!

While still offering a few 100-300 meter climbs, the down canyon cliffs are generally much more reasonably sized; some are even toprope friendly (a rarity in Yosemite Valley). Many sport climbs and longer routes have been developed down canyon in recent years, adding to the area's rich diversity of famous single- to three-pitch crack climbs. *Beyond Lunacy*—with seven pitches of mostly 5.10 cracks at Reed's Pinnacle—and *Super Slacker Highway*—an amazing, eight-pitch crack and sport climb at Pat and Jack—are excellent examples of longer climbs. The new sport climbs of the East Pillar of Cookie and the Sugar Cookie are good examples of newer sport climbing areas.

Short, sometimes curbside (USGS), approaches are the norm. Some of the most famous short crack climbs are found down canyon. For 5.9 - 5.10 leaders, do not miss Reed's Pinnacle , Pat and Jack, and Parkline Slab. For 5.11 - 5.12 leaders, the Rostrum, Cookie Cliff, and Arch Rock are unparalleled in Yosemite.

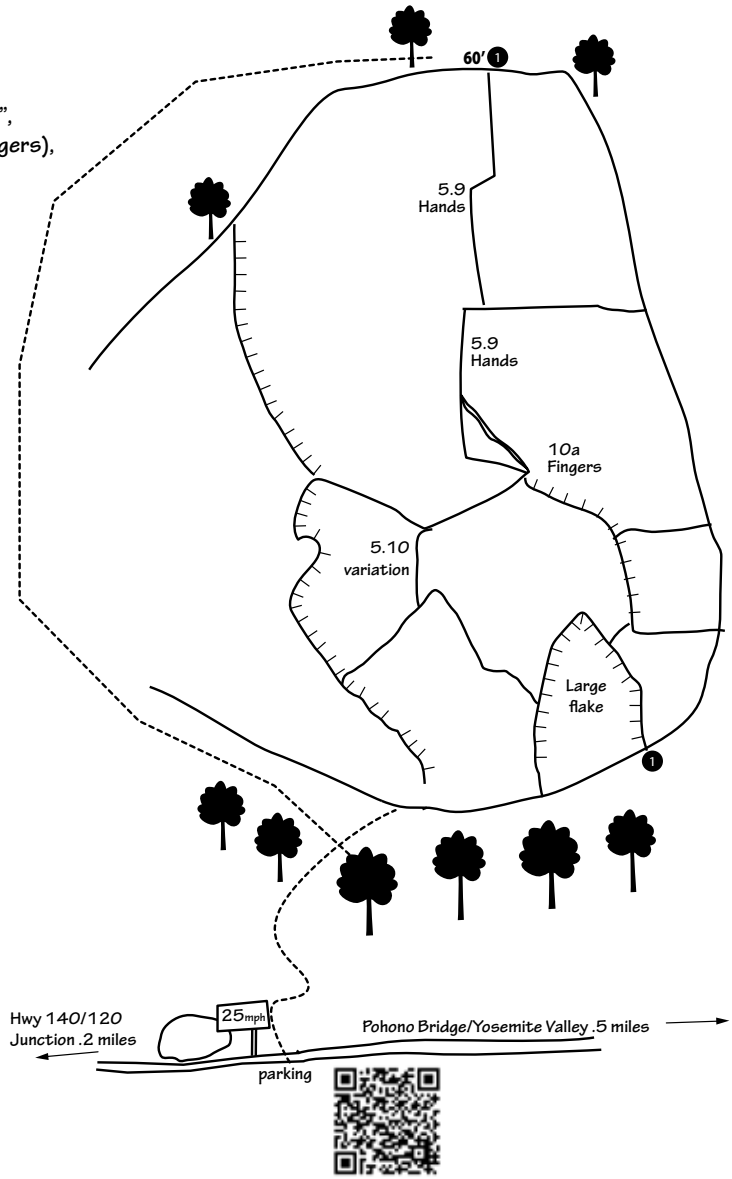
Drew Smith on Underclingon, 5.12a. Pat and Jack
Photo: Austin Siadak

Highway Star 5.10a

FA: 1981. Chris Falkenstein, Don Reid, Ed Kuropat

Rack:

Nuts
Cams: 1ea .5" - 3",
2ea .75" (thin fingers),
3ea 2" (hands)



Highway Star is a splitter, right up from the road, toprope friendly, fingers to hands pitch. Park right next to the road / river just before (coming from the Valley) the hwy 140 / hwy 120 junction. Look for a boulder with a 25 mph sign just before it, and park there. Walk a few feet back toward the Valley and the approach trial (5 minutes) will head up the hillside. Bring extra long slings if you're setting up a toprope, as the tree anchor sits back from the lip.

Cliff name, page number
Rock climbing cliff
Trail, Climbing approach and descent
Cross-country, faint trail
Stream/River, Waterfall, Lake
Intermittent stream, Marsh
Primary Road, Tunnel
Two-way street
Secondary Rd., Pullout
One-way street
Dirt Road
Parking
Bathroom
Picnic area
Reed's Pinnacle, 312
Five and Dime, 320
Parking
New Diversions, 328
Big Oak Flat Road
Cascade Creek
Knob Hill, 322
Parking
Generator Crack, 329
El Portal Road
Cascade Falls, 326
Cascade Falls Left, 330
The Rostrum, 308
Pat & Jack, 334
Parking
Jungle Gym, 338
Merced River
Parking
Wawona Road
Knobby Wall, 340
Wildcat Creek
41
Above the Cookie, 324
Elephant Rock, 342
Sugar Cookie / Sheet, 352
Killer Pillar, 309
Cookie Cliff, 344
Parking
Parking
120
140
TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
12°54'
As of 2019
0
1,500 ft
0
500 m
© 2018 Marek Jakubowski

The Rostrum

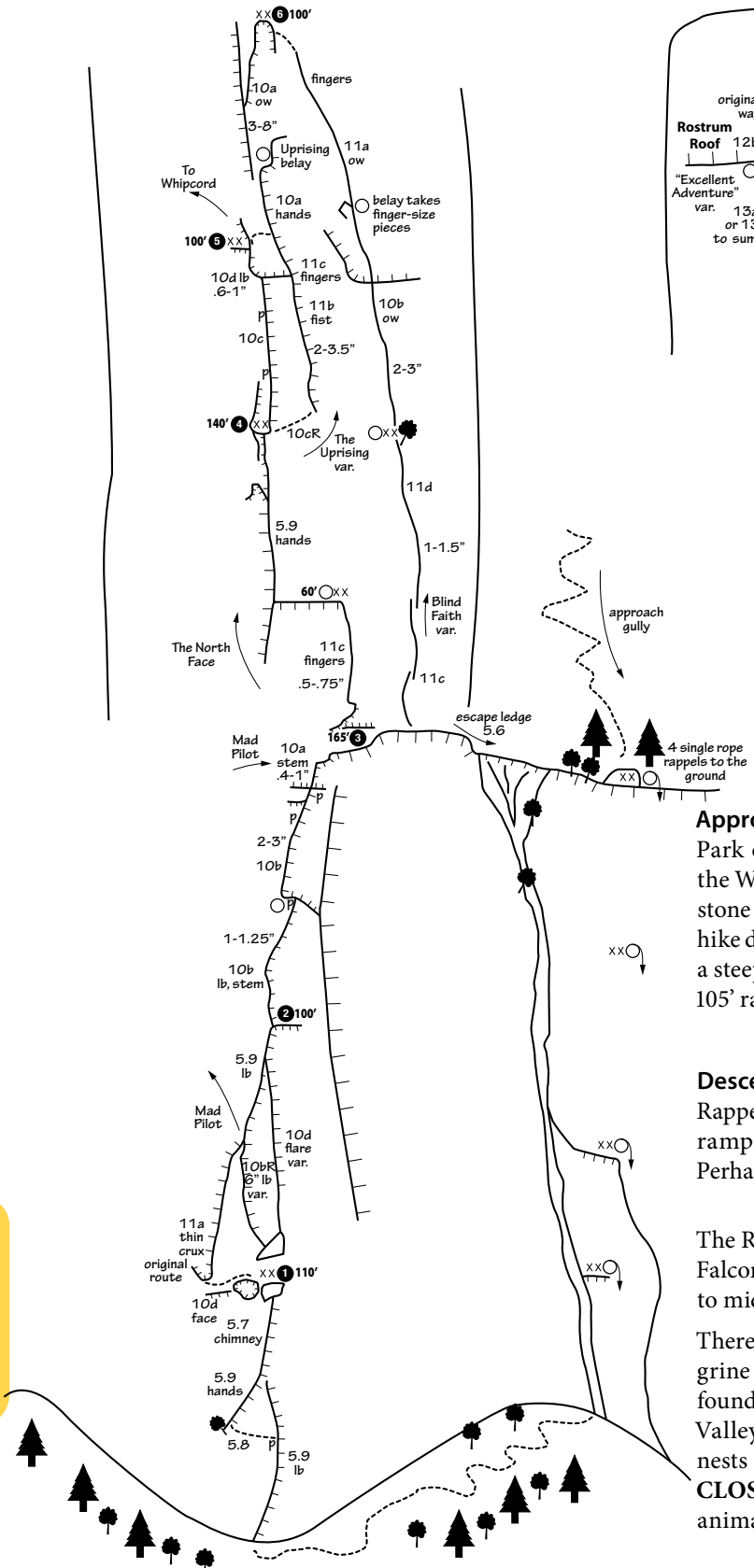
The Rostrum is every 5.11 trad climber's goal. Splitter cracks in a knockout setting make this a superb, if at times crowded, outing.

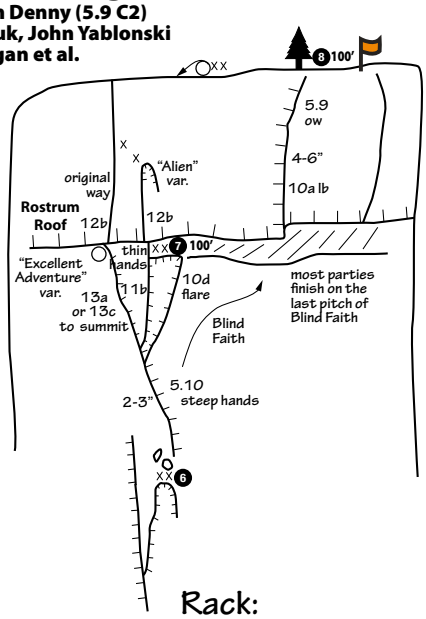
Photo: Erik Sloan

Nina Williams on The Rostrum, 5.11c
Photo: Cheyne Lempe

The North Face IV 5.11c or 5.12b (original finish)

FA: July 1972 - Warren Harding, Glen Denny (5.9 C2)
FFA (Blind Faith finish): 1977 - Ron Kauk, John Yablonski
FFA (entire): 1985 Kim Carrigan et al.





Rack:

Nuts: 1 set (inc. micros)
Cams: 2 ea .4"-3"
1 ea 4"
1 ea 5",7"
Offset Cams: 1 ea (optional but useful)

Parking

Approach:

Park on Highway 41 just west (.9 miles) of the Wawona Tunnel at a long turnout with a stone wall. From the west side of the turnout, hike down slabs to a trail that takes you down a steep gully. When the gully ends, do three 105' raps to reach the base of the North Face.

Descent:

Rappel 40' to the notch. Climb up a 4th class ramp to the rim. Walk uphill to your car. Perhaps the plushest descent in Yosemite!

The Rostrum is usually closed for Peregrine Falcon nesting from the beginning of March to mid - July.

There are only ~1,600 nesting pairs of peregrine falcons worldwide. Six of the 14 pairs found south of Lake Tahoe are in Yosemite Valley. One of the most productive pairs nests on the Rostrum. **RESPECT FALCON CLOSURES** and help save this remarkable animal.

1) The Hundredth Monkey ★★★ 11b. 11 Bolts
2) Fun Terminal ★★★ 12a. 7 Bolts
3) Wicked Gravity ★★ 12c. 7 Bolts
4) Bucket Brigade ★★★ 11d. 8 Bolts

Killer Pillar is a short approach, outrageously steep and exposed sport climbing area. The challenge is you start at the top of the cliff, so just setting up a toprope on these climbs can be intense - you are suddenly on top of the Valley, it's often windy, and the wall is overhanging so clipping in directionals while descending can be strenuous. Bring long slings for the top anchor.

Approach:
Follow Hwy 41 south through the Wawona tunnel. One mile after the tunnel, there is a long stone wall, followed by a roomy pull-off on the right. This is the Rostrum parking. Do not park here, but continue driving south for less than a quarter-mile past some sharp bends and park in the first small gravel pull-off on the right. Across the street, to your left, there will be a small rock-cut in the road, and on you right will be an open, rocky area. Hike from this rocky area towards the top of the cliff following an obvious trail. The Killer Pillar is the detached summit with multiple bolted anchors on top. Rappel in to the climbs.

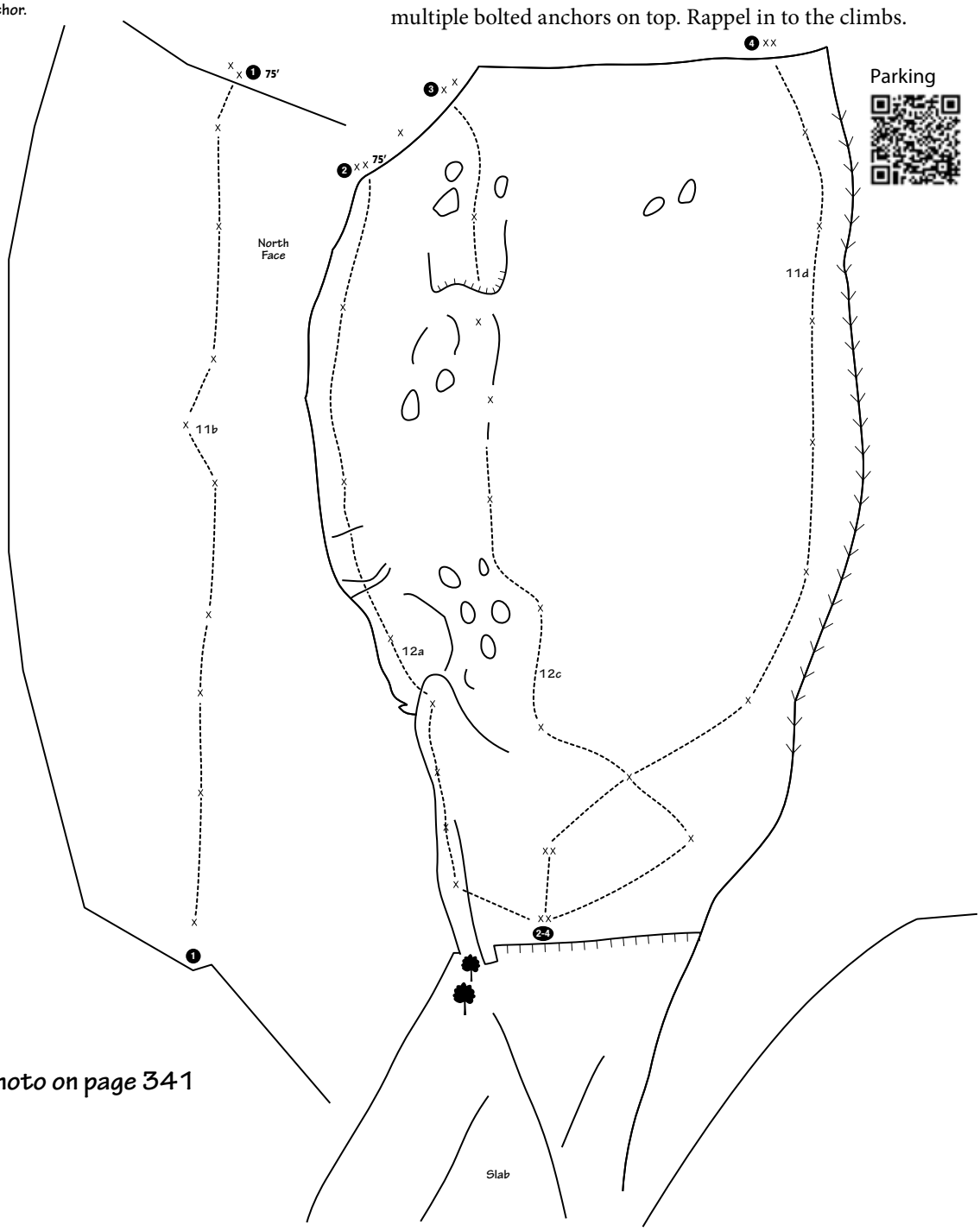
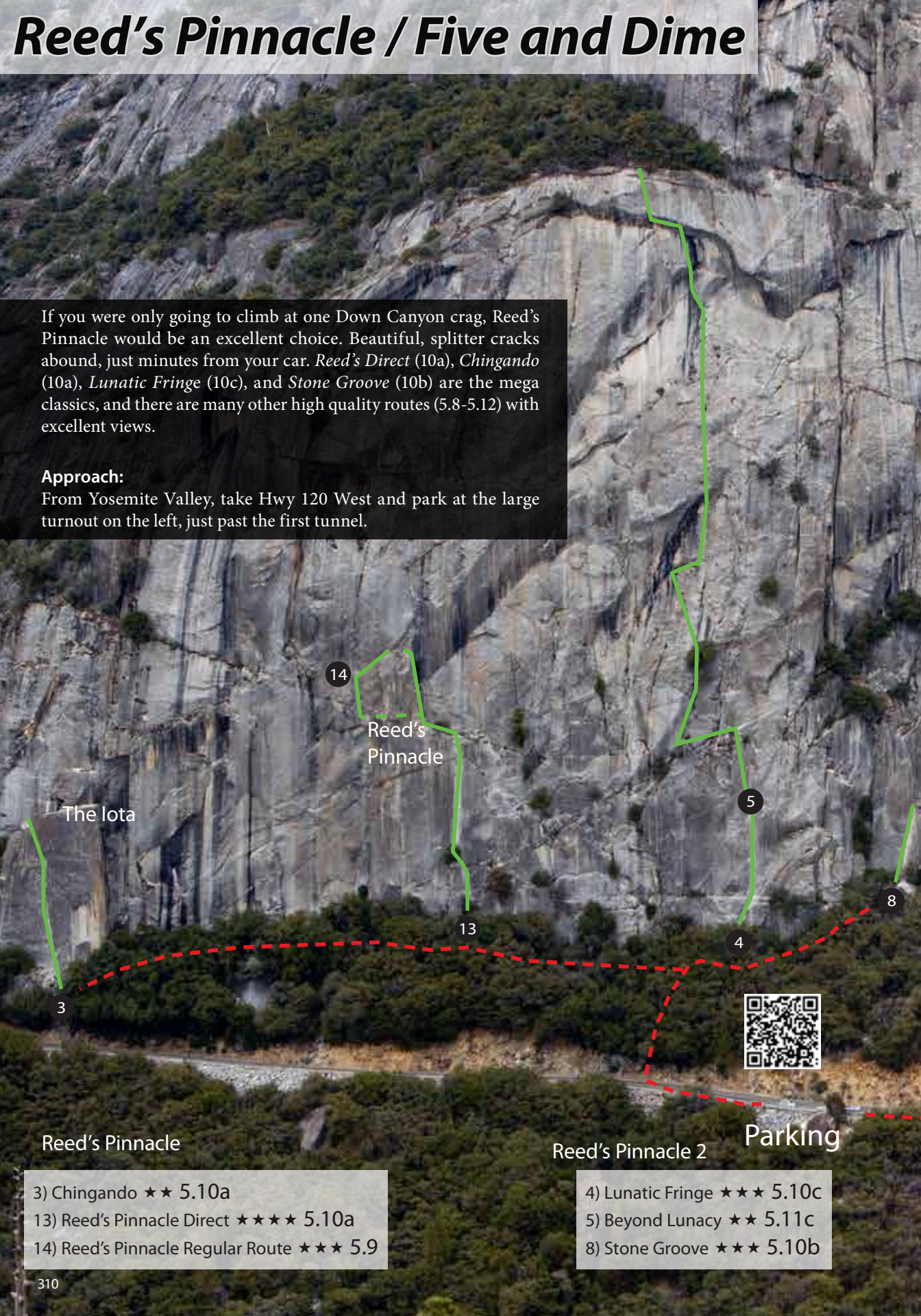


Photo on page 341

Reed's Pinnacle / Five and Dime

If you were only going to climb at one Down Canyon crag, Reed's Pinnacle would be an excellent choice. Beautiful, splitter cracks abound, just minutes from your car. *Reed's Direct* (10a), *Chingando* (10a), *Lunatic Fringe* (10c), and *Stone Groove* (10b) are the mega classics, and there are many other high quality routes (5.8-5.12) with excellent views.

Approach:
From Yosemite Valley, take Hwy 120 West and park at the large turnout on the left, just past the first tunnel.



Reed's Pinnacle

3) Chingando ★★ 5.10a
13) Reed's Pinnacle Direct ★★★★ 5.10a
14) Reed's Pinnacle Regular Route ★★★ 5.9

Reed's Pinnacle 2

4) Lunatic Fringe ★★★ 5.10c
5) Beyond Lunacy ★★ 5.11c
8) Stone Groove ★★★ 5.10b

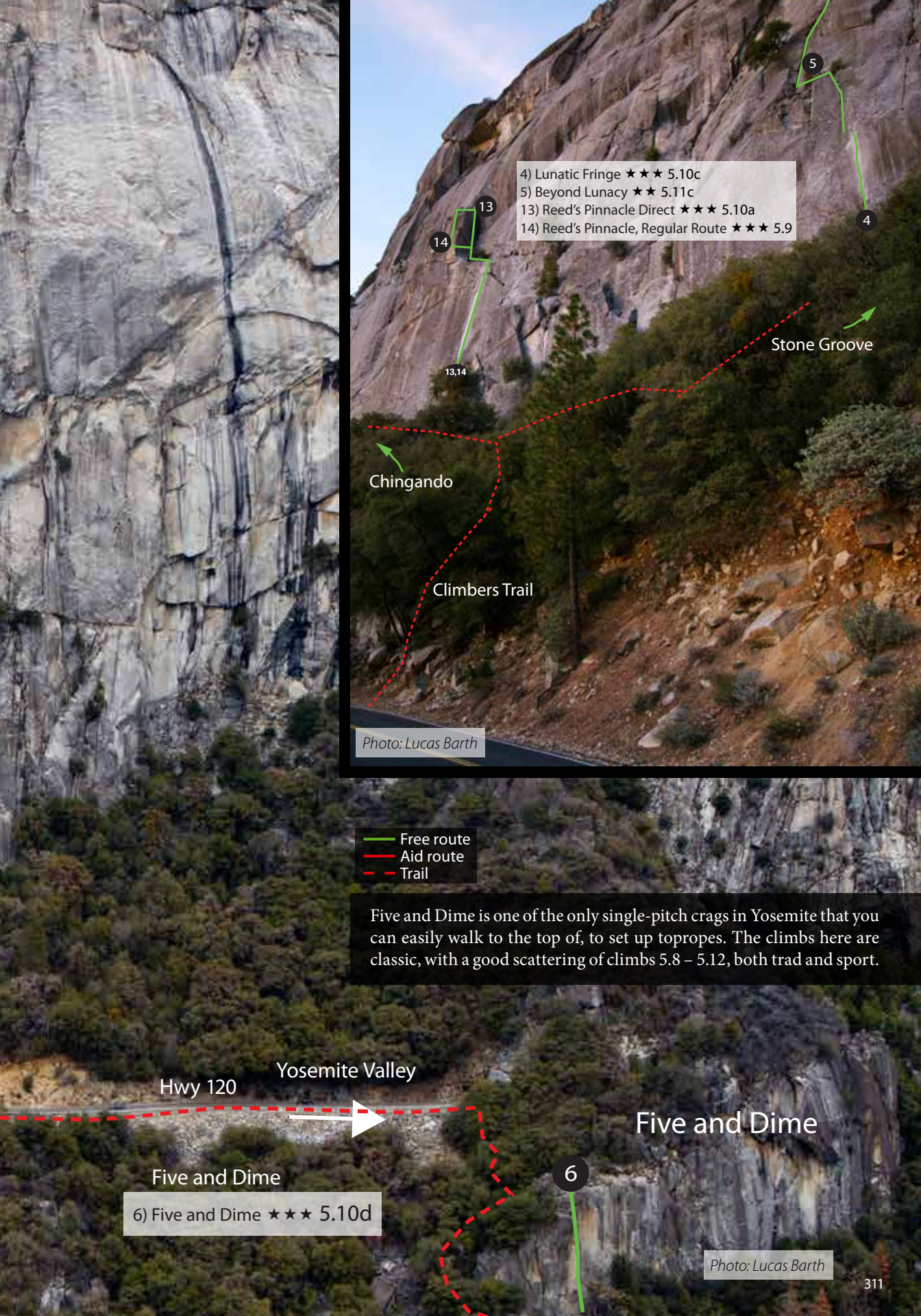
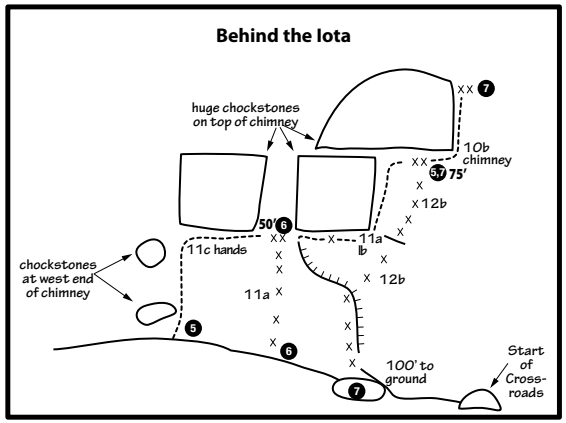


Photo: Lucas Barth

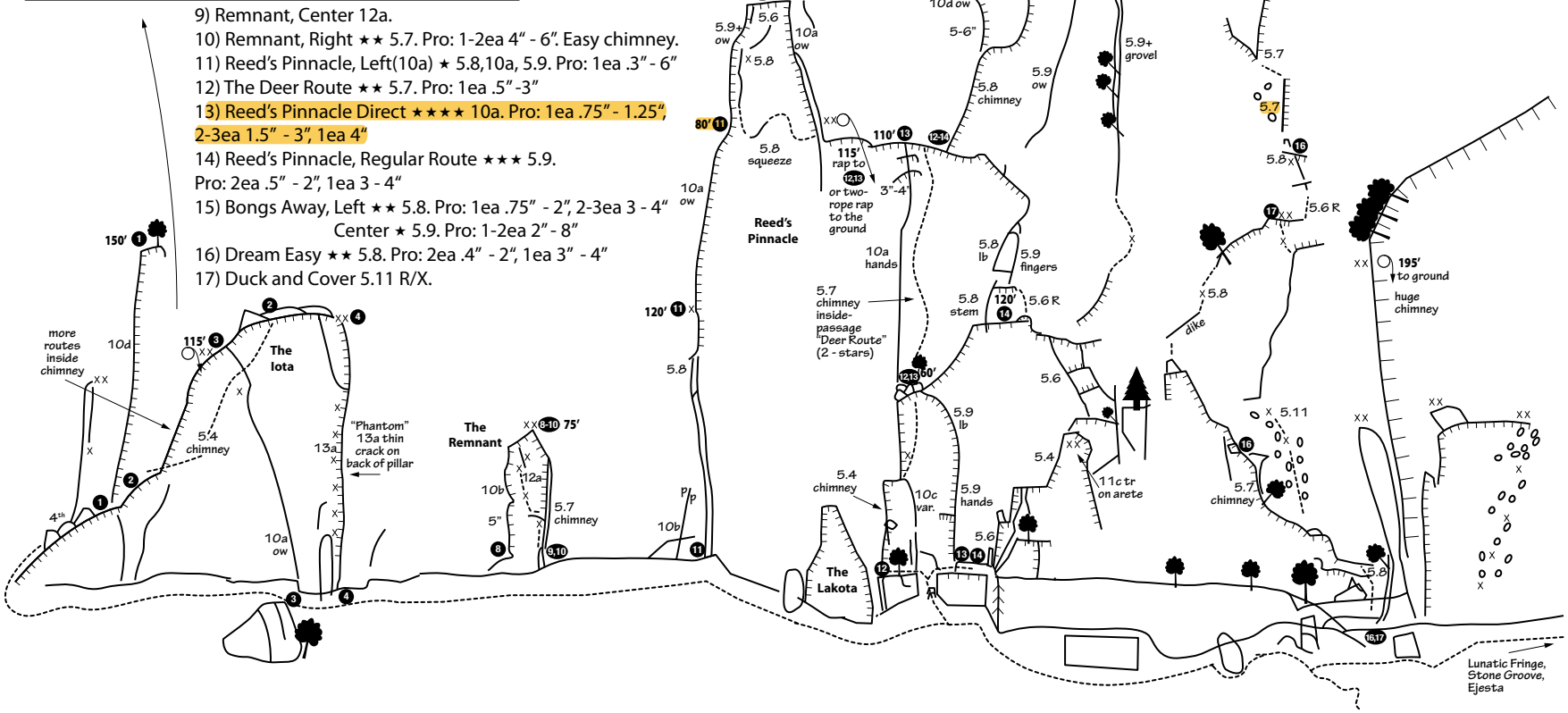
Five and Dime is one of the only single-pitch crags in Yosemite that you can easily walk to the top of, to set up topropes. The climbs here are classic, with a good scattering of climbs 5.8 – 5.12, both trad and sport.

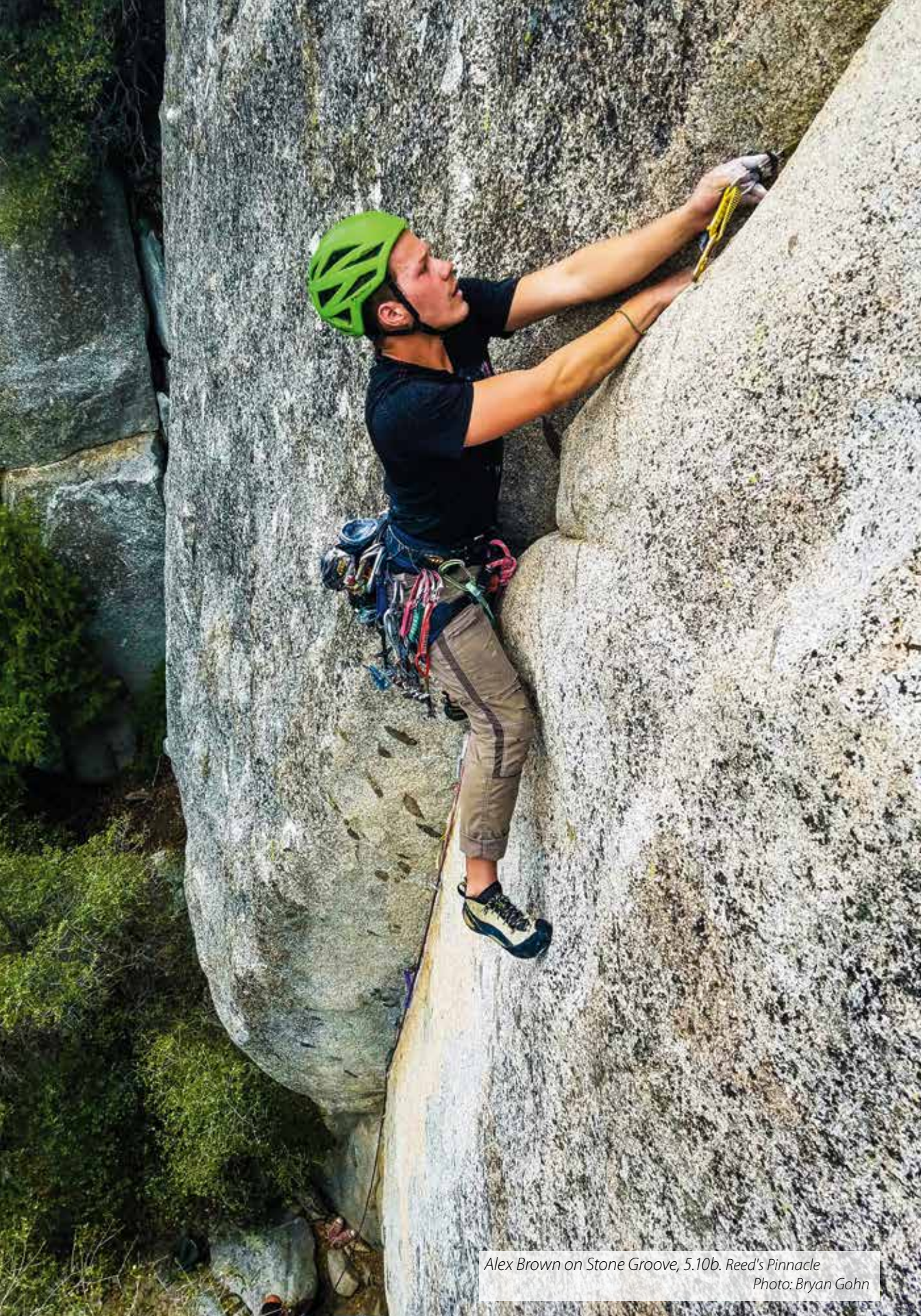
Photo: Lucas Barth



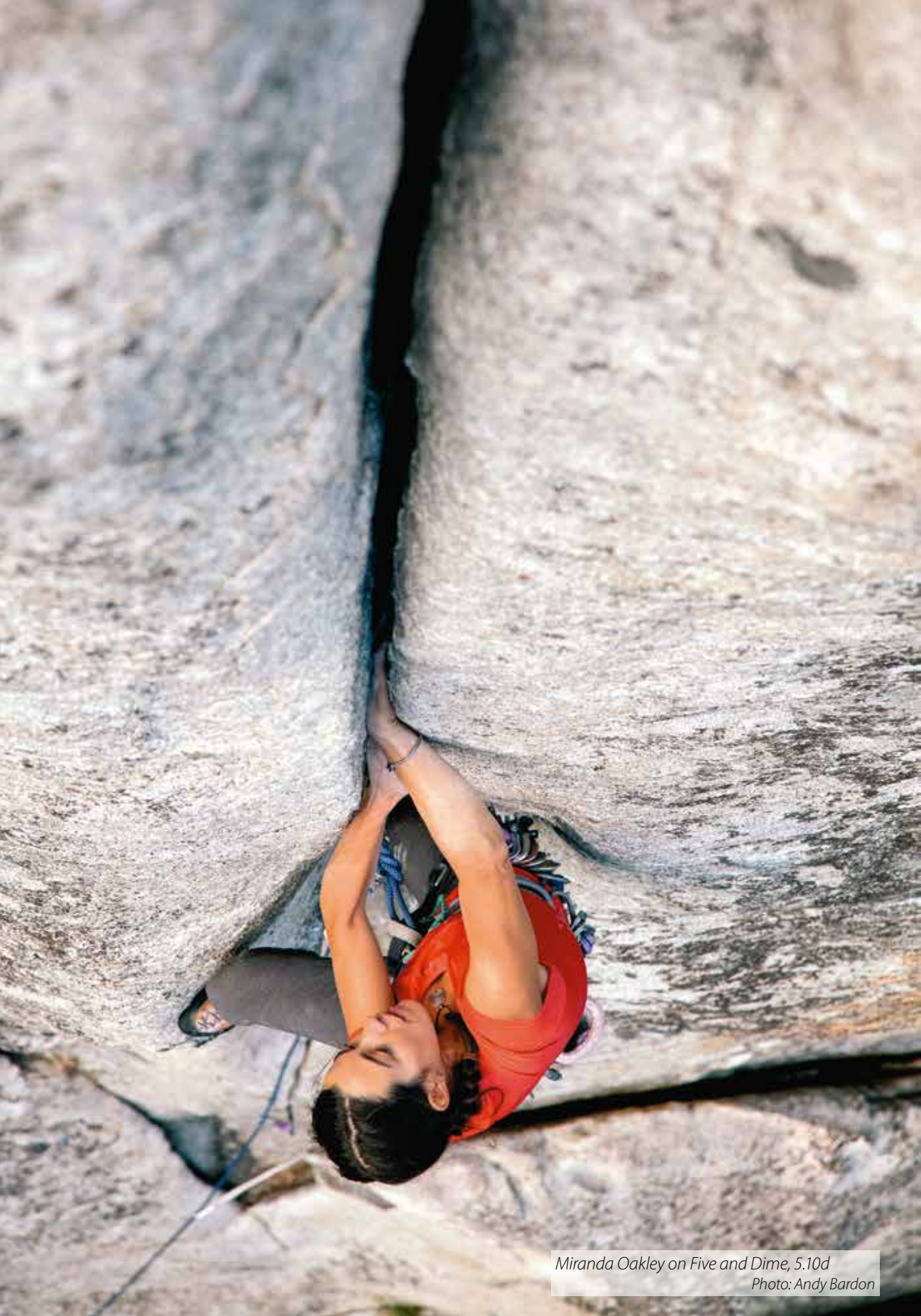
Reed's Pinnacle

1) Olga's Trick ★★ 10d. Pro: 2-3ea to .3". - 2". Cool, out of the way, fingers to thin hands corner. Some munge.
2) The Iota Chimney ★★ 5.4. All time caving adventure!
3) Chingando ★★ 10a. Pro: 1ea .75". - 6", 2ea 2", 5" (9" piece optional). OG offwidth testpiece. Use a tag line to pull up more gear half way through the pitch. Can toprope with 70m rope.
4) Crossroads ★★ 13a.
5) Open Your Eyes ★★ 11c. Pro: 2ea .75" - 5"
6) Children of the Light ★★ 11a.
7) Footprints ★★ 12b.
8) Remnant, Left ★ 10b. Pro: 1ea .4". - 6"
9) Remnant, Center 12a.
10) Remnant, Right ★★ 5.7. Pro: 1-2ea 4" - 6". Easy chimney.
11) Reed's Pinnacle, Left(10a) ★ 5.8,10a, 5.9. Pro: 1ea .3" - 6"
12) The Deer Route ★★ 5.7. Pro: 1ea .5" -3"
13) Reed's Pinnacle Direct ★★★★ 10a. Pro: 1ea .75" - 1.25", 2-3ea 1.5" - 3", 1ea 4"
14) Reed's Pinnacle, Regular Route ★★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .5" - 2", 1ea 3 - 4"
15) Bongs Away, Left ★★ 5.8. Pro: 1ea .75" - 2", 2-3ea 3 - 4"
Center ★ 5.9. Pro: 1-2ea 2" - 8"
16) Dream Easy ★★ 5.8. Pro: 2ea .4" - 2", 1ea 3" - 4"
17) Duck and Cover 5.11 R/X.





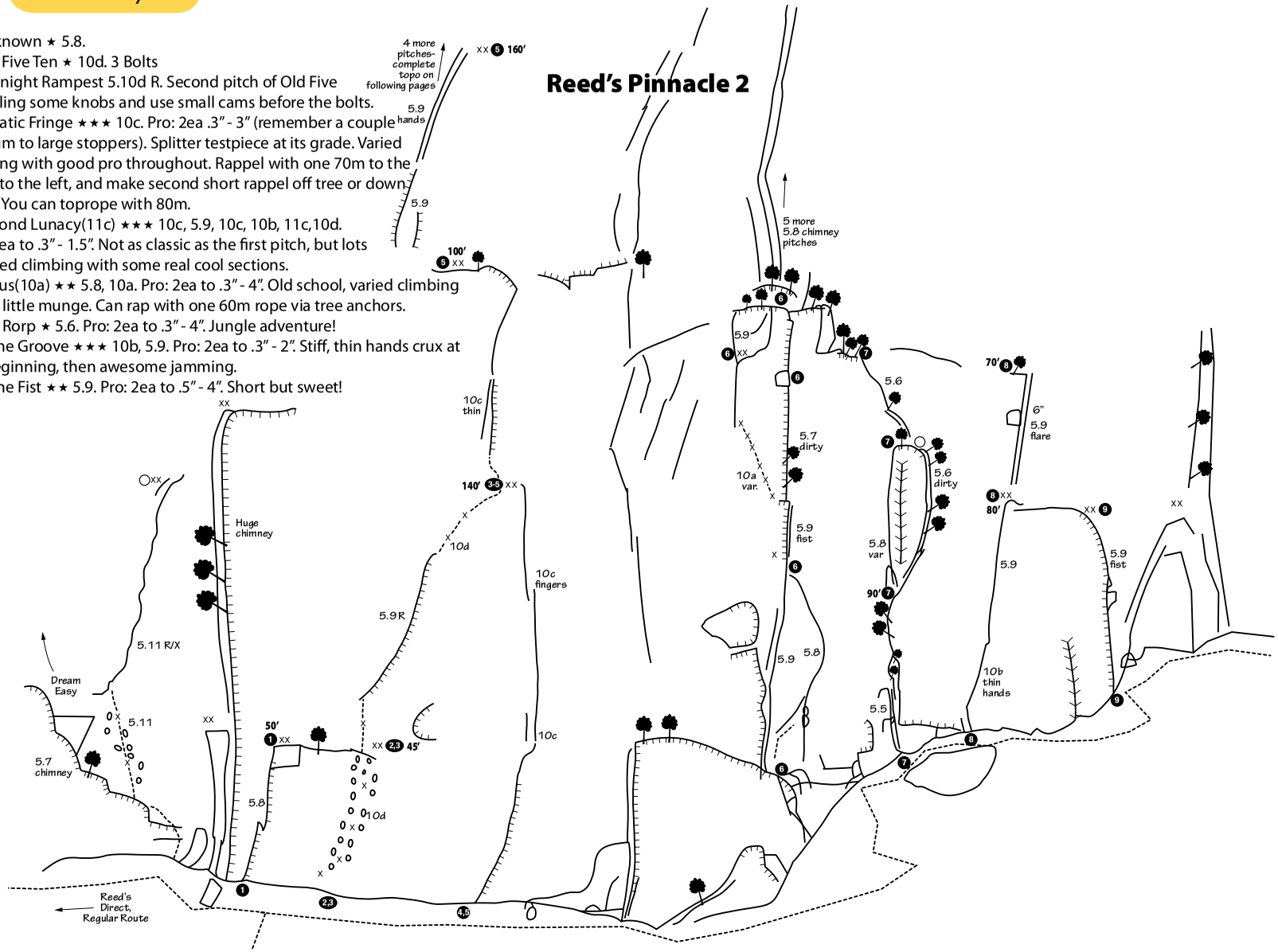
Alex Brown on Stone Groove, 5.10b. Reed's Pinnacle
Photo: Bryan Gohn



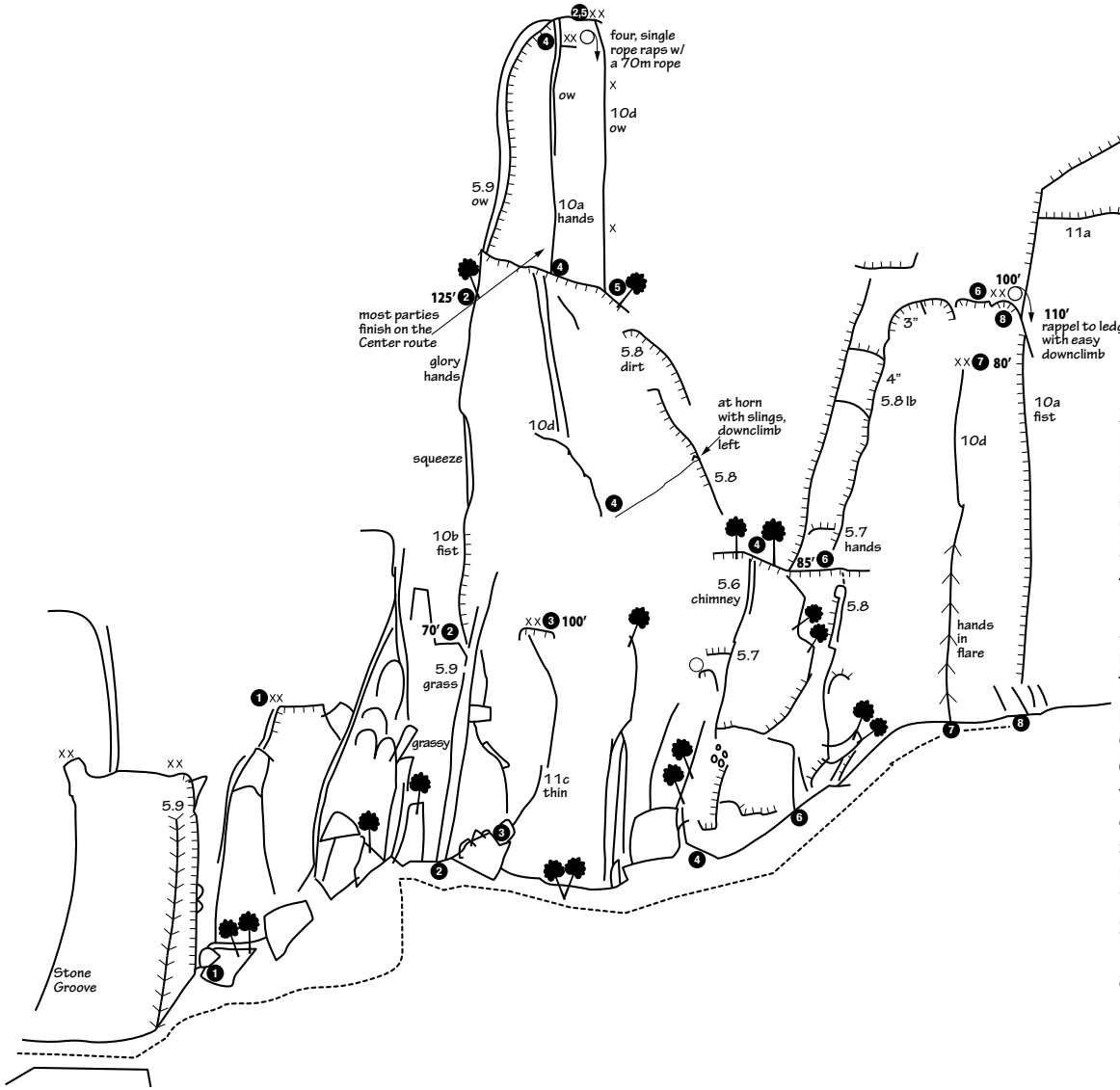
Miranda Oakley on Five and Dime, 5.10d
Photo: Andy Bardon

Hjördis Rickert on Lunatic Fringe 5.10c, Reeds Pinnacle, pg 316
Photo: Bernd Zeugswetter

1) Unknown ★ 5.8.
2) Old Five Ten ★ 10d. 3 Bolts
3) Midnight Rampest 5.10d R. Second pitch of Old Five Ten. Sling some knobs and use small cams before the bolts.
4) Lunatic Fringe ★★★ 10c. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3" (remember a couple medium to large stoppers). Splitter testpiece at its grade. Varied climbing with good pro throughout. Rappel with one 70m to the ledge to the left, and make second short rappel off tree or down climb. You can toprope with 80m.
5) Beyond Lunacy(11c) ★★★ 10c, 5.9, 10c, 10b, 11c,10d. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 1.5". Not as classic as the first pitch, but lots of varied climbing with some real cool sections.
6) Flatus(10a) ★★ 5.8, 10a. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 4". Old school, varied climbing with a little munge. Can rap with one 60m rope via tree anchors.
7) The Rorp ★ 5.6. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 4". Jungle adventure!
8) Stone Groove ★★★ 10b, 5.9. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 2". Stiff, thin hands crux at the beginning, then awesome jamming.
9) Stone Fist ★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea to .5" - 4". Short but sweet!



Reed's Pinnacle 3

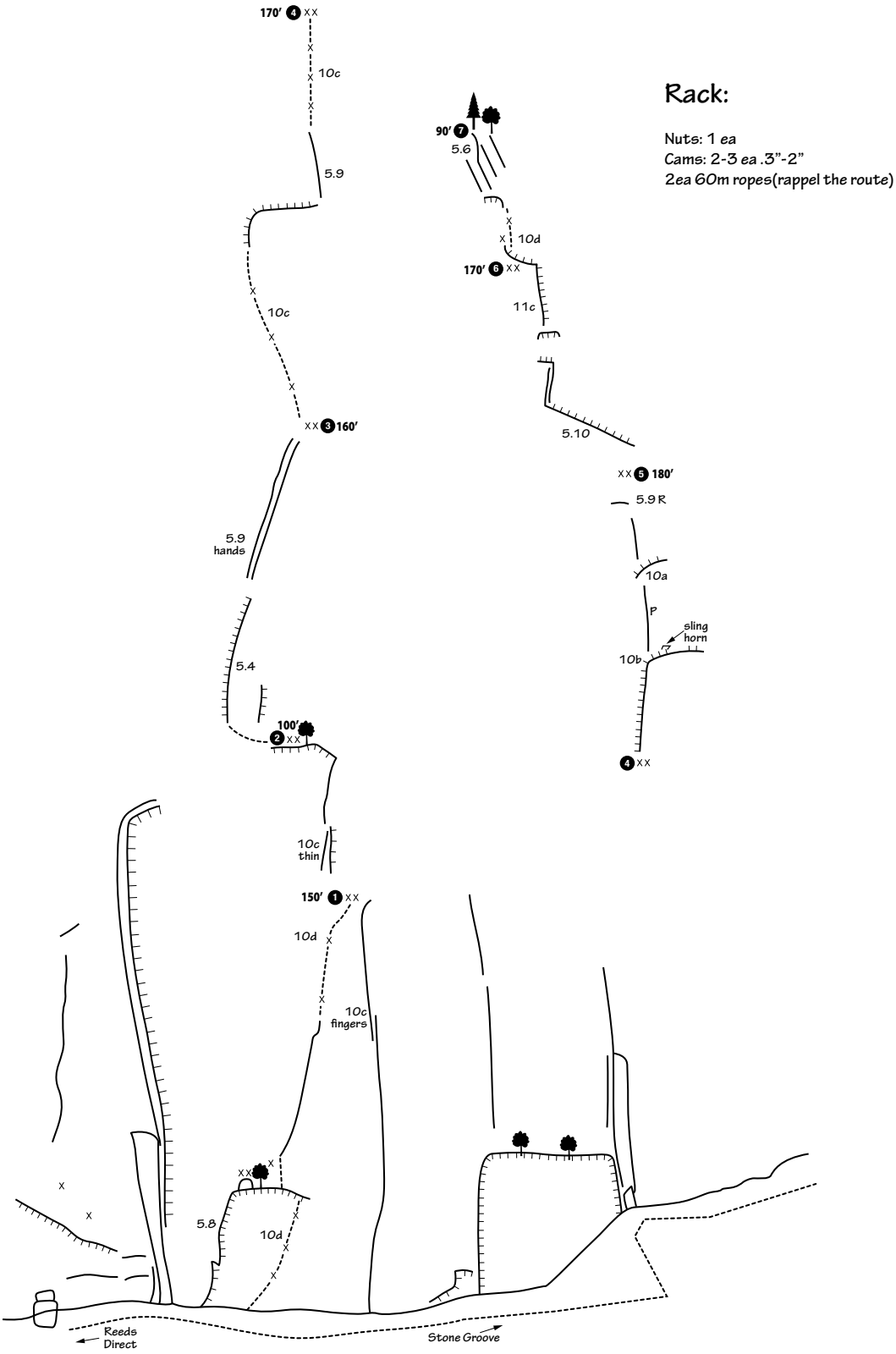


1) Unknown ★★ 5.9. Pro: 1-2ea to .3" - 4"
2) Independence Pinnacle, Left(10b) ★★ 5.9, 10b, 5.9. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.5", 3ea 2"-3", 1-2ea 4", 5". One, slightly dirty pitch leads to the clean, sustained second pitch. Most folks climb the third pitch of the Center route (10a hands) for an awesome three pitch climb.
3) Rocket in my Pocket ★ 11c. Pro: 1ea to .3" - 3".
4) Independence Pinnacle, Center(10d) ★★★ 5.7, 5.8,10d, 10a. Pro: 1ea .3" - 6", extra .75" - 1.5".
5) Stepping Out ★★★ 10d. Pro: 1-2ea to .3" - 3" (for first two pitches of Independence Center route), 2ea 4" - 6". This is an optional third pitch to the Independence Center route. A stout, leaning offwidth that starts at 4" and quickly goes 5"-6". Maybe hard for the grade.
6) Ejesta(5.8) ★★ 5.7, 5.8. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 4". A blocky, average first pitch leads to awesome twin cracks, second pitch. With a 60m rope rap left to Dr. Fun Time anchor, and then do second rappel to the ground. With a 70m rope you can rap right to the ground (stretcher so do not simul - rappel!).
7) Dr. Fun Time ★ 10d. Pro: 1ea to .3" - 5", 2ea 1" - 2". Strenuous, flaky jams. Hard to protect, so not good for 10d leader.
8) Porter's Pout ★ 10a. Pro: 1-2ea to .4" - 3".

Beyond Lunacy IV 5.11c

FA: 2008. Linda Jarit, Kevin Willow, Eric Gabel

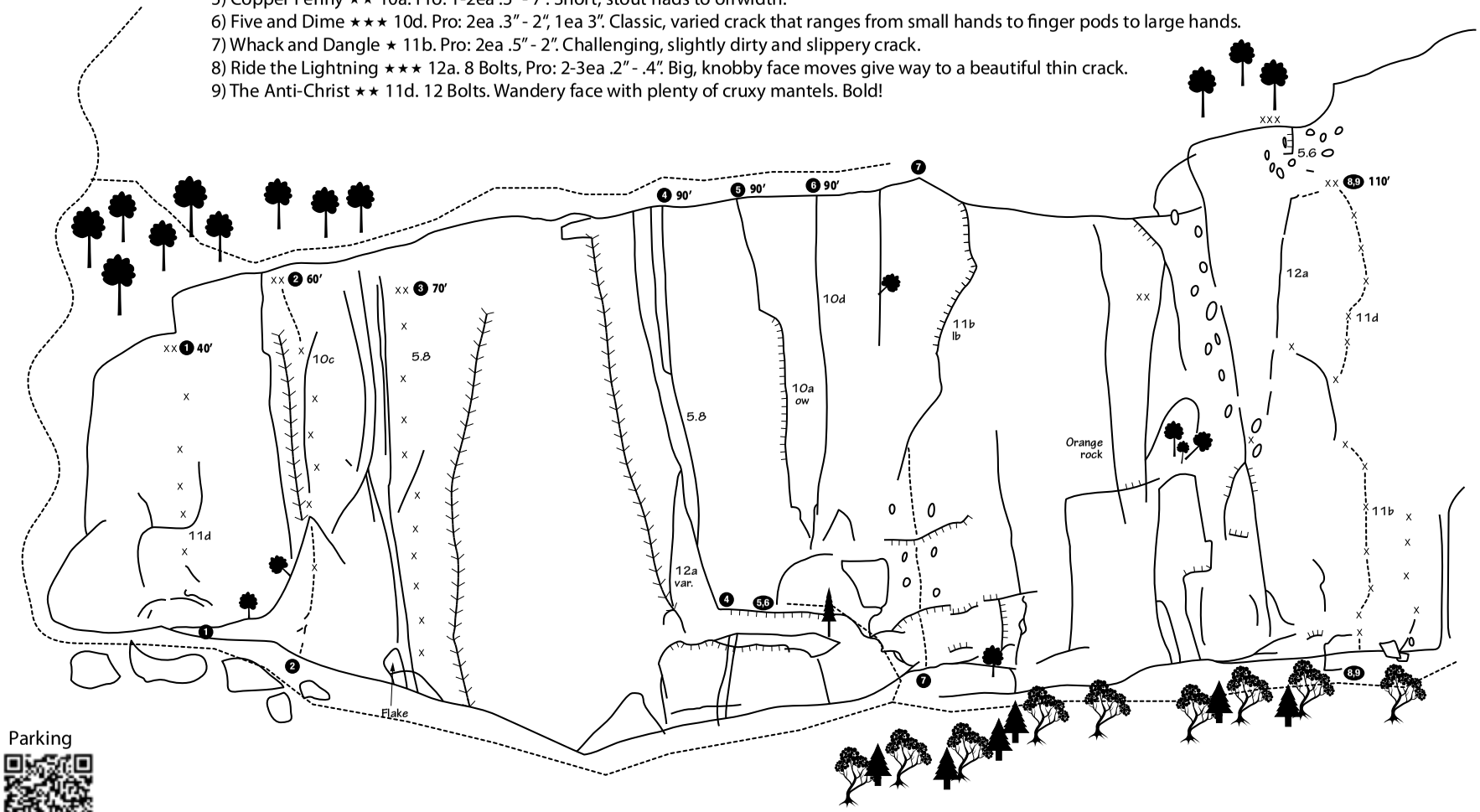
FFA: 2009. Chad Suchoski, Mike Cane



M'so Jones, age 8, on his dad Sean Jones' route Mockery, 5.8. Five and Dime
Photo: Shawn Reeder

Five and Dime

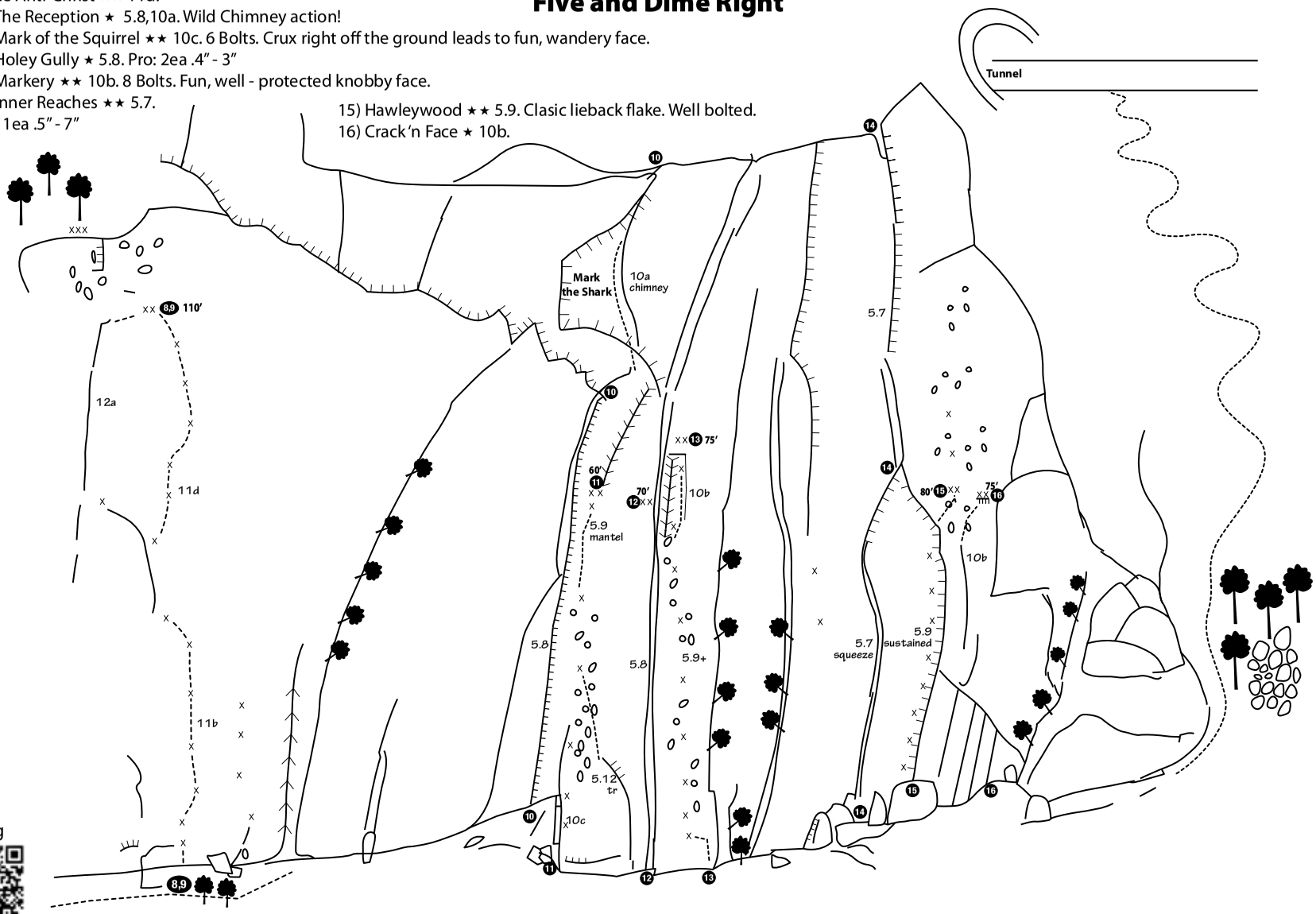
1) Nickel Bag ★★ 11d. 5 Bolts.
2) Bijou ★★ 10c. 6 Bolts
3) Mockery ★★★ 5.8. 9 Bolts. A rare, well-protected moderate sport climb in Yosemite.
4) Keystone Corner ★★ 5.8. Pro: 1-2ea .4" - 3". Cool stemming up a clean corner. Walk off the top.
5) Copper Penny ★★ 10a. Pro: 1-2ea .5" - 7". Short, stout hads to offwidth.
6) Five and Dime ★★★ 10d. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2", 1ea 3". Classic, varied crack that ranges from small hands to finger pods to large hands.
7) Whack and Dangle ★ 11b. Pro: 2ea .5" - 2". Challenging, slightly dirty and slippery crack.
8) Ride the Lightning ★★★ 12a. 8 Bolts, Pro: 2-3ea .2" - .4". Big, knobby face moves give way to a beautiful thin crack.
9) The Anti-Christ ★★ 11d. 12 Bolts. Wandery face with plenty of cruxy mantels. Bold!



Parking

Five and Dime Right

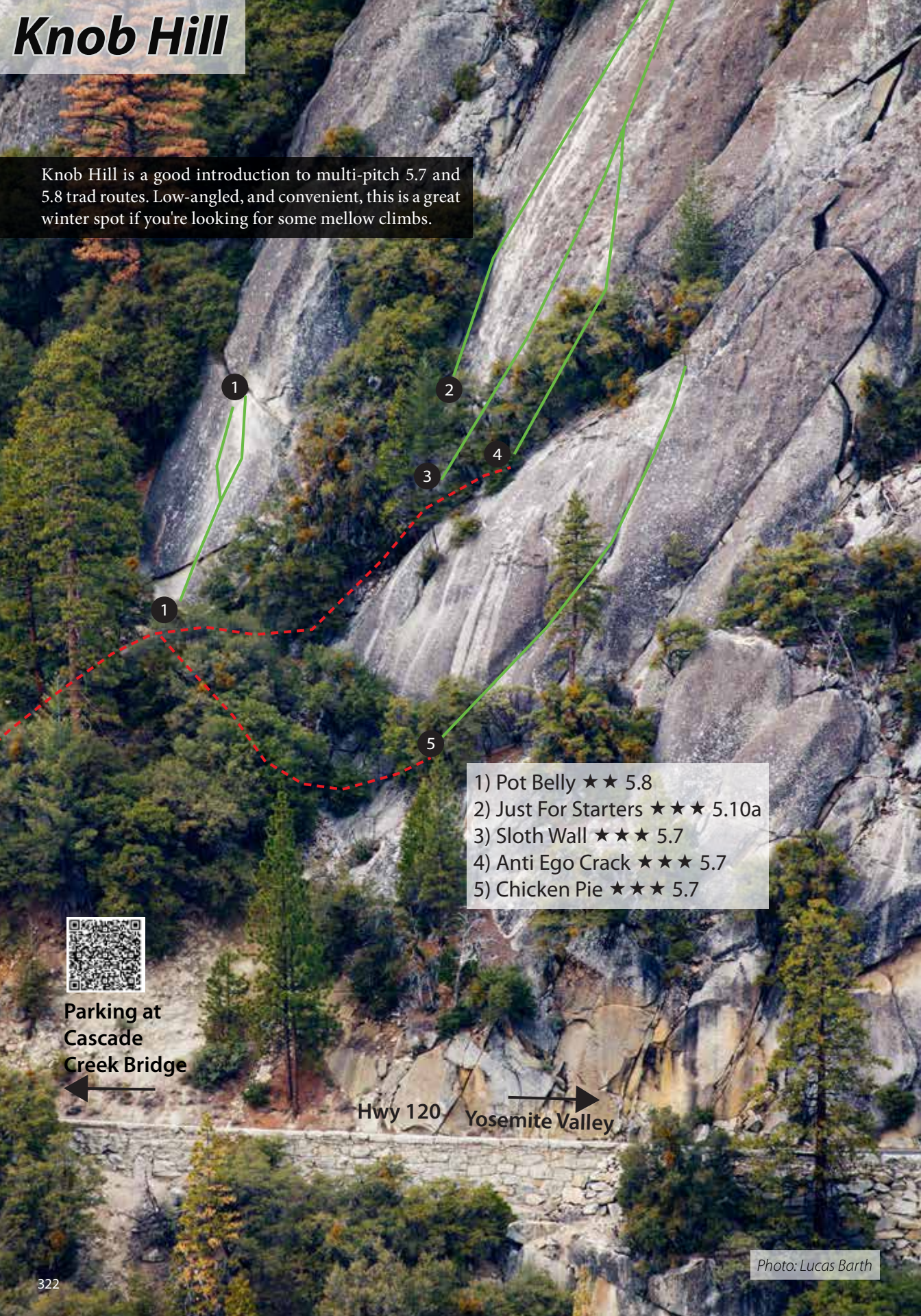
8) Ride The Lightning ★★★ 12a. Pro: 1-2ea .2" - .4"
9) The Anti-Christ ★★ 11d.
10) The Reception ★ 5.8,10a. Wild Chimney action!
11) Mark of the Squirrel ★★ 10c. 6 Bolts. Crux right off the ground leads to fun, wandery face.
12) Holey Gully ★ 5.8. Pro: 2ea .4" - 3"
13) Markery ★★ 10b. 8 Bolts. Fun, well - protected knobby face.
14) Inner Reaches ★★ 5.7.
Pro: 1ea .5" - 7"
15) Hawleywood ★★ 5.9. Clasic lieback flake. Well bolted.
16) Crack'n Face ★ 10b.



Parking

Knob Hill

Knob Hill is a good introduction to multi-pitch 5.7 and 5.8 trad routes. Low-angled, and convenient, this is a great winter spot if you're looking for some mellow climbs.



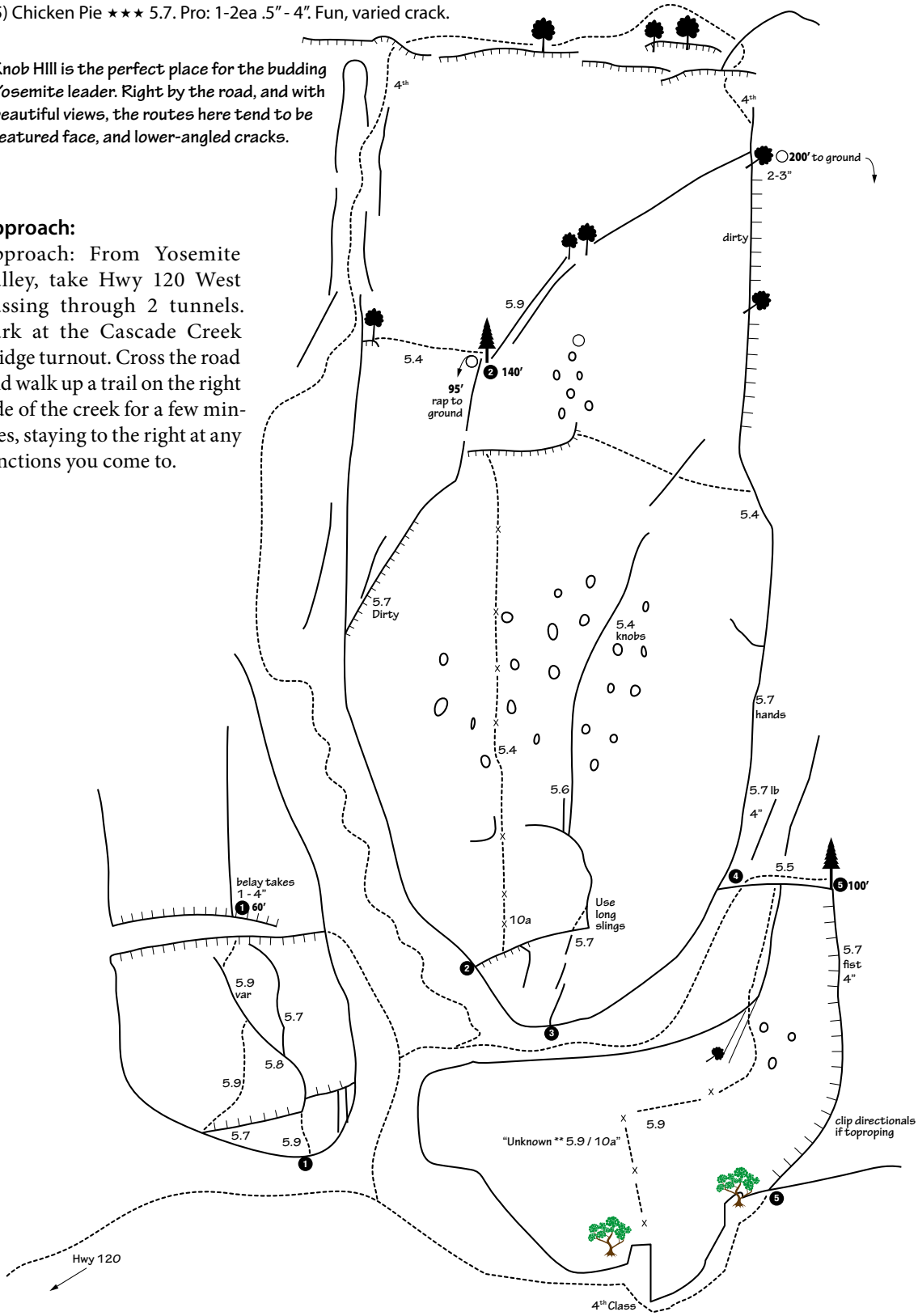
1) Pot Belly ★★ 5.8
2) Just For Starters ★★★ 5.10a
3) Sloth Wall ★★★ 5.7
4) Anti Ego Crack ★★★ 5.7
5) Chicken Pie ★★★ 5.7

Photo: Lucas Barth

1) Pot Belly ★★ 5.8. Pro: 1ea to .4" - 3". A few thin slab moves lead to a beautiful, low-angled crack.
2) Just For Starters ★★★ 10a. 7 Bolts. Easy, fun slab. Crux at first bolt and then the angle, and difficulty eases.
3) Sloth Wall ★★★ 5.7. Pro: 1ea .5" - 3". Fun, easy crack leads to fun out, knobby face. Use long slings to avoid rope drag.
4) Anti Ego Crack ★★★ 5.7. Pro: 1ea .4" - 1.5", 2ea 2" - 4". Fun, lieback wide crack at the beginning leads to nice hand crack. Most parties traverse on 5.4 to the anchor of Sloth Wall.
5) Chicken Pie ★★★ 5.7. Pro: 1-2ea .5" - 4". Fun, varied crack.

Knob Hlll is the perfect place for the budding Yosemite leader. Right by the road, and with beautiful views, the routes here tend to be featured face, and lower-angled cracks.

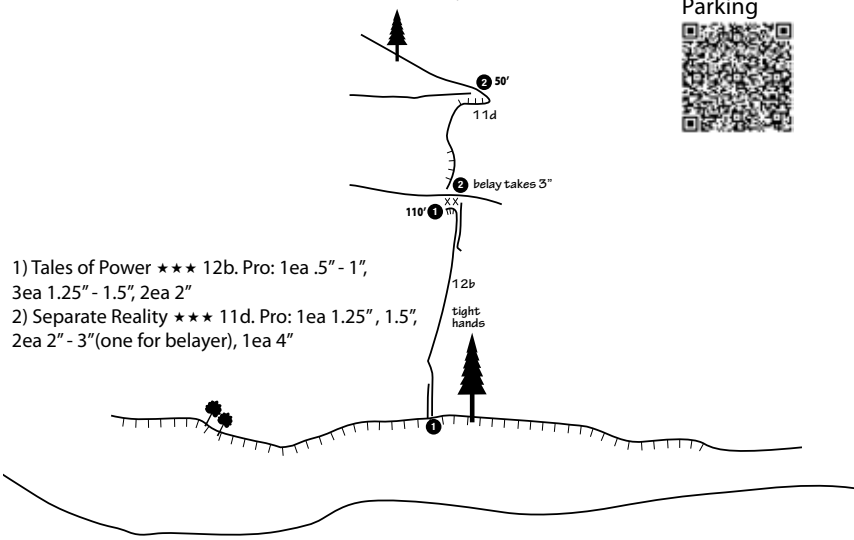
Approach:
Approach: From Yosemite Valley, take Hwy 120 West passing through 2 tunnels. Park at the Cascade Creek bridge turnout. Cross the road and walk up a trail on the right side of the creek for a few minutes, staying to the right at any junctions you come to.



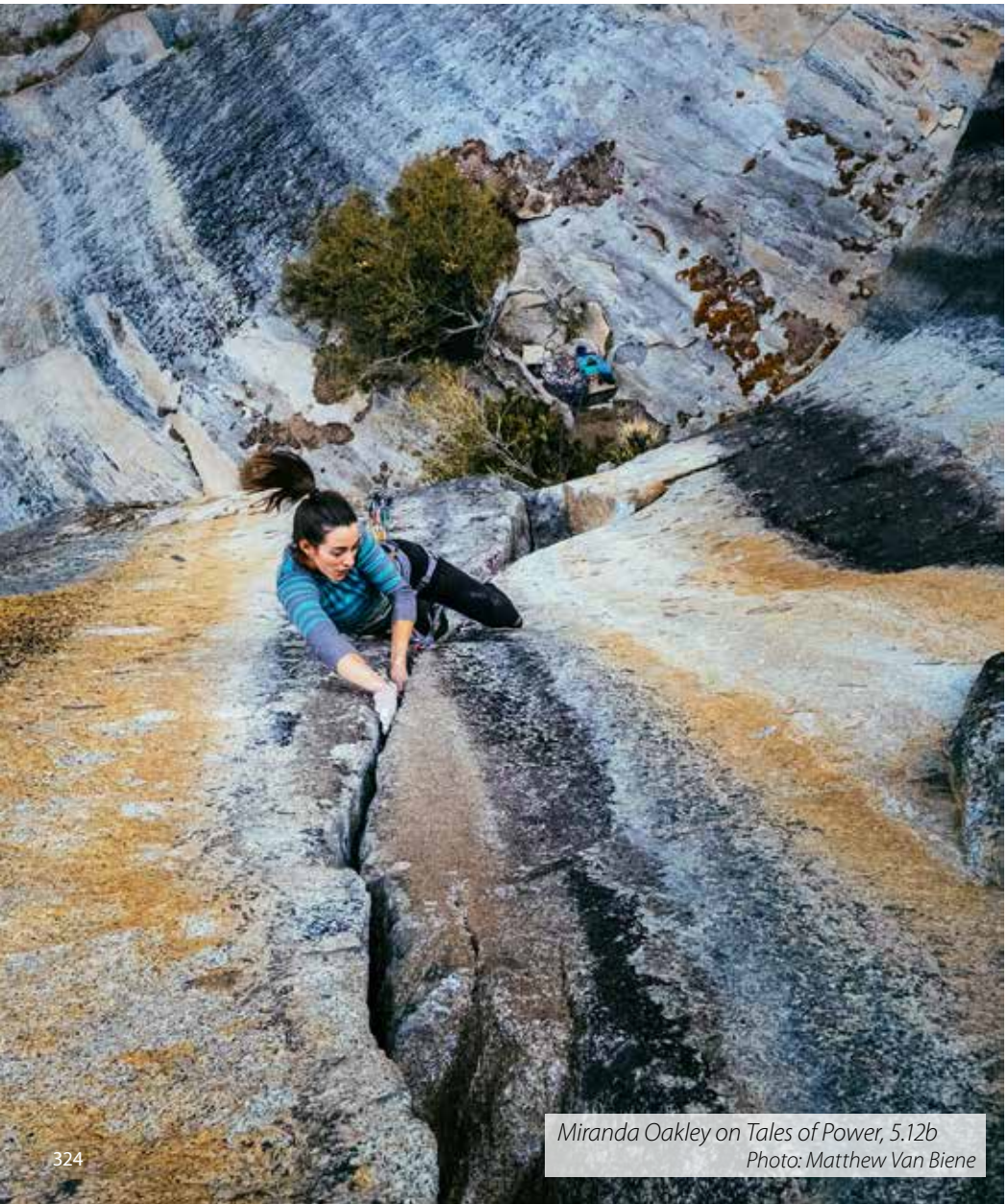
Tales of Power 5.12b / Separate Reality 5.11d

Parking

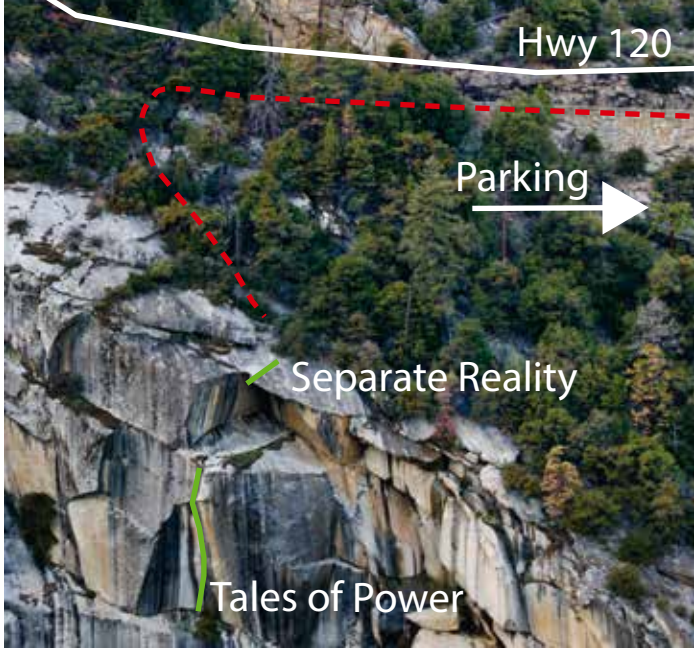
Approach:
Take Hwy 120 out of the Valley. Go through two short tunnels and park at a paved pullout immediately before the third, long tunnel. Hike up the road to the mouth of this tunnel, jump over the stone wall, and follow a steep trail down the cliff for 3 minutes. This deposits you at the top of the *Separate Reality* visor. Just before walking onto the slab, locate a good pine tree to fix a line to and do a short (40 foot) rap down to a staging area at the base of the climb.



1) Tales of Power ★★★ 12b. Pro: 1ea .5" - 1", 3ea 1.25" - 1.5", 2ea 2"
2) Separate Reality ★★★ 11d. Pro: 1ea 1.25", 1.5", 2ea 2" - 3"(one for belayer), 1ea 4"



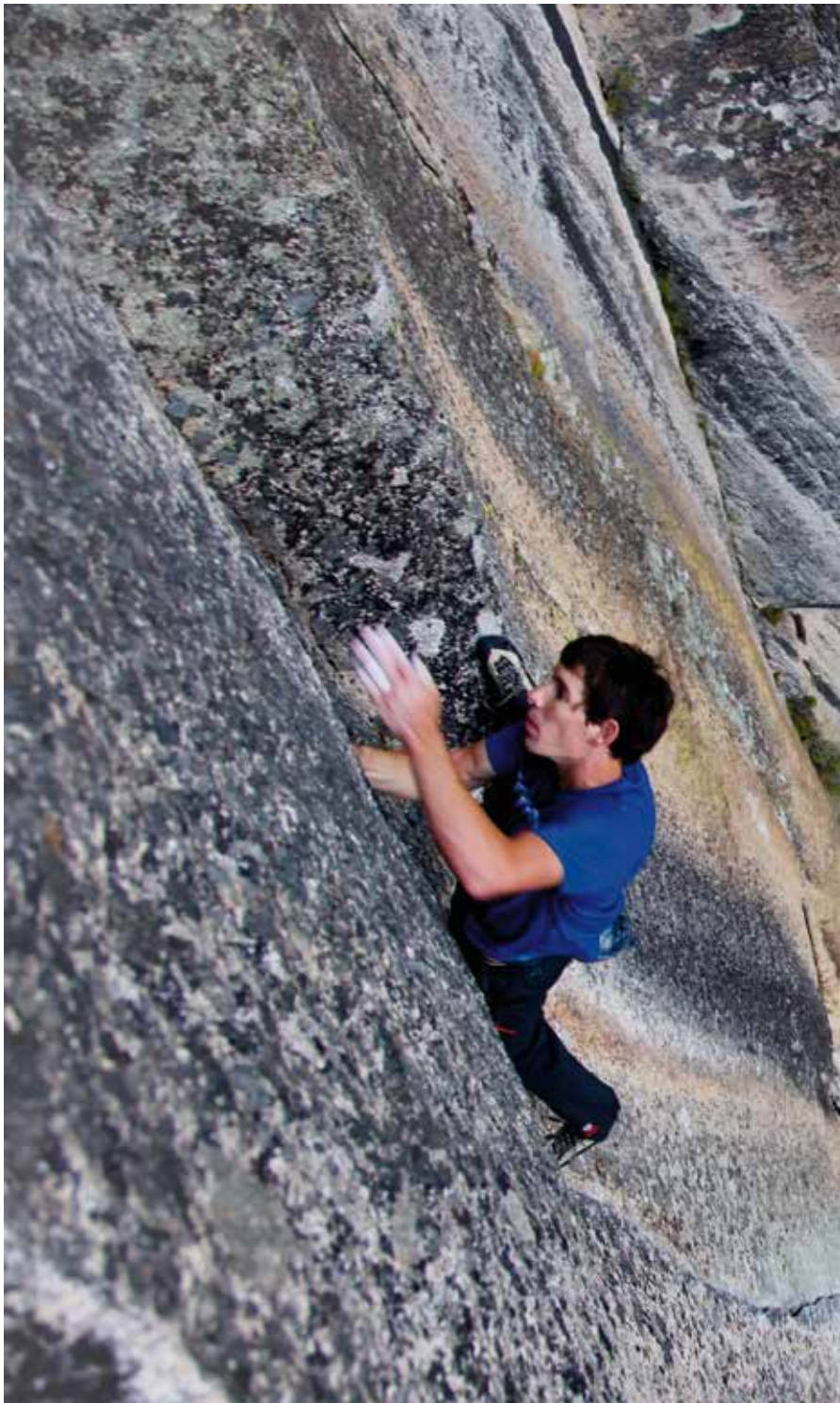
Miranda Oakley on Tales of Power, 5.12b
Photo: Matthew Van Biene



Blair Campbell on Separate Reality, 5.11d
Photo: Elliott Bernhagen

The Phoenix 5.13a

Rack: Mostly Fingers -2"



Approach:
Park at the Cascade Creek bridge pullout on Hwy 120. Walk downhill through the trees to the edge of the cliff. Rappel about 70 feet down to the base of the route.

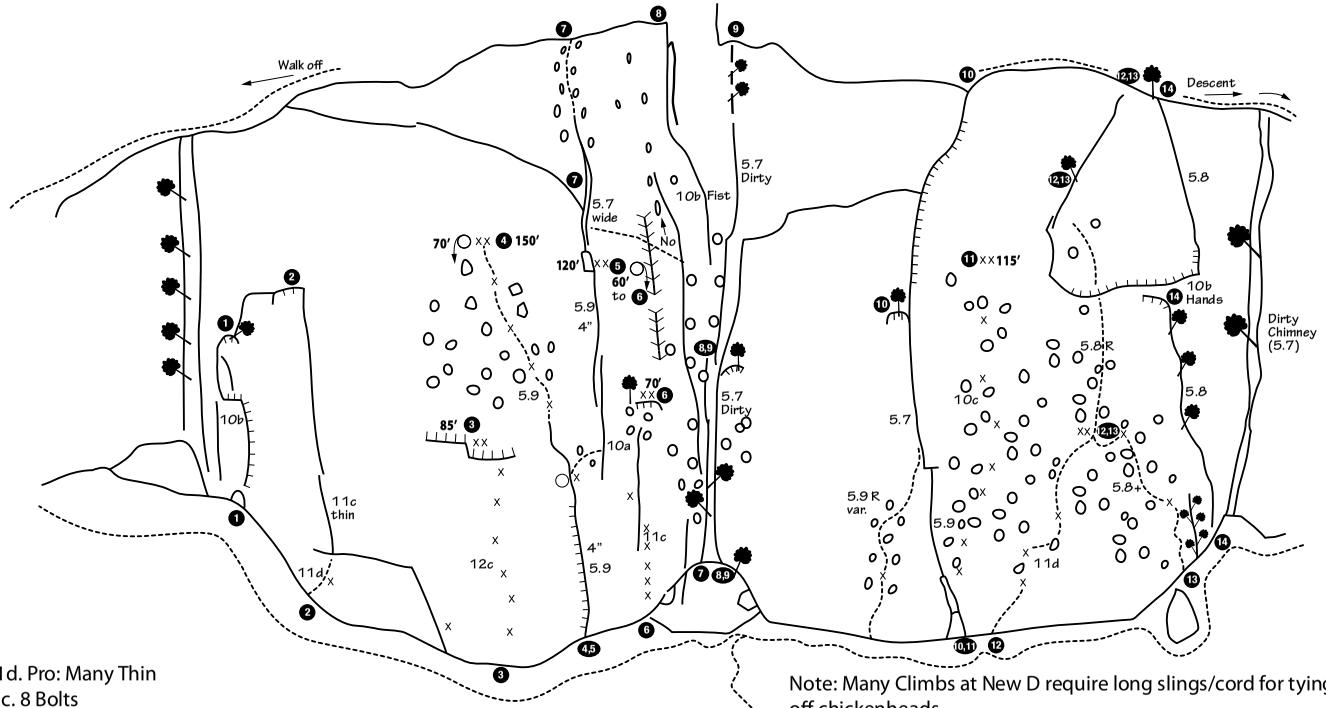
Alex Honnold free solos The Phoenix, 5.13a
Photo: Peter Mortimer

New Diversions

New Diversions offers athletic, featured face and crack climbing more reminiscent of the gym than a Yosemite crag. There are good opportunities here to lead a moderate climb, and then toprope a nearby, harder climb. Sunny, and at a slightly lower elevation than the Valley, New D is great in fall, winter, and spring. During the hotter months you can climb here early, or late, in the day when the routes are shady.

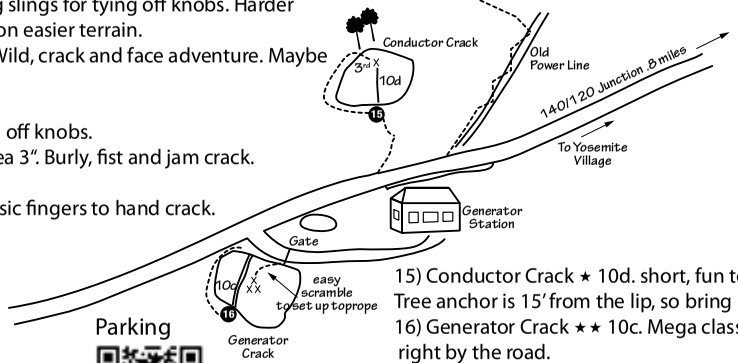
Approach:
From the Hwy 140/120 junction drive west 1.2 miles, and park on the left just after the generator station. The trail is slightly back uphill, across the street.

Photo: Will Masterman



1) Falcon ★ 10b.
2) Rocket Man ★★ 11d. Pro: Many Thin
3) Highlander ★★ 12c. 8 Bolts
4) New Deviations ★★★ 5.9. Pro: 1-2ea to .75" - 4", long slings for tying off knobs. Harder moves are well protected by bolts, then tie off knobs on easier terrain.
5) New Diversions ★★★ 10a, 5.9. Pro: 1-2ea to .5" - 4". Wild, crack and face adventure. Maybe hard for the grade.
6) Burst of Brillance ★★ 11c. Pro: 1ea to .4" - 1"
7) Wasp ★ 5.9+. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 2", long slings for tying off knobs.
8) Strangers in the Night ★ 5.10b. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 4", 3ea 3". Burly, fist and jam crack.
9) Electric Gully 5.7.
10) Chicken Pie ★★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 2". Mega-classic fingers to hand crack. Not hard for the grade ;)
11) Cock Tart ★★ 10c. Pro: 1ea to .3", .4"
12) Catch A Wave 11d.
13) Jugs ★ 5.8+ X.
14) Shake, Rattle, and Drop ★ 5.8, 10b. Pro: 2ea .4" - 2"

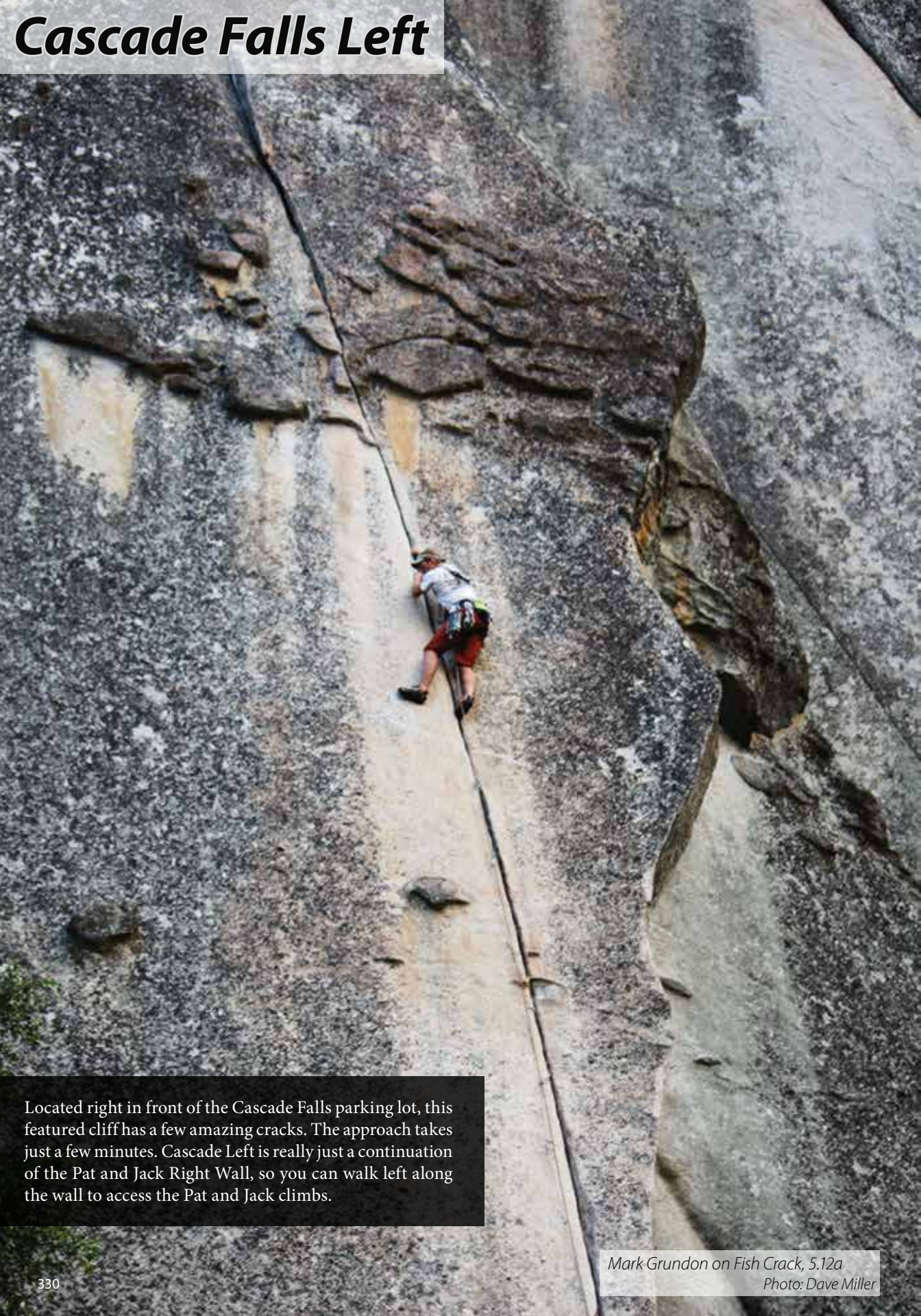
Note: Many Climbs at New D require long slings/cord for tying off chickenheads.



Parking

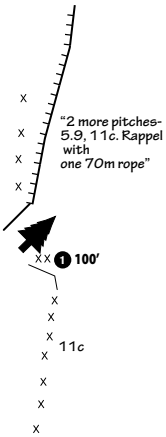
15) Conductor Crack ★ 10d. short, fun toprope. Thin finger locks lead to easy hands. Tree anchor is 15' from the lip, so bring long slings.
16) Generator Crack ★★ 10c. Mega classic offwidth / squeeze toprope, right by the road.

Cascade Falls Left

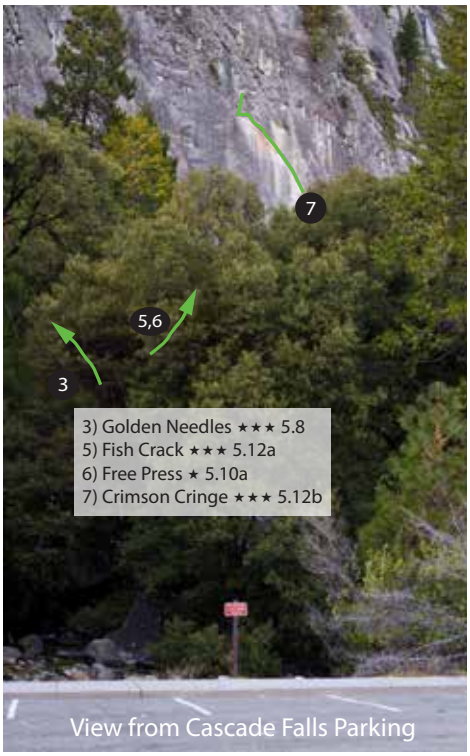


Located right in front of the Cascade Falls parking lot, this featured cliff has a few amazing cracks. The approach takes just a few minutes. Cascade Left is really just a continuation of the Pat and Jack Right Wall, so you can walk left along the wall to access the Pat and Jack climbs.

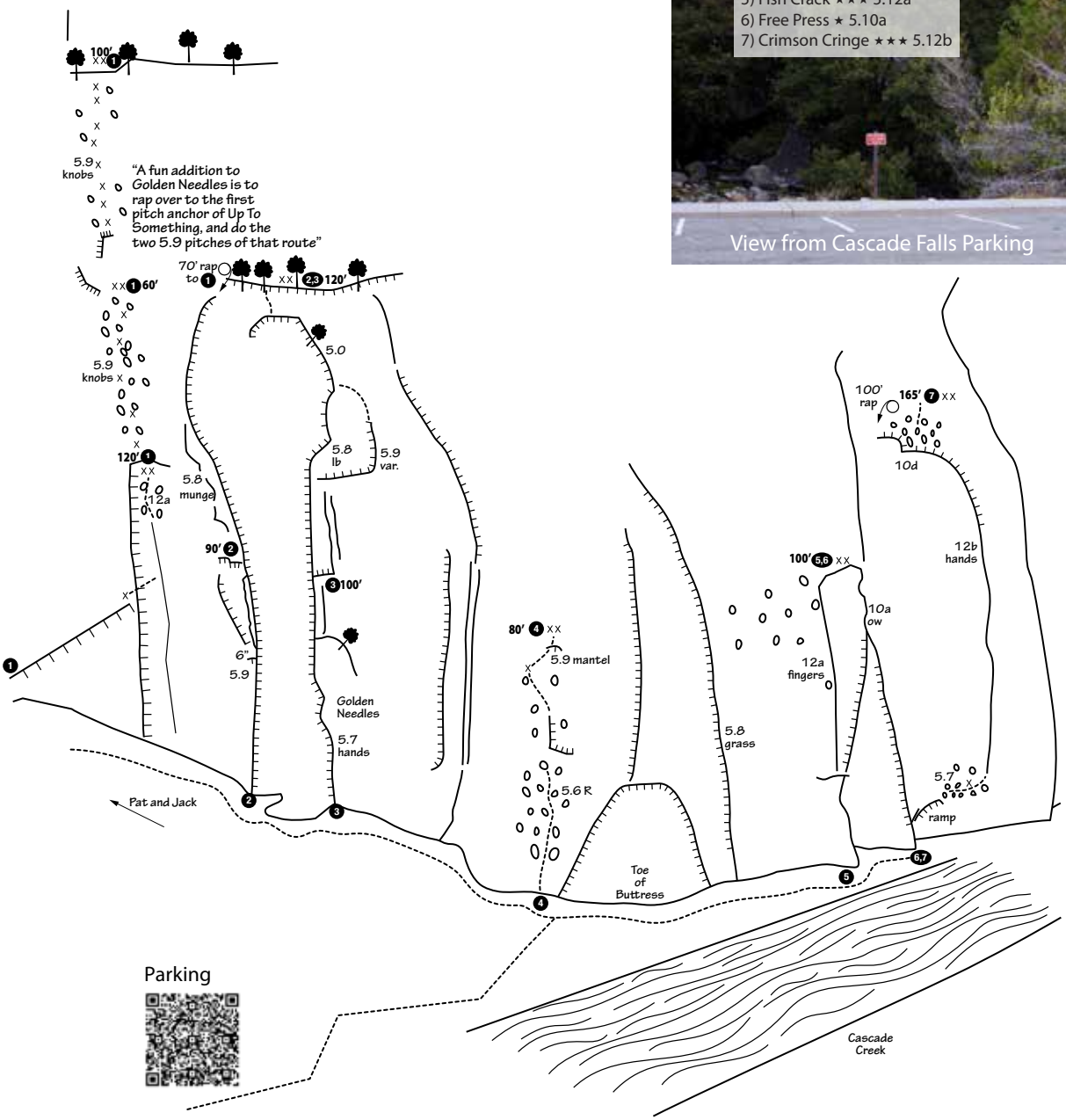
Mark Grundon on Fish Crack, 5.12a
Photo: Dave Miller



1) Up To Something ★★ 12a. Pro: 1ea .3" - 3"
2) Filthy Rich 5.9. Pro: 2ea .4" - 4", 1ea 6"(optional)
3) Golden Needles(5.8) ★★★ 5.7, 5.8. Pro: 2ea .4" - 3". Great, varied jam crack. Some dirt.
4) Jug Monkey ★ 5.9. Pro: 1ea .3" - 1.5"
5) Fish Crack ★★★ 12a. Pro: 2-3ea .2" - .4", 1ea 3" (with 48" runner for the start). Fun crack with a short, bouldery crux midway.
6) Free Press ★ 10a. Pro: 1ea .3" - 2" , 2ea 3", 1ea 4"
7) Crimson Cringe ★★★ 12b.
Pro: 2ea .3" - 2"(3ea .75", 1"), 1ea 3", 4".
Classic, sustained tight hands / hands crack, with interesting face moves at the beginning and end. Rap to Fish Crack anchor with one 60m rope, then another rap to ground.



View from Cascade Falls Parking



Down Canyon

Pat and Jack

This juggy, sunny cliff has many mega classic 5.9 - 5.12 climbs. There is a bathroom in the parking lot, and the approach takes just a few minutes. When you need a break, Cascade Falls, with beautiful swimming holes, is a short, five-minute hike away.

Drew Smith on Underclingon, 5.12a
Photo: Austin Siadak

Photo: Lucas Barth

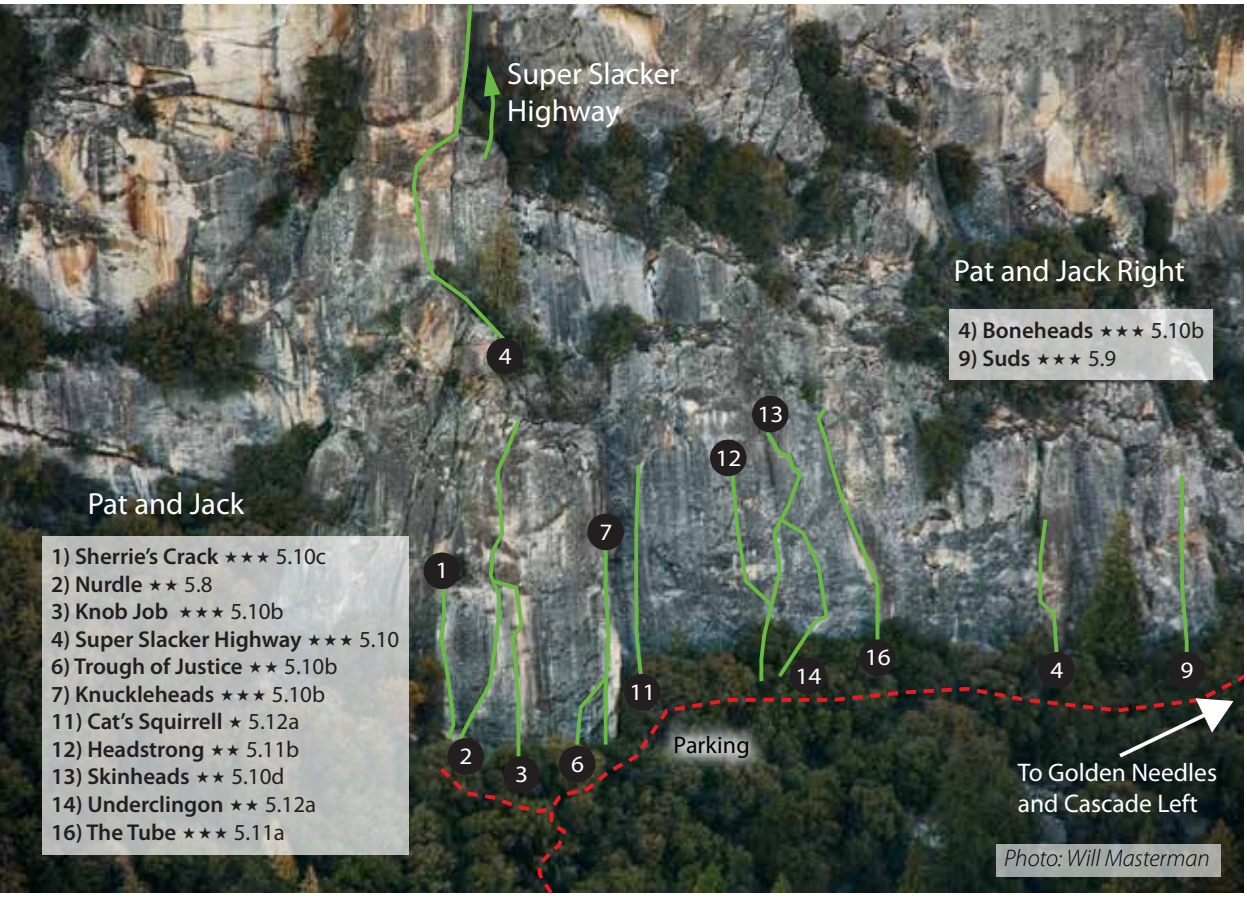
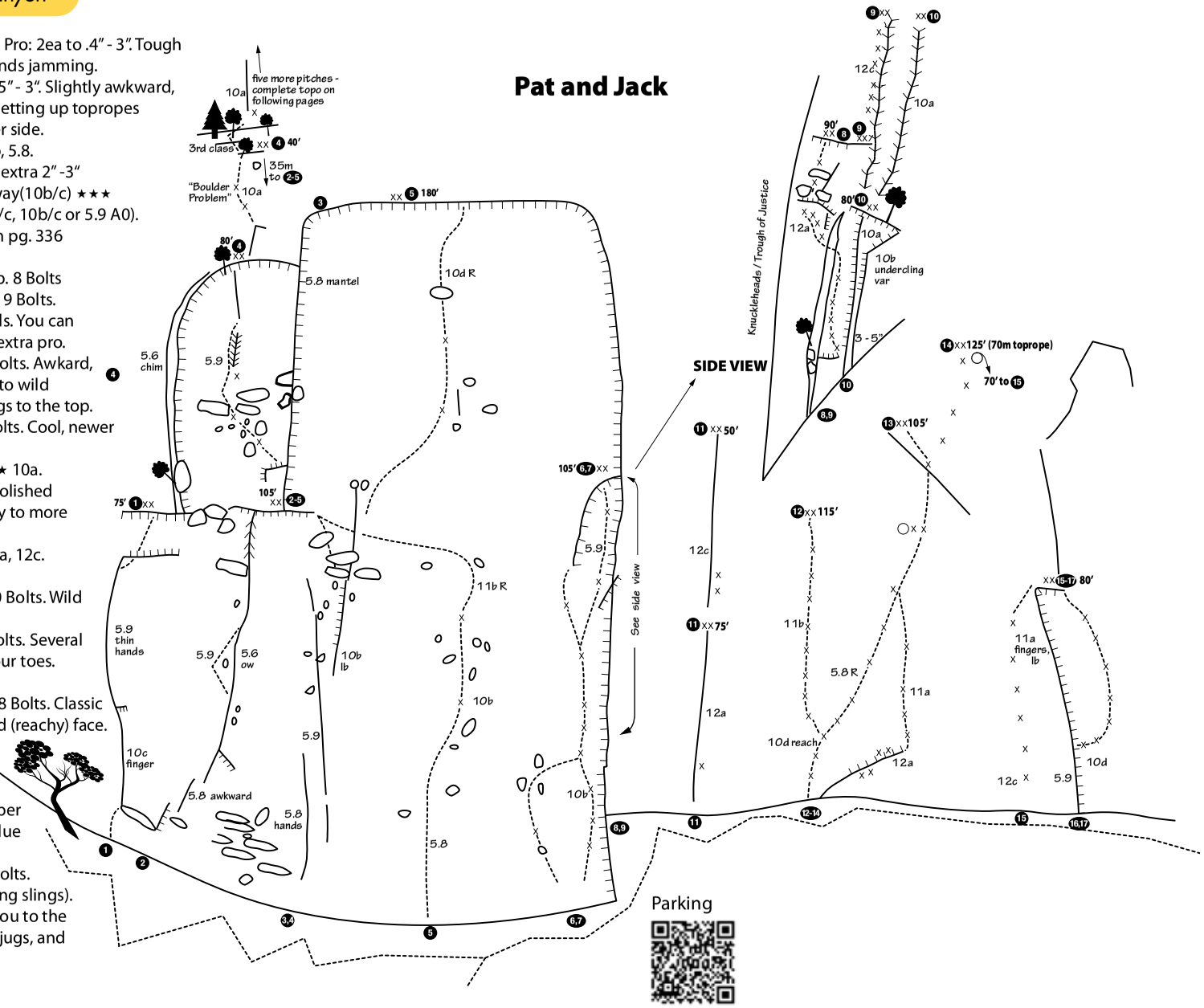


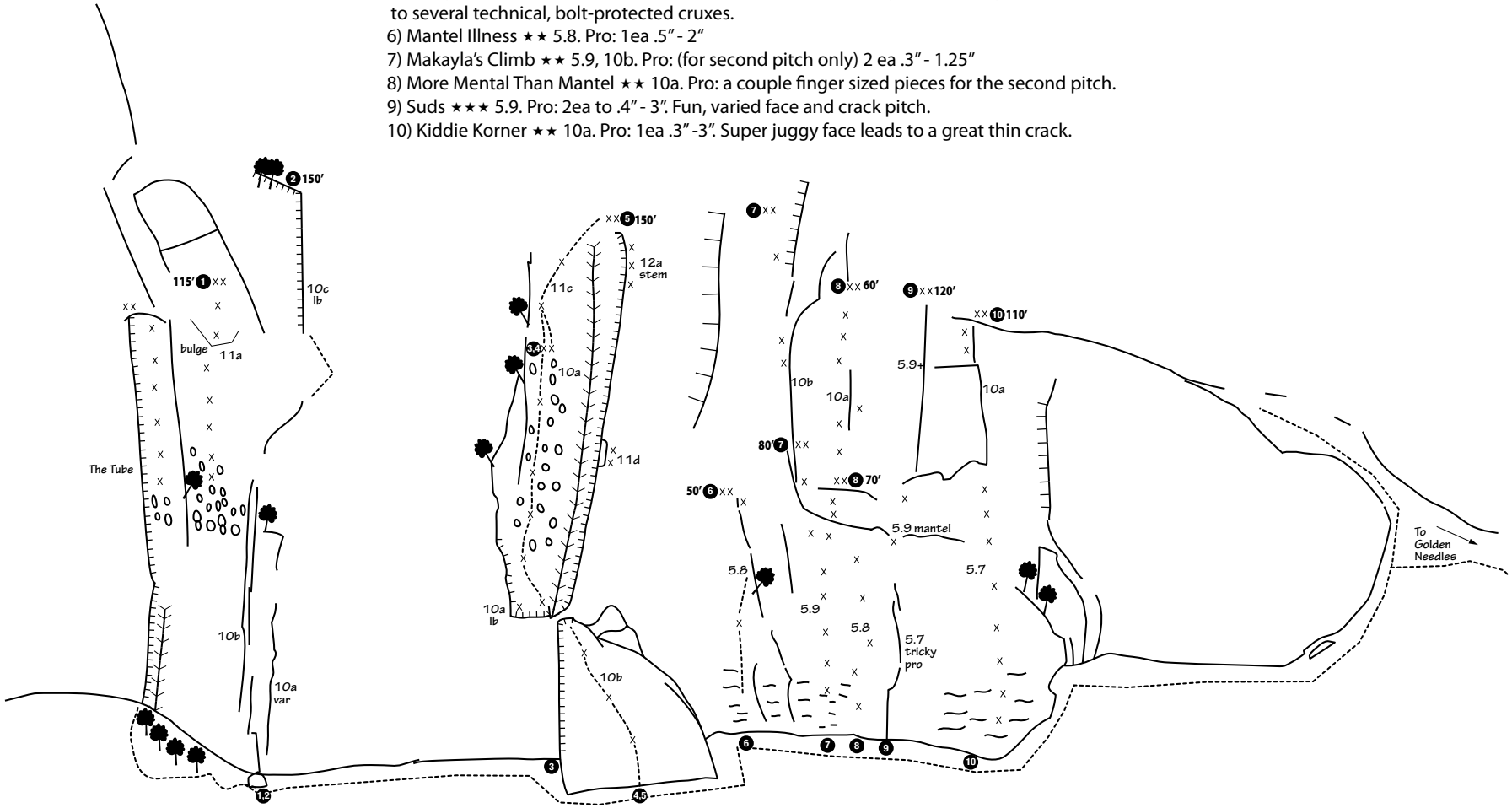
Photo: Will Masterman

1) Sherrie's Crack ★★★ 10c. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 3". Tough finger locks lead to thin hands jamming.
2) Nurdle ★★ 5.8. Pro: 2ea .5" - 3". Slightly awkward, varied climbing. Good for setting up topropes on the 5.10 routes on either side.
3) Knob Job(10b) ★★★ 10b, 5.8. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 3", optional extra 2" -3"
4) The Super Slacker Highway(10b/c) ★★★ 10b, 5.9, 10a, 10a, 10a, 10b/c, 10b/c or 5.9 A0). Pro: 2ea .4" - 3". See topo on pg. 336
5) G-Man ★ 11b R, 10d R.
6) Trough of Justice ★★ 10b. 8 Bolts
7) Knuckleheads ★★★ 10b. 9 Bolts. Fun climb with crux mantels. You can sling a knob at the top for extra pro.
8) Desperado ★★ 12a. 11 Bolts. Awkard, chimney / flake start leads to wild moves around roof, and jugs to the top.
9) Desp -arete ★★ 12c. 6 Bolts. Cool, newer extension to Desperado.
10) Desperado Straights ★★ 10a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3", 1ea 4", 5". Polished offwidth squeeze gives way to more varied, fun jamming.
11) Cat's Squirrel(12c) ★ 12a, 12c. Pro: Thin
12) Headstrong ★★ 11b. 10 Bolts. Wild route with many mantels.
13) Skinheads ★★ 10d. 7 Bolts. Several 5.10 cruxes keep you on your toes. Reachy!
14) Underclingon ★★ 12a. 8 Bolts. Classic undercling to wild, featured (reachy) face.
15) Unknown 12c. 6 Bolts
16) The Tube ★★★ 11a. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 3". Classic corner climbing. Crux is super thin - takes tiny nuts and blue alien.
17) Polymastia ★★ 10d. 8 Bolts. Pro: 1ea to .5" - 1" (bring long slings). Easier variation that gets you to the anchor of The Tube. Crack, jugs, and slab o goodness.



Pat and Jack Right

1) Prolific ★★ 11a. Pro: 1-2ea to .3″ - 3″. Another Dan McDevitt gem! Fun, mostly thin crack climbing to well-protected face climbing.
2) Gay Bob ★ 10c.
3) Babble On ★★ 10a. Pro: 1-2ea to .5″ - 5″, long slings. Fun, liebacking and corner climbing.
4) Boneheads ★★★ 10b. 8 Bolts. A, thin, bouldery start gives way to juggy, fun, face climbing.
5) Rocky Horror Show ★★ 12a. Pro: 2ea .3″ - 1″, 1 ea 1.25 - 3″, tiny nuts. Mostly 5.10 corner climbing to several technical, bolt-protected cruxes.
6) Mantel Illness ★★ 5.8. Pro: 1ea .5″ - 2″
7) Makayla's Climb ★★ 5.9, 10b. Pro: (for second pitch only) 2 ea .3″ - 1.25″
8) More Mental Than Mantel ★★ 10a. Pro: a couple finger sized pieces for the second pitch.
9) Suds ★★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea to .4″ - 3″. Fun, varied face and crack pitch.
10) Kiddie Korner ★★ 10a. Pro: 1ea .3″ -3″. Super juggy face leads to a great thin crack.



Down Canyon

The Super Slacker Highway III 5.10b/c

FA: January 2011. Dan McDevitt, Gabriel Mann, Bryan Law

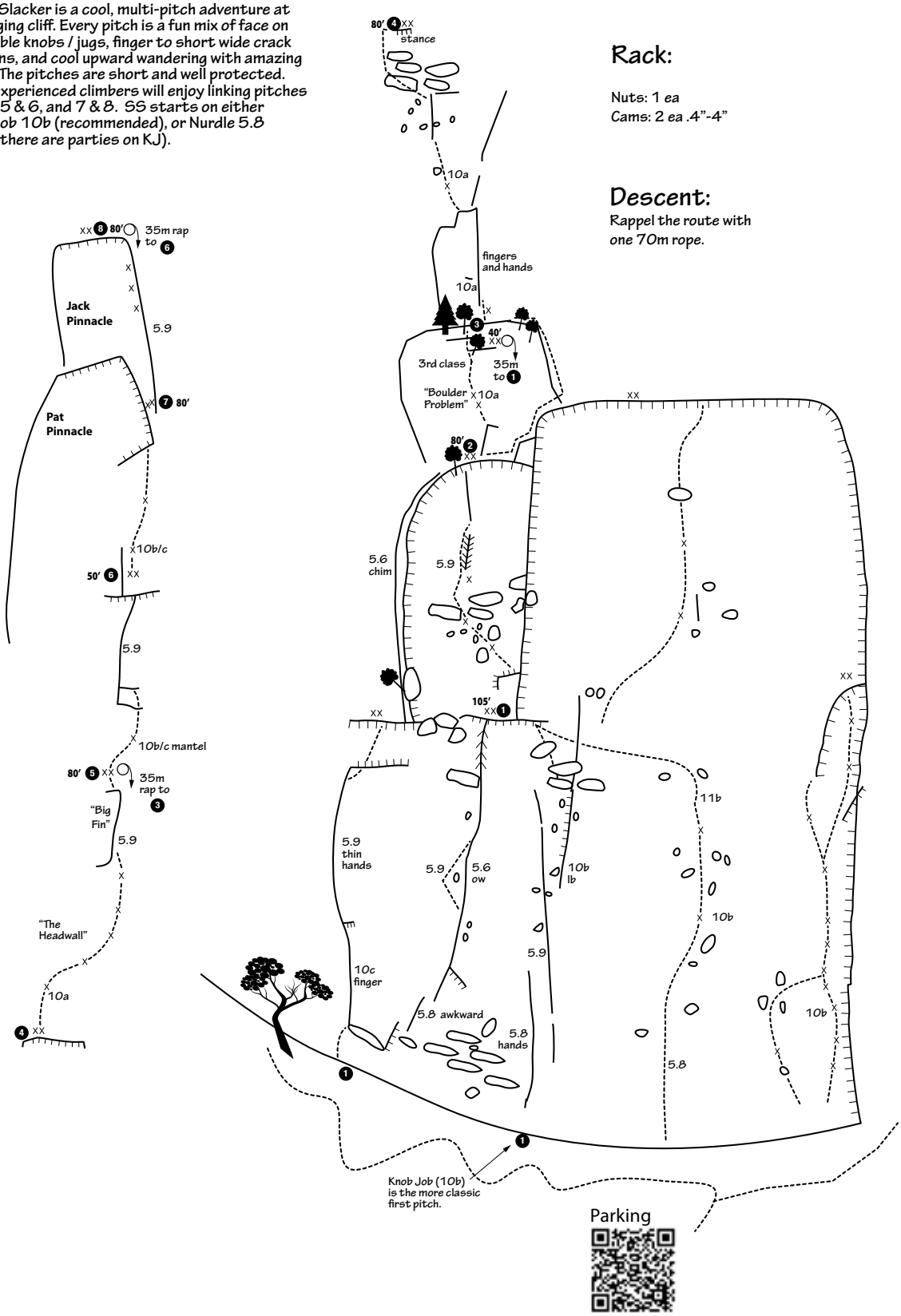
Super Slacker is a cool, multi-pitch adventure at a cragging cliff. Every pitch is a fun mix of face on incredible knobs / jugs, finger to short wide crack sections, and cool upward wandering with amazing views. The pitches are short and well protected. More experienced climbers will enjoy linking pitches 1 & 2, 5 & 6, and 7 & 8. SS starts on either Knob Job 10b (recommended), or Nurdle 5.8 (use if there are parties on KJ).

Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .4"-4"

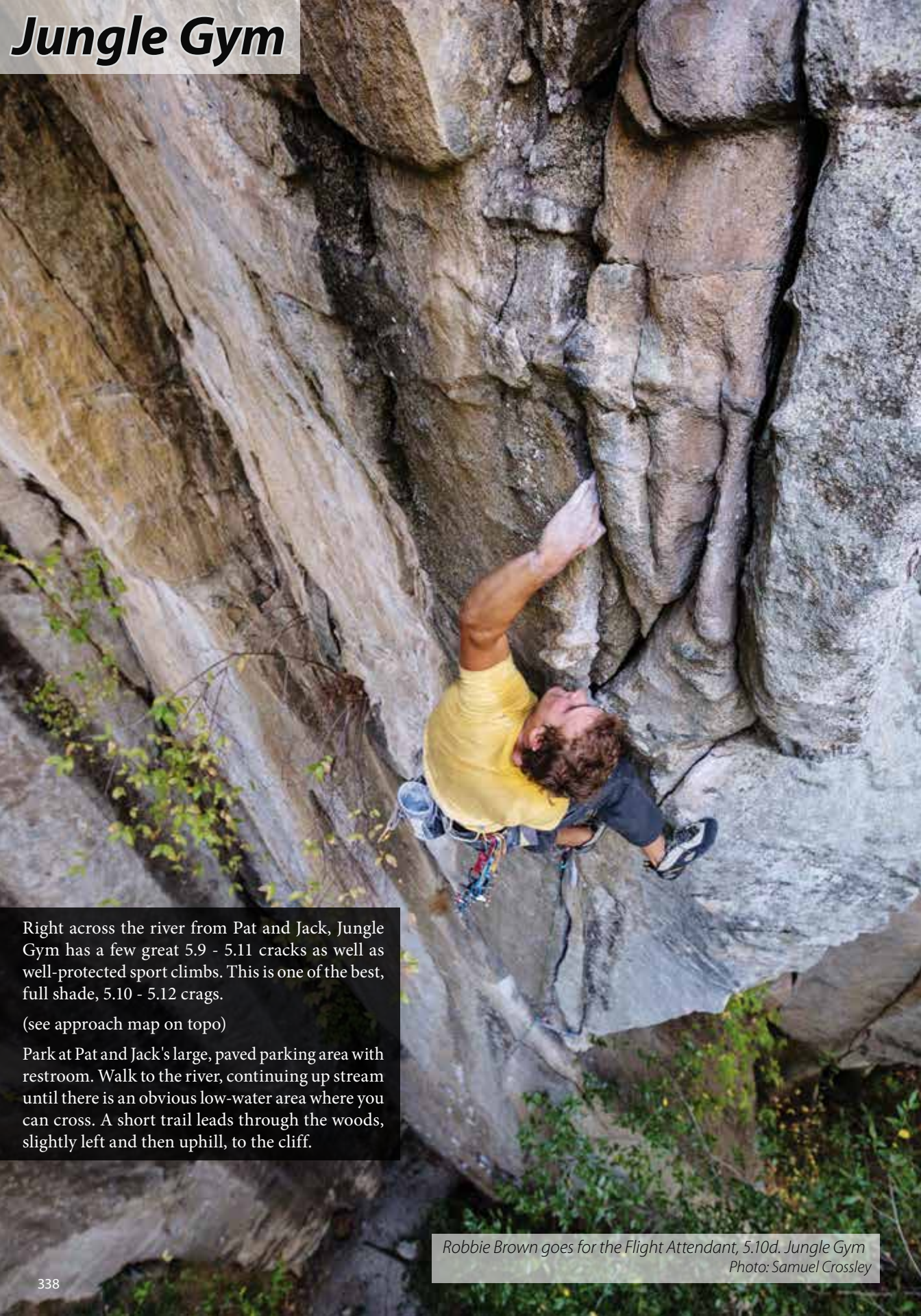
Descent:

Rappel the route with one 70m rope.



Ashley Helms on The Super Slacker Highway, 5.10b/c
Photo: Ben Ditto

Jungle Gym



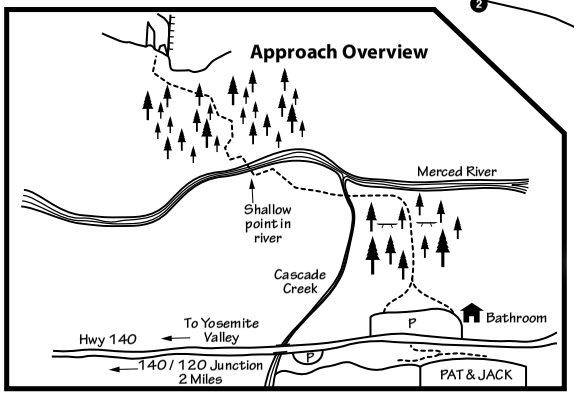
Right across the river from Pat and Jack, Jungle Gym has a few great 5.9 - 5.11 cracks as well as well-protected sport climbs. This is one of the best, full shade, 5.10 - 5.12 crags.

(see approach map on topo)

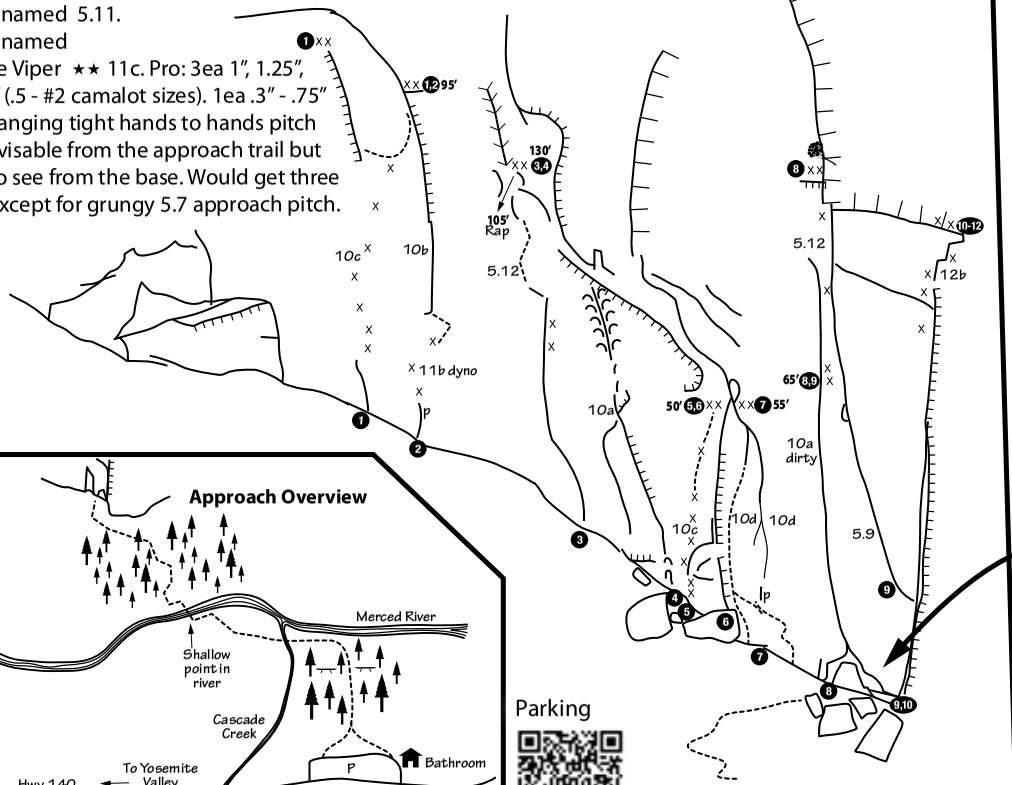
Park at Pat and Jack's large, paved parking area with restroom. Walk to the river, continuing up stream until there is an obvious low-water area where you can cross. A short trail leads through the woods, slightly left and then uphill, to the cliff.

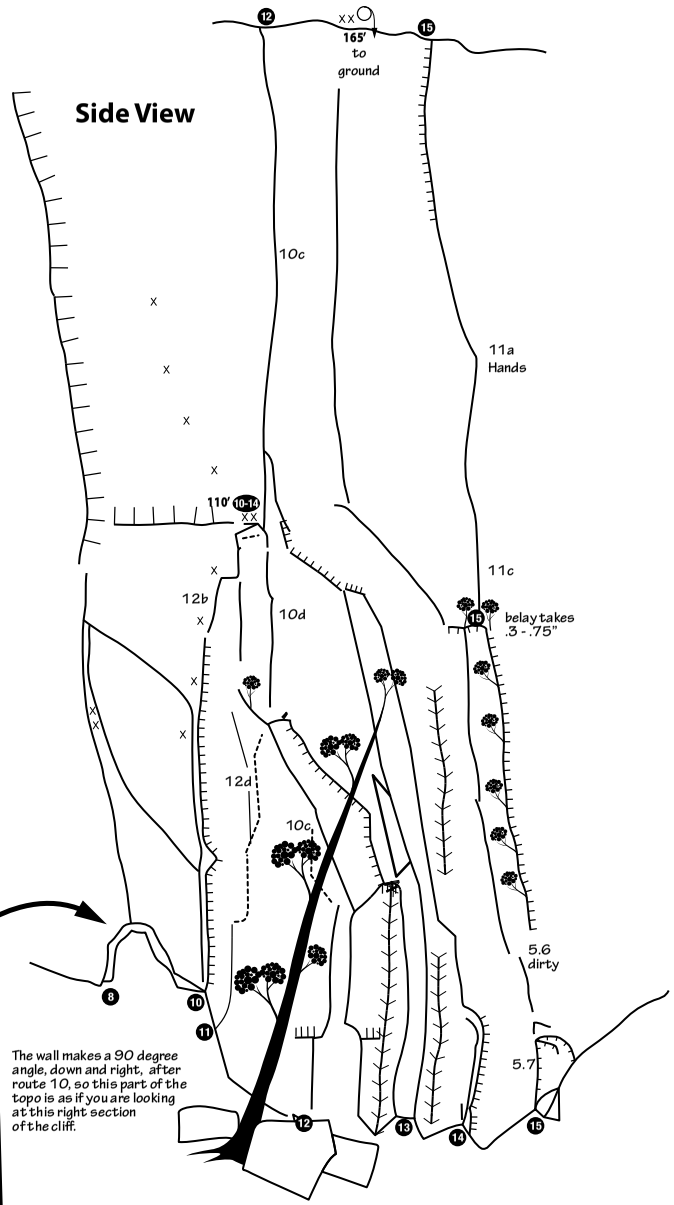
Robbie Brown goes for the Flight Attendant, 5.10d. Jungle Gym
Photo: Samuel Crossley

1) Breast Fest ★★ 10c. Pro: 1-2 ea .3" - 2". Fun, juggy climbing. Most parties go to Alamo anchor and toprope.
2) Alamo ★ 11b R. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2"
3) Pygmy Village 5.12.
4) Jungle Book ★★★ 10a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2". Super fun ramp/crack leads to small roof and featured climbing. Rap to the left with one 70m rope.
5) Jungle Arms ★★ 10c. 7 Bolts. Well protected, fun sport climb.
6) Loyd's Lolly Pop ★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .5" - 2". Short, but fun climb. Corner / jamming.
7) Concrete Jungle ★★ 10d. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.25". Thin, technical face that takes tiny pro eventually leads to an easier crack. Popular as a toprope after climbing Jungle Arms or Loyd's.
8) Bush Pilot ★ 10a, 5.12. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2"
9) Minor Kinda Unit ★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .4" - 2". Better than it looks! Great for toproping the 10a first pitch of BP.
10) Flight Bud ★★ 12b. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2"
11) Unnamed ★★ 12d Tr.
12) Flight Attendant ★★★ 10d, 10c. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2", 1ea 3", 4". Wild, varied climbing.
13) Unnamed 5.11.
14) Unnamed
15) The Viper ★★ 11c. Pro: 3ea 1", 1.25", 1.5", 2" (.5 - #2 camalot sizes). 1ea .3" - .75" Overhanging tight hands to hands pitch easily visable from the approach trail but hard to see from the base. Would get three stars except for grungy 5.7 approach pitch.



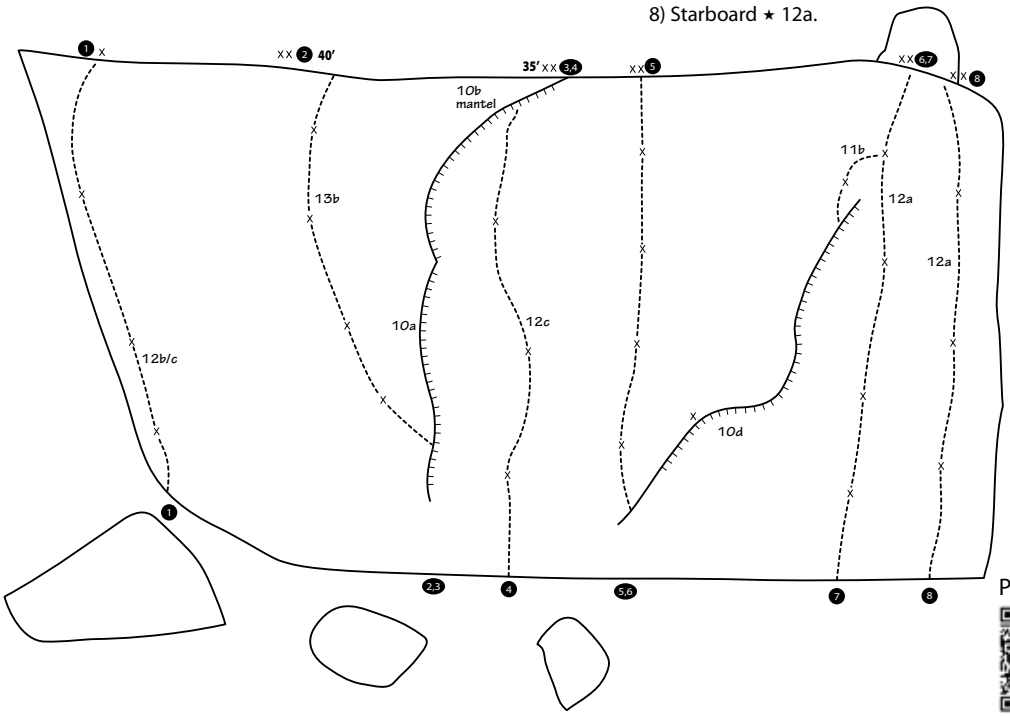
Parking



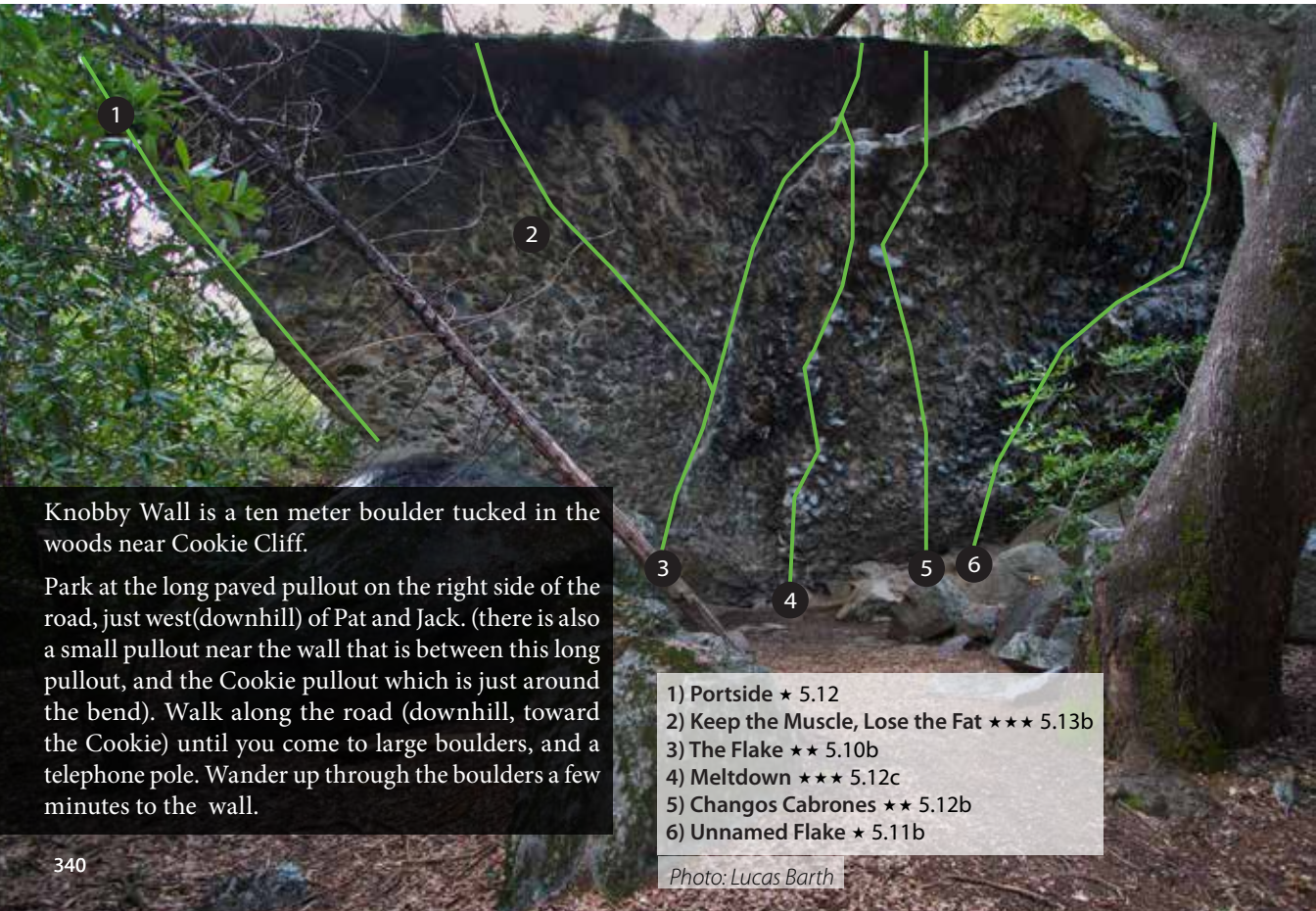


Toprope friendly, and dry even in a downpour, Knobby Wall offers 5.11 - 5.13 sport routes. One of the few toprope friendly, radically overhanging, yet featured, sport climbing areas in Yosemite (Killer Pillar, on hwy 41, is similar, and the climbs there are much longer (30m).

1) Portside ★ 12b/c.
2) Keep the Muscle, Lose the Fat ★★★ 13b. Pro: 1ea 1.25"(.75 camalot)
3) The Flake ★★ 10b. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 2"
4) Meltdown ★★★ 12c.
5) Changos Cabrones ★★ 12b.
6) Unnamed Flake ★ 11b. Pro: Finger-sized
7) Shaft of the Penetrator ★★ 12a.
8) Starboard ★ 12a.



Parking



Knobby Wall is a ten meter boulder tucked in the woods near Cookie Cliff.

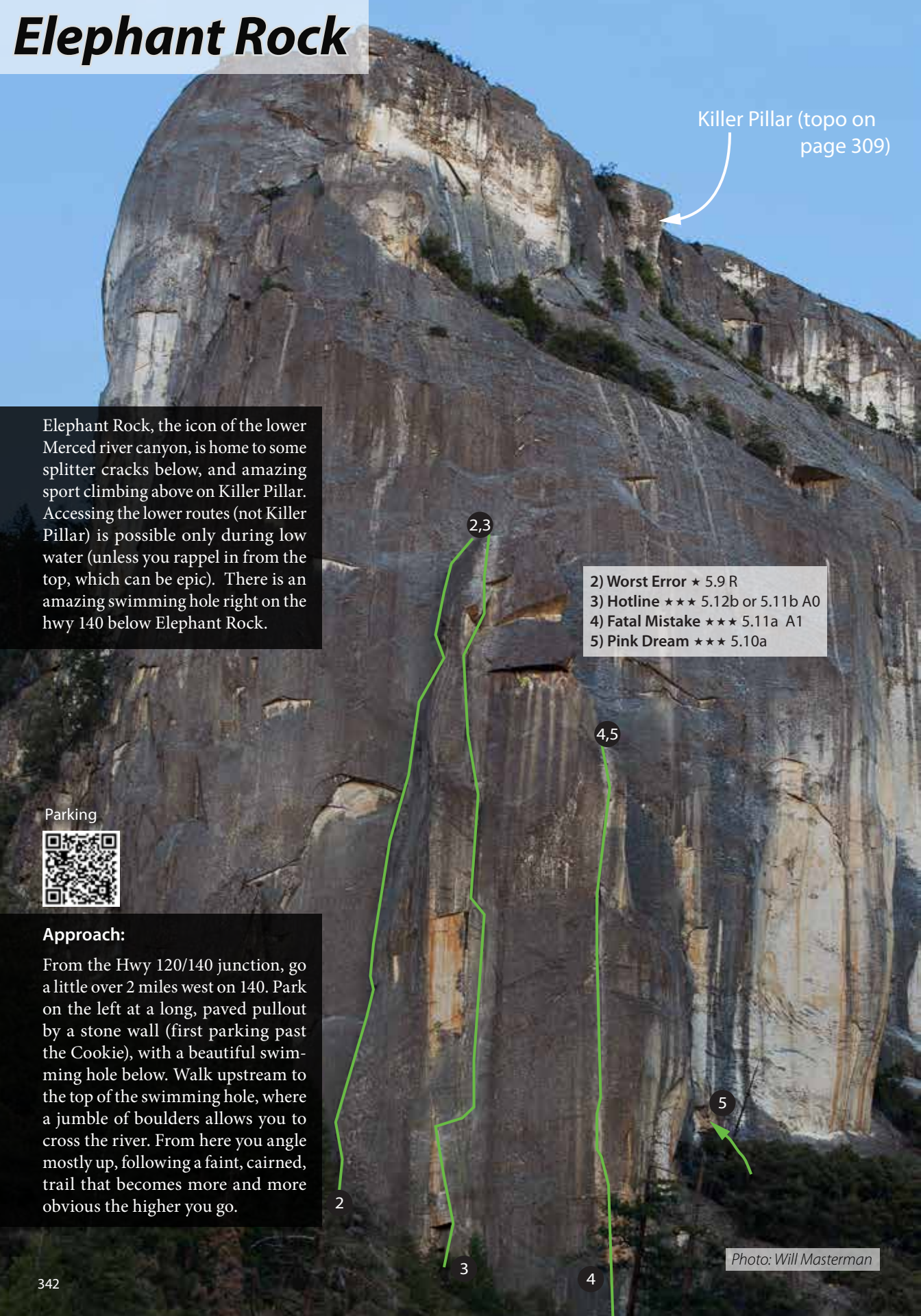
Park at the long paved pullout on the right side of the road, just west(downhill) of Pat and Jack. (there is also a small pullout near the wall that is between this long pullout, and the Cookie pullout which is just around the bend). Walk along the road (downhill, toward the Cookie) until you come to large boulders, and a telephone pole. Wander up through the boulders a few minutes to the wall.

1) Portside ★ 5.12
2) Keep the Muscle, Lose the Fat ★★★ 5.13b
3) The Flake ★★ 5.10b
4) Meltdown ★★★ 5.12c
5) Changos Cabrones ★★ 5.12b
6) Unnamed Flake ★ 5.11b

Photo: Lucas Barth

James Lucas on Wicked Gravity, 12c. The Killer Pillar
Photo: Ben Ditto

Elephant Rock



Elephant Rock, the icon of the lower Merced river canyon, is home to some splitter cracks below, and amazing sport climbing above on Killer Pillar. Accessing the lower routes (not Killer Pillar) is possible only during low water (unless you rappel in from the top, which can be epic). There is an amazing swimming hole right on the hwy 140 below Elephant Rock.

2) Worst Error ★ 5.9 R
3) Hotline ★★★ 5.12b or 5.11b A0
4) Fatal Mistake ★★★ 5.11a A1
5) Pink Dream ★★★ 5.10a

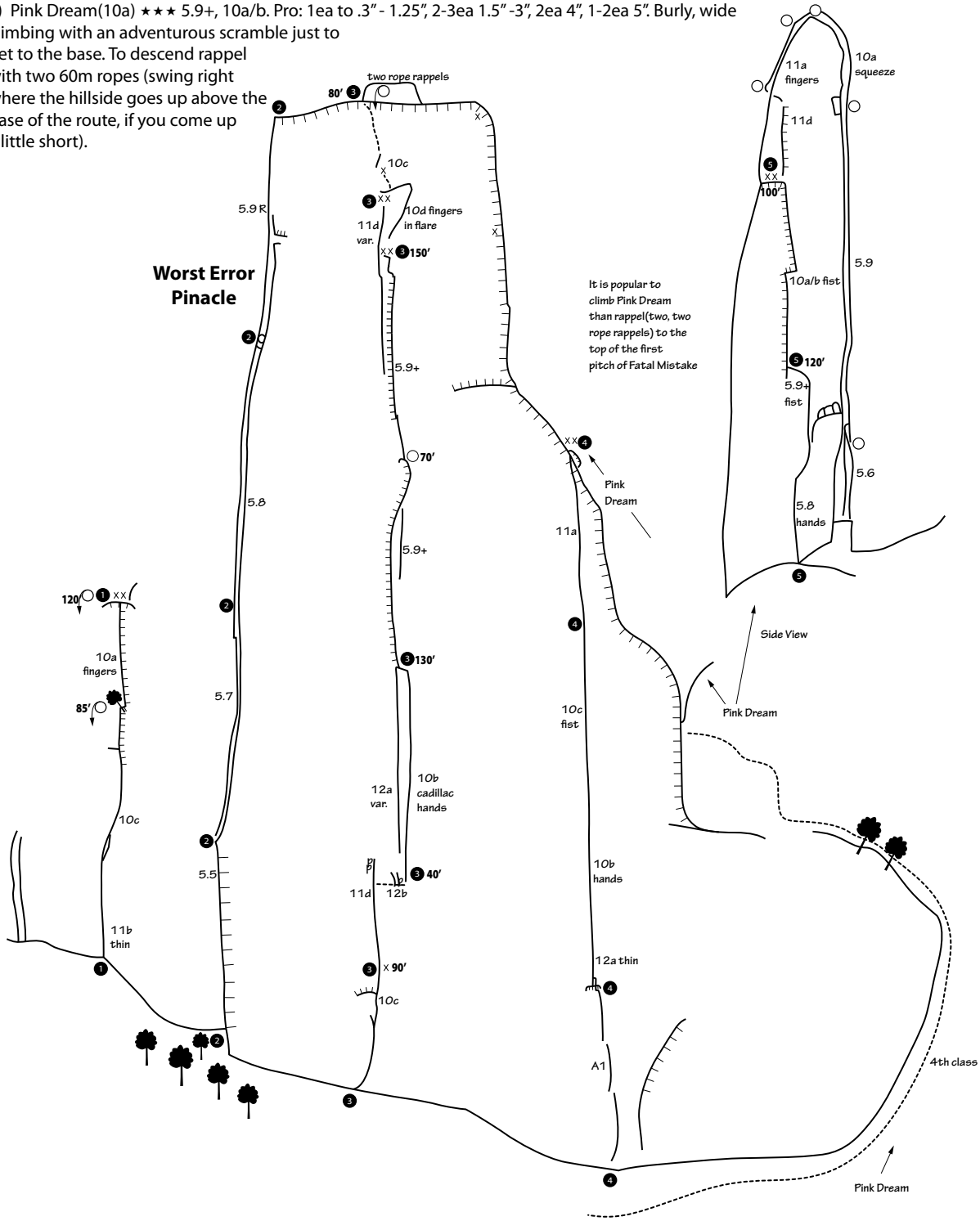
Parking

Approach:

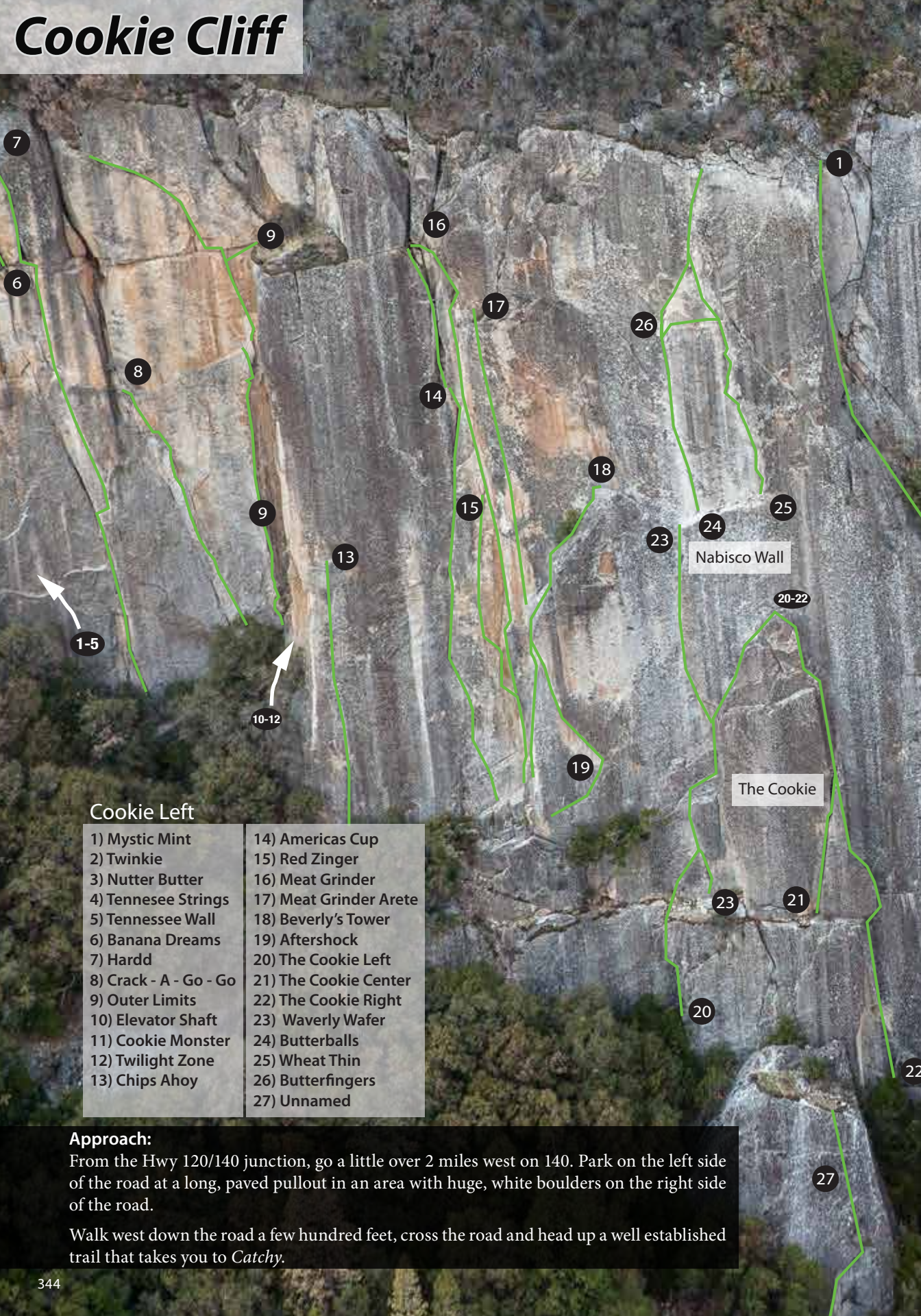
From the Hwy 120/140 junction, go a little over 2 miles west on 140. Park on the left at a long, paved pullout by a stone wall (first parking past the Cookie), with a beautiful swimming hole below. Walk upstream to the top of the swimming hole, where a jumble of boulders allows you to cross the river. From here you angle mostly up, following a faint, cairned, trail that becomes more and more obvious the higher you go.

Photo: Will Masterman

1) Crashline ★★ 11b. Pro: 3-4ea to .3" - 1", 2ea 2". Mostly .5" - .75" pieces through the low crux. Save a 1" for the final 10a section.
2) Worst Error, Left(5.9 R) ★ 5.5, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9 R. Pro: 2ea to .5" - 5"
3) Hotline(12b or 5.10 A0) ★★★ 10c, 12a, 10b, 5.9+, 10d, 10c. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 3", 3-4ea 2". Incredible splitter climb! The third pitch 5.10 hand crack is considered one of the best hand cracks in Yosemite. While plenty of parties free the second pitch, this route is more popular as a 5.10 A0 climb, which only involves having to aid a short, finger-sized section and then a penji to avoid the 12b moves on the traverse of pitch 2. Rappel with two ropes.
4) Fatal Mistake (5.11a A1) ★★★ A1, 12a, 11a. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 4", extra finger-sized. Splitter climb, but more commonly toproped from the top of Pink Dream, because of the first pitch being aid (super thin).
5) Pink Dream(10a) ★★★ 5.9+, 10a/b. Pro: 1ea to .3" - 1.25", 2-3ea 1.5" -3", 2ea 4", 1-2ea 5". Burly, wide climbing with an adventurous scramble just to get to the base. To descend rappel with two 60m ropes (swing right where the hillside goes up above the base of the route, if you come up a little short).



Cookie Cliff



Cookie Left

1) Mystic Mint
2) Twinkie
3) Nutter Butter
4) Tennesee Strings
5) Tennessee Wall
6) Banana Dreams
7) Hardd
8) Crack - A - Go - Go
9) Outer Limits
10) Elevator Shaft
11) Cookie Monster
12) Twilight Zone
13) Chips Ahoy
14) Americas Cup
15) Red Zinger
16) Meat Grinder
17) Meat Grinder Arete
18) Beverly's Tower
19) Aftershock
20) The Cookie Left
21) The Cookie Center
22) The Cookie Right
23) Waverly Wafer
24) Butterballs
25) Wheat Thin
26) Butterfingers
27) Unnamed

Approach:
From the Hwy 120/140 junction, go a little over 2 miles west on 140. Park on the left side of the road at a long, paved pullout in an area with huge, white boulders on the right side of the road.

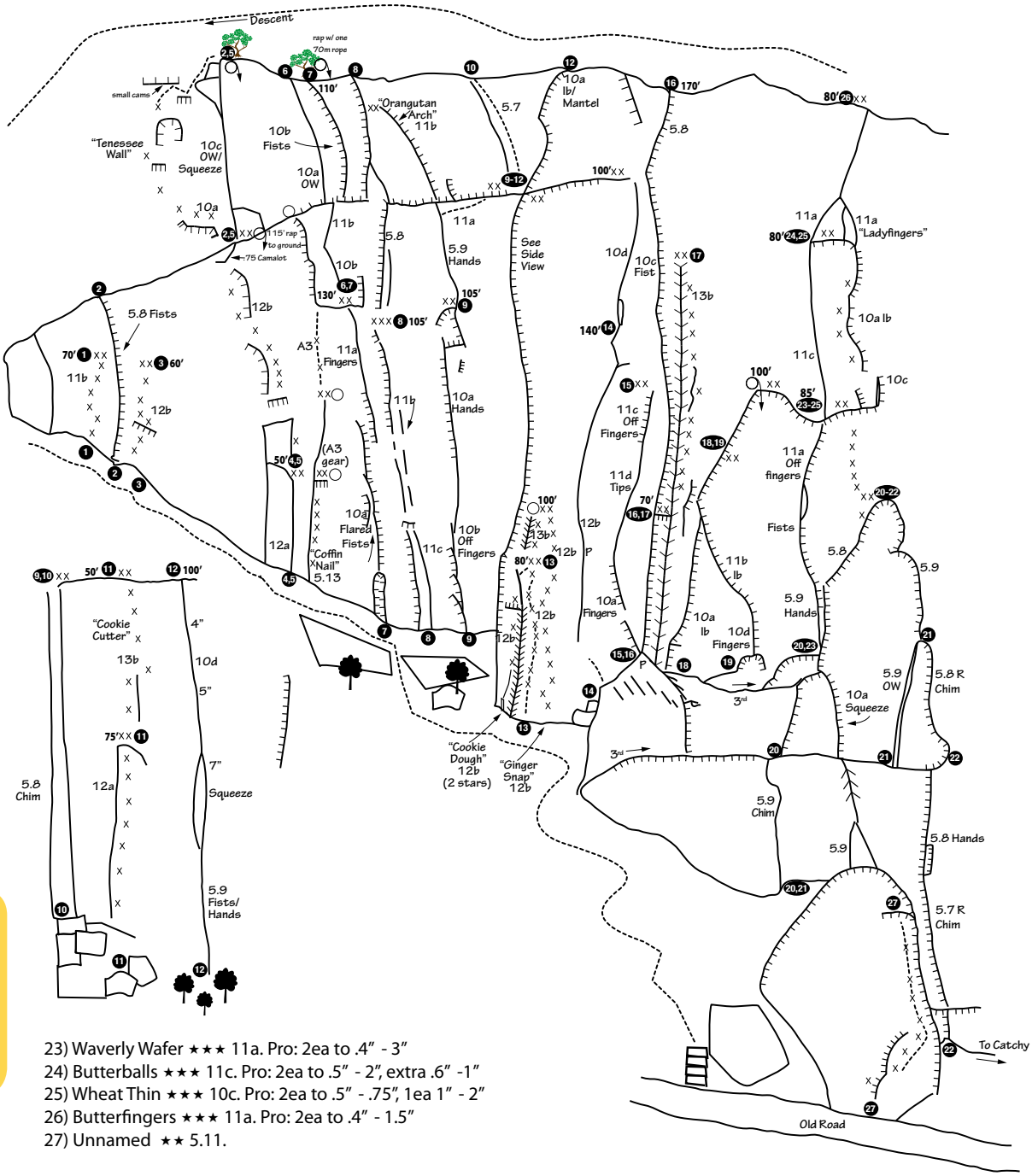
Walk west down the road a few hundred feet, cross the road and head up a well established trail that takes you to *Catchy*.

Cookie Right

1) Vendetta
2) Infraction
3) Anathema
4) Last in Line
5) Jardines Hand
6) The Cleft
7) Catchy
8) Catchy Corner
9) Pringles
10) Zipperhead
11) The Void
12) The Void Continuation
13) The Stigma
14) The Enema
15) The Enigma
15a) Ramp of Deception
15b) Abstract Corner
15c) Escape
16) Ray's Pin Job
17) Something for Nothing
18) Gunning for Buddha
19) Terminator Left/Right

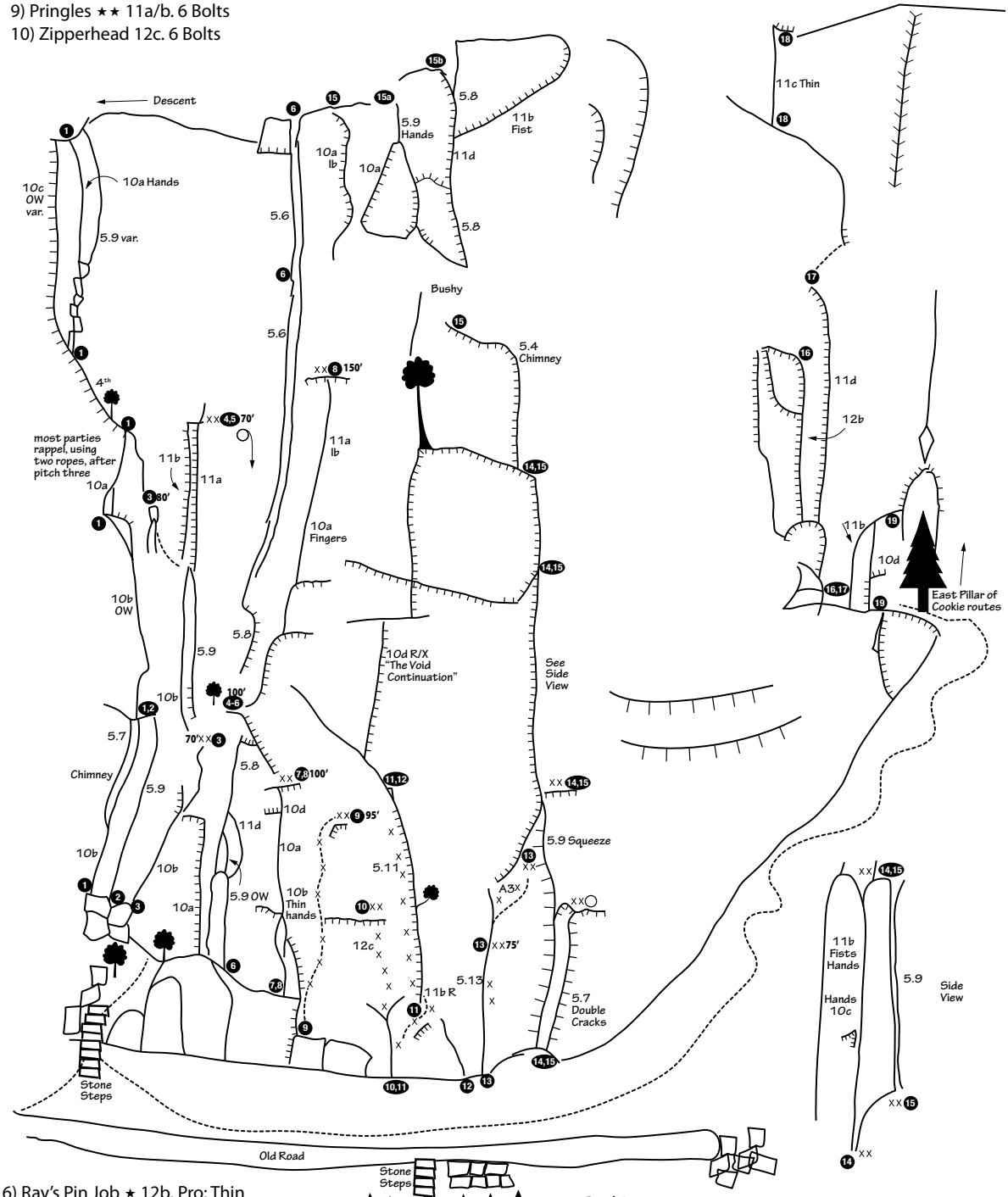
Photo: Will Masterman

1) Mystic Mint ★ 11b. 7 Bolts
2) Twinkie 5.8, 10c. Pro: to 6"
3) Nutter Butter ★ 12b. 6 Bolts
4) Tennessee Strings ★12a. Pro: Many Thin
5) Tennessee Wall ★★12b. Pro: 1 ea .3" - 1.25". 7 Bolts
6) Banana Dreams 10a. Pro: many 3" -6"
7) Hardd ★★★ 11a, 11b. Pro: 2-3 ea to .5" - 2.5" opt. 3",4"
8) Crack - A - Go - Go ★★★ 11c. Pro: 2ea to .5" - 2", many micro nuts
9) Outer Limits ★★★ 10b, 11b. Pro: 2ea to .6" - 3", extra 2-3"
10) Elevator Shaft ★ 5.8 R. Pro: 2ea to .6" - 3"
11) Cookie Monster ★★★ 12a, 13b. 7 Bolts
(second pitch is Cookie Cutter)
12) Twilight Zone ★★ 5.9, 10d, 10a. Pro: 2ea 1" - 7"
13) Chips Ahoy ★★ 12b. 8 Bolts
14) America's Cup ★★ 12b R, 10d. Pro: Thin
15) Red Zinger ★★★ 11d. Pro: 2-3 ea to .3" - 1.5"
16) Meat Grinder ★★★ 5.9, 10c. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 5"
17) Meat Grinder Arete ★★★ 13b.
18) Beverly's Tower ★★ 10a. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 2"
19) Aftershock ★★ 11b. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 1.5"
20) The Cookie, Left 5.9, 10a. Pro: 2ea .5" -4"
21) The Cookie, Center ★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea to .5" - 3", 5-7" piece optional
22) The Cookie, Right ★ 5.8 R, 5.9. Pro: 2ea to .6" - 3"



23) Waverly Wafer ★★★ 11a. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 3"
24) Butterballs ★★★ 11c. Pro: 2ea to .5" - 2", extra .6" -1"
25) Wheat Thin ★★★ 10c. Pro: 2ea to .5" - .75", 1ea 1" - 2"
26) Butterfingers ★★★ 11a. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 1.5"
27) Unnamed ★★ 5.11.

1) Vendetta ★ 10a, 10b, 10a, 4th, 5.9. Pro: 2ea to .5" - 5"
2) Infraction 5.9.
3) Anathema ★★ 10b. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 6"
4) Last In Line 11b.
5) Jardine's Hand ★ 11a.
6) The Cleft ★ 5.9 R, 5.6, 5.6. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 3"
7) Catchy ★★★ 10d. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 2"
8) Catchy Corner ★★★ 11a. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 2.5"
9) Pringles ★★ 11a/b. 6 Bolts
10) Zipperhead 12c. 6 Bolts
11) Void Arete 5.11.
12) The Void 11b R.
13) The Stigma 5.13 or C2+, 5.13 or A3. Pro: Thin
14) The Enema ★★★ 5.7, 11b. Pro: 2ea to .5" - 4"
15) The Enigma ★★ 5.7, 5.9, 5.9, 5.4, 10a. Pro: 2ea to .5" - 3"
15a) Ramp of Deception ★★ 10a.
15b) Abstract Corner ★★ 11d.



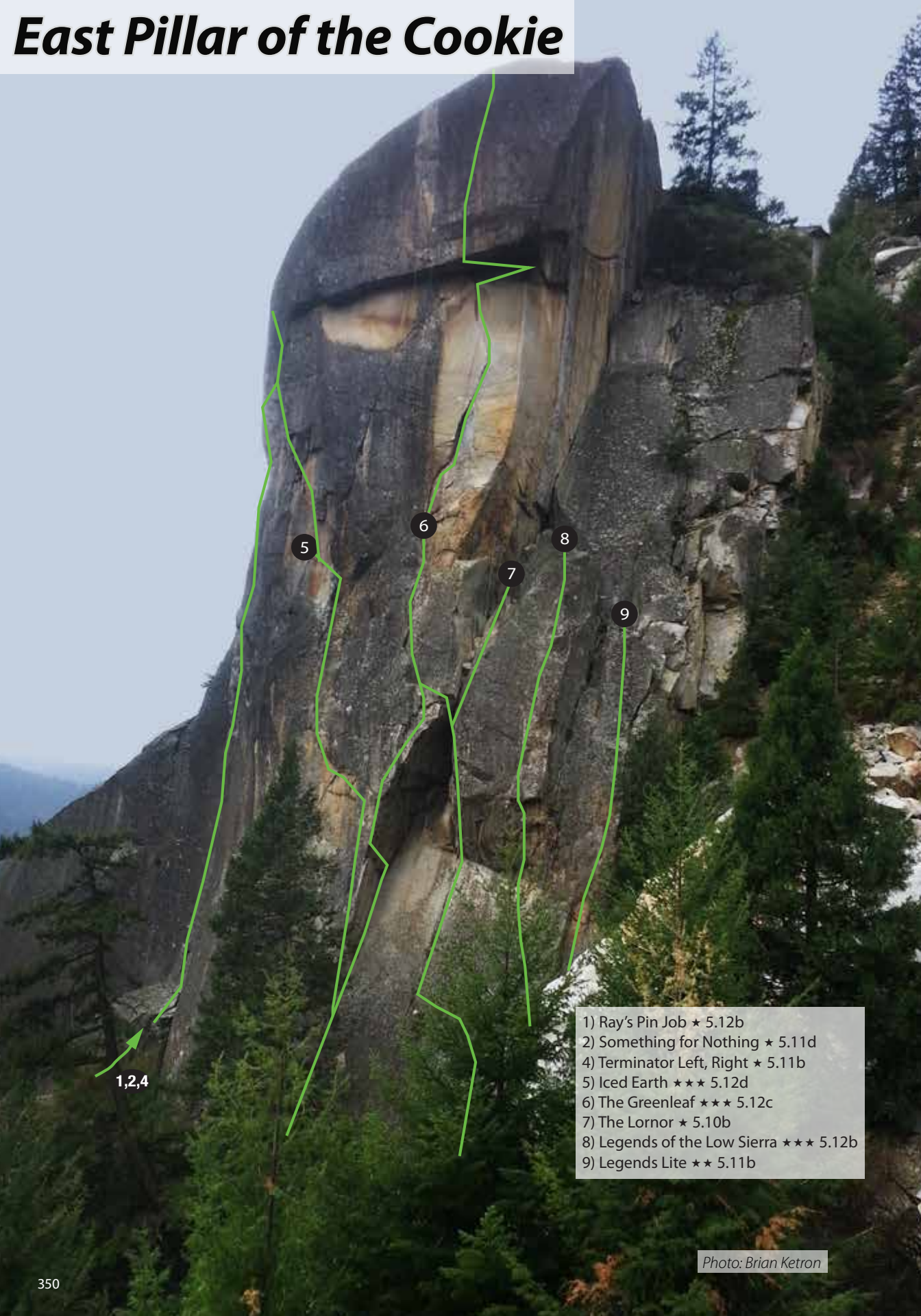
16) Ray's Pin Job ★ 12b. Pro: Thin
17) Something for Nothing ★ 11d.
18) Gunning for Buddha ★ 11c. Pro: Thin
19) Terminator Left ★ 11b, Right ★ 10d.

Parking

Alix Morris on Outer Limits, 5.10b
Photo: Austin Siadak

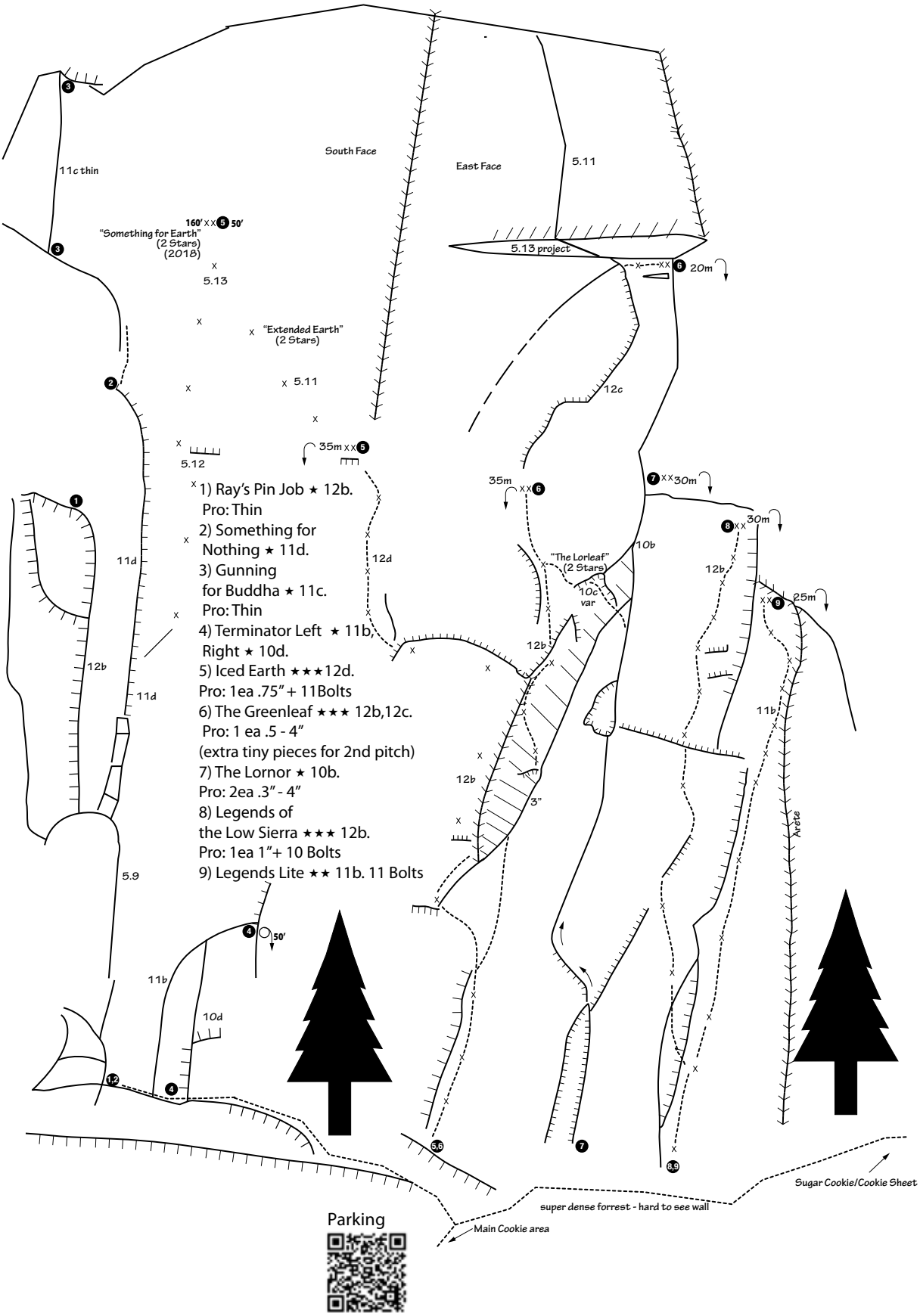
Cambria Müllerleile on Cookie Monster, 5.12a
Photo: Louis Müllerleile

East Pillar of the Cookie



1) Ray's Pin Job ★ 5.12b
2) Something for Nothing ★ 5.11d
4) Terminator Left, Right ★ 5.11b
5) Iced Earth ★★★ 5.12d
6) The Greenleaf ★★★ 5.12c
7) The Lornor ★ 5.10b
8) Legends of the Low Sierra ★★★ 5.12b
9) Legends Lite ★★ 5.11b

Photo: Brian Ketron


South Face
East Face
5.11
11c thin
160' 5 50'
"Something for Earth"
(2 Stars)
(2018)
5.13
5.13 project
6 20m
"Extended Earth"
(2 Stars)
5.11
12c
35m 5
5.12
35m 6
7 30m
30m
8
1) Ray's Pin Job ★ 12b.
Pro: Thin
2) Something for
Nothing ★ 11d.
3) Gunning
for Buddha ★ 11c.
Pro: Thin
4) Terminator Left ★ 11b,
Right ★ 10d.
5) Iced Earth ★★★12d.
Pro: 1ea .75" + 11Bolts
6) The Greenleaf ★★★ 12b,12c.
Pro: 1 ea .5 - 4"
(extra tiny pieces for 2nd pitch)
7) The Lornor ★ 10b.
Pro: 2ea .3" - 4"
8) Legends of
the Low Sierra ★★★ 12b.
Pro: 1ea 1"+ 10 Bolts
9) Legends Lite ★★ 11b. 11 Bolts
11d
12d
"The Lorleaf"
(2 Stars)
10c
var
10b
12b
9 25m
12b
11d
12b
11b
12b
3"
Arete
5.9
4 50'
11b
10d
1,2
4
5,6
7
8,9
super dense forrest - hard to see wall
Sugar Cookie/Cookie Sheet
Main Cookie area
Parking

Down Canyon

Sugar Cookie and Cookie Sheet

Sugar Cookie is a modern sport climbing area developed by local Brian Ketron. The climbing is featured, and the climbs are well protected. SC gets afternoon shade.

Cookie Sheet is an old school slab area.

1) Well Chuffed ★★ 5.12b
2) Joe's Garage ★★★ 5.11c/d
3) Evil Sede ★★ 5.12d
5) First Blood ★★★ 5.13a
6) Silverback Arete ★★ 5.12d
7) 60/40 ★★★ 5.12a
8) The Truth ★★★ 5.12c
9) Wilde ★★ 5.11d
10) Darkside ★ 5.7
11) Slipstream ★ 5.8
12) High Technu ★ 5.7
13) Wump World ★ 5.7
14) Emm Too ★ 5.7

Parking

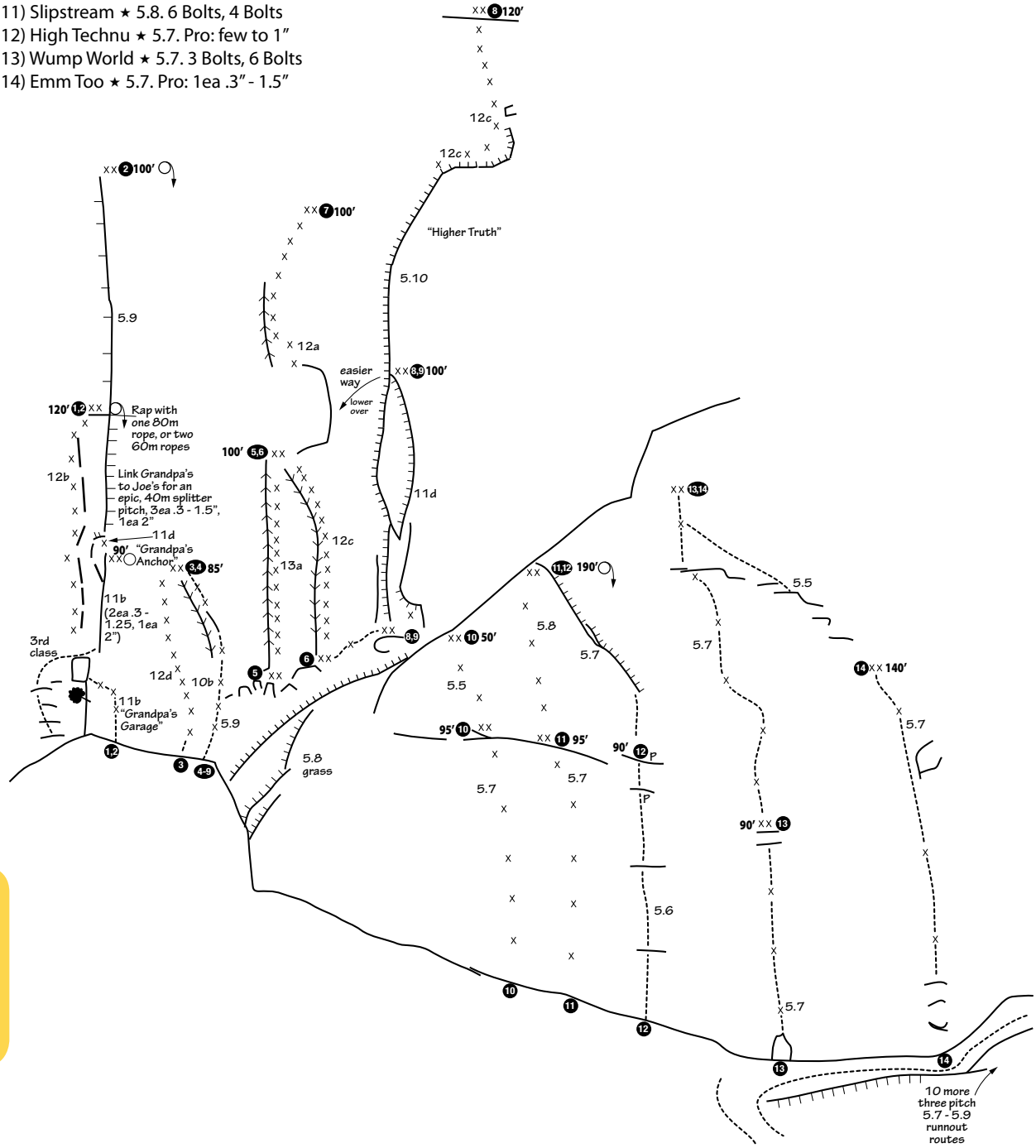
Approach:
From the Hwy 120/140 junction, go a little over 2 miles west on 140. Park on the left side of the road at a long, paved pullout by a stone wall.

For Sugar Cookie and Cookie Sheet make your way up the white talus boulders directly across the road from the parking.

Photo: Brian Ketron

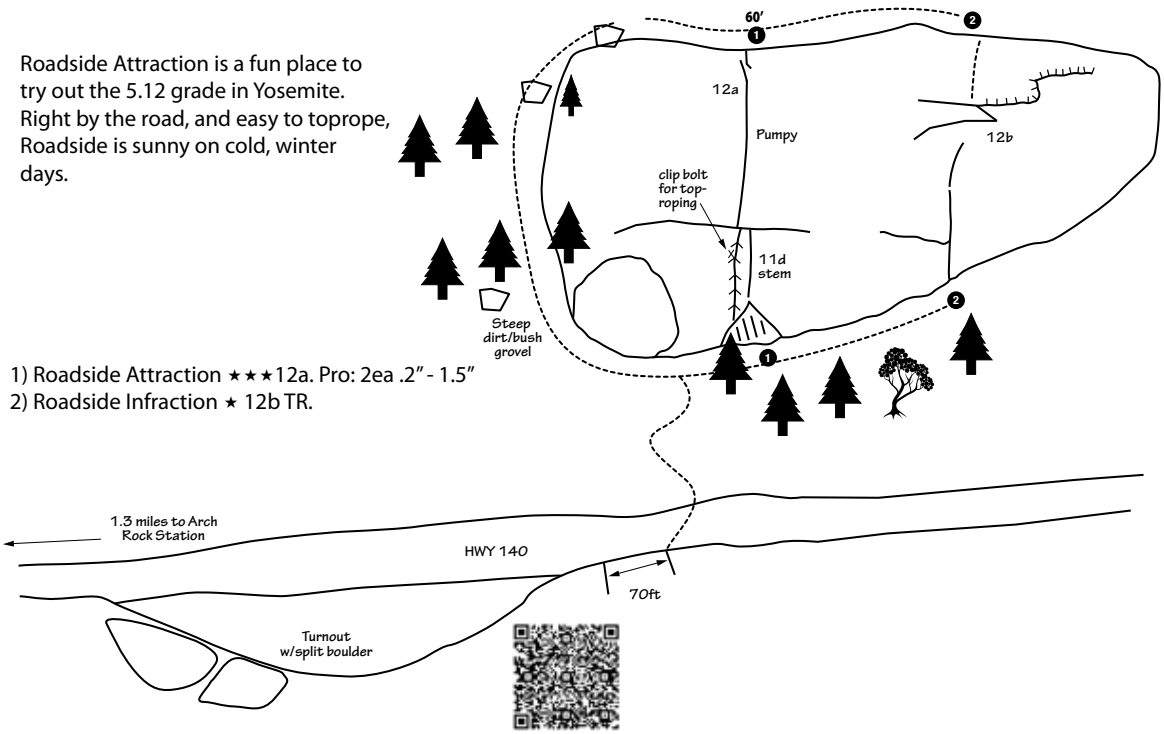
Brian Ketron on his route First Blood, 5.13a
Photo: Shawn Reeder

1) Well Chuffed ★★ 12b. Pro: 1ea 1.25", 3" +13 Bolts
2) Joe's Garage ★★★ 11d. Pro: tiny to 1"
3) Evil Sede ★★ 12d. 11 Bolts
4) The Donkey Way ★ 10b. Pro: few to .75"
5) First Blood ★★★ 13a. 11 Bolts
6) Silverback Arete ★★ 12d. 11 Bolts
7) 60/40 ★★★ 12a. Pro: few to .75"
8) The Truth ★★★ 12a, 12c. Pro: many to .75"; (2 ea 1", 2" 1ea 3" for Higher Truth)
9) Wilde ★★ 11d. Pro: 1-2 to .2" -1.5", 3-4ea finger-sized
10) Darkside ★ 5.7. 5 Bolts, 2 Bolts
11) Slipstream ★ 5.8. 6 Bolts, 4 Bolts
12) High Technu ★ 5.7. Pro: few to 1"
13) Wump World ★ 5.7. 3 Bolts, 6 Bolts
14) Emm Too ★ 5.7. Pro: 1ea .3" - 1.5"



Down Canyon

Roadside Attraction is a fun place to try out the 5.12 grade in Yosemite. Right by the road, and easy to toprope, Roadside is sunny on cold, winter days.



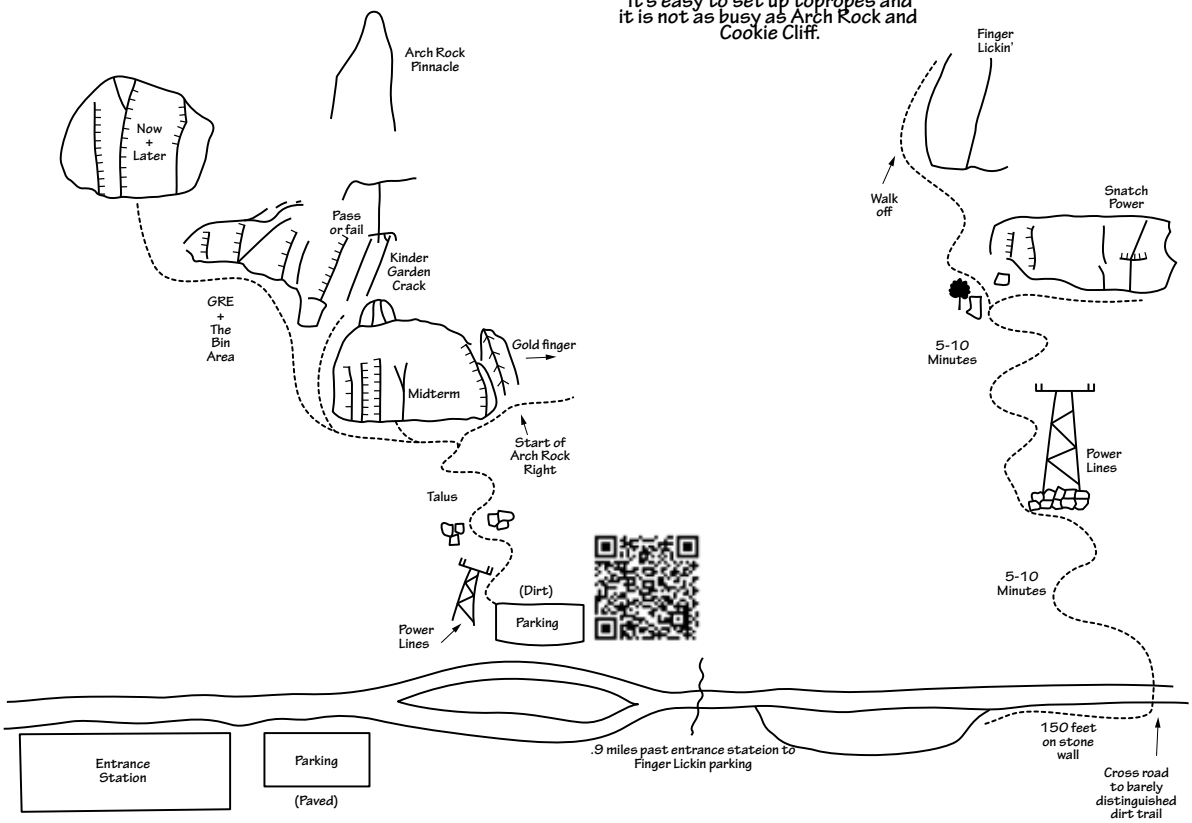
1) Roadside Attraction ★★★12a. Pro: 2ea .2" - 1.5"
2) Roadside Infraction ★ 12b TR.

Photo: Lucas Barth

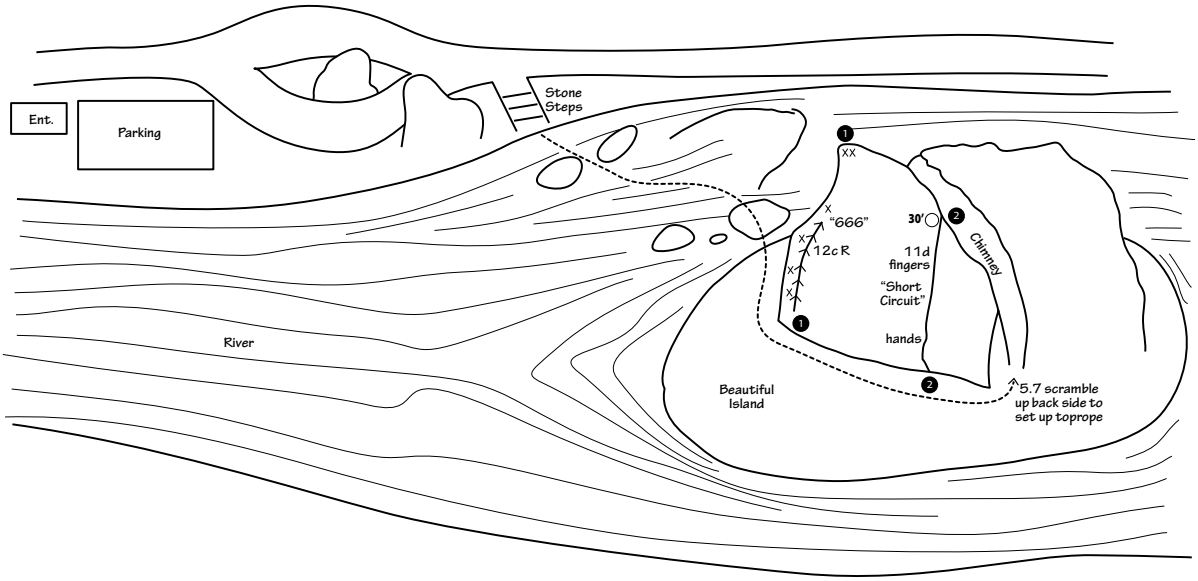
Arch Rock Approach

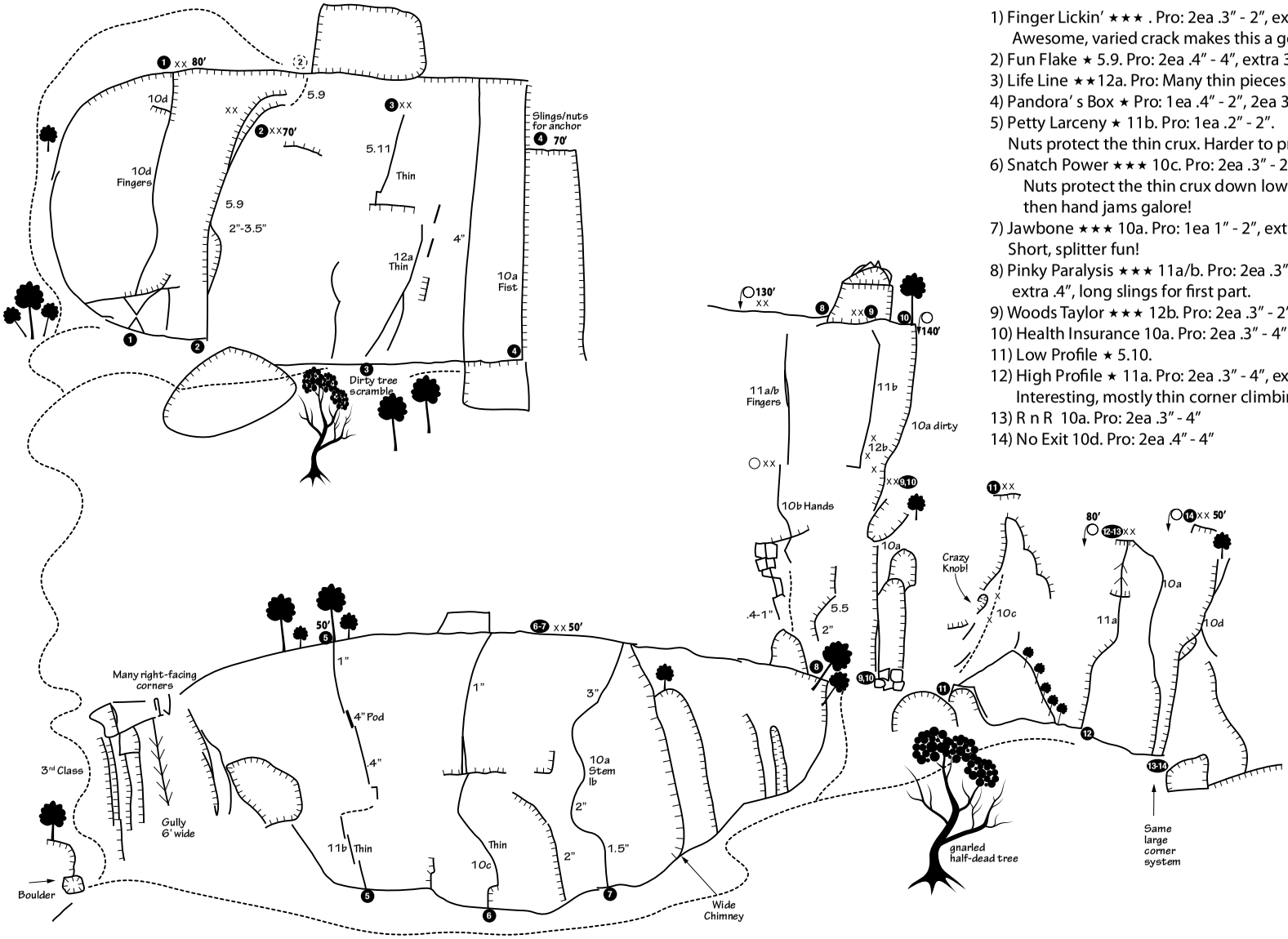
Finger Lickin' Approach

Finger Lickin' is a popular cliff for beginner trad climbers, because it's easy to set up topropes and it is not as busy as Arch Rock and Cookie Cliff.



Short Circuit Approach



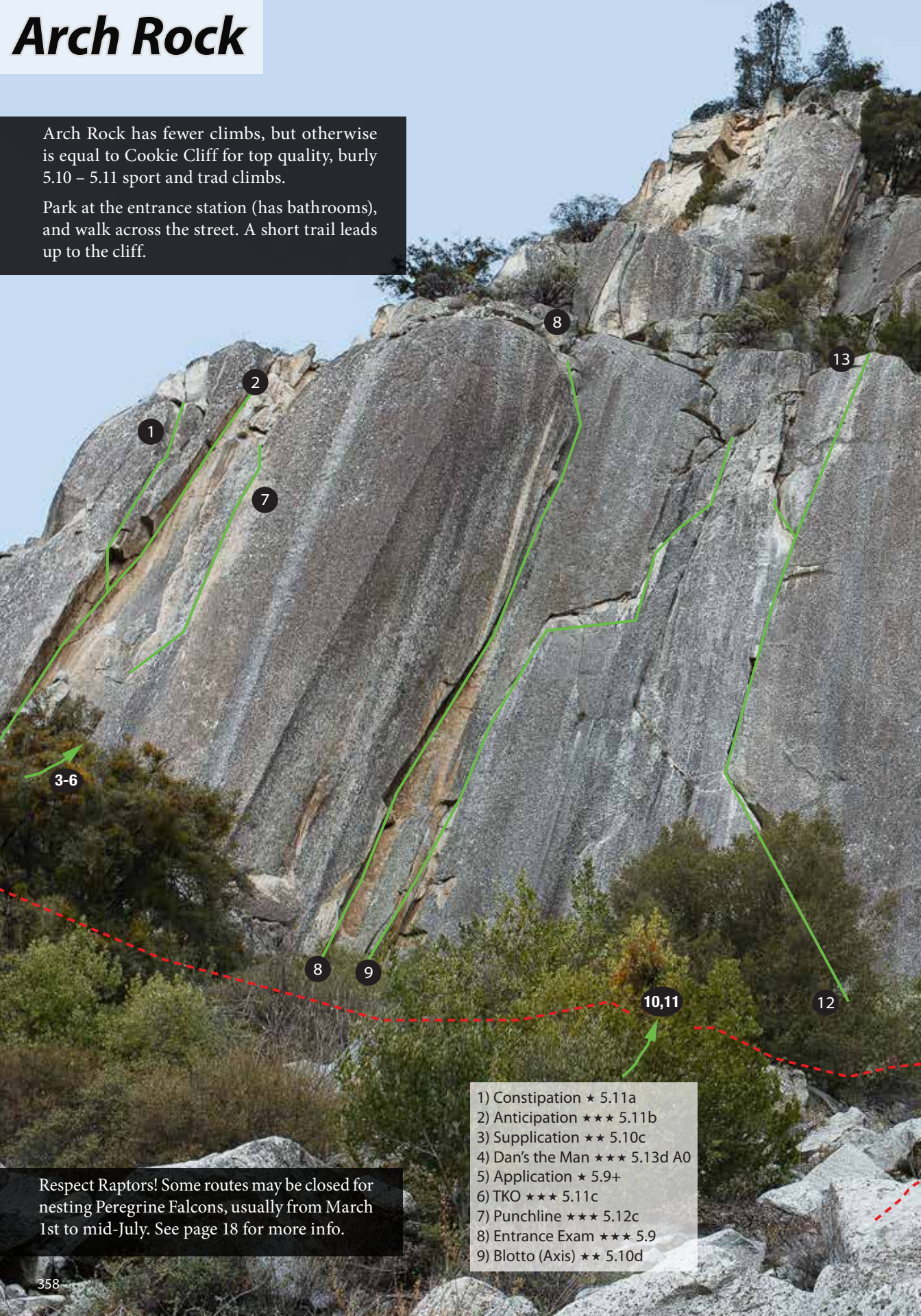


1) Finger Lickin' ★★★ . Pro: 2ea .3" - 2", extra .5" - 1"
Awesome, varied crack makes this a good first 10d.
2) Fun Flake ★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .4" - 4", extra 3"
3) Life Line ★★12a. Pro: Many thin pieces
4) Pandora' s Box ★ Pro: 1ea .4" - 2", 2ea 3", 4"
5) Petty Larceny ★ 11b. Pro: 1ea .2" - 2".
Nuts protect the thin crux. Harder to protect if short.
6) Snatch Power ★★★ 10c. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2"
Nuts protect the thin crux down low,
then hand jams galore!
7) Jawbone ★★★ 10a. Pro: 1ea 1" - 2", extra 3 - 4"
Short, splitter fun!
8) Pinky Paralysis ★★★ 11a/b. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3",
extra .4", long slings for first part.
9) Woods Taylor ★★★ 12b. Pro: 2ea .3" - 2"
10) Health Insurance 10a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4"
11) Low Profile ★ 5.10.
12) High Profile ★ 11a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4", extra .5" - 1"
Interesting, mostly thin corner climbing.
13) R n R 10a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4"
14) No Exit 10d. Pro: 2ea .4" - 4"

Arch Rock

Arch Rock has fewer climbs, but otherwise is equal to Cookie Cliff for top quality, burly 5.10 – 5.11 sport and trad climbs.

Park at the entrance station (has bathrooms), and walk across the street. A short trail leads up to the cliff.



1) Constipation ★ 5.11a
2) Anticipation ★★★ 5.11b
3) Supplication ★★ 5.10c
4) Dan's the Man ★★★ 5.13d A0
5) Application ★ 5.9+
6) TKO ★★★ 5.11c
7) Punchline ★★★ 5.12c
8) Entrance Exam ★★★ 5.9
9) Blotto (Axis) ★★ 5.10d

Respect Raptors! Some routes may be closed for nesting Peregrine Falcons, usually from March 1st to mid-July. See page 18 for more info.

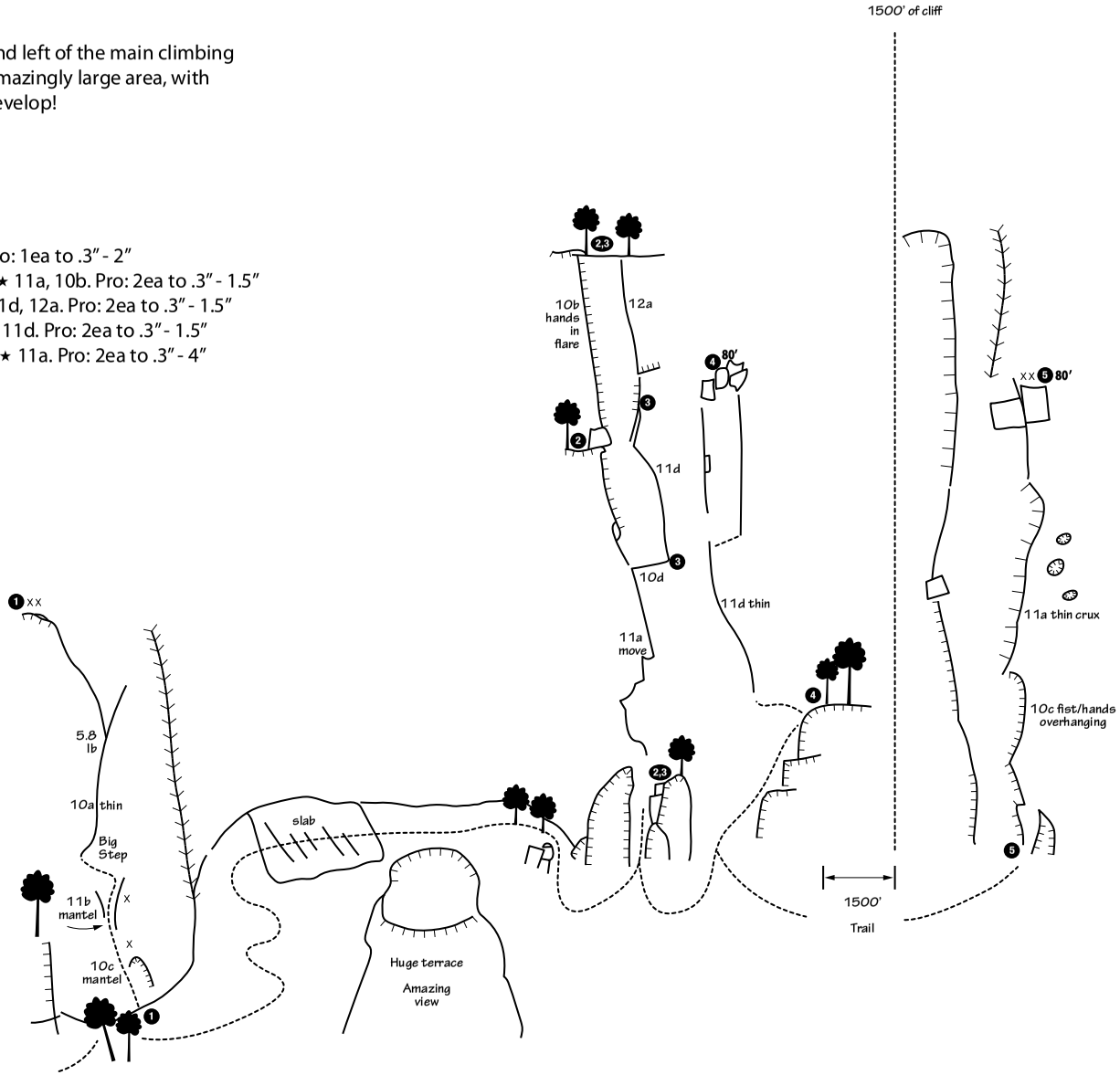
Photo: Will Masterman

Down Canyon

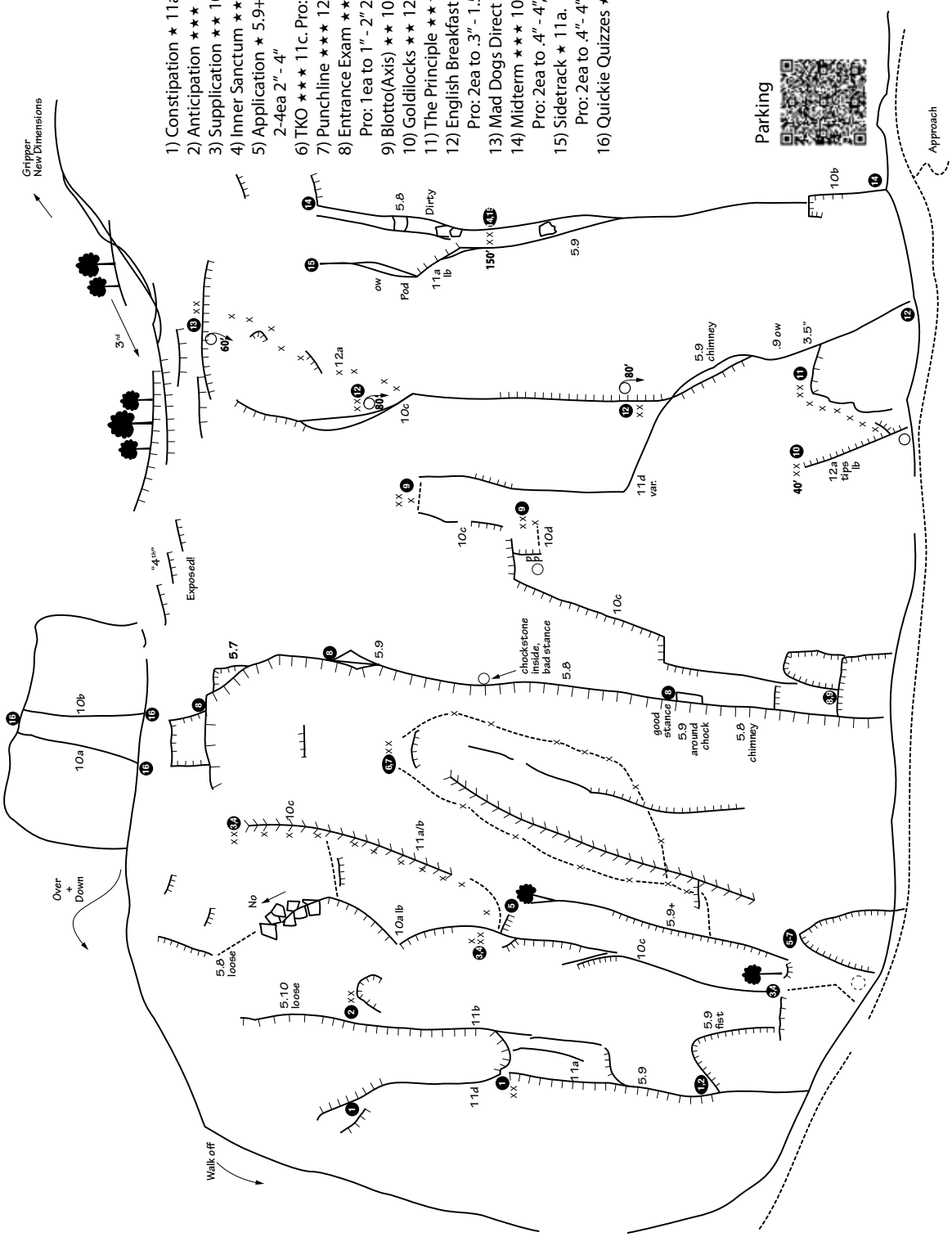
These climbs are up and left of the main climbing area. Arch rock is an amazingly large area, with tons to explore and develop!

1) Archangel ★★ 11b. Pro: 1ea to .3" - 2"
2) Cosmic Messenger ★★ 11a, 10b. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 1.5"
3) Goldfinger ★★ 10d, 11d, 12a. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 1.5"
4) Torque Converter ★★ 11d. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 1.5"
5) Stealth Technology ★★ 11a. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 4"

Parking



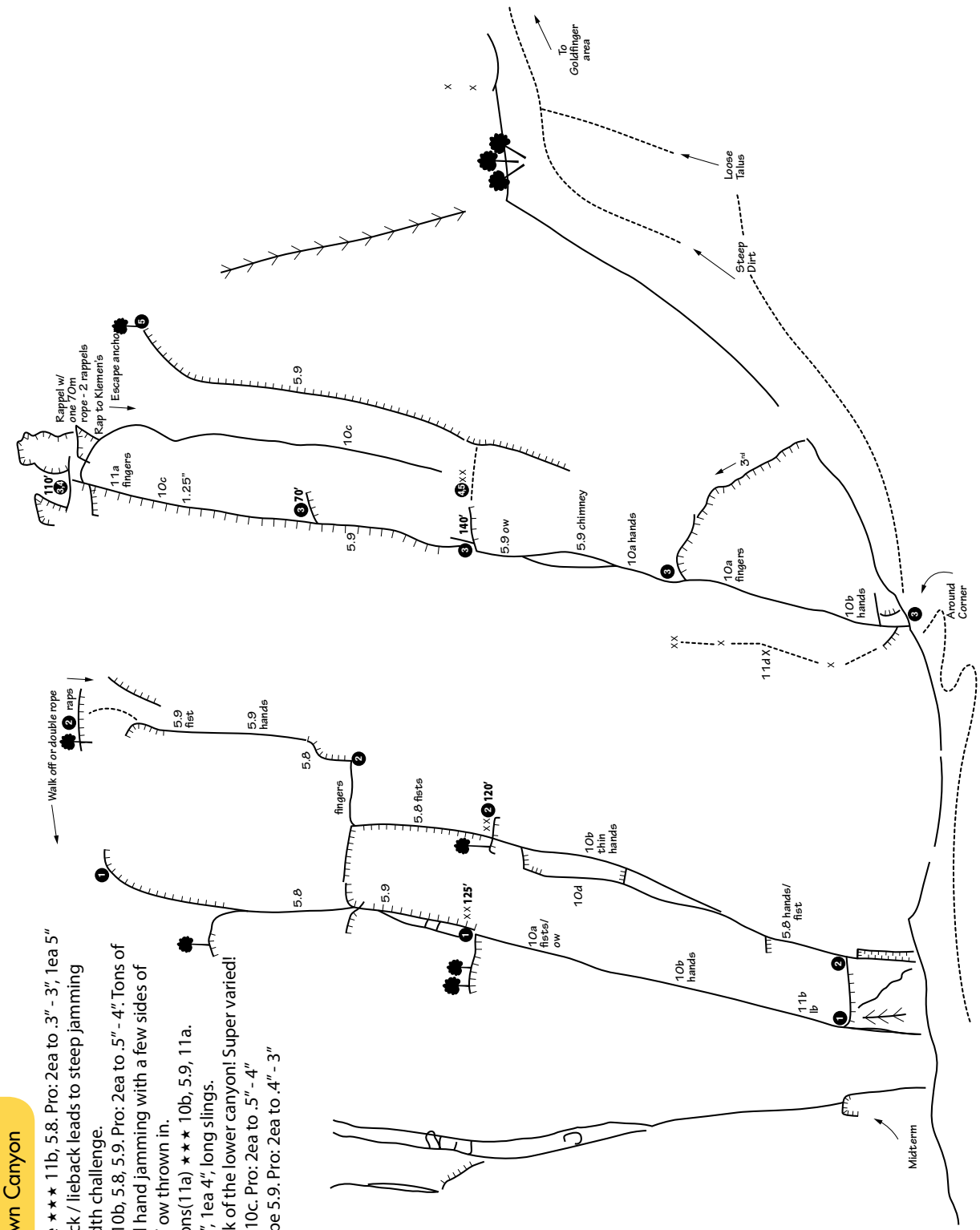
1) Constipation ★ 11a, 11d. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 3"
2) Anticipation ★★★ 11b. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 3"
3) Supplication ★★ 10c. Pro: 2ea to .4" - 2"
4) Inner Sanctum ★★★ 11a/b. 10 Bolts
5) Application ★ 5.9+. Pro: 1ea to .4" - 1.5", 2-4ea 2" - 4"
6) TKO ★★★ 11c. Pro: 1-2ea to 2" - 4"
7) Punchline ★★★ 12c. Pro: 1-2ea to 2" - 4"
8) Entrance Exam ★★★ 5.9, 5.9, 5.7.
Pro: 1ea to 1" - 2" 2ea 3" - 10"
9) Blotto(Axis) ★★ 10d, 10c. Pro: 2ea to .3" - 3"
10) Goldilocks ★★ 12a. Pro: 2ea to .3" - .5"
11) The Principle ★★★ 12b/c. 6 Bolts
12) English Breakfast Crack ★★★ 5.9, 10c.
Pro: 2ea to .3" - 1.5", 1ea 2" - 4"
13) Mad Dogs Direct ★★ 12a. 9 Bolts
14) Midterm ★★★ 10b, 5.8.
Pro: 2ea to .4" - 4", 1ea 5"
15) Sidetrack ★ 11a.
Pro: 2ea to .4" - 4"
16) Quickie Quizzes ★ 10a/b.



Down Canyon

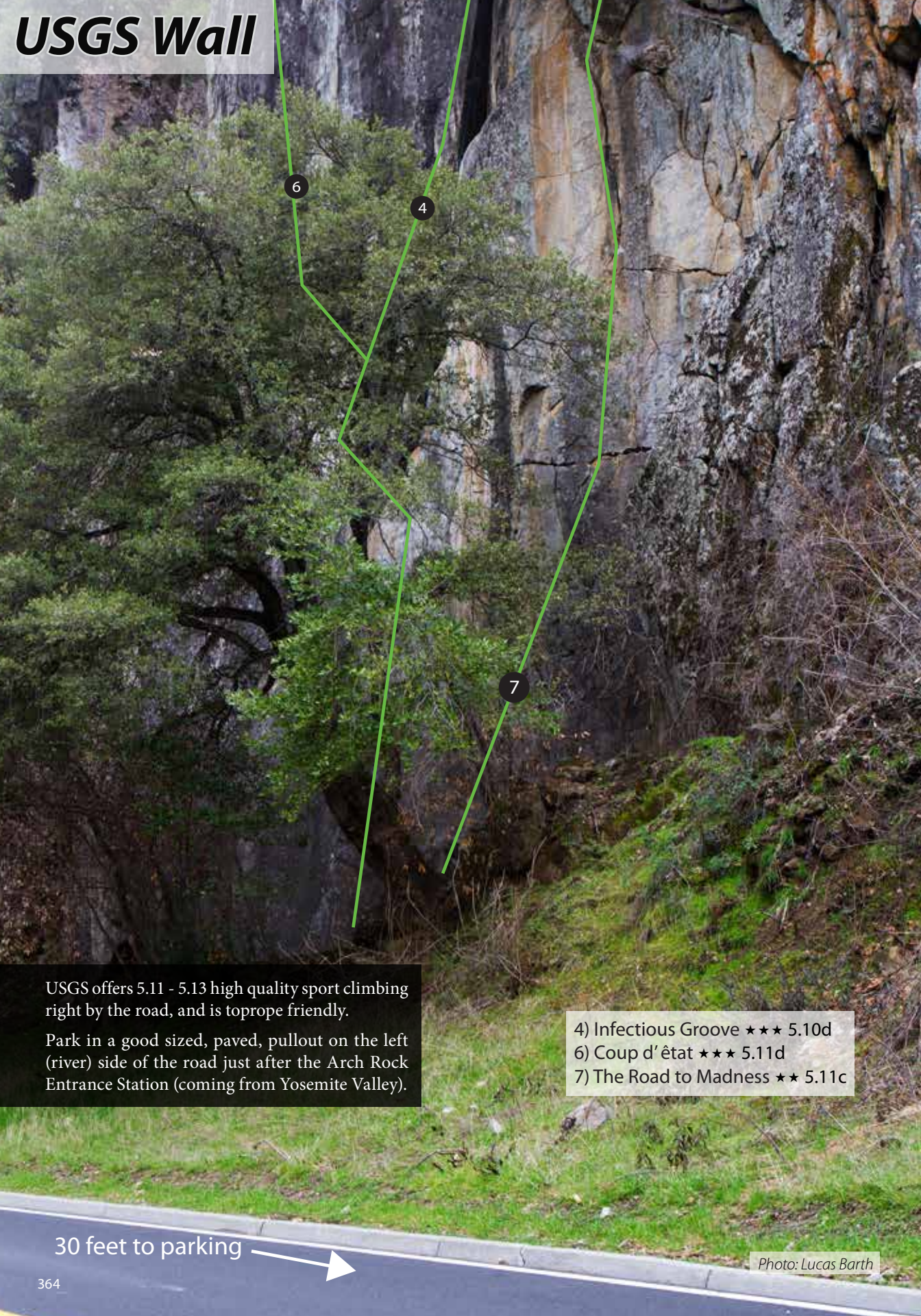
1) Leanie Meanie ★★★ 11b, 5.8. Pro: 2ea to .3″ - 3″, 1ea 5″ Stellar finger crack / lieback leads to steep jamming and a final offwidth challenge.
2) Gripper ★★★ 10b, 5.8, 5.9. Pro: 2ea to .5″ - 4″. Tons of glory fingers and hand jamming with a few sides of challenging fist / ow thrown in.
3) New Dimensions(11a) ★★★ 10b, 5.9, 11a. Pro: 2ea to .3″ - 3″, 1ea 4″, long slings. All time jam crack of the lower canyon! Super varied!
4) The Voyage ★ 10c. Pro: 2ea to .5″ - 4″
5) Klemen's Escape 5.9. Pro: 2ea to .4″ - 3″

Parking



Gina Edwards on New Dimensions, 5.11a
Photo: Adam Freund

USGS Wall



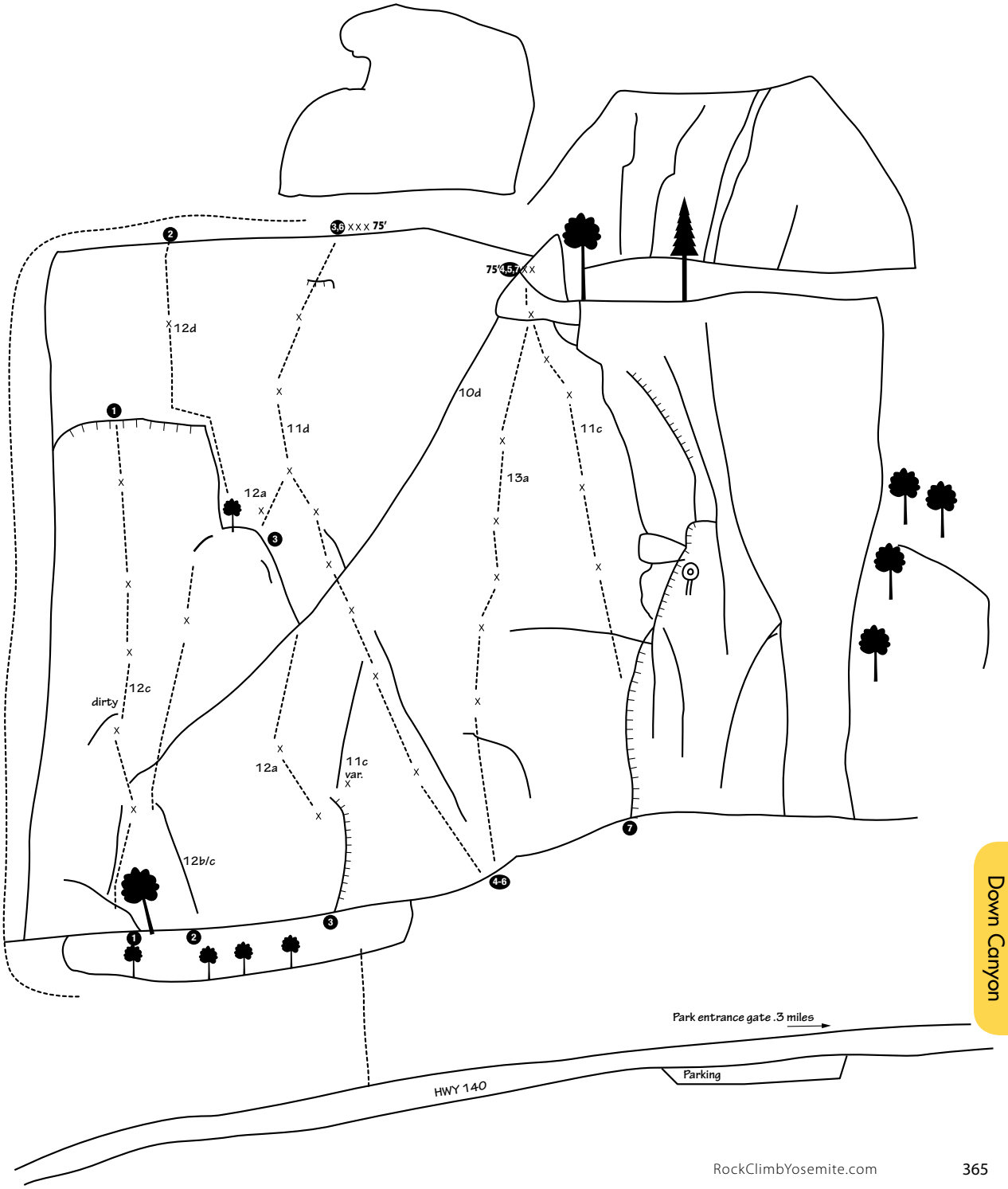
USGS offers 5.11 - 5.13 high quality sport climbing right by the road, and is toprope friendly.

Park in a good sized, paved, pullout on the left (river) side of the road just after the Arch Rock Entrance Station (coming from Yosemite Valley).

4) Infectious Groove ★★★ 5.10d
6) Coup d' état ★★★ 5.11d
7) The Road to Madness ★★ 5.11c

Photo: Lucas Barth

1) Spud Launcher ★ 12c. 5 Bolts
2) Bush League ★ 12d. Pro: few .3" - 1.5"
3) Cooty Twat ★★★ 12a. 6 Bolts
4) Infectious Groove ★★★ 10d. Pro: Many .2" - .4"
5) Road Kill(er) ★★ 13a. 5 Bolts
6) Coup d'etat ★★★ 11d. 8 Bolts
7) The Road to Madness ★★ 11c. Pro: 1ea 1" - 2" + 5 Bolts



Parkline Slab

Parkline, a half-mile long slab right above the Yosemite View Lodge in El Portal, is the winter Mecca for climbers looking for lower angled crack and sport routes. While not toprope friendly, there are many options if you can lead 5.8 where you can toprope harder, nearby climbs. You can often climb in a t-shirt at Parkline when it is icy and snowy in Yosemite Valley.

Approach:
Drive west one mile from the Hwy 140 entrance station. There are two, smaller, paved pullouts. The trail starts in between the pullouts, near a drainage.

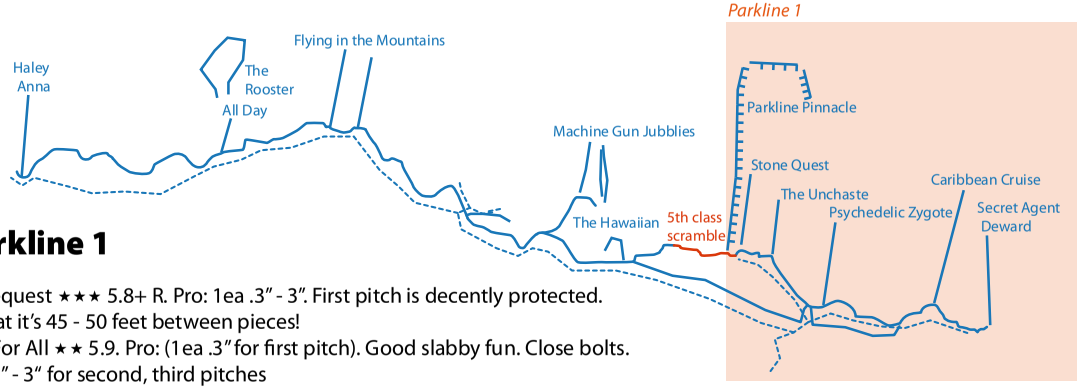
Photo: Lucas Barth

Parkline Slab

1) Tweet This ★★ 5.11a
2) All Day ★★ 5.10a
3) Woody Woodpecker ★★ 5.9
4) Sawyer Crack ★ 5.9
5) Flying In The Mountains ★★★ 5.11a
6) Homeworld ★★★ 5.11a
7) Otherworld ★★ 5.11d
8) Parkline Express ★★ 5.10d

Free route
Aid route
Trail

Photo: Lucas Barth



Parkline 1

1) Stonequest ★★★ 5.8+ R. Pro: 1ea .3" - 3". First pitch is decently protected. After that it's 45 - 50 feet between pieces!
2) Free For All ★★ 5.9. Pro: (1ea .3" for first pitch). Good slabby fun. Close bolts. 1-2ea .3" - 3" for second, third pitches
3) The Chase ★ 10a R. 7 Bolts
4) The Unchaste ★★ 10b. Pro: 1ea .3" - 3". Stout edging!

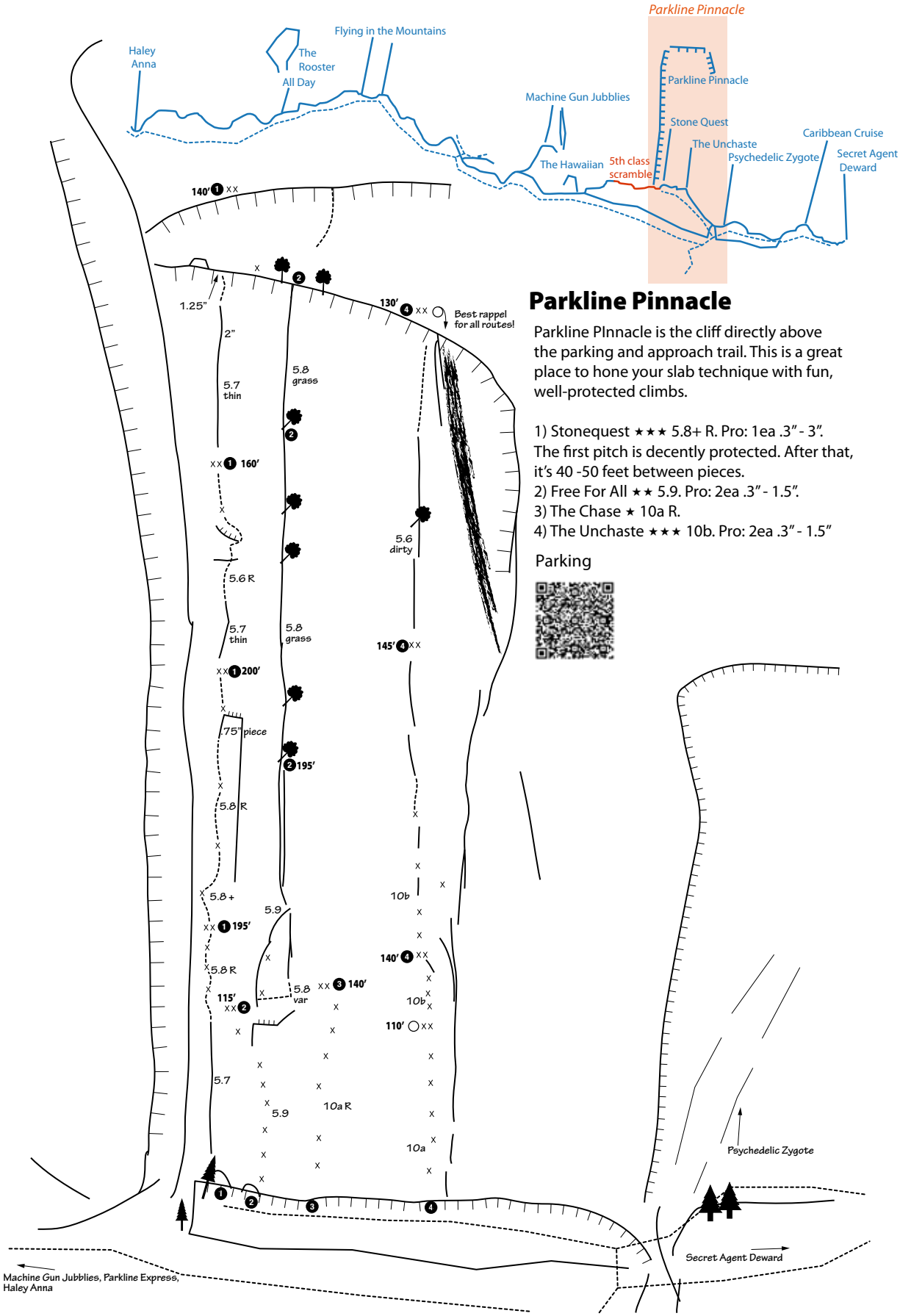
Two more pitches, 5.8, to top of Pillar

Complete topo to the top of Parkline Pinnacle on the following page

To Parkline Left - Machine Gun Jubblies, Color Me Gone, etc.

Parking

5) Buddin's Bolts ★★ 5.10b/c. 8 Bolts
6) Psychedelic Zygote ★★ 5.8. Pro: 1-2ea .3" - 2"
7) Caribbean Cruise ★★ 5.7. 6 Bolts
8) Costa Rica ★ 5.8 R, 5.9 R.
9) Secret Agent Dward ★★ 5.7, 5.8. Pro: 1ea 1" for second pitch. 10 Bolts. Well protected, pure slab climbing.

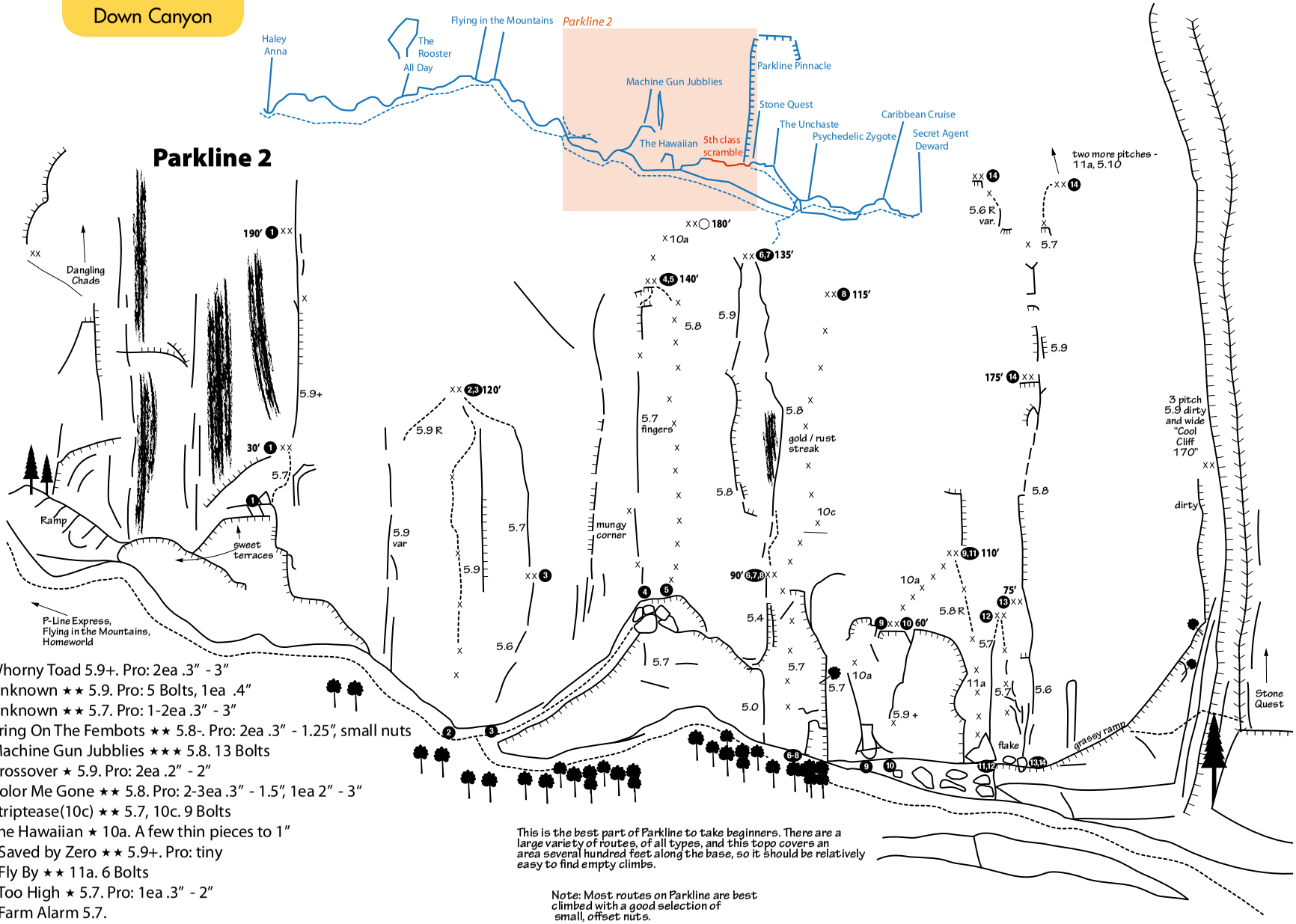


Parkline Pinnacle

Parkline PInnacle is the cliff directly above the parking and approach trail. This is a great place to hone your slab technique with fun, well-protected climbs.

1) Stonequest ★★★ 5.8+ R. Pro: 1ea .3" - 3". The first pitch is decently protected. After that, it's 40 -50 feet between pieces.
2) Free For All ★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.5".
3) The Chase ★ 10a R.
4) The Unchaste ★★★ 10b. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.5"

Parking



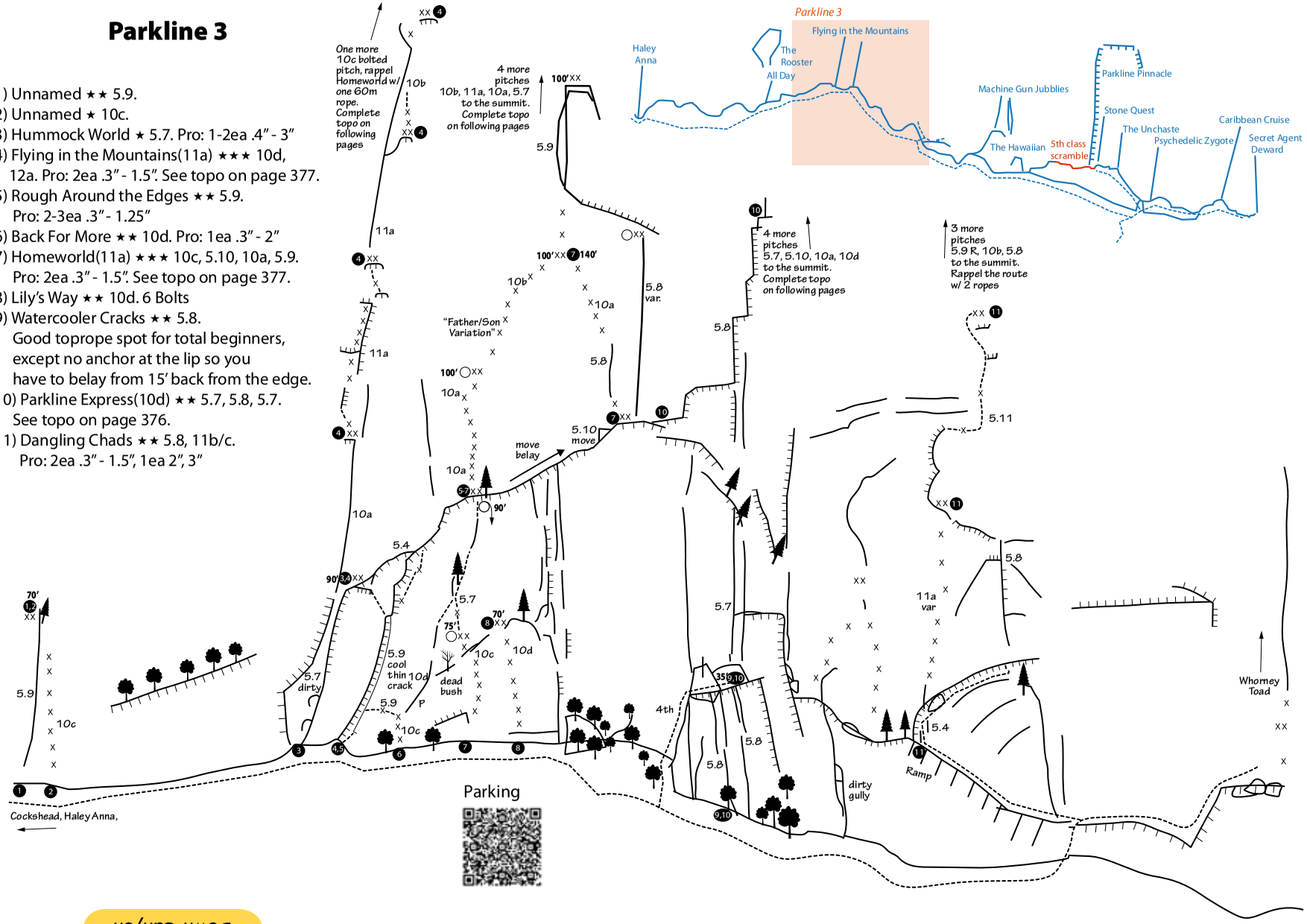
1) Whorny Toad 5.9+. Pro: 2ea .3" - 3"
2) Unknown ★★ 5.9. Pro: 5 Bolts, 1ea .4"
3) Unknown ★★ 5.7. Pro: 1-2ea .3" - 3"
4) Bring On The Fembots ★★ 5.8-. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.25", small nuts
5) Machine Gun Jubblies ★★★ 5.8. 13 Bolts
6) Crossover ★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .2" - 2"
7) Color Me Gone ★★ 5.8. Pro: 2-3ea .3" - 1.5", 1ea 2" - 3"
8) Striptease(10c) ★★ 5.7, 10c. 9 Bolts
9) The Hawaiian ★ 10a. A few thin pieces to 1"
10) Saved by Zero ★★ 5.9+. Pro: tiny
11) Fly By ★★ 11a. 6 Bolts
12) Too High ★ 5.7. Pro: 1ea .3" - 2"
13) Farm Alarm 5.7.
14) Eye Of The Beholder(5.9) ★★ 5.8, 5.9. Pro: 1ea .2" - 2", tiny nuts

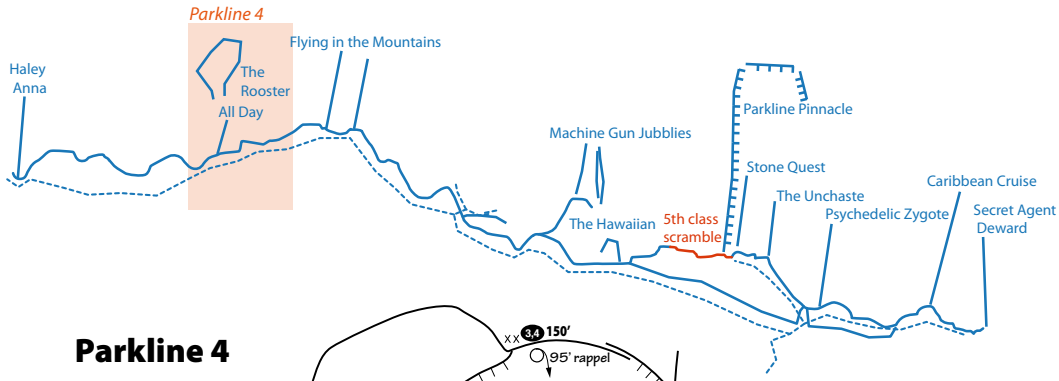
This is the best part of Parkline to take beginners. There are a large variety of routes, of all types, and this topo covers an area several hundred feet along the base, so it should be relatively easy to find empty climbs.

Note: Most routes on Parkline are best climbed with a good selection of small, offset nuts.

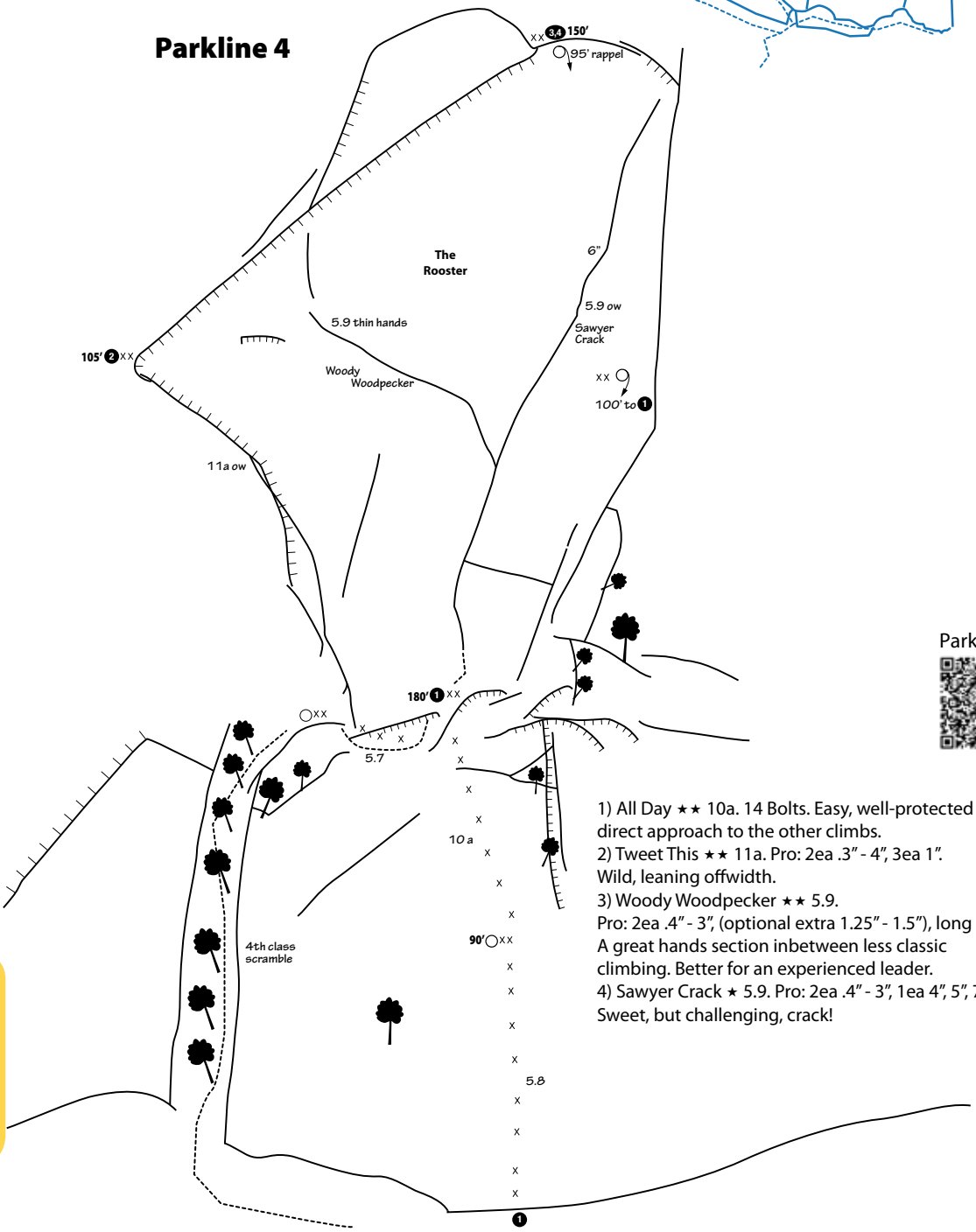
Parkline 3

1) Unnamed ★★ 5.9.
2) Unnamed ★ 10c.
3) Hummock World ★ 5.7. Pro: 1-2ea .4" - 3"
4) Flying in the Mountains(11a) ★★★ 10d, 12a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.5". See topo on page 377.
5) Rough Around the Edges ★★ 5.9. Pro: 2-3ea .3" - 1.25"
6) Back For More ★★ 10d. Pro: 1ea .3" - 2"
7) Homeworld(11a) ★★★ 10c, 5.10, 10a, 5.9. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.5". See topo on page 377.
8) Lily's Way ★★ 10d. 6 Bolts
9) Watercooler Cracks ★★ 5.8. Good toprope spot for total beginners, except no anchor at the lip so you have to belay from 15' back from the edge.
10) Parkline Express(10d) ★★ 5.7, 5.8, 5.7. See topo on page 376.
11) Dangling Chads ★★ 5.8, 11b/c. Pro: 2ea .3" - 1.5", 1ea 2", 3"



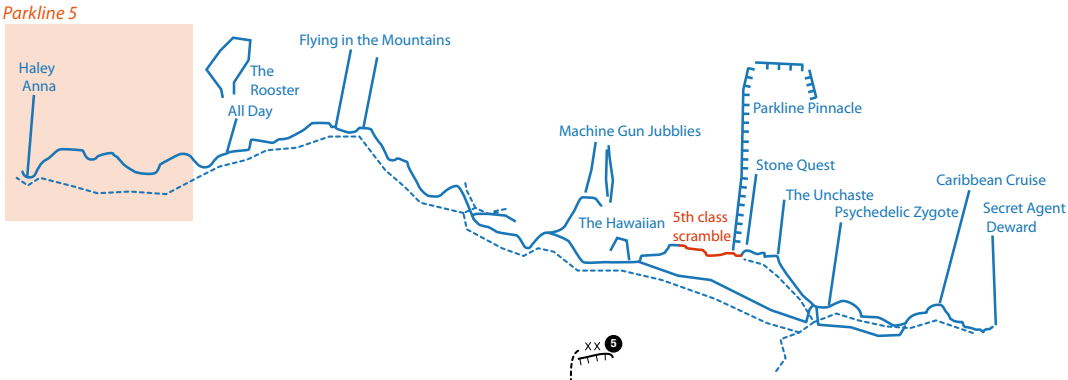


Parkline 4

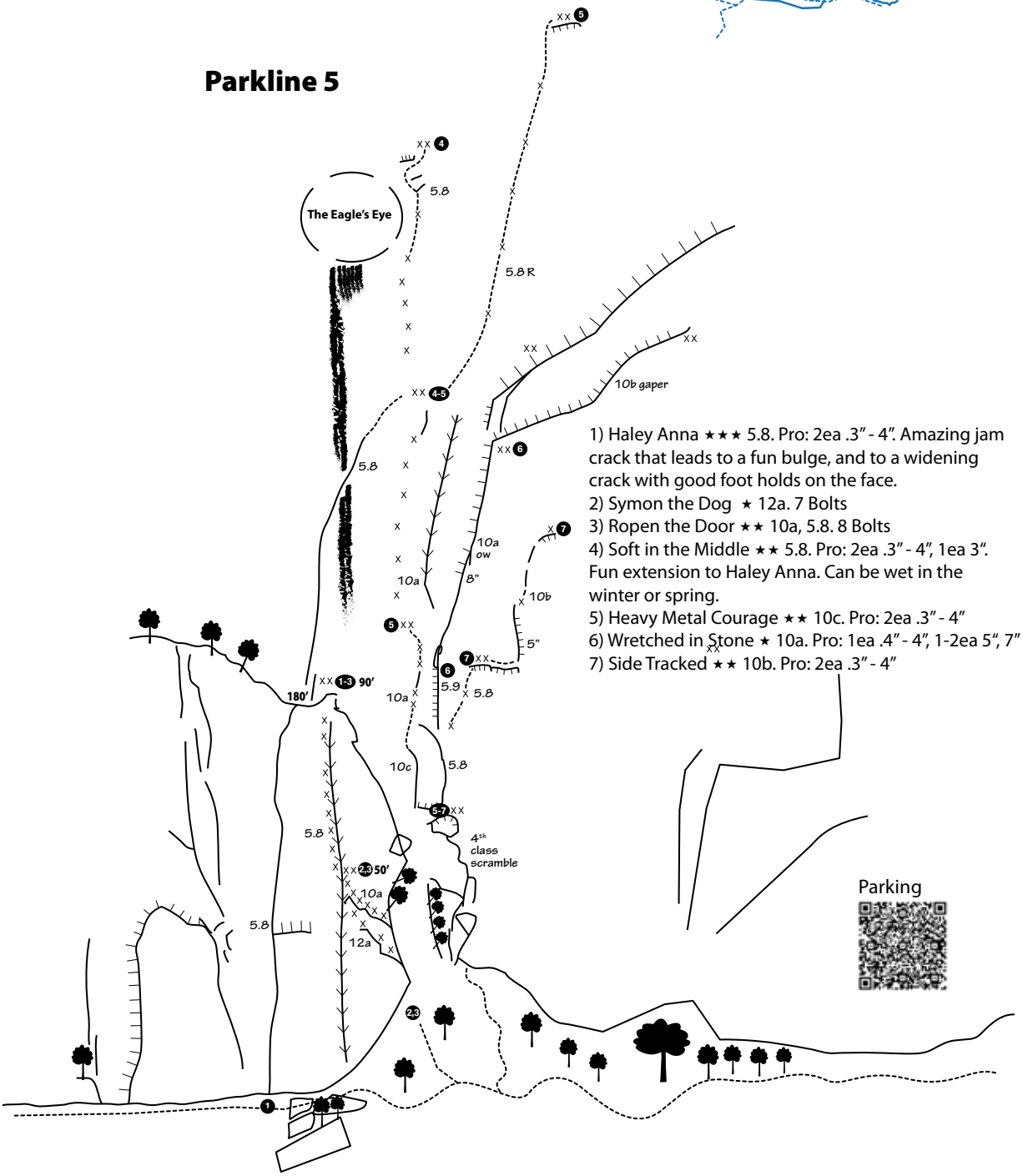


Parking

1) All Day ★★ 10a. 14 Bolts. Easy, well-protected direct approach to the other climbs.
2) Tweet This ★★ 11a. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4", 3ea 1". Wild, leaning offwidth.
3) Woody Woodpecker ★★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .4" - 3", (optional extra 1.25" - 1.5"), long slings. A great hands section inbetween less classic climbing. Better for an experienced leader.
4) Sawyer Crack ★ 5.9. Pro: 2ea .4" - 3", 1ea 4", 5", 7". Sweet, but challenging, crack!



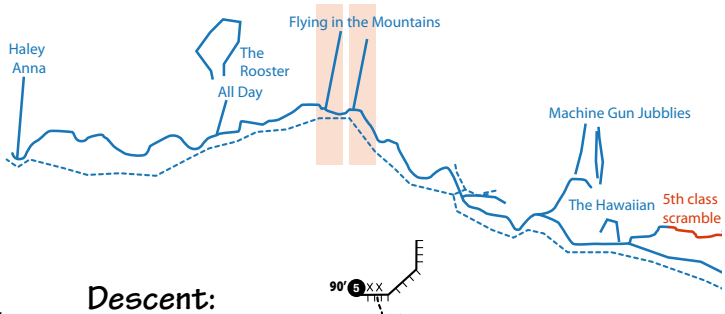
Parkline 5



1) Haley Anna ★★★ 5.8. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4". Amazing jam crack that leads to a fun bulge, and to a widening crack with good foot holds on the face.
2) Symon the Dog ★ 12a. 7 Bolts
3) Ropen the Door ★★ 10a, 5.8. 8 Bolts
4) Soft in the Middle ★★ 5.8. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4", 1ea 3". Fun extension to Haley Anna. Can be wet in the winter or spring.
5) Heavy Metal Courage ★★ 10c. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4"
6) Wretched in Stone ★ 10a. Pro: 1ea .4" - 4", 1-2ea 5", 7"
7) Side Tracked ★★ 10b. Pro: 2ea .3" - 4"

Parkline Express IV 5.10d

FA: 2010. Jeff Scheuerell, Josh Mucci

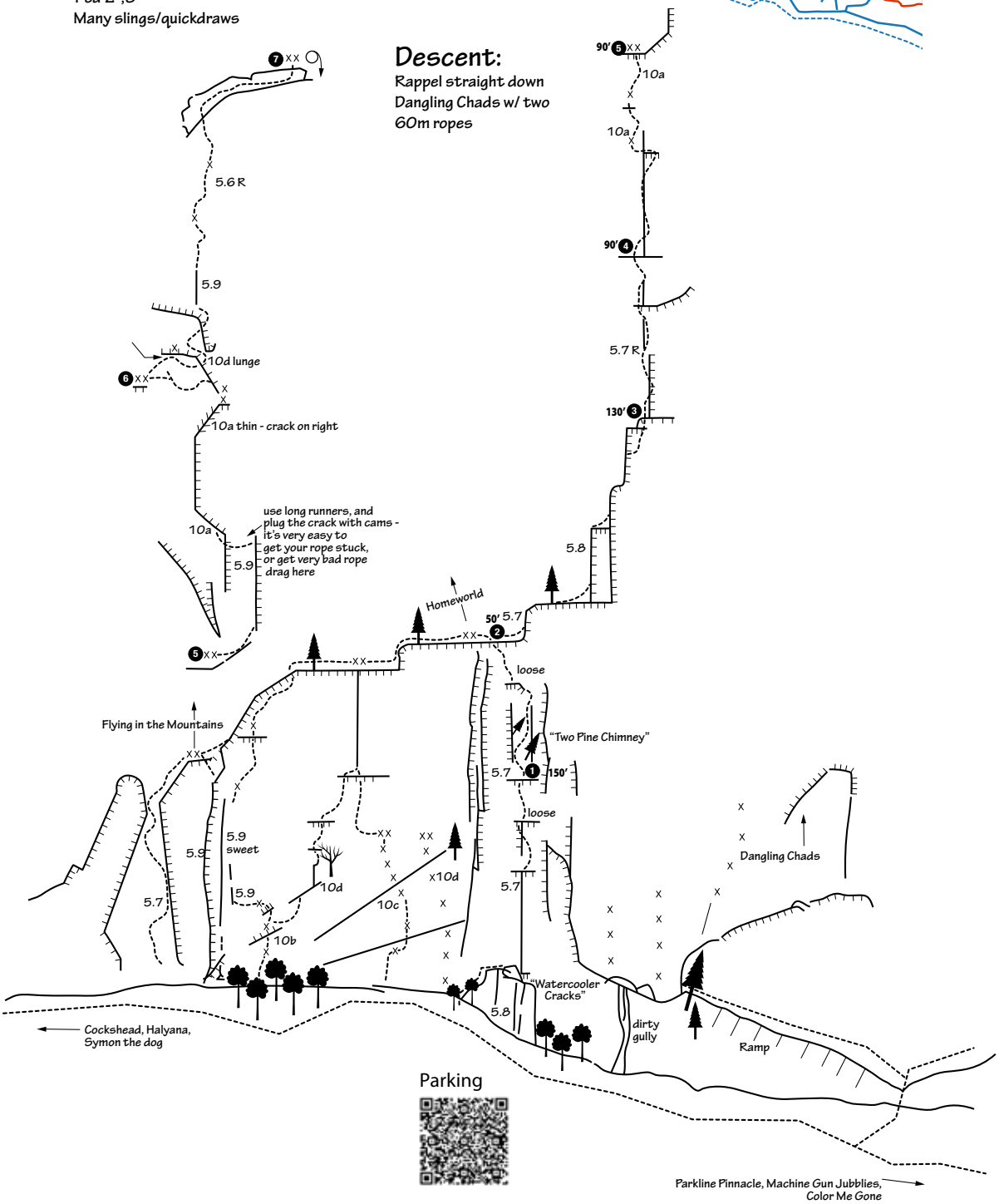


Rack:

Many small/med nuts
2-3ea .2"-1.5"
1 ea 2",3"
Many slings/quickdraws

Descent:

Rappel straight down
Dangling Chads w/ two
60m ropes



Down Canyon

(1)Flying In The Mountains III 5.11a

FA: 2005. Sean Jones, Robi Borchard

Flying In the Mountains and Homeworld are arguably the most cherished routes at Parkline. Endless splitters on "Flying" are matched with delicate, featured face on Homeworld. This is Sean Jones laying it down expertly, at his home crag. Multi-pitch bliss!

Flyin' Rack:

Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 2 ea .2"-.4"
1 ea .5"-3"

Homeworld Rack:

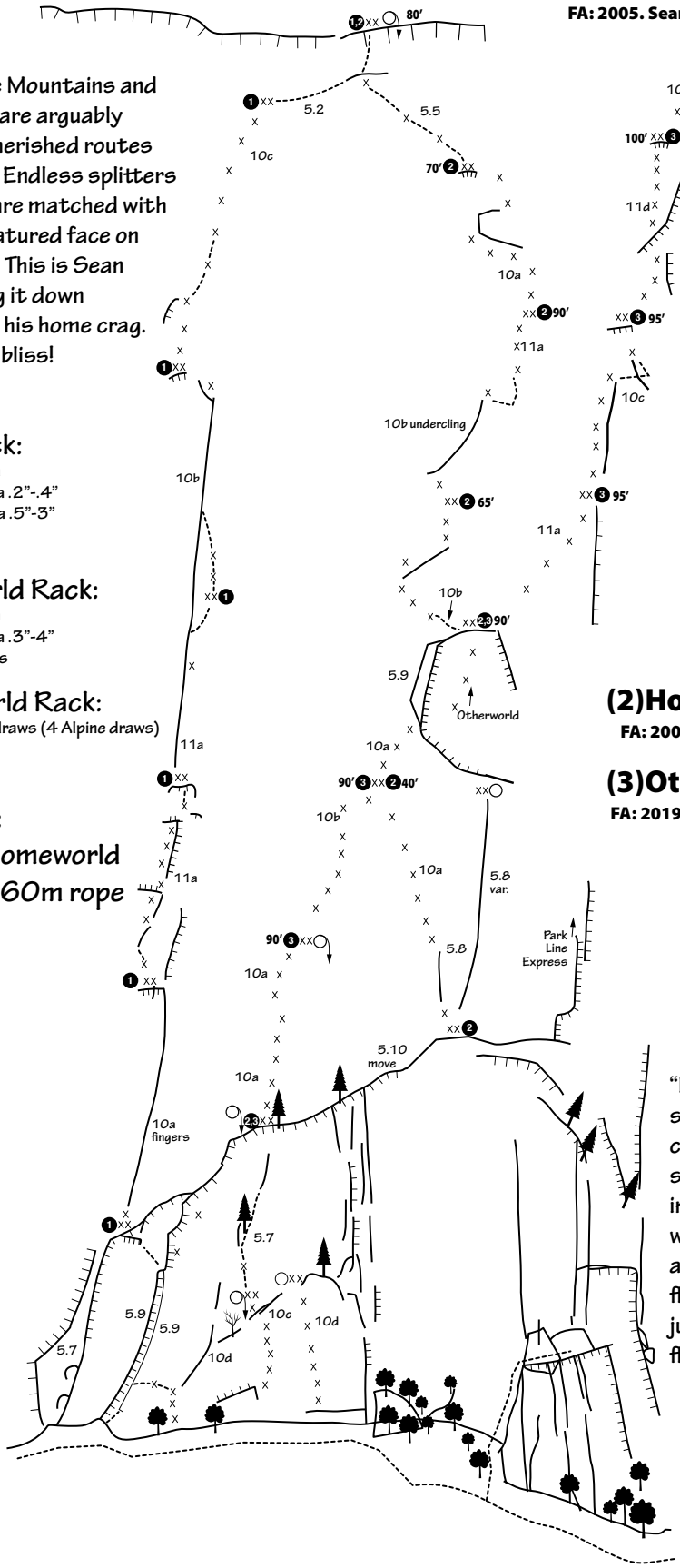
Nuts: 1 ea
Cams: 1 ea .3"-4"
Long slings

Otherworld Rack:

19 Quickdraws (4 Alpine draws)

Descent:

Rappel Homeworld with one 60m rope



(2)Homeworld III 5.11a

FA: 2005. Sean Jones, Robi Borchard

(3)Otherworld III 5.11d

FA: 2019. Sean Jones, Christine Garrett

"I was with my Mom when she died, just sitting there crying my eyes out. Suddenly she grabs my finger, looks me in the eye, and says don't worry, that she would always be there with me, flying in the mountains. She just kept saying it, flying in the mountains"

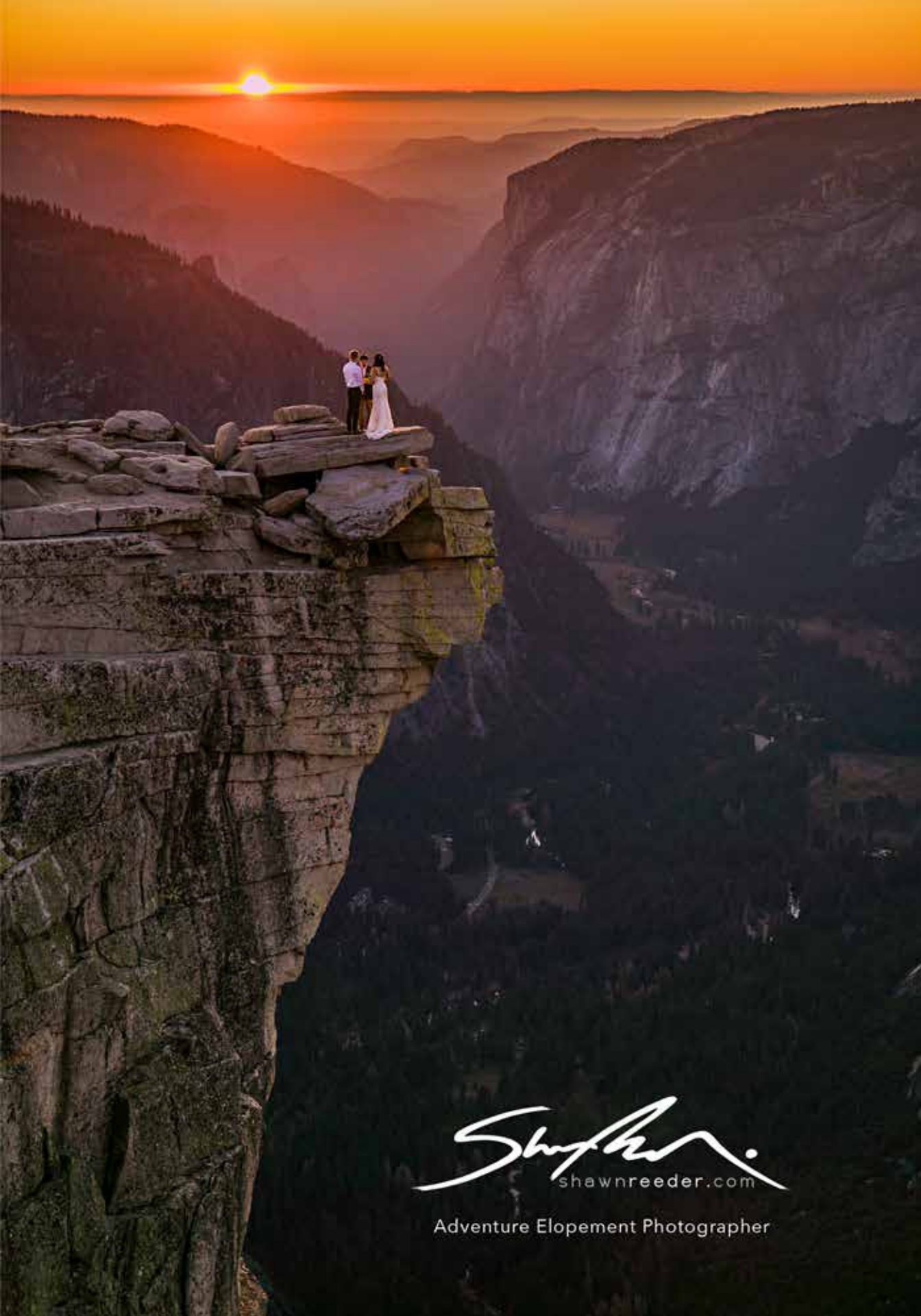
- Sean Jones

Parking

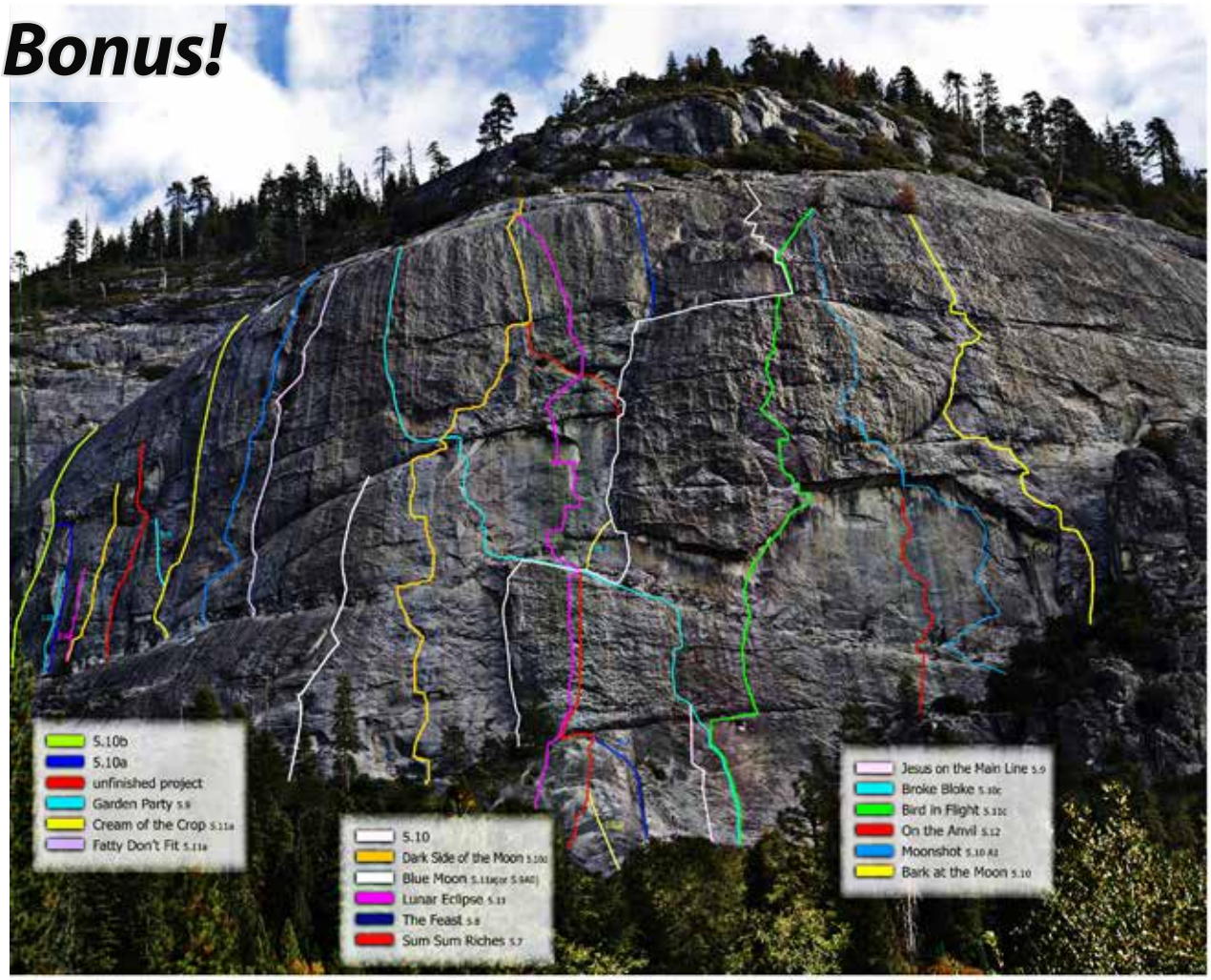
Alex Honnold on Pitch 28 of the The Nose (5.14a), 5.10c, pg 276

Climbers on Machine Gun Jubblies, a 14 bolt 5.8, Parkline Slab, pg 372
Photo: Samuel Crossley

Dean Potter on Blue Moon, Wawona Dome, 5.10c
Photo: Patti Haskins

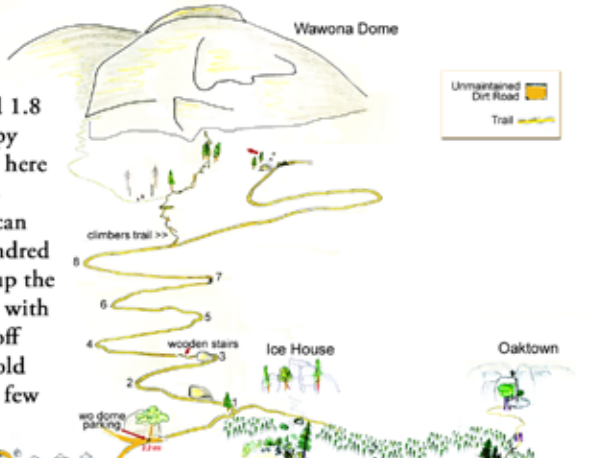

shawnreeder.com
Adventure Elopement Photographer

Bonus!



Approach

From Highway 41 at Wawona take the Chilnaualna Falls Road 1.8 miles to where the pavement stops and the road becomes bumpy but passable dirt (Dirt/bump averse drivers can leave their cars here at the Chilnaualna Falls Trail parking lot and walk the last 1/4 mile). Continue over a one lane bridge and stay left until you can turn left up a steep road after a two car carport. Park a few hundred yards further where a chain blocks the road. Continue hiking up the road (approx. 3/4 mile) 30-45 minutes until the trail opens up with expansive views of Wawona Dome. A climber's trail branches off left here more directly toward the dome but if you miss it the old fire road you are walking on will eventually bring you within a few hundred yards of the base.



Approach time: 45-60 min.
Elevation gain: 2000 ft.

Parking

Wawona Dome 5.10c or 5.9 A0

Descent:

Rappel with one 60m rope down the dedicated rappel route (see topo). Eight, easy, ninety foot rappels take you right back to the base. Walking off can be tricky, because you have to bushwack over to, and then cross, Chilnaualna Creek, to access the Chilnaualna Falls Trail. Walking off in the dark, your first time, is definitely not recommended - the rappel route is easy and safe.

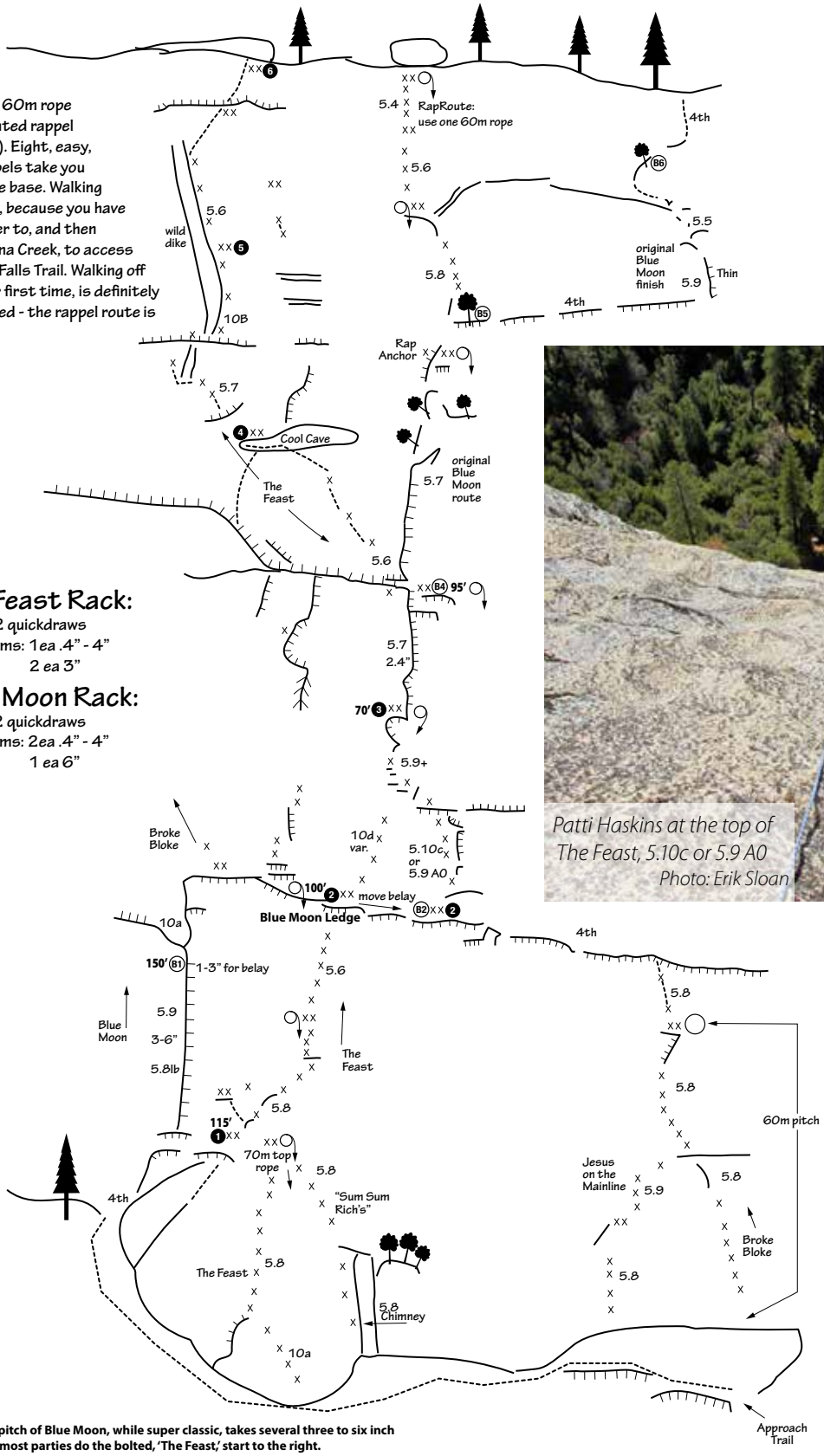
.

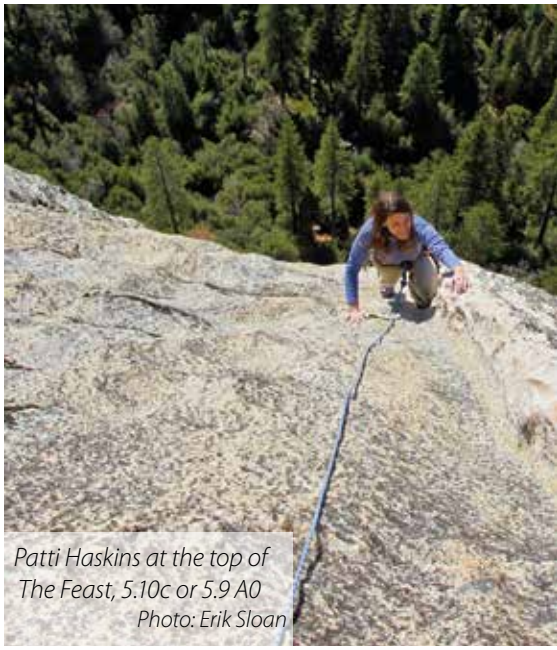
The Feast Rack:

12 quickdraws
Cams: 1ea .4" - 4"
2 ea 3"

Blue Moon Rack:

12 quickdraws
Cams: 2ea .4" - 4"
1 ea 6"





Patti Haskins at the top of The Feast, 5.10c or 5.9 A0
Photo: Erik Sloan

The first pitch of Blue Moon, while super classic, takes several three to six inch cams, so most parties do the bolted, 'The Feast,' start to the right.

People come and go but the true locals stick around rain or shine. While climbing in Yosemite Valley, chances are you will encounter some of the following birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians.

Humans and Monkeys aren't the only climbers! Bears have been spotted on Royal Arches (5.7), rattlesnakes have been known to come out of cracks, and squirrels have onsited your 5.12 project. If you're lucky you might see some of Yosemite's more elusive wildlife: Ring-tailed cats, flying squirrels, or even the mountain lion. Only the attentive are rewarded with a view of these Yosemite locals.

Canyon Wren
Photo: Gary L. Clark

Acorn Woodpecker
Photo: Keith Sauer

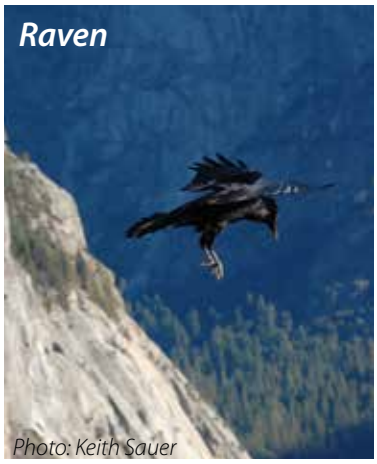
Pileated Woodpecker
Photo: Vitaly Musiyenko

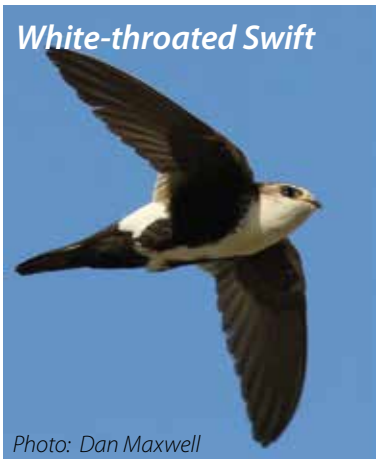
Great Grey Owl
Photo: Keith Sauer

Steller's Jay
Photo: Keith Sauer

Climbers are often rewarded with the best views, including views of these cliff- loving birds. Peregrine Falcons are the world's fastest animal but Swifts give them a run for their money! Look for Ravens catching the thermals (warm air updrafts) to help them soar.

Peregrine Falcon
Photo: Tom Slater


Raven
Photo: Keith Sauer


White-throated Swift
Photo: Dan Maxwell

Mule Deer
Photo: Tom Slater

Western Grey Squirrel
Photo: USFWS

Grey Fox
Photo: Josh Helling

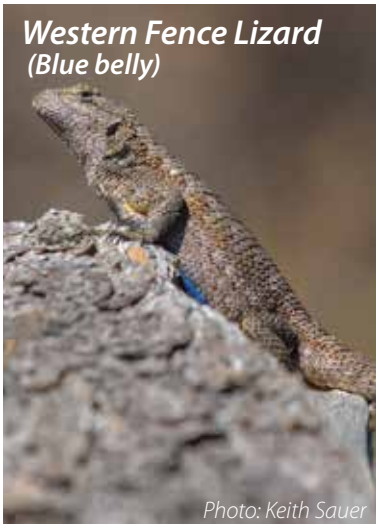
Rattlesnake
Photo: Keith Sauer

Black Bear
Photo: Keith Sauer

Bobcat
Photo: Keith Sauer

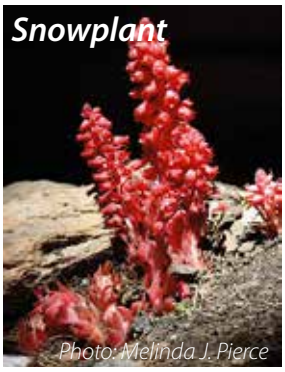
Coyote
Photo: Keith Sauer

Mountain Lion
Photo: Keith Sauer


Western Fence Lizard
(Blue belly)
Photo: Keith Sauer

The Sierra Nevada boasts some of the highest plant diversity in the United States! Pictured here are a few of the colorful characters from Yosemite's diverse and vibrant plant communities. These flowers and towering trees can be found at your favorite crag and on the approach. Don't forget to stop to smell the flowers!

Did you know? Paintbrush is commonly found near Lupine and not always by chance. Lupine has the ability to "fix" nitrogen (remove nitrogen from the air and make it usable in the soil) creating a more suitable habitat. Paintbrush takes advantage of Lupine's remarkable ability to adapt to rocky and nutrient barren landscapes by parasitizing Lupin, tapping into Lupine roots to acquire some of the wealth.



Snowplant and Coralroot are also parasitic plants. With no green on the plant (chlorophyll), they can't make their own food. For food they tap into fungus underground, which is getting their food from tree roots. Wild!

Sugar Pine

Ponderosa Pine

Jeffrey Pine

Douglas Fir

White Fir

Red Fir

California Black Oak

Incense Cedar

Giant Sequoia

SUGAR PINE TREE: LAURA CAMP; SP NEEDLES: JULIE KIERSTEAD NELSON; SP CONE: S. RAE; PONDEROSA PINE TREE: CLYDE FROGG; PP NEEDLES: CLYDE FROGG; PP CONE: CLYDE FROGG; JEFFREY PINE TREE: JHODLOF; JP NEEDLES: NPS; JP CONE: WILLEM VAN BERGEN; DOUGLAS FIR TREE: PAUL SABLEMAN; DF NEEDLES: MAREK JAKUBOWSKI; DF CONE: PENN STATE UNIVERSITY; WHITE FIR TREE: DEREK RAMSEY; WF NEEDLES: MAREK JAKUBOWSKI; WF CONE: USDA-NRCS; RED FIR TREE: JSAYRE64; RF NEEDLES: MAREK JAKUBOWSKI; RF CONE: C.J. EARLE; CALIFORNIA BLACK OAK TREE: ANLACE; CBO LEAVES: BLM; INCENSE CEDAR TREE: VICTOR R. RUIZ; IC NEEDLES: MAREK JAKUBOWSKI; IC CONE: WALTER SIEGMUND; GIANT SEQUOIA TREE: MAREK JAKUBOWSKI; GS NEEDLES: DANIEL FUCHS; GS CONE: MENCHI

Circumambulate El Capitan!

El Cap Gully III 5.5

The Ultimate Adventure Hike!

Top of The Nose

The East Ledges Rappels - bring a rope or check that the ropes are fixed!

The Hourglass

Start up from the pullout at the end of the meadow

Park Here

Descend to The Manure Pile Buttress Parking, and walk back to the meadow

The summit

Fun Scramble!

Top of *The Nose*

The Hourglass

Bring a harness and rappel device for descending the East Ledges.

Don't go left to Ribbon Fall. Veer right up the gully.

Bring rock shoes (and maybe a skinny rope) for the final 5.5 pitch of the gully.

This is the view from right before the final, 5.5 pitch - most of the gully is just wandering, scrambling.

National Park Service Slackling Rules

- *Trees must be padded (Oak tress cannot be used)*
- *Lines cannot cross a trail or road*
- *Lines cannot be over a lake or watercourse*
- *Lines cannot create a hazardous condition*

Eric Rasmussen on the Lost Arrow Spire highline
Photo: Lucas Barth

Sean Jones

Sean Jones is arguably the most prolific Yosemite first ascensionist of the last two decades, and he is still going strong. Sean's enthusiasm for all things climbing is so contagious–even his young kids, Lily (12) and M'so (16), have both already put up first ascents in Yosemite! You can regularly see Sean bouldering around El Portal with one-year-old Willow on his back.

Born in: Los Angeles; moved to Mariposa at age 7

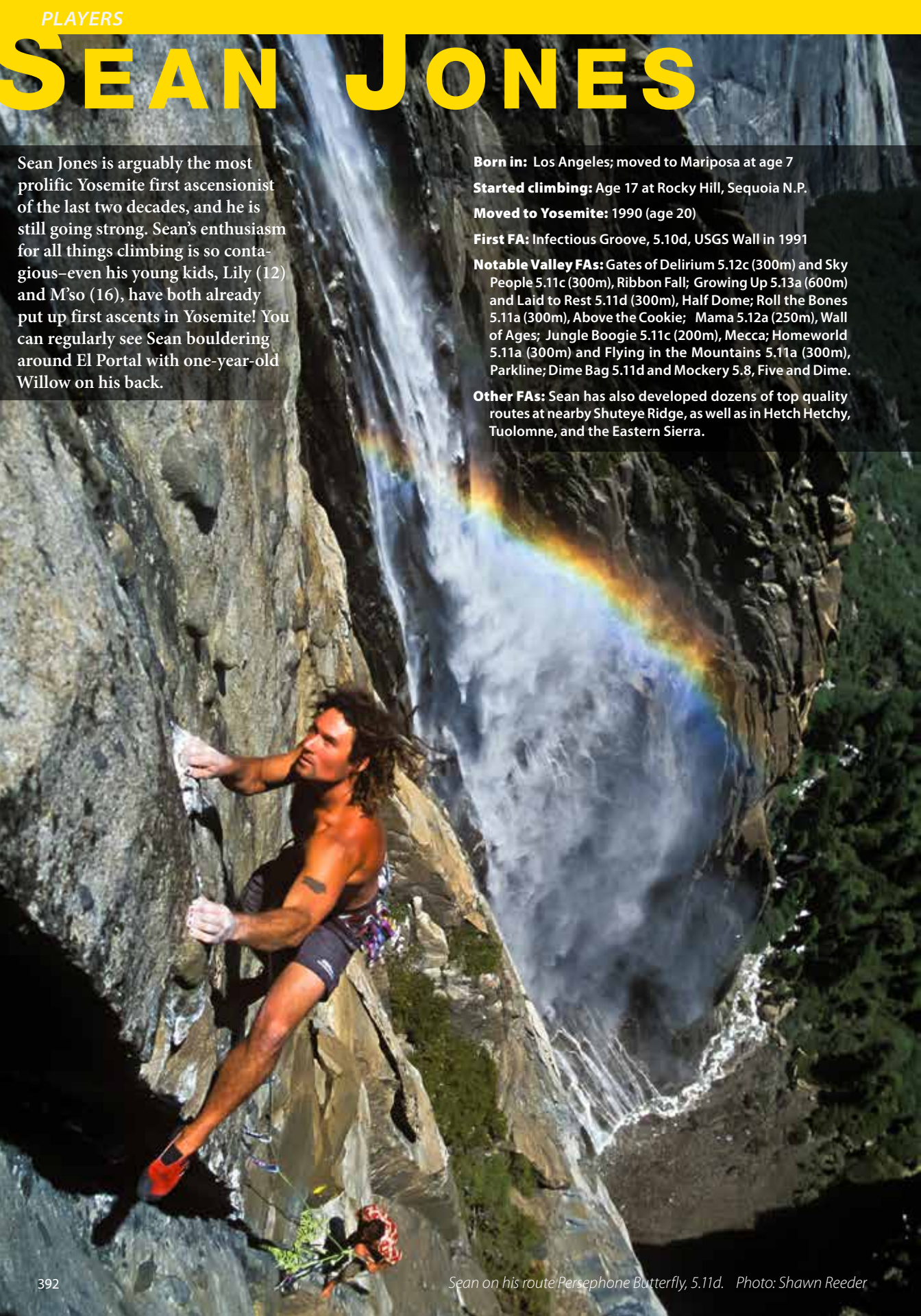
Started climbing: Age 17 at Rocky Hill, Sequoia N.P.

Moved to Yosemite: 1990 (age 20)

First FA: Infectious Groove, 5.10d, USGS Wall in 1991

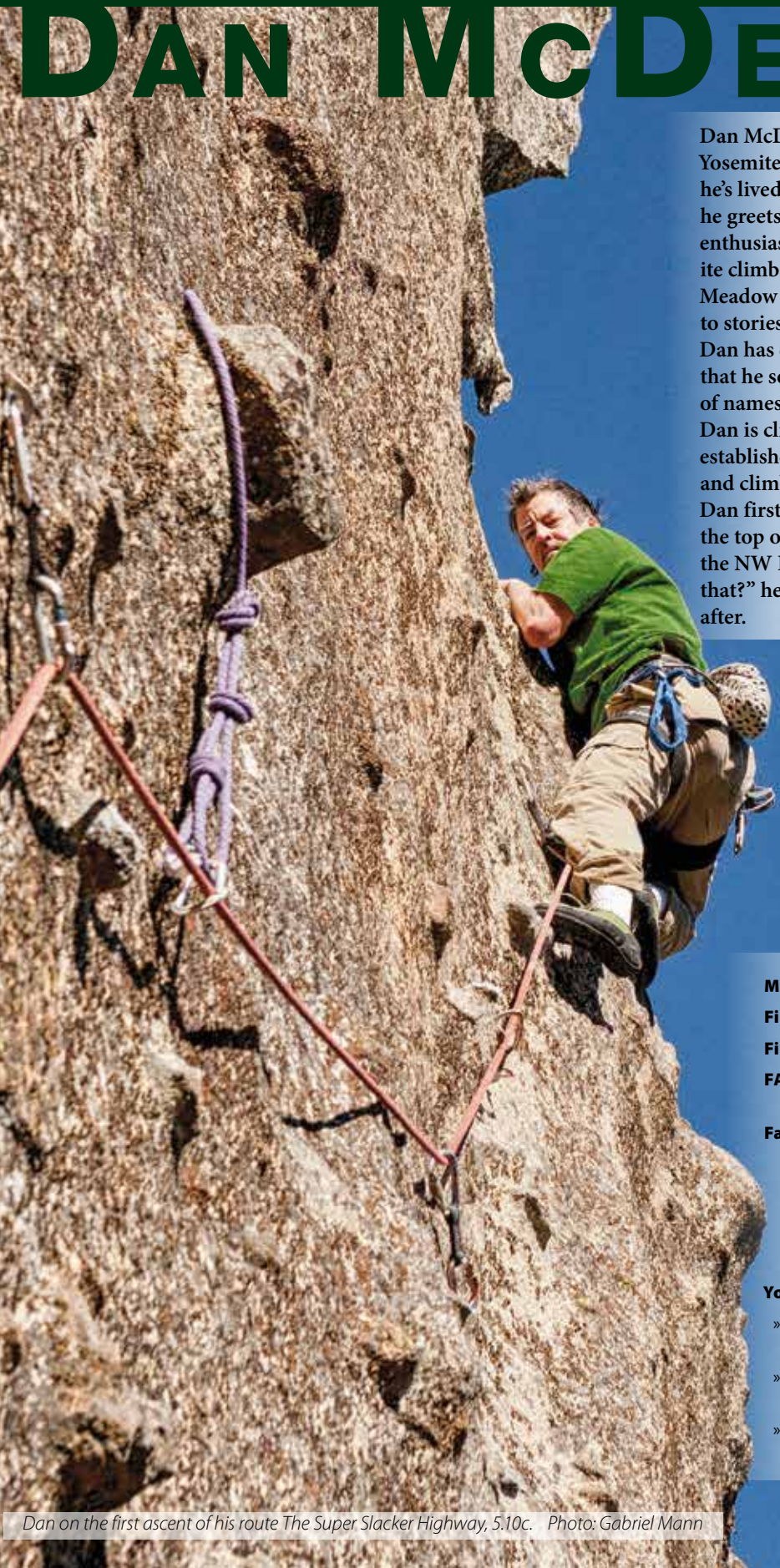
Notable Valley FAs: Gates of Delirium 5.12c (300m) and Sky People 5.11c (300m), Ribbon Fall; Growing Up 5.13a (600m) and Laid to Rest 5.11d (300m), Half Dome; Roll the Bones 5.11a (300m), Above the Cookie; Mama 5.12a (250m), Wall of Ages; Jungle Boogie 5.11c (200m), Mecca; Homeworld 5.11a (300m) and Flying in the Mountains 5.11a (300m), Parkline; Dime Bag 5.11d and Mockery 5.8, Five and Dime.

Other FAs: Sean has also developed dozens of top quality routes at nearby Shuteye Ridge, as well as in Hetch Hetchy, Tuolomne, and the Eastern Sierra.



Sean on his route Persephone Butterfly, 5.11d. Photo: Shawn Reeder

Dan McDevitt



Dan McDevitt is the hospitable elder of the Yosemite climbing community. Though he's lived and climbed here for decades, he greets everyone with warmth and enthusiasm. A favorite pastime for Yosemite climbers is sitting around the El Cap Meadow or a campfire with Dan, listening to stories about the previous generations. Dan has established so many routes here that he sometimes has a hard time thinking of names for them all. Now in his fifties, Dan is climbing harder than ever. He still establishes close to 30 new pitches each year, and climbs 5.11 with graceful ease. When Dan first arrived in Yosemite, he hiked to the top of Half Dome and saw climbers on the NW Face—he was blown away. "What is that?" he asked. He started climbing shortly after.

Moved to Yosemite: 1981 (age 21)

First Yosemite Job: Yosemite Dispatch

First Big Climb: The Nose on El Cap in 1983

FAs on El Cap: Octopussy, 5.9 A3, and Realm of the Flying Monkeys, 5.10a A3

Favorite FAs: The Great Escape 5.11c (200m), Sentinel; Center of the Universe 5.11b (300m), Voyager 5.11c (300m), Romulan Warbird 5.12c (300m), and The Final Frontier 5.7 A3 (300m), Fifi; Headstrong 5.11b and Makayla's Climb 5.10b, Pat and Jack

Yosemite contributions:

- 12 years on YOSAR (Yosemite Search and Rescue)
- 14 years of guiding for YMS (Yosemite Mountaineering School)
- Over 600 pitches established in Yosemite

Dan on the first ascent of his route The Super Slacker Highway, 5.10c. Photo: Gabriel Mann

Beth Rodden

To find Meltdown, park at the Cascade Creek parking on the highway 120, a couple miles outside the Valley. Walk up the left side of the creek briefly, until you can descend down slabs to a pool, and the base of the route.

As of 2018, Beth has established one of the hardest single- pitch trad route in Yosemite today: Meltdown, 5.14c. She has also freed three different El Cap routes! She was the third person overall and the second woman to free climb the Nose of El Cap, 5.14a. Today, Beth, with husband Randy, are two of the leading boulder developers in Yosemite. Often with their baby Theo in tow, they have been establishing dozens of new problems each year. Check out BethRodden.com for her tips and awesome climbing stories!

Age: 35

Born and Raised: Davis, Ca

Yosemite FAs: Meltdown 5.14c, in 2008. Many hard boulder problems.

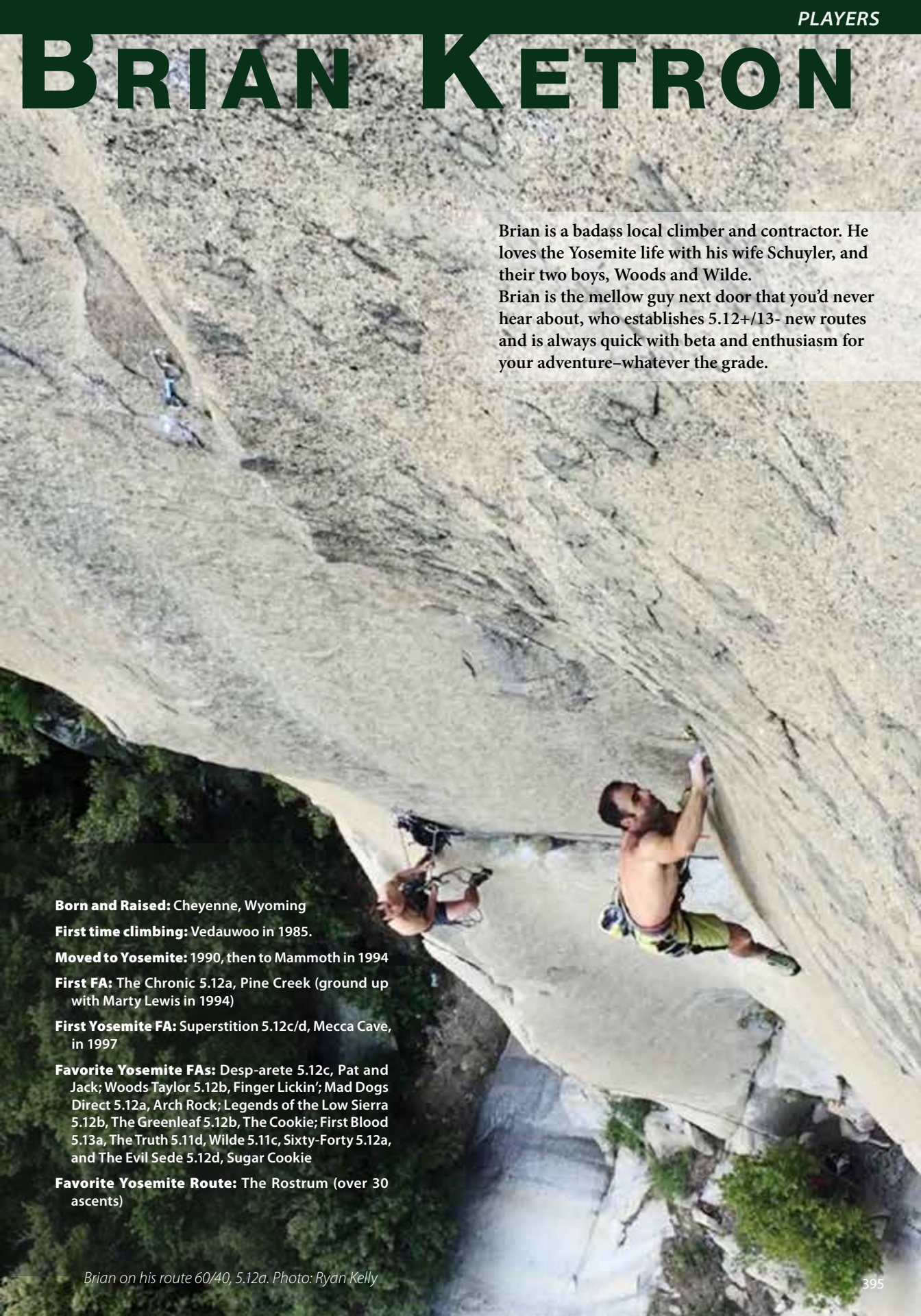
Free Ascents on El Cap: Lurking Fear 5.13c, in 2000. West Buttress 5.13c, in 2003, The Nose 5.14a, in 2005.

First Time Climbing: As a little kiddo with dad in the Sierra on some TR he set up. First time really climbing was in the gym at 14, where she fell in love with climbing and never looked back.

First Big Free Climb: The Rostrum, in 1999. "I flailed miserably on it." After the Rostrum experience, Beth went to smaller objectives like The Moratorium, Good Book, etc. She came back in 2000 and did the first Free Ascent of Lurking Fear 5.13c, on El Cap, with Tommy Caldwell.

Beth on Meldown, 5.14c Photo: Corey Rich

Brian Ketron



Brian is a badass local climber and contractor. He loves the Yosemite life with his wife Schuyler, and their two boys, Woods and Wilde.
Brian is the mellow guy next door that you'd never hear about, who establishes 5.12+/13- new routes and is always quick with beta and enthusiasm for your adventure–whatever the grade.

Born and Raised: Cheyenne, Wyoming

First time climbing: Vedauwoo in 1985.

Moved to Yosemite: 1990, then to Mammoth in 1994

First FA: The Chronic 5.12a, Pine Creek (ground up with Marty Lewis in 1994)

First Yosemite FA: Superstition 5.12c/d, Mecca Cave, in 1997

Favorite Yosemite FAs: Desp-arete 5.12c, Pat and Jack; Woods Taylor 5.12b, Finger Lickin'; Mad Dogs Direct 5.12a, Arch Rock; Legends of the Low Sierra 5.12b, The Greenleaf 5.12b, The Cookie; First Blood 5.13a, The Truth 5.11d, Wilde 5.11c, Sixty-Forty 5.12a, and The Evil Sede 5.12d, Sugar Cookie

Favorite Yosemite Route: The Rostrum (over 30 ascents)

Brian on his route 60/40, 5.12a. Photo: Ryan Kelly

Alex Honnold

Alex is the no-nonsense climbing King of Yosemite. Ask about any route, 5.6-5.13, and he has probably done it. A straight-A student in school, Alex is an avid reader. Some of his favorite books:

A People's History of the United States by Howard Zinn
The Rise of Superman: Decoding the Science of Ultimate Human Performance by Steven Kotler
The Prize: The Epic Quest for Oil, Money & Power by Daniel Yergin
Why we Run: A Natural History by Bernd Heinrich
Sacred Economics: Money, Gift, and Society in the Age of Transition by Charles Eisenstein

Born and Raised: Sacramento, California

First Time Climbing in Yosemite: 2004 (age 19)

First Free Solo Ascent of Northwest Face of Half Dome, 5.12c: 2008

Fastest Ascent of the Nose: 1hr 58min 26 sec with Tommy Caldwell (current World Record) in June 2018

Fastest Solo Ascent of the Nose: 5hr 50min in July 2010 (current World Record)

Fastest Solo Ascent of Northwest Face of Half Dome: 1hr 22min (current Record) in May 2012

First Solo "Yosemite Triple Crown" in a Day (El Cap, Half Dome, and Mt. Watkins): 18hrs 50min in 2012

FA in Yosemite: A Gift From Wyoming, Leaning Tower, 5.13b

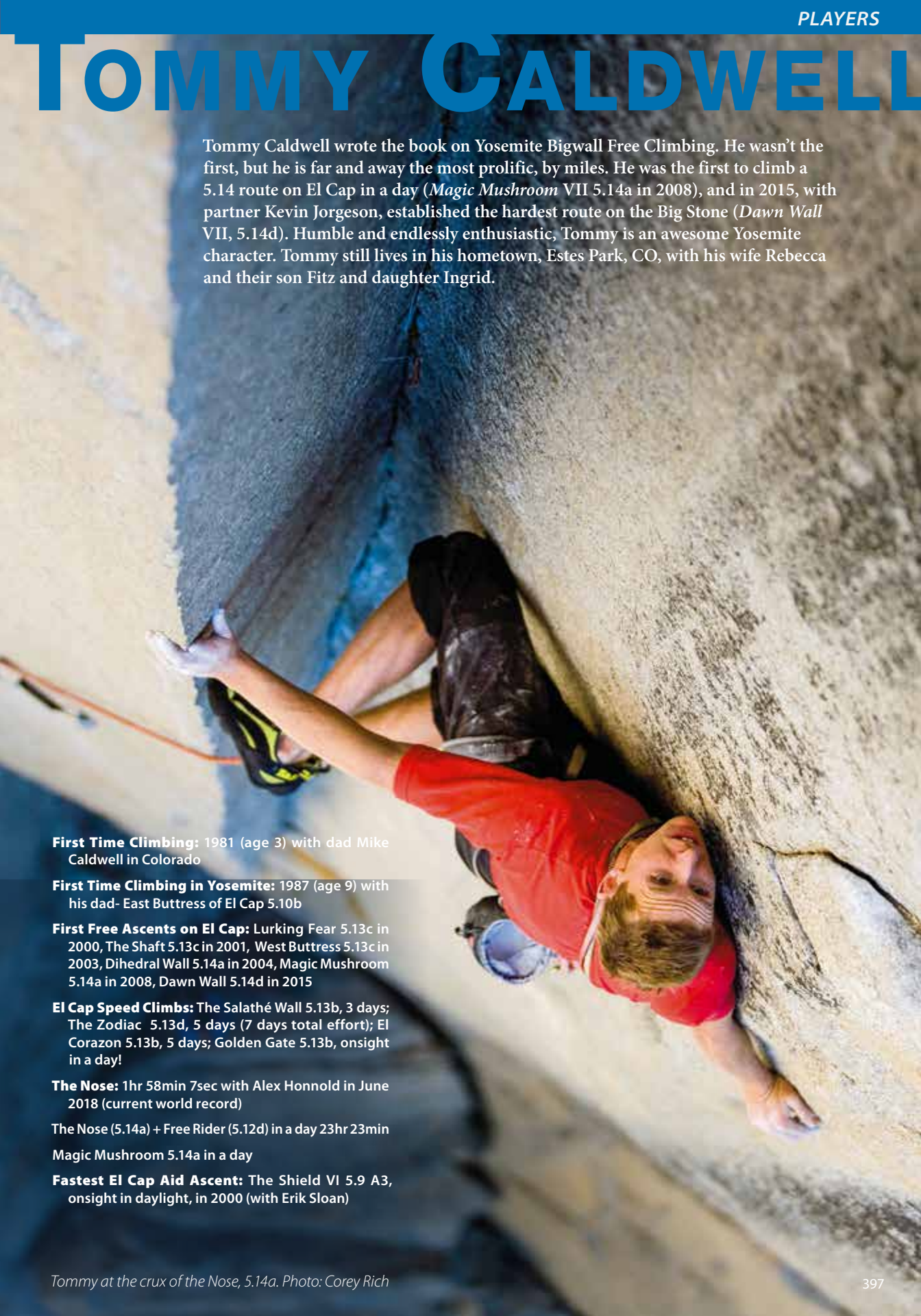
Favorite Climbs: Serenity Crack/Sons of Yesterday 5.10d, Salathé Wall 5.13, The Shaft 5.13, Wet Lycra Nightmare 5.13d, The Rostrum, 5.11c-12b

Alex and his mom, Dierdre Wolownick Honnold (the oldest woman to climb El Cap, 66 years old!), on Lurking Fear

Alex on the Salathé Headwall, 5.13. Photo: Jimmy Chin

Tommy Caldwell

Tommy Caldwell wrote the book on Yosemite Bigwall Free Climbing. He wasn't the first, but he is far and away the most prolific, by miles. He was the first to climb a 5.14 route on El Cap in a day (*Magic Mushroom* VII 5.14a in 2008), and in 2015, with partner Kevin Jorgeson, established the hardest route on the Big Stone (*Dawn Wall* VII, 5.14d). Humble and endlessly enthusiastic, Tommy is an awesome Yosemite character. Tommy still lives in his hometown, Estes Park, CO, with his wife Rebecca and their son Fitz and daughter Ingrid.



First Time Climbing: 1981 (age 3) with dad Mike Caldwell in Colorado

First Time Climbing in Yosemite: 1987 (age 9) with his dad- East Buttress of El Cap 5.10b

First Free Ascents on El Cap: Lurking Fear 5.13c in 2000, The Shaft 5.13c in 2001, West Buttress 5.13c in 2003, Dihedral Wall 5.14a in 2004, Magic Mushroom 5.14a in 2008, Dawn Wall 5.14d in 2015

El Cap Speed Climbs: The Salathé Wall 5.13b, 3 days; The Zodiac 5.13d, 5 days (7 days total effort); El Corazon 5.13b, 5 days; Golden Gate 5.13b, onsight in a day!

The Nose: 1hr 58min 7sec with Alex Honnold in June 2018 (current world record)

The Nose (5.14a) + Free Rider (5.12d) in a day 23hr 23min

Magic Mushroom 5.14a in a day

Fastest El Cap Aid Ascent: The Shield VI 5.9 A3, onsight in daylight, in 2000 (with Erik Sloan)

Tommy at the crux of the Nose, 5.14a. Photo: Corey Rich

CEDAR WRIGHT

Cedar is a super fun and generous Yosemite character. His animated story telling lights up any campfire, and he's always quick to share stoke or beta with fellow climbers. Cedar lives in Boulder, Colorado now, but his folks still live near Tollhouse, outside Yosemite, so he visits often.

Born and Raised: Conceived in a school bus and born and raised in Tollhouse California

First time climbing in Yosemite: 1995, after college

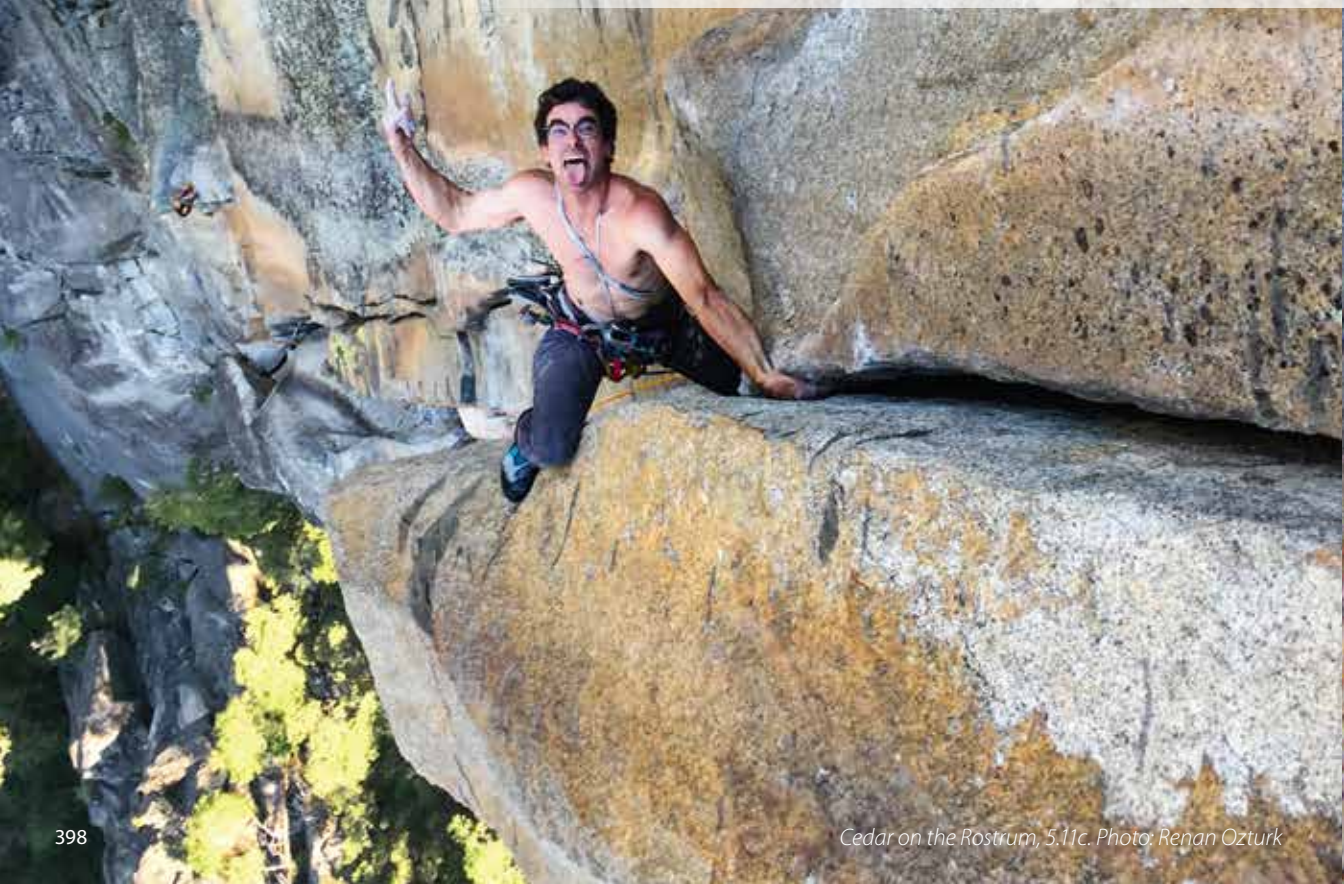
Yosemite Search and Rescue Member: 1996 - 2001

Cedar's notable FAs in Yosemite: Mahtah 5.12c/d (300m), Liberty Cap; Psychedelic Wall 5.12+ (300m) and Uncertainty Principle 5.13a (300m) on The Sentinel; Camp 4 Terrorist 5.12 R (650m), Camp 4 Wall; Gravity Ceiling 5.12c/d, Higher Cathedral Rock; The Cedar Eater; The Next Generation 5.13a, Fifi Buttress

Favorite Yosemite Climbs: The Royal Arches 5.7 A0, The South Face of North Dome 5.8, The Steck-Salathé 5.10b, The Rostrum with the Excellent Adventure Finish 5.13a, Matah 5.12c/d, Romulan Warbird 5.12c, The Free Rider 5.12d

Other FA stories:

Porcelain Wall 5.10+ X (500m) - Onsight, ground up with Sean 'Stanley' Leary. First free, and probably still only free ascent of Porcelain Wall . We broke some new ground, but followed the Luminescent Wall most of the time. At one point Stanley lead a 5.10 slab pitch with no bolts that would have resulted in a three-hundred foot whipper from the crux!



Cedar on the Rostrum, 5.11c. Photo: Renan Ozturk

Ben Ditto

Ben Ditto is always busy in the Yosemite scene—taking amazing photos and videos, lending a hand to clean up old routes, or putting up hard routes. If you can catch up with him, you will meet an amazing Yosemite Climbing ambassador. Ben, with wife Katie Lambert, lives in their van full time and travels and climbs. Super inspiring folks!

I first climbed in Yosemite in 1995, after meeting Hans Florine at the National Championship Competition in Berkeley. Hans rounded up myself and my 2 buddies, saying something about wanting to get the 'team of four Speed Record' on the Nose.

After a disappointing finish in the competition, climbing the Nose sounded like a great idea. We topped out in 16 hours and 24 minutes, we all lead our blocks and jugged our pitches. As far as I know we still have the record. Up to that point in my life, climbing had been limited to single pitch trad, sport, and boulders, never too far from the car. This trip up El Capitan was my first foray into wilderness while climbing.

Though El Cap isn't very far from the road, its wilderness characteristics mean a whole new level of planning and responsibility. After a glorious sunny day, I fell asleep in the darkness while waiting to rappel the east ledges, tired to the core, jolted awake by fading voices calling off-rappel. I think of this experience almost every time I'm back at that spot of the descent. After this deep-end immersion into Yosemite climbing, I've been addicted to long, adventurous wilderness climbs.

25 years later I've found adventure in the wilderness all over the world. I've been lucky to climb in far off places with great friends, but many of those memories run together, while that original trip up the Captain stays crystal clear. Meanwhile, there's world full of people out there who make their way to Yosemite each year, looking for an experience that only wilderness can give them.

2015 was my fourth year volunteering with the Climbing Rangers as a Climber Steward. My goal as a Climber Steward includes preserving the park's wilderness and ensuring the possibility of a wilderness experience. Exposure to wilderness makes me a better human, I bet it does for you too. A lot of people don't have time to commit to a summer of park service volunteer life, but it's possible to live like a steward without having to sign the government contract. You can start by simply taking responsibility for yourself and your group. Plan well, practice leave-no-trace ethics, and be respectful of the experience of others. If you want to go to the next step, try cleaning up after other people. Some people just don't get it, and while I'm picking up their trash in Yosemite, at least I can be thankful to be in this beautiful place.

Ben helping to establish Father Time, 5.13b. Photo: Mikey Schaefer

Niels Tietze (RIP) on Final Frontier 5.13b, pg 34
Photo: Dan McDevitt

Bivy on Camp V of The Nose
Photo: Erik Sloan

EXPERIENCE THE MAGIC ON THE WALL

Camp on a bigwall! No permit is required to sleep on a rock climb in Yosemite. Experience the magic of the Valley up high!

Sunset on Ahwahnee Ledge, Leaning Tower, pg 43
Photo: Austin Siadak

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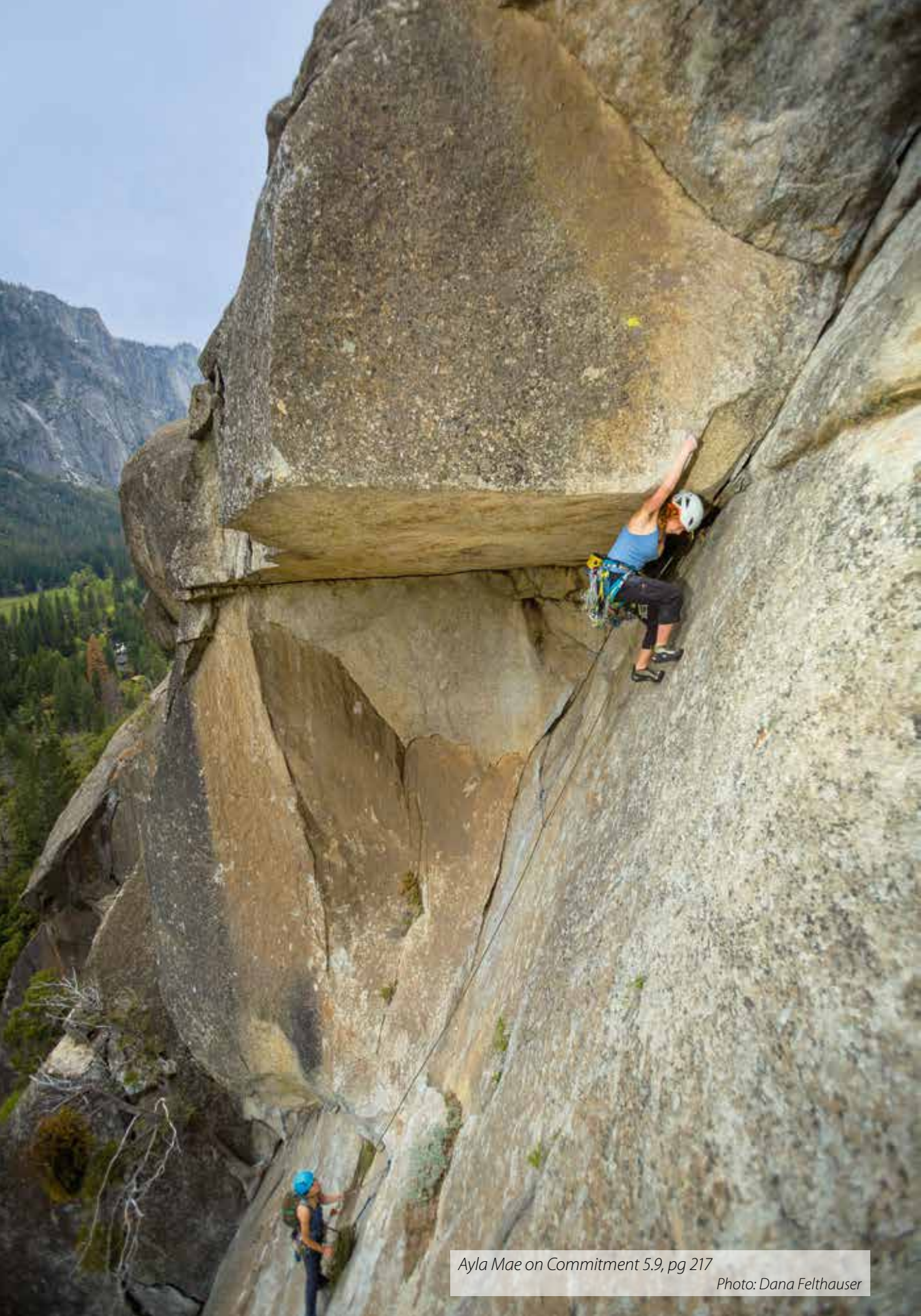
Jonathan Siegrist climbs the Third Millenium (14a) at the Monastery, Colorado. Photo by: Keith Ladzinski

Hjördis Rickert on Sacherer Cracker 5.10a, El Cap Base, pg 248
Photo: Bernd Zeugswetter



Ayla Mae on Commitment 5.9, pg 217
Photo: Dana Felthauser

Balanced Rock is a Yosemite-based non-profit that inspires health and wellbeing through a deep connection to nature and spirit.

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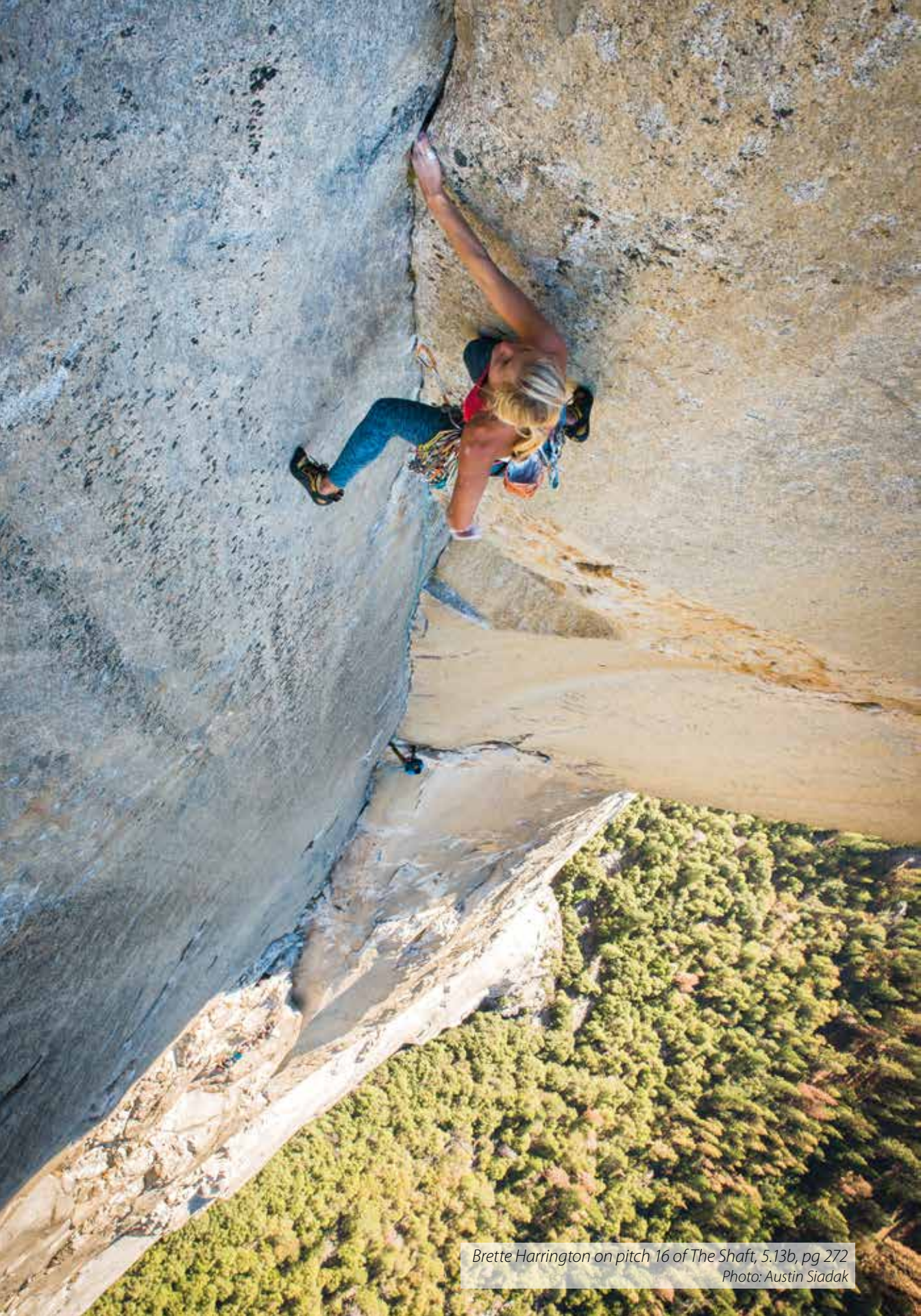


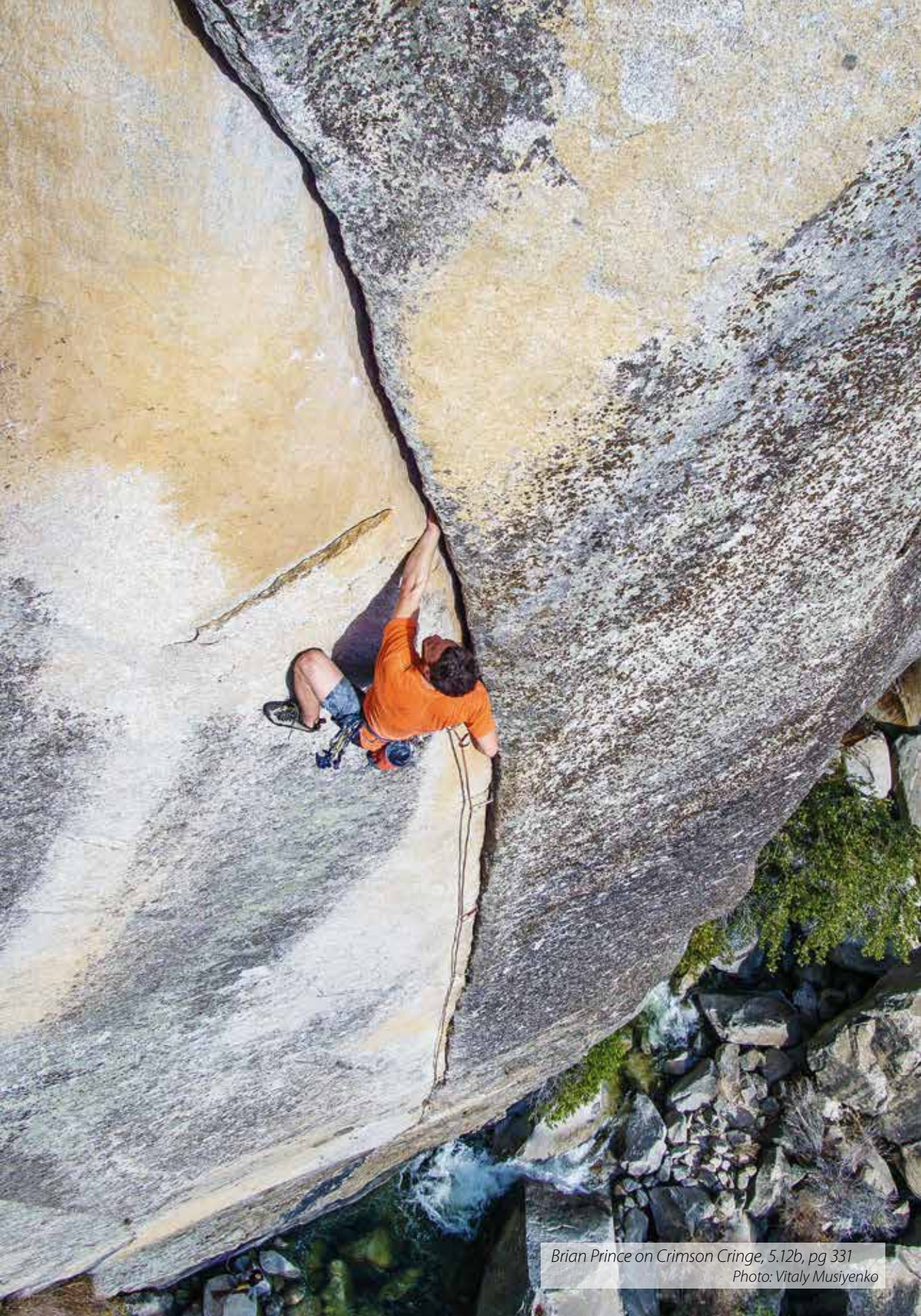
Brette Harrington on pitch 16 of The Shaft, 5.13b, pg 272
Photo: Austin Siadak

Ryan Kelly on the first pitch of Voyager, 11a, Fifi Buttress, pg 33
Photo: Gabriel Mann

Nik Berry on Wet Lycra Nightmare, 5.13d A0, Leaning Tower, pg 42
Photo: Austin Siadak

Erik Sloan slightly off route for the photo on Swan Slab Gully, 5.6, pg 225
Photo: Samuel Crossley

Mayan Smith-Gobat setting the Women's Speed Recrod (4 hrs, 43 minutes) on the Nose, pitch 26, 5.10d, pg 280
Photo: Cheyne Lempe



Brian Prince on Crimson Cringe, 5.12b, pg 331
Photo: Vitaly Musiyenko

Index - By Grade and First Free Ascents

* = Star Rating ★ = Tick-List Route *bolts* = routes that requires only QDs for pro *TR* = Toprope-friendly route

In this index, some FFA (author's names and dates) information has been omitted. Long multi-pitch routes, which have their FFA information listed on their respective pages, are listed here only by name. Refer to the route's page to view the FFA information.

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* = Star Rating ★ = Tick-List Route *bolts* = routes that requires only QDs for pro *TR* = Toprope-friendly route

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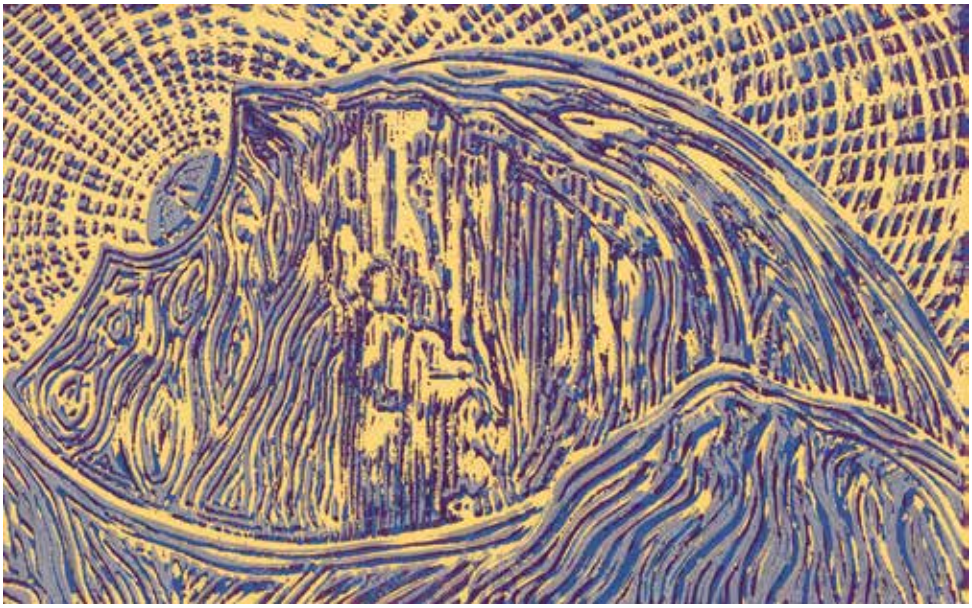
Art: Mash Alexander



Will Stanhope and Jesse Huey near the topout of the RNWF Free, 12d, Half Dome, pg 146
Photo: Austin Siadak

Star Ratings

★ - A descent climb, worth doing
★★ - A great route
★★★ - World-class classic! Cannot be missed

Yosemite Grades

II/III - up to a half day climb
IV - full day; start at dawn, bring a headlamp
V - a two day bigwall climb
VI - a three to seven day bigwall climb
VII - a bigwall climb longer than seven days

YDS	France	UK	UIAA	AUS	Norway	V-Scale
5.4	3	VD	IV-	12		
5.5	4-	HVD	IV	13	4	
5.6	4	4a S	IV+	14	4+	
5.7	4+	HS	V-	15	5-	
5.8	5a	4b VS	V	16	5	
5.9	5b	4c HVS	V+	17	5+	
5.10a	5c	5a E1	VI-	18	6-	V0
5.10b	6a		VI		6	
5.10c	6a+	5b E2	VI+	19	6+	V1
5.10d	6b		VII-	20		V2
5.11a	6b+	5c E3	VII		7-	V3
5.11b	6c		VII+	21	7	
5.11c	6c+	E4	VIII-	22		V4
5.11d	7a	6a	VIII	23	7+	V5
5.12a	7a+	E5	VIII+	24		V6
5.12b	7b			25	8-	
5.12c	7b+		IX-	26	8	V7
5.12d	7c	6b E6	IX	27		V8
5.13a	7c+			28	8+	
5.13b	8a		IX+	29		V9
5.13c	8a+	6c E7	X-	30	9-	V10
5.13d	8b		X	31	9	V11
5.14a	8b+	7a E8		32		
5.14b	8c		X+	33		V12
5.14c	8c+	7b E9	XI-	34	9+	V13
5.14d	9a		XI	35		
5.15a	9a+	E10	XII-	36		V14
5.15b	9b		XI+	37		