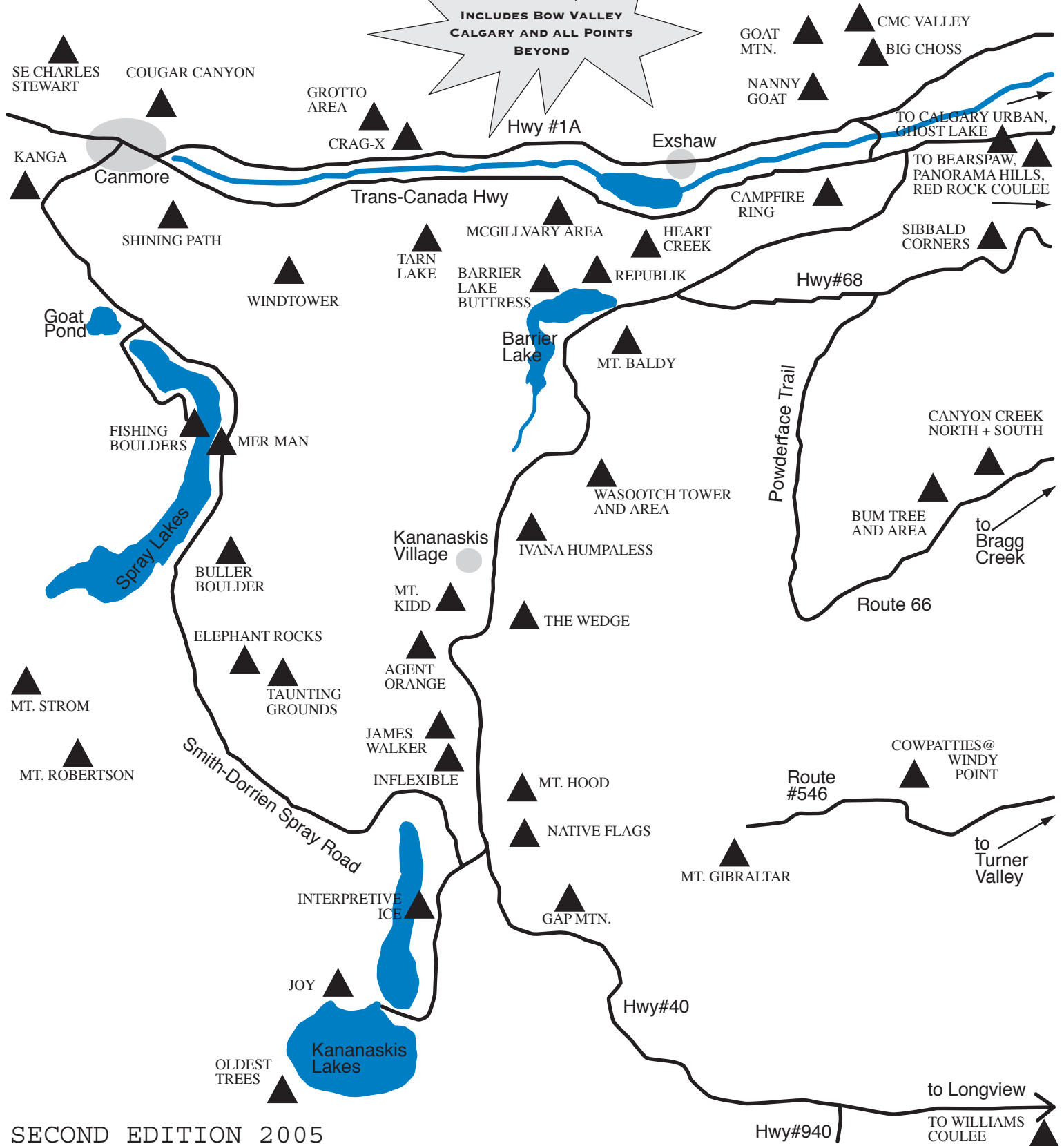


KANANASKIS OBSCURE

AN UNDERGROUND GUIDE TO OVERLOOKED, FORGOTTEN AND IGNORED MOUNTAIN CLIMBS AND ADVENTURES

INCLUDES BOW VALLEY
CALGARY AND ALL POINTS
BEYOND



Mission Statement: Welcome! to the second issue of 'Kananaskis Obscure: An Underground Guide to Overlooked, Forgotten and Ignored Mountain Climbs and Adventures.' The name was slightly changed from the first 2004 issue (still wordy!) and all 28 pages are a new set of mountain routes mostly from contributors. For the spring 2005 target release, it was a smart idea to start work the summer before compiling multiple sourced info is a challenge. I'll say it again: I love Kananaskis - it's difficult to promote as it is not as popular as Bow Valley, Banff or Louise. So much of it is overlooked, forgotten and ignored: climbed once then never heard from again. The criteria stands: so long as the outing is unpopular as a first ascent or old route it is accepted, covering hiking, rock climbing, alpine, sport, ice and bouldering. This broad coverage is so one has options in case the weather or motivations (for other routes) changes and a trip out is not a total waste of gas. Here are some updates from the first edition: Rusty Wall was bouldered on by a group and given an unnerving rating after they did the first recorded top-outs; Hydro Boulders (Seebe) may be unaccessible now due to the closing of the town; the new Ivana Humpalot route was done after the FA party got lost looking for Ivana Humpalot from Issue #1; The Fold on Kidd was done after much spraying. This 2005 Issue now includes the west side of K-Country, some fringe areas of Bow Valley, Calgary and the prairies. The biggest let-down was finding out the hiking area of Old Women's Buffalo Jump 15km SW of High River was bought by a new landowner and no longer open to the public. This kilometer plus of boulders and outcrops spread along the crest of a deep prairie coulee is not only ultra scenic but may have had nice bouldering- now you can only think about it from the side of Hwy#540. Although most peaks in Kananaskis have been climbed, that doesn't mean all four sides have established routes, there is countless years of new routing still to be had in this quiet park. All photos are by the author except where noted. Beta contributions for a future(?) issue can gladly do so by contacting: gerglenroc@yahoo.com or by mail: Greg Cornell 245 Citadel Bluff Close NW, Calgary AB, T3G-5E2.

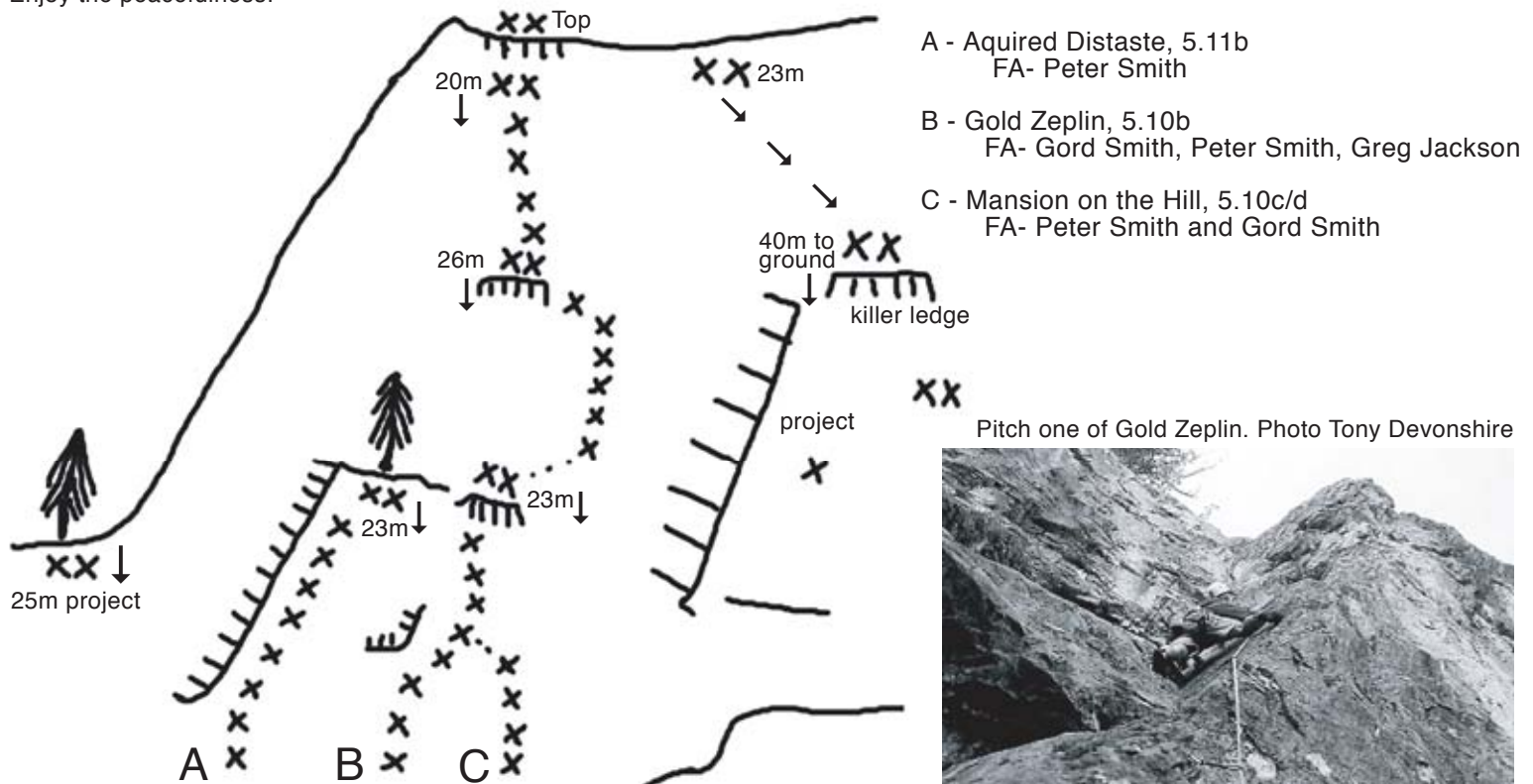
Acknowledgments: to those who contributed route beta or helped in any way to help promote Kananaskis Obscure, thanks! Dave Campbell and the Wicked Gravity climbing shop in Bowness for hosting the guide, Tony Devonshire, Ben Gadd, Will Gadd, Andy Genereux, Andy Gilluley, Ian Gordon, Ian Graham, Jon Jones, Jason Kulsy, Jonathon Lytton, Maria Lee, Gavin Macrae, David Marra, Stewart Midwinter, Jonathon Miller, Marcus Norman, Chris Perry, Margaret Saul, Raphael Slawinski, Gord Smith, Brian Spear, Cody Wollen, Simon Villeneuve, TABVAR's webguy Alan Yamada, and the loads of patient people who accepted the first issue via email. An extra thanks to David Dornian for his historical recollection of Bearspaw Crag and John Martin for a deluge of information. And to Ray Bernard for showing me a fine example of the obscure: adorned with helmets and a 10mm rope tied to our ankles, he has introduced tobogganning with an old ceramic bathtub down the south hill of the Foothills Hospital to the unwillingly, however the info cannot be included here due to extravagant liabilities, this sets a precedent for downgrading what we thought was hardcore, luv ya man.

Warning! Mountain climbing is a dangerous activity carrying significant risk of personal injury or death and should only be done with a complete understanding of all inherent risks. Climbers using this guide do so entirely at their own risk and accept that rockfaces change - this mini-guide is only a source of what has been climbed and its' location and may not be accurate with grades and dangers. Climb at your own risk! Also note: all private property must be respected-if in doubt go elsewhere - it is not your legal right to access. Don't litter, make noise, swear at urban rocks.

the republik

Named after an infamous Calgary nightclub, The Republik cliff too is a good place to go. The approach is refreshing and quick and the views get three stars for originality - a beautiful lake shimmering below, prairies to the side, mountains behind - make for a fun time on good rock.

The cliff was developed sometime in the early millenium, but has few routes (and the scope is limited), however, it makes a fine way to top off a day in the crowded Bow Valley. Walking takes about 30-40 minutes, half that biking in to the base. Plus, east-facing, the season is long. Park at Barrier Lake Dam. Pass the dam, and follow the road west to the hilltop junction. Go down west, making a scenic detour onto a dirt track down to the driftwood laced beach (no bikes). Meet up with the road again and stop where McConnell Ridge's east face ends at the road (Stoney Trail). The sport routes are a short 5 minute hike above on the wavy grey rock which is easily visible from Highway #40. Enjoy the peacefulness!



West Baldy, West Ridge Direct

FA-unknown

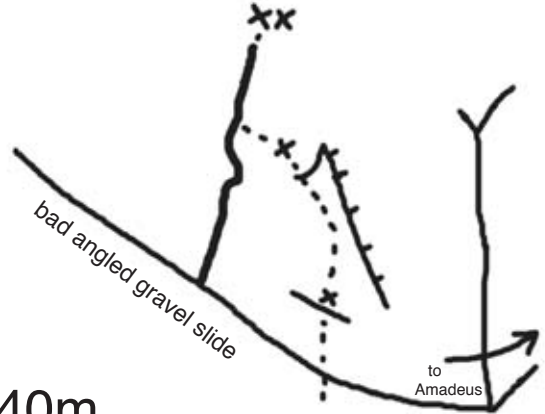
The ascent party that submitted this info reported that this sharp ridge has been done before as there was signs of a trail in spots(damn goats claiming FAs), however there is no past record printed. It's much interesting than the usual Baldy scramble and would be classed as a nice technical scramble. This hands-on scramble begins less than 10 minutes from the car.From the parking lot on Hwy #40 for the Baldy trail, instead of heading up the regular ridge, head up the drainage to the right (i.e.-up the descent trail). In five minutes you come to a fork in the drainage; get up on the ridge seperating the two forks and stay on it all the way to the summit of West Baldy. Much of the ridge can be bypassed on the right but the real fun is sticking to the crest throughout - has bits of 4th to easy 5th class with some exposure. From the summit of West Baldy, walk across the ridge to the main summit and down the regular trail. The whole outing can take over two hours car-to-car making for a great little after work conditioning run.



To Tame a Land, A2, 20m

FA- G.Cornell, Sep.2001

This north facing aid problem is located high up Barrier Mtn. opposite a stones throw from the sport slab Slogger's Dream Wall. It was quite an experience done solo and under snowy conditions and burdened with aid gear, it'll make a tiring workout. Park as for Barrier Bluffs, hike up the drainage to the Amadeus waterfall(1-1.5hrs). Walk left up the grassy field to the end of the wall. Turn right, slog up a shifting bad angled gravel slope for about 5m. The route only climbs the wide crack in the upper half, but takes the left-trending thin break up to it. A solo anchor can be made at the base. Aid past a pin and up the seam to a rivet. Swing left into the wide crack and up to a 2-bolt belay.



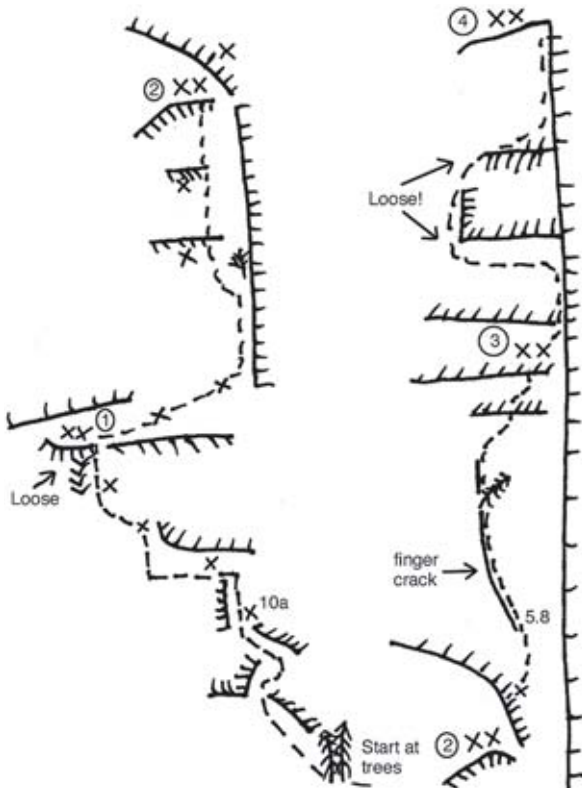
Maya's Route, 5.9+, 240m

FRA- I.Gordon and J.Steppan, June 2003

This climb follows the major right-facing corner on the SE face of Barrier Lake Buttress. Generally it goes up the slab just left of the huge corner system. The crux is pulling onto and over a buldgy slab on the first pitch, then an airy traverse under the huge overhang on the last pitch and judging from the photocopies sent in it looks highly entertaining, along with a short scenic approach, and a end-of-day crank at The Republik, should be a very fine day out. Bring a single rack to 4" and a 60m rope.

Park at Barrier Lake Dam. Cross the dam and take the trail along the lake, continue past Jewel Pass until below the first of two walls (30 min. by bike). Stash bikes and bushwack and scramble up a loose gully below the climb until reaching the 2 trees at the corner's base(30min.). The descent is down the climb from the same anchors. Four long 30m raps reach the ground or walk off heading north and around through the upper forest.

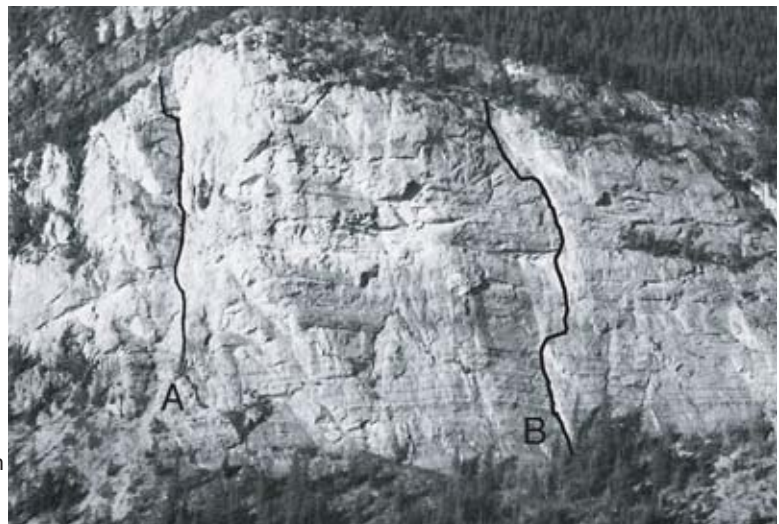
- 1.) Climb/scramble up water bowl until the base of the right-facing corner. Short 5.10(bolt) crux pull up on marginal holds gains good ground to the left of the corner. Thin slab moves towards the final steep section. Climb up right side of very loose arete to good ledge/bolt belay. (30m)
- 2.) Climb right and slightly up towards corner(2 bolts). Climb corner towards small bush; go left onto slab climb over small ledges to second bolted belay. (30m)
- 3.) Climb over small overhang and gain the bottom of the finger crack(5.8), go up the easy finger crack round the tree and over small ledges to gain a 2-bolt belay below the large overhang. (30m)
- 4.) Climb around first overhang on the right side close to the main corner. Continue up the main corner until below the huge overhang. Traverse left across slab below overhang on good holds(5.9). At the end of the overhang, climb up and right to gain main left facing corner. Climb over small ledges and exit cliff face to final 2-bolt and chain belay. (25m)



A- Maya's Route
5.9+, 240m

B- Friends
5.9, 5 pitches

*photo used
by permission
from John
Martin*



Friends, 5.9, 5 pitches

FA- J.Martin and C.Dale, 1980

A worthwhile route for Kananaskis with great wilderness panoramas on good rock. Approach as for the previous route, Maya's Route, but Friends takes the prominent left-facing corner system on the east face. The crux 4th pitch is recognized by the pale white strip and a one bolt belay was drilled after the only gear - a slung block, fell off during a 1999 ascent. To descend, walk off north through the upper forest. A gear list may include: TCUs and cams from 2"-3.5", medium nuts/Tri-Cams, and a good assortment of pins. Unfortunately, rope lengths are forgotten, but twin 55m works.

- 1.) Find the corner with a horizontal roof high above. Climb up on fun 5.5 rock to a ledge with one bolt.
- 2.) Either continue up the corner(5.7) and move off right to a ledge with a bolt or leave the belay and traverse right then straight up(5.6).
- 3.) Enjoyably go up and into a short corner and to a one-bolt anchor(5.7).
- 4.) Climb up and into the left-facing corner(5.9). Grunt up it, pass a bolt, and try to clip a high pin or run it out left to the one-bolt ledge belay: falling here would be a nasty swing into the corner, however sustained, it's not desperate. The pin is hard to clip.
- 5.) Go up from the belay on fun rock directly above the anchor (5.9) to a tree belay.

Wasootch Tower North Ridge, 5.6/7

FA- C.Locke, J.Martin, G.Rathbone, S.Slymon, June 1968

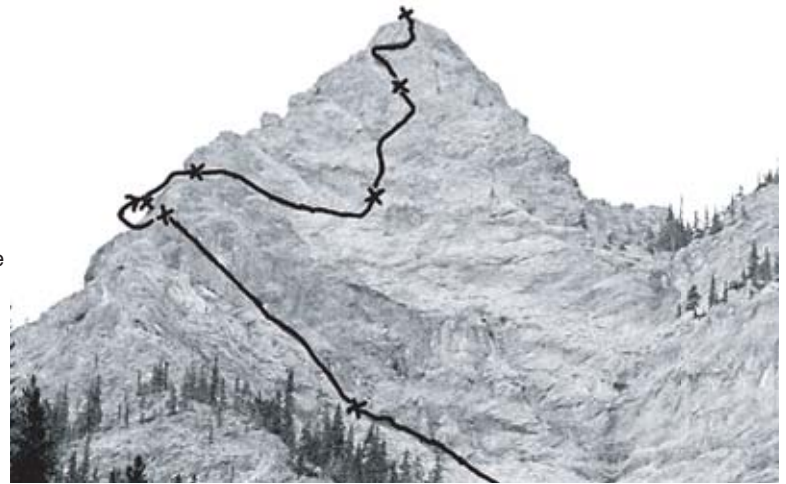
There are no copies of Ben Gadd's pocket-size guidebook to Wasootch Creek available for the public to take out from the Calgary Public Library anymore, however, one can view it in a special locked security room at the main branch, then placed again in a crisp envelope in a locked filing cabinet! A fine example of how information is becoming harder to track down. The original route was done up from the high col in 1952 by Hans Gmoser and party and a nearby concave arching slab below the summit now is home to two sport routes. The south ridge was also climbed decades ago but has recently been retro-fitted for a direct finish. Park at Wasootch Creek and walk about 2km past the practice slabs. Go right up the drainage before the Tower and follow a good trail up the streambed. When the drainage forks at a cairn, scramble up the left drainage as the right takes you up to the high col(Gmoser). Shortly, another drainage comes in from the left, coming straight down from the Tower. Follow this up and over ledges and ribs. Aim for a yellow and black streaked wall up and to the left. Arrive at the base of a long smooth slab with the vertical streaked wall on the right and make a belay here. This is the ridge facing the Hwy #40.

- 1.)Follow the corner past a bolt when the slab flattens and breaks. Belay just below the ridge or use the bolt for an optional belay(5.5, 50m+)
- 2.)Just over the ridgeline, follow easy terraces and a ledge to a tree and crack belay at the base of a short smooth but featured face. (30m)
- 3.)Climb the face on good holds to a piton with a ring. (5.5, 10m)
- 4.)Traverse across the wide gully, first down and to the right, pass just below a tree in the middle. Climb up a short rockband past a small grassy ledge. Belay in gully just above the rockband. (5.7, 40m+)
- 5.)Climb up and right over easy terraced ledges toward a right-facing corner. Climb the corner(crux) with poor pro. Climb up and left above the corner past dark colored rock to a good belay.
- 6.)Climb up easily toward the ridgeline. Just below the ridgetop, climb a right-facing corner ledge system on the buttress to a stepped wall and leftward trending break. Climb this to the summit.

DESCENT:Use the rap route from the 2-pitch 5.5 NW col route(Gmoser). There are rap anchors to climbers left and below the bay belay.



at left:
Backside view
showing route
with descent
area



at right:
line of route
with belay
stations
marked

Photos by
Johnathon Lytton

Wasootch Tower SE Ridge

FA- Unknown

This is the ridge that would face opposite the Hwy#40 and can't be seen until you are under it, a 2 hr. hike from the road, however it looks a bit more involved than the North Ridge. The north face has no routes and maybe the future will allow a line up this very steep and impressive wall.

Park at Wasootch Creek and hike past the Tower. Turn right and take a bouldery dry creekbed up to the ridge start, or make a rising upward traverse through the trees to the ridge. The first 15m step off the creek is shattered overhung rock so scramble up the side on scree to the crest to start up. Expect 13 rope lengths to the summit ridge, 7-9 of those are pleasant low 5th class moves on decent rock with reasonable means of protection. The rest are walking/scrambling pitches along the tops of steps in the ridge. There is almost no fixed protection, maybe the odd pin but there are occasional trees most of the way which make good running belays or belay spots-they also work as easy escape by rappelling into the scree gully paralleling the ridge in case of emergency. Recently a direct finish has been bolted up a steep slab near the top. Wasootch Tower Descent Options: the most obvious starts with half-rope length raps over the west lip of the summit from bolts beside a feeble snag; traverse a rubbly ledge south(left) through a notch, cross a steep gully to bolts on solid rock shoulder on the sunny side and finish with a single rappel to scree at the col. Choice two, a bit less obvious but nicer, start with a short stroll back along the summit rappel or top rope down an awkward rubbly groove to a nest of bolts and pitons on a big ledge. From there, a long rappel down the west face reaches the scree a short distance south of the crest of the col.

Ivana humpless - 5.6, 260m

FA-Jonathan and Aidan Lytton, June 2004

Description

This route was found by accident on a cold spring weekend while navigating towards the Cornell/Macrae route Ivana Humpalot (see 2004 Edition). The route follows a series of gullies, slabs and ledges leading up and rightward to the skyline slabs marking the first hump. The climbing is generally quite easy on mostly excellent rock, although the line is less than aesthetic. Protection is all natural gear, the route is a little runout in places, and rope drag is often bad. This gully system drains the main face of the hump, and thus rockfall as well as water runoff during a storm make for big hazards.

Approach

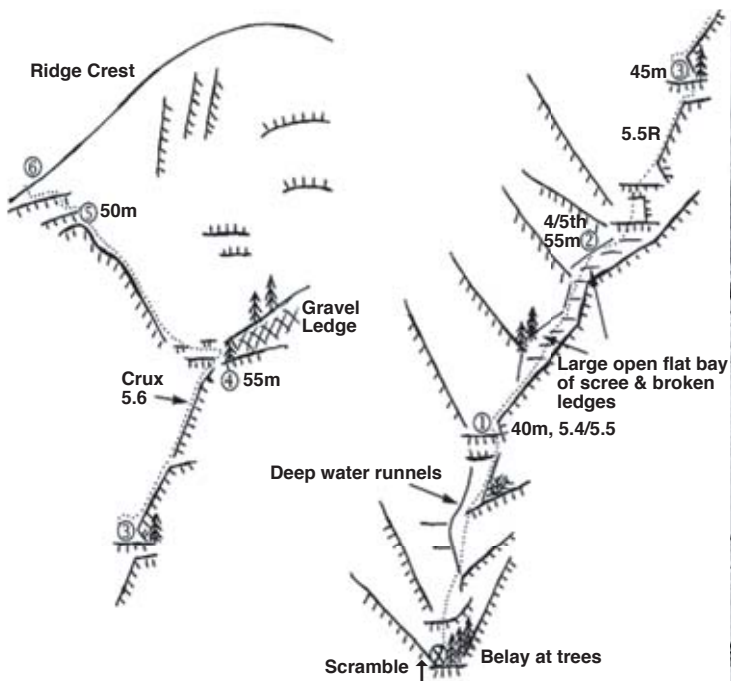
Park on the east side of the #40 south of Wasootch Creek as for Kilowatt Crag at a big bend. Hike up the open grassy pit to the antenna. Follow the overgrown creekbed. After surmounting the first massive boulder that forms a sort of chockstone in the centre of the approach gully, continue and pass another massive boulder just to the right of the creekbed, and then the first of two large boulders just to the left. You are now roughly level with the first drainage coming in from the slopes to the right. Find a low spot in the short cliffband on your left, surmount this and scramble up scree leftward heading toward the low point of an obvious rightward trending ramp system. Follow this up and right until its end and the appearance of the obvious gully and ledge system on the left that marks the climbing route. Scramble left up water worn rock to a bay with 3 trees on the right. Belay.

Climb

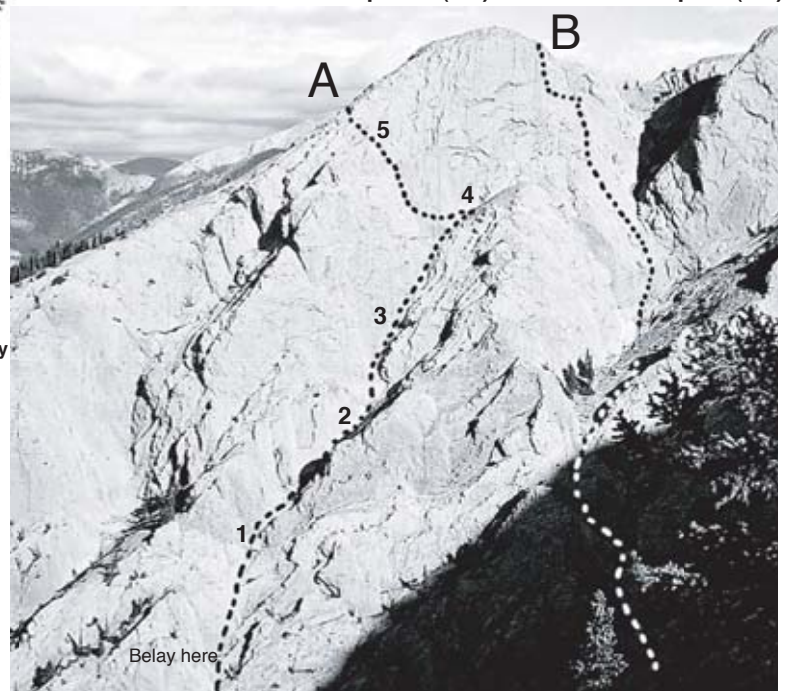
- 1.) 40m, 5.4/5. Climb up over easy shelves, then either up a water-worn runnel or more textured rock to the right (tricky gear) and over a lip at its right side to a small ledge below a steep slab. Belay using small gear in a crack on the floor of the ledge (may need to clear away rubble).
- 2.) 55m, 4-5th class. Ignore the tempting slab and head off right up an easy corner/gully and into flats. Good belay in a vertical crack on a corner to the left, at close to rope length.
- 3.) 45m, 5.5R. Scramble up and left toward the main wall. Go up a short step into a right-trending "off-width" crack/gully which is hard to protect but not very steep (bigger gear may help). Belay at a tree in a little cave/ledge on the left.
- 4.) 55m, 5.6. Step up and left off the ledge and make a balancy move back right into the obvious gully/corner. Follow up this right-trending off-width (better pro!). When it eases off, climb a crack/flake up the face (crux) to easy ledges and belay at the first small tree to the right. Bad drag!
- 5.) 50m, 5.5. Traverse to the left and slightly downward across easy ledges to a steeper corner with excellent pro and easy solid prickly rock. Belay at top, just a few steps below the ridge crest. A direct line from the belay up and right may make a better summit finish.
- 6.) 15m, 5.4. Follow steps and ledges first up and then left until they intersect with the ridge crest.

Gear

60m rope and medium cams to 3". Small TCUs and/or aliens needed for the first belay.



A - Ivana Humpless(5.6) B - Ivana Humpalot(5.7)



Golden Moldy, 5.5, 25m

FRA- G.Cornell and blonde guy originally from Calgary, lives in milk truck, initials are G.M. and likes sardines.

You would think that after Wasootch sees about four decades of climbing that nothing could be new, and this may not be either but the route and the belay top showed no signs of man-that seems like a pretty crazy accusation! It is a pronounced right-facing corner found up and left of 'F' Slab behind a stand of trees. Hike up 15m from the ground and belay off huge pines. Climb the corner (gear) using the nice edge for hands, then go up over a sharp bulge and continue to trees. Rap.

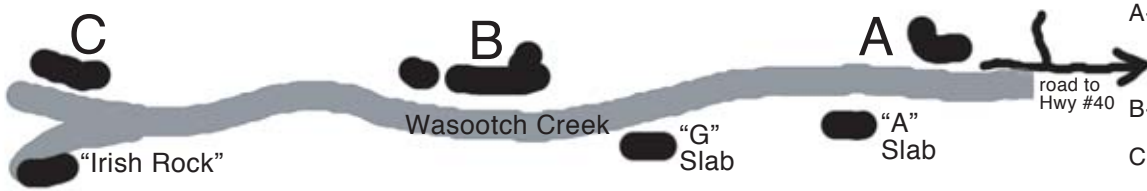
Of the original old Wasootch handbooks there is no mention of this line. Hopefully we get no nasty responses from the Canadian Armed Forces saying they used the line for rescue way back in the day. Claiming an FA at Wasootch, now that is good times!

"Oh my god, is it, could it be an FA up in Wasootch?!"



Wasootch - South Side Bouldering

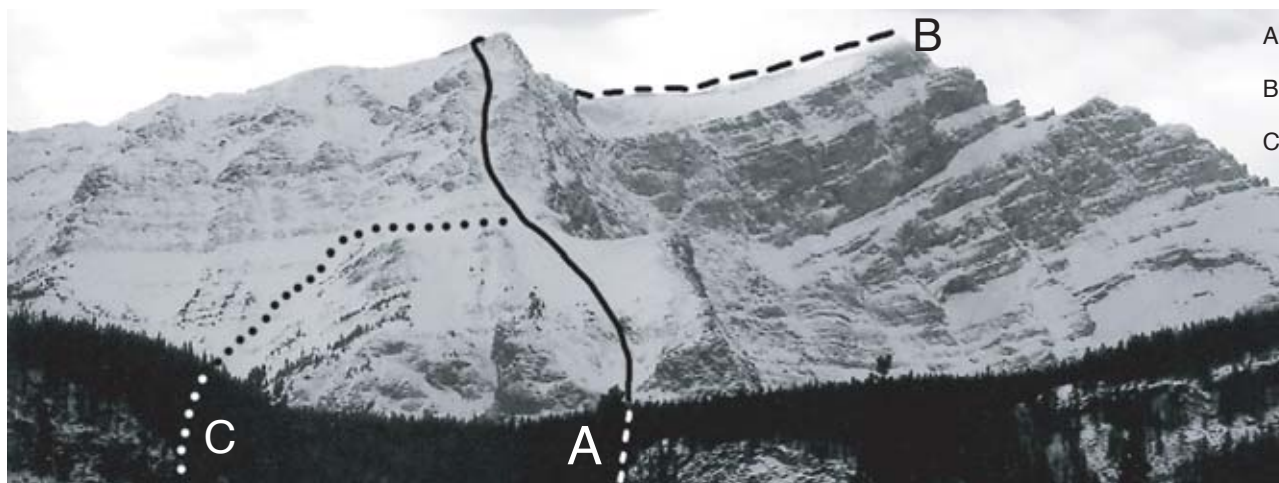
Alone? Got kids? Sun setting? By no means a trip in itself, but there are 3 outcrops to play on on the south side of the creek. Either park at Wasootch Creek, cross over to the other side or park on Hwy#40 and hike up the road along the creek edge. The best part is that all 3 are different from the next and are only minutes apart. 'Blowdown' is the worst, 'Mini-golf' gets better(kids will have a ball) and 'Burnt' is the best.



- A- *Blowdown*(V0) amongst loads of twigs; SS up from red rock to grey holds or SS from yellow to pocket and over the bulge.
- B- *Mini-golf*(VB) have fun on this odd wall like similiar one at Grassi Lks.
- C- *Burnt*(V0) link incuts on dark wall before valley opens up.

mt.james walker 3035m

FA - J.Kuenzel, J.Martin, G.Rathbone, F.Williamson, Aug.1969



- A- FA party line('69)
- B- J.Walker summit
- C- possible alternate approach up bowl

This high, distant peak sits behind a subsidiary peak but can be done in the same time as most scrambles near the road. Either go as the FA party did by starting from the Fortress Ski Road, getting above treeline, climbing the NE buttress (low 5th class), then bombing up the obvious slope above to the top of the peak. Cross down the other side, and scramble up to the summit. The other possibility is to gain the obvious slope by starting early along the Ski Road, trudging up an enormous fanning avalanche slope to the top, traversing north under the upper face to the same obvious slope. Expect car to summit to take 6 hours. The gully left of the FA's may also be an equally feasible choice.

Agent Orange & Toad's Folly - WI3, 20m

FA - Todd Dyer, Angie Folk, Jason Kulsky, Jan.

Two seperate lines on one spreading flow: the left line Agent Orange climbs 10m of WI3 stained orange water! to step, then 10m of WI2 to a tree belay. The right line was named when one member asked for help to get down after soloing pretending he was a toad (so it wasn't Angie!).

Get throaty on 10m of rolling ice to 5m of WI3 and more steps to a tree belay. The ice is visible from Kidd Falls. No avi hazard and a romping approach up snow/ice.

From Galatea Creek make a hard left at the second bridge, prior to crossing, enroute to a Bridge Too Far and continue up the creek for 20-30 minutes. The climbs are on the right. This may be a worthwhile place to take beginners far away from all the bustle, into K-Country depths.



The view back to Kidd Falls in the distance gives a good idea as to the location of this flow.



A first ascentist throwing up a rope.



An overview of the flow with the belay trees above the ice.

Mt.Kidd East Face, 5.6

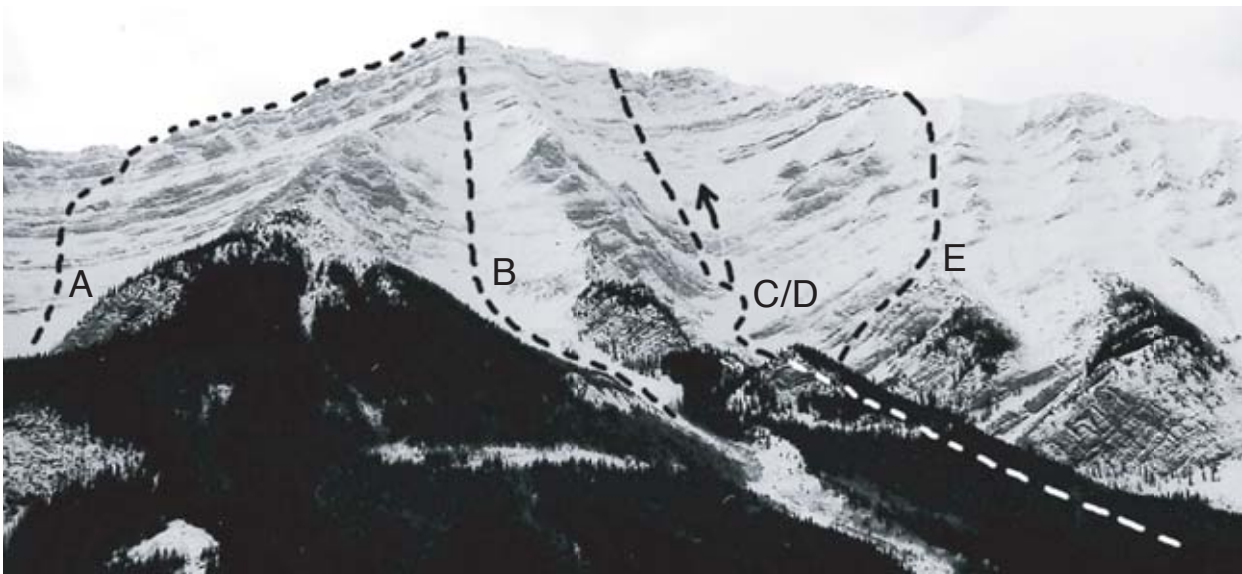
FA- J.Martin, Aug. 1998



A - normal scramble ascent slopes B - alternate approach hike C - Sinatra Falls D - J.Martin direct ascent line

This is a striking direct line obvious from all corners of the valley. It's too involved for casual scrambler and may be too light for the hardcore which puts in a category everyone may love- the moderate. The first ascensionist avoided the optional long rising traverse(B) and chose a more direct way. Wait till the face is snow-free. Park at Galatea, hike Terrace Trail for 30min., go up left thru trees to open slopes. Start somewhere on the cliff right of Sinatra Falls. Go up the easy face to a ledge; follow it right to its' end below a steep band; take a not-so-obvious rampy feature up left for a nice 30m of 5.6; at the cliff top, go up broken rock to grass to good rubble to the big gully. Scramble up the upper face gully on nice ground either to the left or right. Where the main gully splits at a prominent undercut band, find a break to the right that goes back over a bulge to the left, then a slabby and exposed traverse back into the gully. Take a short 5.6 bit up a steep water streak and over a bulge on great rock. The big upper wall is got thru by a going left into a smooth water-worn groove(5.4) :stem good rock to a large scree ledge up and right and plod to the summit ridge in minutes. Descend the normal scramble route(A).

Mt.Inflexible 3000m



 These dotted lines are approximate

A -descent/ascent line B -Martin/Spohr C -Greenwood/Lofthouse D -Condon/Marra E -Grassman

A great looking alpine peak still with new potential. As the story goes, this was Brian Greenwood's first Rockies FA done in 1956 rated low 5th class. In Aug.1977, G.Spohr and J.Martin climbed the east face from the large bowl rated 4th class with much route finding. In the summer of 1976, E.Grassman lead a way up the north ridge and is recorded as 5.5 in steep sections. In December of 2002, D.Marra and J.Condon climbed the same face as the Greenwood party: 'Fun Fun' 1000m V, WI4+R 5.9 - hike bowl to 50m of WI2+/3, go up steep bowl to 60M of WI4+R followed by 180m of easy ice/rock to more snow sloggin', then 60m of 5.9 WI4, snow, 60m of 5.6, 20m of WI4 5.8 , then a 5m 5.9 roof with touch more mixed terrain to the ridge. From near 'A', they descended SE down a bowl out to the Smith-Dorrien road. For access: as of 2005, park at Fortress Junction, bike the road if it is closed(?) to below the desired route. Routes #C-E can be had by hiking up an enormous avalanche runout that nearly touches the ski road; you may be able to park along the road.

The S Route, 5.6/7, 350m (The Wedge North Face)

FA - B.Gadd and R.Ballard, July 1970

Ben Gadd said that this route was like any new north-facing route (at least in K-Country) which was loose - too loose to really become popular. With that said however, many people wonder where this route exactly went on the triangular face, and with its' striking location above Wedge Pond, a popular approach trail and a casual descent, lets hope it may see a second(?) ascent. Could it make a hard winter alpine objective? Most people read about it in the 'green bible' to the southern Rockies and have always likely thought The S Route went up that obvious break/corner system that falls straight down from the summit - not so, and this tempting feature may still be unclimbed.... "The gash thing was too horrible to contemplate, a deep, loose, dripping chimney full of killer bombstones, yuck." But The S Route meanders up an obvious line of gullies and breaks near the centre of the face coming out pretty close to the summit, and takes on the shape of a skinny letter 'S'.

On a 150 foot rope it runs about eight pitches and took the FA team around three hours. Expect lots of stemming. They rated it F6 as per the Yam standards of the time, which means mostly lower fifth class with some moves around overhangs that go at 5.6 - 5.7. Gadd said he never bought any wired nuts until 1973 so they used either all pitons and early hexagonal nuts, not Chouinard, but sawed out of aluminum bar stock.

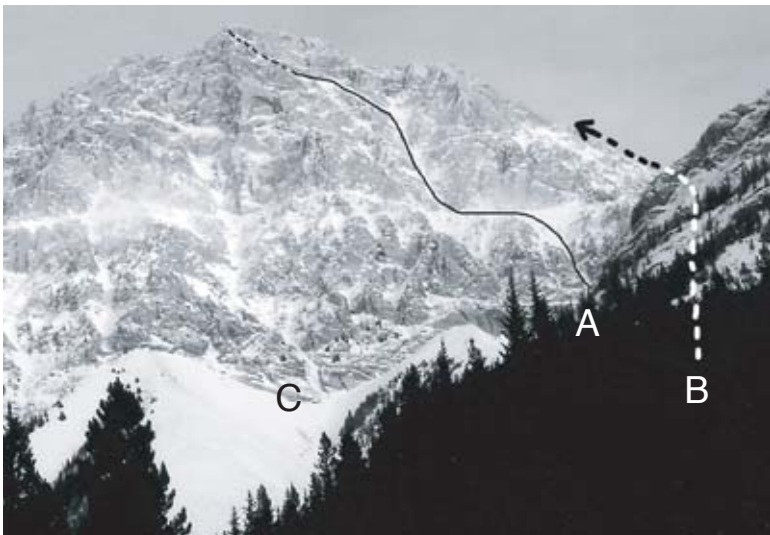
Park at Wedge Pond about 30km south of Hwy #1. Follow around the left side of the lake then find a trail leading through pretty forest and a fable like stream: stay on the left side and follow a better trail up, up, up out of the drainage and onto the hillside. Here is a good place to

scope the line. Drop down into the rocky basin below the north face and the start of the route. While enroute, enjoy the grande vistas of the expansive valley: in the mid-1930s when the fire broke out up nearby Galatea Creek, it torched the entire area to and past the Village in a day!



Mt.Hood, 2903m The West Face

FA- J.Jones and J.Martin, Aug.1969



A very long forgotten line up a seldom travelled peak, Mt.Hood has a route on the frontal west face, whereas the scramble route ascends a gully on the far right end of the wall. The first ascent party approached via Walker Creek as opposed to the longer, easier King Creek. Most of the line can be seen from the highway in one spot looking up the creek(when this photo was taken). Hike up the creek and go up the hillside up south to be situated on a broad saddle that connects to King Creek Ridge to the west. Instead of starting up the gully for the scramble, go up into a gully left and follow it to under cliffbands, then go left into another gully which works up to under the summit headwall. The 1969 party avoided this imposing headwall unfortunately and moved left up a gully which eventually lead to the summit. It would be wise to descend down the more known south ridge to the col with Mt.Brock then down the loose gully to the broad saddle that joins King Creek Ridge. For an extra hit of fun for the day and much faster descent, cross up the saddle west and ascend the east face of King Creek Ridge(see the first edition 2004, of Kananaskis Obscure routes).

A - West Face Route B - normal scramble/descent C - fat blue waterfall

Hike to the Native Trees



This is a very cool point of interest that can be found at the end of King Creek. Multi-colored strips of cloth wrapped and knotted around a stand of trees places by local natives, each one representing something of significance. Other examples of this can be found near the base of Sinatra Falls in Kananaskis and a very aged set in a hard to locate tree clump on the descent ridge of Ivana Humpalot/less(see page 5). It is sort of eerie to come across for the first time; please admire but do not disturb. Park at King Creek. Hike up the creek, past the winter ice climbs, and get through the tight canyon which may be hard to navigate without getting wet. Follow the creek to near the end at a T-junction. Above a short slope is the long open meadows up to Mt. Blane. Hike straight up the meadow for about 100m then head left for 100m(approx.) and enter the forest.

Oldest Trees In Kananaskis



On an off day, this point of interest can be hiked to any time of the year however, summer may be the finest when the forest floor is visible. This small group of trees are the oldest known stand recorded thus far in K-Country and date back to 1696. All of the park has burned down at some point in history and this mystic area has held on the longest. A grizzly hangs out here keeping the trail shut down many months of the year typically. Park at the south lot of Upper Kananaskis Lake. Hike along the easy graded Upper Circuit Trail for about 5.5km. These trees are at the north end of Hidden Lake, there is no sign, but their size/foliage will give it away. Only 5% of pines in Kananaskis Country have survived longer than 200 years.

Joy, 5.4-5.6, 10+ pitches

FA - P.Gatzsch, U.Kallen, G.Powter 1995



This route is getting so known it is hardly obscure, but a 5-star classic. Follow the corner for endless rope lengths. Various sized rack. Park at Upper Kananaskis Lake, walk North Side trail for 40min. Slog up to the slab in 15min. At slab end, exit a scree notch/ramp to grass slopes-walk to top. Descend down open ridge and find scree slope back to the lake trail.



Follow obvious corner. Right pic is zoomed area with climber.

Mt. Strom, 3023m

FA - K. and TG Longstaff, R.Aemmer, July 1910

Mt. Strom is an excellent consolation if high hopes for summiting nearby Mt. Assiniboine don't work out; in fact you could bail high off Assiniboine and still make the summit of Strom if you need to top out on something after hiking all the way in to the mountain. Strom is a perfectly defined easy ridge of snow, like an Egyptian pyramid, that starts out from behind the R.C. Hind Hut and travels to a casual summit after passing a tiny rock band hardly worth mentioning. From hut to the top takes about an hour. Crampons, an ice axe yes - a rope and gear nahh. The views are second to one!

Park at the Mt. Shark parking lot off Smith-Dorrien Trail. Hike the signed trail to the Bryant Creek trail, then to Assiniboine Pass and eventually huff 'n puff into Lake Magog about 6 hours later. If it's a cool evening one could risk going up the 300m ice coulior in the middle of the lower rock band (about one hour of 45 degree ice) to the open flats and the R.C. Hind Hut. Or, take the Gmoser Highway to the Hut, which twists up the headwall but beware of dicey scree over steep drops. Strom's snow ridge is bloody obvious behind the Hut.



Gap Mtn 2675m - north ridge

FRA- R.Mitchell, Aug.1977

This is a beautiful looking ridge when viewed from Hwy#40 however a recent ascent doesn't confirm it being that with the obvious dip half way up, and looks harder than the original 5.6 grade given in the old 'Green Bible'(Rockies South).The FRA party of one stated it at 360m and hard 5.5 which seems to be closer to the recent ascent parties grading, which may make the long ridge with the drop, potentially unclimbed. The 1977 party descended the west side from the summit down a gully with one rap but the normal scramble way from the SE may be a better way.

Access: This route can be accessed from the Valleyview Trail about 8 km. north of Highwood Pass. From the bridge, follow a faint trail on the north bank of Elpoca Creek (the drainage north of Gap Mountain) to the ridge. Follow the north ridge which is mostly scrambling, some level ridge sections and the odd loose pitch which can be roped. Views are spectacular. Overall grade might be 5.4 or less. From the summit, you can continue a traverse of the mountain by following the scramblers route down to the east and south – watch for cairns and well traveled sections to stay on route. If you don't have a second car, you might want to stash bikes to travel the 3-4 km. back to the bridge. 850m elevation gain from Elpoca Creek.



Far left: Margaret Saul at a level spot on the North Ridge.(Photo Margaret Saul Collection)

Middle: Bill Corbett closing in on the summit (Photo Margaret Saul Collection)

Above: Gap Mtn. taken from Hwy.#40 near Whiteman's Falls

Gap Mtn 2675m - south ridge

FA- J.Martin and L.Howard, Sept.1999

It should be noted that the first ascent parties summit record was found from a 1948 recording by the well-known Hans Schwartz which at the time it was named Mt.Gita, but was changed in later years. The south ridge is better than it looks and is very obvious from the highway. Once again, the best way down is to follow the way of the scramblers route.

The south ridge is a single rib that is stepped in three distinct spots and has an exposed feel with drops on either side making escape difficult, however, the ridge itself is kicked back to a relatively easy angle.

Park at Little Highwood parking lot. Angle up through trees to a prominent treed flat spot in about an hours hike. Always be aware of bears in this area.

The first step is like a staircase of good rock and is easy. The next section of the ridge is steeper though after passing a level area. This is followed by a 5.6 pitch that has some tricky moves passing a loose block. Continue up past another level part of the ridge.

The third step of the ridge looks the hardest but is not as bad when on it, plus, the rock is very textured. It then levels out flat again but drops off in a short cliff. Climb through a notch and up to the ridge beyond which joins the east and west routes for the final 100m roughly and places you on top of the summit of Gap or Gita, your choice.

In 1979, this same team did a route on the west side of the mountain but is not described here.

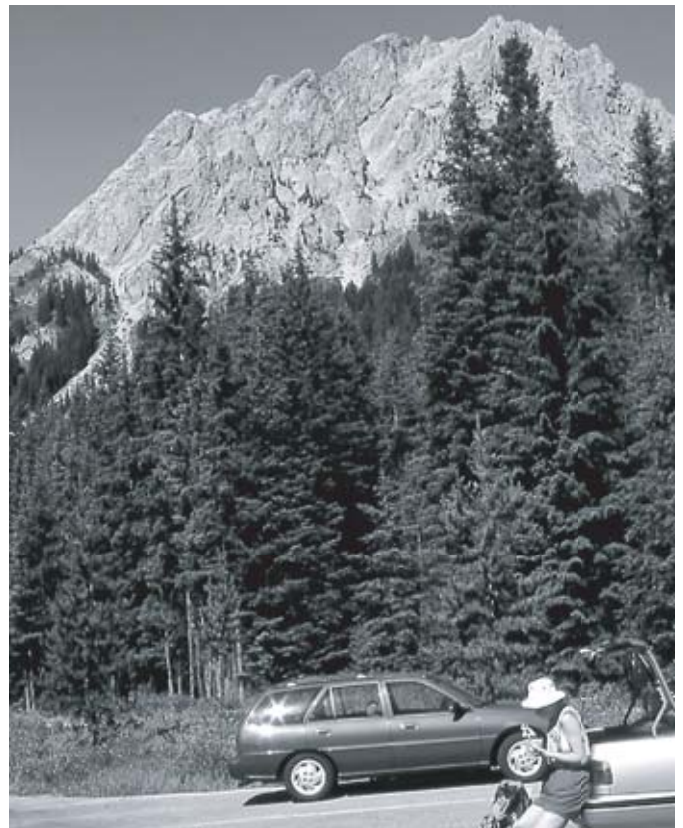


Photo John Martin

cowpatties updated

Two new boulders were found since the first issue rounding out this cute little circuit of boulders strewn across the flowery, bushy meadow below Windy Point Ridge. A mat is a good idea on some boulders. From Turner Valley, drive about 5km past the winter gate of K-Country (closed Dec.1-May 15) and park in the pull-out at the end of the long east-facing orange rockface of Windy Point Ridge. Hike up 100m into the meadow plateau to the first cowpatty with Spurs. Further up is the slab now with a V1(Longview) on its' cave backside.About 100m out east is the lone 10-12 ft high Derelict cowpatty. Finally an unfortunate trudge up the meadow to a tiny stand of aspen trees is Boothill-VB.

- A- Spurs(V2-)come a sitting from the center overhang, traverse right using heel hooks. The left side is loose.Keep off!
- B- Longview(V1)sit in cave;up the center right side, mantel out, crimpers to top, left ridge is out. Best route here.
- C- Cleaver(VB)up left from the slab. Start on north crest and down on jugs. Very easy.Try a circum-navigation.
- D- The Derelict(V1-)on slopers up the center SE face- no side-pulls. Full traverse may not be as hard as thought.
- E- Boothill(VB)left boulder in trees. From left side, pull around nose and rail to end topping out. Feet on face only.



The tiny Boothill boulder not worth the hike up the meadow.

A - parking lot and road B - 'Spurs' C - 'Longview' D - 'Cleaver' E - to The Derelict' boulder

Rainbow Warrior 5.10b, IV - Mt.Gibraltar

FA- B.Gross and P.Kaufman, 1985

This is a long rock route similiar to, though more demanding than the NE Face of Windtower. The rock is good and the climbing sustained-generally well protected. Expect to take up to 12hrs. on the climb. For gear: a set of wires, cams from TCUs to #3 Camalot and lots 'o pins. Strangely enough, Mt.Gibraltar's north face is featured on a permanent display at Ripley's Believe It Or Not in Los Angeles for when a team of Brits came over to make a world record zip-line descent from the summit to the valley floor!

APPROACH: from the end of SR 546, walk or bike up Sheep River trail for 6km until even with the North Face of Gibraltar(one awkward creek crossing). Where the trail crosses to the north bank of the stream(collapsed bridge), continue another 5-10 min. along the south bank, then hike up dry streambeds and gravelly slopes to a platform at the highest point of the scree(1.5hrs. from the car). Scramble 100m up an easy ramp trending left across slabs to a broad depression. Rope up at the base of steeper rock above. Many lines are possible for the next 4-5 pitches, generally no more than 5.6/7 difficulty. The discription below offers one option. If in doubt, aim for the bottom right end of a large left-trending ramp, with a prominent patch of overhanging yellow rock above.

1. 50m, 5.6. Follow a gully/crack to a short right-facing corner. Break out left to a slab, then move back right into a gully (piton).
2. 55m, 5.7. Move left and climb slabs to a large ledge. Climb a left-facing corner on the left side of a large rotten nose to a large ledge, with a bolt/piton belay at its' left end.
3. 55m, 5.6. Move up to a short corner and climb it to slabs. Either move right and climb corners and slabs to small ledges below the right end of the large ramp, or move left across slabs to a large ledge with a 2-bolt belay at its' left end.
4. 60m, 5.8. From the top of the variant of pitch 3, move up into a short left-arching corner. Step right and climb up to gain the large ramp. Wander up this to a 2-bolt belay(top of pitch 5 in the old K-Country J.Martin guidebook topo). This variant is awkward to reach from the bolt belay at the top of pitch 3. A more direct variant climbs a steep slab and overlap on the left and is runout 5.10c.
5. 30m. Wander up the ramp to a ledge.
6. 30m, 5.5. Climb up and right onto a slab. Move right around an edge into a corner. An old bolt belay is visible a few metres down.
7. 50m, 5.9. Climb the corner for a few metres, then move left into a crack. Follow this until a line of face holds leads right across a wall of impeccable rock into a prominent left-facing corner. Follow the corner to small ledges and a 2-piton belay.
8. 50m, 5.9. Climb the corner above through small roofs to slabs. Belay on small ledges up and left.
9. 55m, 5.10b. Move right and climb up to a short left-facing corner(bolt). Crank through easy but loose ground. Traverse 15m right across a large scree ledge to better rock. (bolt)
10. 50m. Traverse right on the ledge. Belay below an obvious left-trending line of weakness in the wall above.
11. 50m, 5.8. Move right, then back left across blocky but good rock. Climb some cracks to small ledges below a short steep wall.
12. 55m, 5.10a. Climb the steep wall above to a large sloping ledge. Traverse left to a left-facing corner and climb it to small ledges(bolt, possible belay). Climb the sustained open book corner above past another bolt to a ledge.
13. 55m, 5.10b. Climb broken ground to the base of a corner/crack directly above(possible belay top of P14). Climb the increasingly hard crack past a pin to ledges. Trend left into a large right-facing corner.
14. 55m, 5.8. Climb the corner for 10m to a piton. Traverse right, around an edge, and into another right-facing corner below a large roof (possible belay, top of P15). Pull over the right end of the roof to easy but loose ground.
15. 60m. Wander up easy ground to the top

Descent: walk over the flat summit and down a broad ridge to the col between Gibraltar and the next summit to the south. Drop down an easy scree gully on the west side back to the Sheep River trail. Near treeline, it's easier to leave the drainage bottom and descend its' right (east) margin. It may be necessary to ford the knee-deep river to regain the trail. Takes about 2.5hrs from summit to car.

Mt. Robertson West Face Route, 5.11a 600+m

FA- A.Genereux and J.Marshall, October 1988

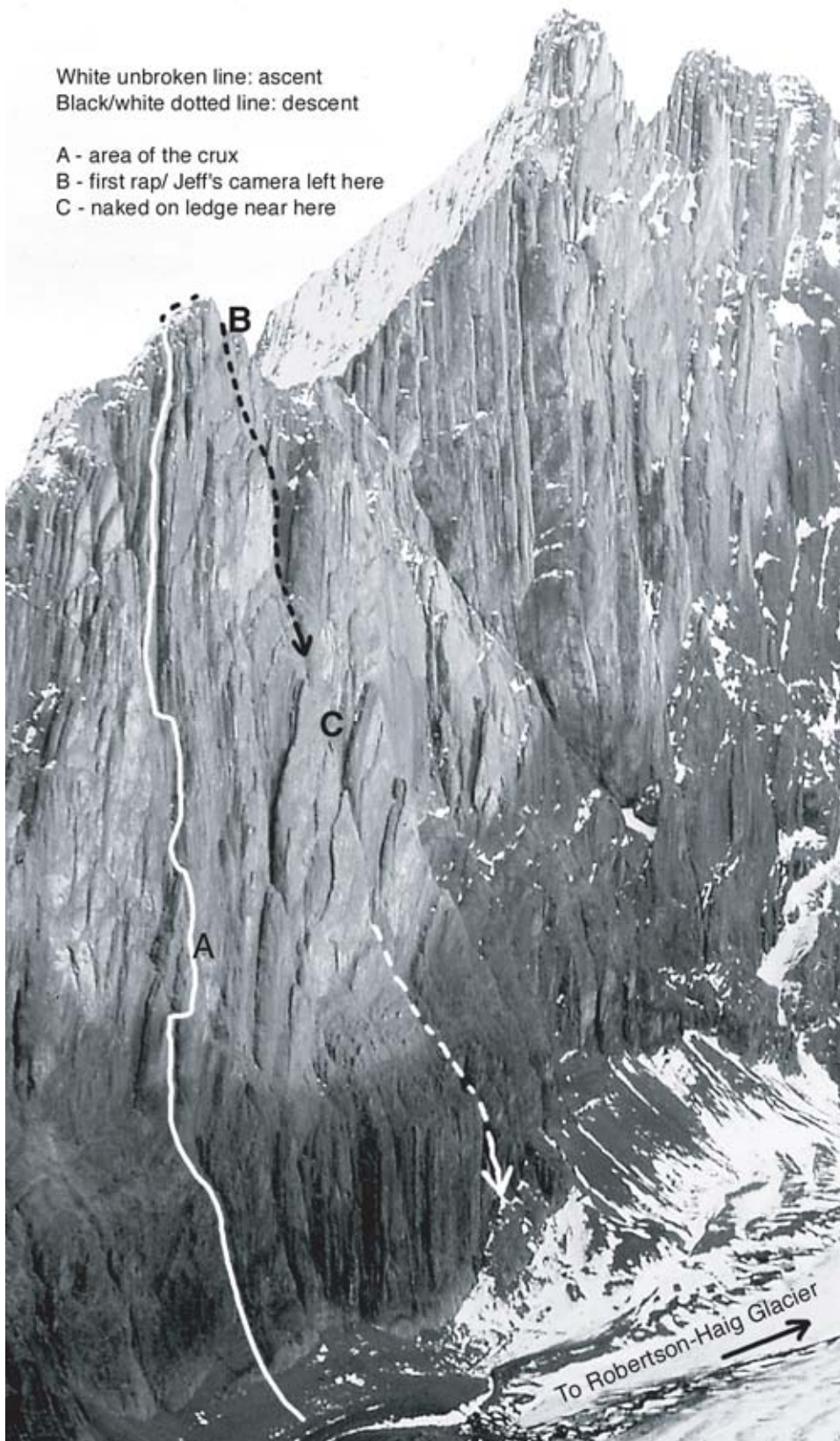
This route took two days climbing the obvious dihedral up the center of the west face. Two peaks actually make up the summit block but is not obvious from below. You will be climbing towards the northern lower top. Some pitches are excellent on this alpine rock route particularly through the sustained middle section. A competent party should be able to do it in a very long day. From the Burstall Pass parking lot hike the big trail to an open area. Turn left and go up the valley that leads to the Robertson Glacier. Follow the moraine until under the route, near the glacier toe. The first ascent party arrived at the base at 11am leading to an uncomfortable sloping ledge bivi at the top of the crux pitch but had completed the next pitch fixing a line prior to biving. It is recommended to go fast and light but a better bivy spot is at the start of the crux pitch.

THE RAP: a rap was established down the west face roughly 50m towards the south summit from the top out point. The rap consists of nine full rope rappels (believed 55m ropes). The climb was finished in a severe electrical storm and the

first 3 raps are off single bolts which should be doubled and/or replaced. The lower rappels are off fixed pins as bolts ran out. In the confusion of the storm, Jeff left his camera at the top rap and may still be there! Note: it's unknown what condition the cap screw are now in and new bolts may need to be drilled. You may want to continue to the summit and complete a route up the north face then descend to the col between the Haig and Robertson glaciers then descend back north down the Robertson glacier for a full- on alpine experience. On receiving this info for Kananaskis Obscure, Andy said the team stripped totally naked part way down the rap to a tiny ledge to get outta wet clothes - doing so actually stopped serious hypothermia.

White unbroken line: ascent
Black/white dotted line: descent

A - area of the crux
B - first rap/ Jeff's camera left here
C - naked on ledge near here



TO START: locate an easy looking wide corner gully roughly in the center of the west face. Above and slightly to the right there is a striking dihedral formed at the left edge of a huge bedding plane tipped at about 80 degrees that climbs the upper part of the wall. You essentially climb the gully-crack then do a rising traverse to a steep crack that climbs a headwall into the corner at the edge of the bedding plane. This obvious line then takes you to the saddle between the 2 peaks but closer to the north peak. The pitches described below are approximate in grade and length due to Andy's poor memory.

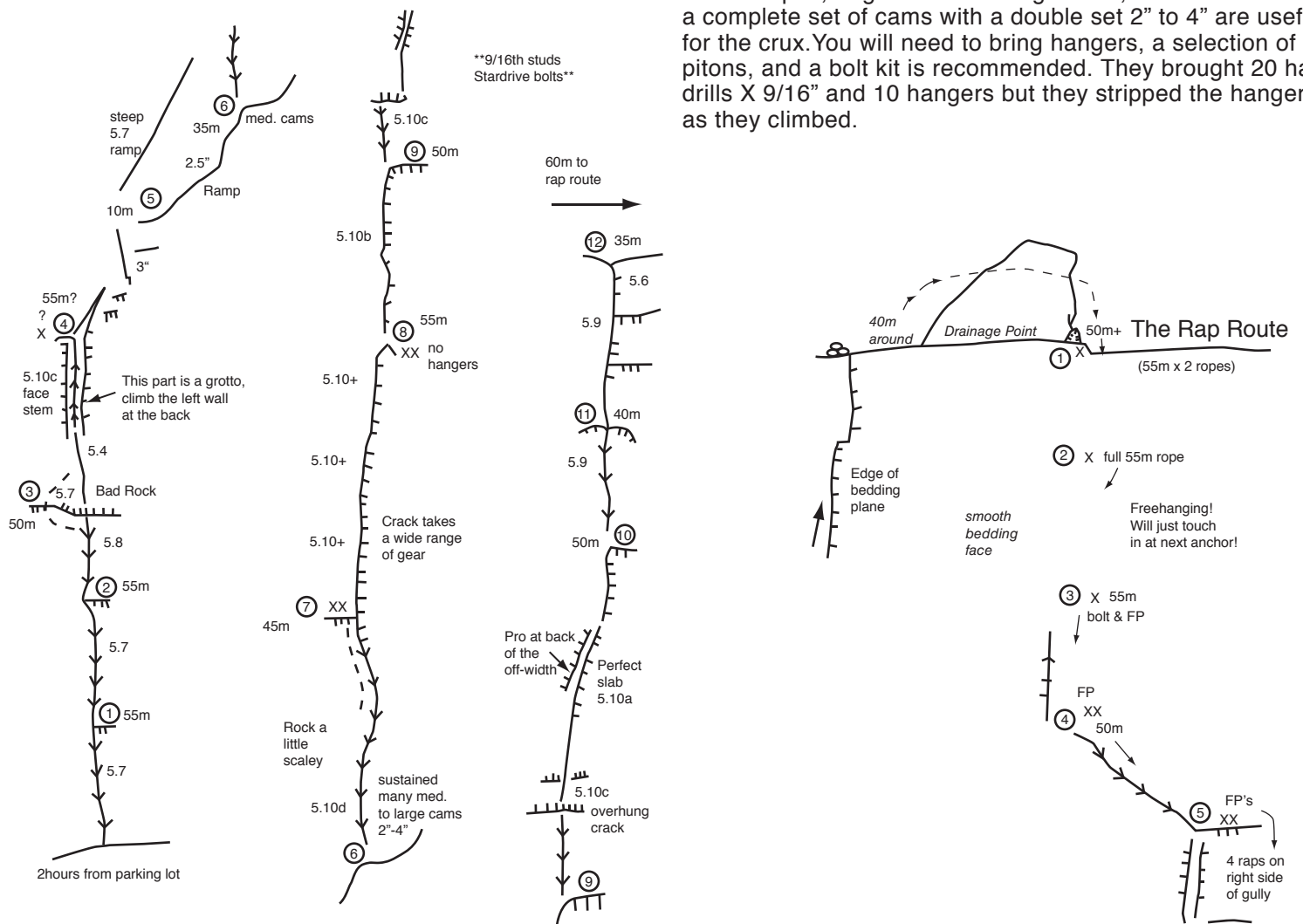


The view from the Burstall Pass trail.

Robertson West Face Route, page 2

- P1-3: 5.8, 150m. Climb the gully/corner mostly easy stepped climbing; several belays are possible. At one point we hit a bulge with very rotten rock and we moved left 10m onto the wall to belay off pins on a small ledge.
- P4: 5.10c, 55m. Climb directly up to overcome a short steep section(5. then easy 4th class climbing leads into a grotto formed by the wide crack. At the back of the grotto climb the left wall on stepp juggy climbing to a good perched ledge on the left side of the wide crack to belay (bolt maybe?no hanger)
- P5: 5.10a, 55m. Move across the wide crack out right to stepped rock heading for a good hand-crack. Climb the excellent crack for 10m then head up and right to a ramp/corner at the base of the headwall to belay in a good crack.
- P6: 5.7, 30m. Follow the ramp right to the base of a steep crack to belay. This is directly below the left edge of the big tipped bedding plane. Belay on gear. Note: the next pitch above eats up medium to large cams so try to conserve them.
- P7: 5.11a, 40m. Climb the steep crack sustained at 5.10 for 20m. Take intermittent cracks with increasing difficulty slightly up and right to a left facing corner. Continued steep face climbs the left wall past a small bulge onto slab 2-bolt belay(no hangers). This is an excellent pitch but I remember some fragile rock - be a little suspicious.
- P8: 5.10d, 55m. This is an incredible pitch that stays at the hard 5.10 grade for most of its' length and swallows a variety of gear. Climb the steep dihedral at the edge of the bedding plane sustained to a semi hanging belay on the right 2 bolts close together (no hangers).
- P9: 5.10c, 45m. Continue up the corner (not as sustained as the lower pitch) to a belay below an overhanging crack. Where there is a change in levels of the bedding plane.
- P10: 5.10c, 55m. Climb the overhanging crack awkward then go up steeply to gain a body eating off-width crack. There is pro at the back of the crack but the superb steep slab on the right wall is tempting. Climb the crack or take the slab.
- P11: P12: 5.9, 5.8, 90m. This part of the climb is somewhat vague in my mind but generally finishes up the same crack/gully system to the top of the wall. I don't believe there was any climbing harder than 5.9 and the rock gets a little scrappy with scree ledges on the last pitch. There was no belay on top, I travelled back on the scree and down for friction. I was the substantial anchor. Note** The description is reasonably accurate but I might have mixed things up a little. You pretty much follow your nose and climb the obvious features- this climb definitely follows a line. Note** The rappel route will put you down about 30-40m to the right (south) of where you started and should take about two hours. You will need new slings unless you want to install ring-bolts? Just kidding but they would be great. The upper half is down a steep slabby face, the lower half follows a crack and gully system. From the third rappel it's slightly overhanging and featureless; it's a bit tricky to reach the next anchor(pin/bolt)-knots in the end of your rope is very advisable.

GEAR: double ropes, large rack including TCU's, double set of wires, a complete set of cams with a double set 2" to 4" are useful for the crux. You will need to bring hangers, a selection of pitons, and a bolt kit is recommended. They brought 20 hand-drills X 9/16" and 10 hangers but they stripped the hangers as they climbed.



Interpretive Ice Routes, WI2-3+, M?, 5-20m

An overlooked discovery! 6-8 ice routes in the Kananaskis Interpretive Canyon Trail that form because of seeps from the huge pipeline that sits 10m back from the cliff. A beginners array: short, fat WI2 bulges, 20m rambles, two steep legs, hanging dagger, great 20m ice sheet and one potential mixed crack to hanging pillars. Do not place any bolts here, or anchor off anything manmade such as fencing, wood railings. Stay away from the pipeline. Take Hwy#40 to K. Lakes Trail. Pass Smith-Dorien Junction, and about .5km past the Visitor's Centre, turn right as for 'Canyon.' Drive 2km (open in winter) and park at a telephone on the left. Walk down right into the campground. Walk past a kids playground and pass campsites NE 100m to a wood boardwalk trail into the canyon. Beware of open pools. Photo: 20m ramble on left, 2 steep legs on right and the longest ice sheet/potential mixed line are down right of photo but must be accessed by the stairs.



Elephant Rocks

Elephant Rocks is a well known bouldering area but is likely not climbed too often. As local bouldering becomes more popular it may get new interest. The solid boulders are broken into two distinct venues 100m from each other, the east having better potential. The smaller problems are good quality with clear landings as the spires would be highballs with bad landings. At least one of the big faces has been bolted but stripped. It is worthwhile to hike a pad up if you plan to continue to The Taunting Ground. To access, park at the Chester Lake lot about 45km south of Canmore on the Smith-Dorrien Trail. Follow the switchback logging road up to Chester Lake (50 minutes). Hike through the meadow past a new drop toilet, and go along the lake shore. Take a good trail left into forest and up to Elephant Rocks (10 minutes). If taking Saskatchewan relatives hiking to Chester Lake, this is a good place to bring the rock shoes and explain how we waste our life away.



Overview of the larger and better of the two groups of boulders at Elephant. The rock is very solid and almost seems like granite. Everything here is likely done.



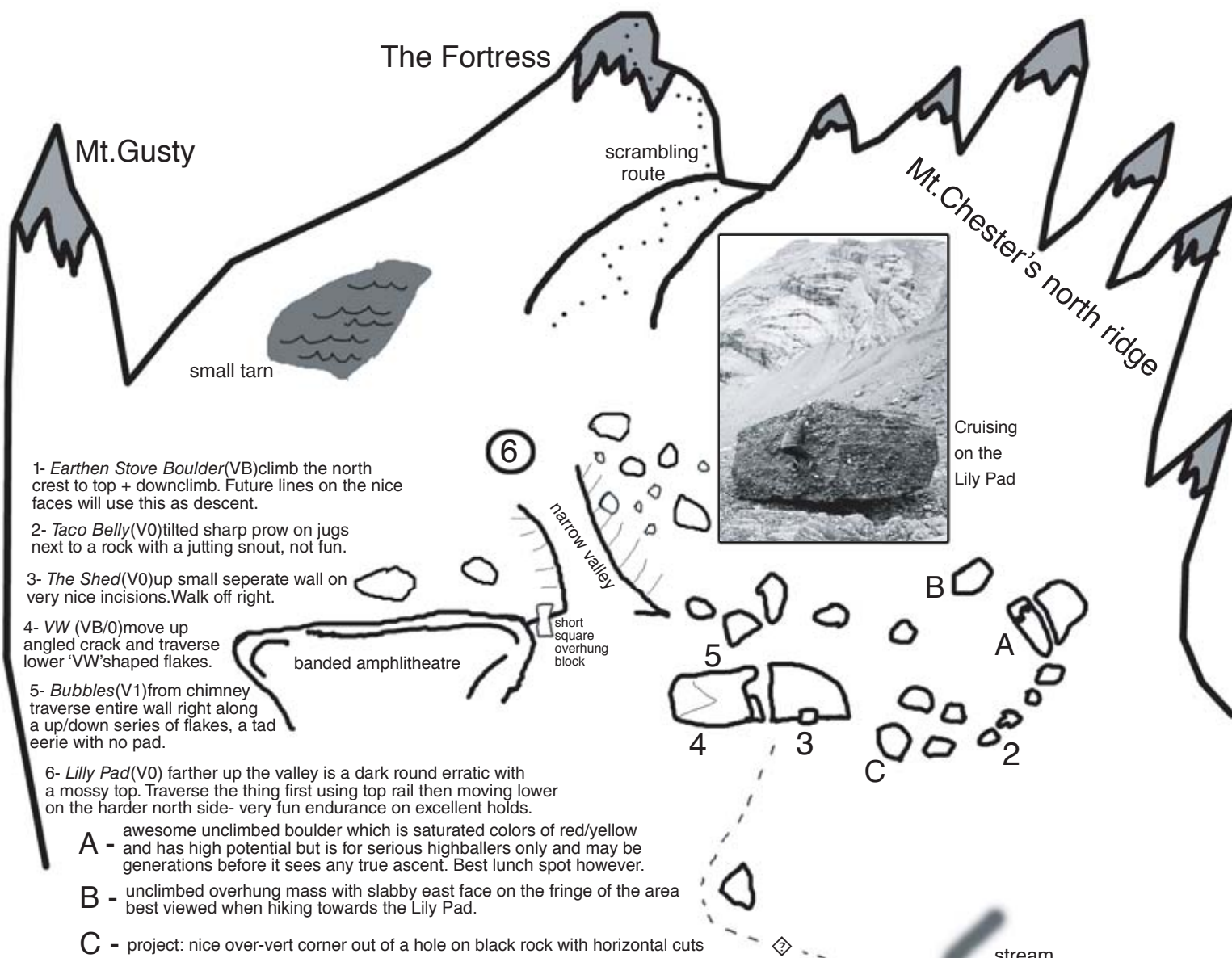
One of the sweetest jug pulls here, the slab behind is a good traverse.

Taunting Grounds

It may take many a year for this place to popularize as humping nearly 2 hours to boulder could be seen as desperate, but those who do combine Elephant Rocks and here may not see the negative. With the necessities rolled into a light pad (fairly important here) the hike is not all that bad. Once reaching Chester Lake, the last leg to Taunting Grounds is less strenuous over mostly rolling barren hills. Stay focused: don't carry in scrambling gear to knock off Fortress or Gusty, just keep low for the day and boulder. Not only is the rock quality highly textured, the problems range from enjoyable to ludicrous highballs. There is loads of unexplored boulders spread about .5km in the valley below The Fortress/Gusty peaks. Although most landings aren't horrible, a pad will surely unleash a wider gamut of stuff. The jewel here is an unclimbed 25m split boulder overlooking the entire jumble from the south end; from the main area it is recognizable with its' lightning cracked side. Every problem is on this boulder: off-width, traverse, hand-crack dihedral and the awesome chicken head north face which I might add is undoubtedly a contender for the most colorful face in Kananaskis, or the Rockies for that matter.

To get to the Taunting Grounds hike to Chester Lake (see Elephant Rocks above for more info). Walk around the north shore and about 150m before the waterfall take a steep trail up. It eases off to another meadow and rambles over shattered rocky hills. Soon the valley tightens up and enjoyable plate scree is the trail to the boulders. The first nugget encountered, the 4-sided Earthen Stove Boulder sits a few hundred meters from the main area along a creek. The Lily Pad is found by hiking away from the main area up a draw towards Fortress with untapped potential along the way.

Taunting Grounds continued



1- *Earthen Stove Boulder*(VB)climb the north crest to top + downclimb. Future lines on the nice faces will use this as descent.

2- *Taco Belly*(V0)tilted sharp prow on jugs next to a rock with a jutting snout, not fun.

3- *The Shed*(V0)up small separate wall on very nice incisions.Walk off right.

4- *VW* (VB/0)move up angled crack and traverse lower 'VW'shaped flakes.

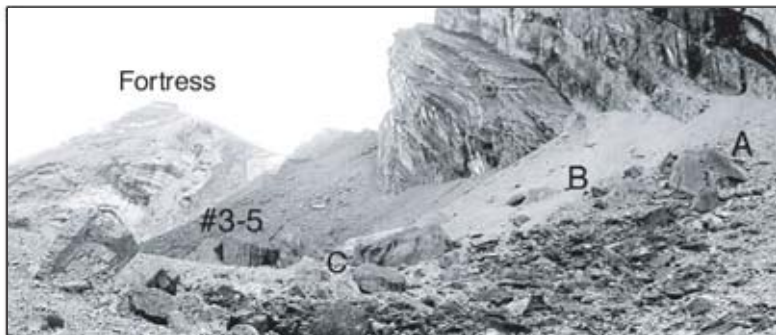
5- *Bubbles*(V1)from chimney traverse entire wall right along a up/down series of flakes, a tad eerie with no pad.

6- *Lilly Pad*(V0) farther up the valley is a dark round erratic with a mossy top. Traverse the thing first using top rail then moving lower on the harder north side- very fun endurance on excellent holds.

A - awesome unclimbed boulder which is saturated colors of red/yellow and has high potential but is for serious highballers only and may be generations before it sees any true ascent. Best lunch spot however.

B - unclimbed overhung mass with slabby east face on the fringe of the area best viewed when hiking towards the Lily Pad.

C - project: nice over-vert corner out of a hole on black rock with horizontal cuts



The Title Photo

Opening up the descent route on Earthen Stove Boulder - a cairn was later placed on the top

Enjoying the The Shed's nice moves



Bubbles



Spray Lake Boulders

There are 3 boulders along the Spray Lake Reservoir to explore if you are in the area camping, fishing or chillin'. Merman's Egg is hard to spot, sitting along a secluded part of the east shore one minute from the Smith-Dorrien Trail making it a nice place to have lunch. Named after an infamous Banff artifact kept in a glass box at a tourist shop, this polished 7ft egg rests with driftwood and stunning views of Nestor and all points beyond making a coffee-bouldering session a pleasant stop. Drive south on Smith-Dorrien Trail and about 1km past Spurling Creek park on the side. The opposite side of the road should be a landscaped hillside. Peer through a curtain of trees to spot the boulder and hike to it in less than a minute. The trees nicely obscure passers-bys from gawking. The Fishing Boulders visible on the opposite side of the lake are not worth the drive but are O.K. evening fun if you are camping at Spray Lakes West Campground. From the Smith-Dorrien Trail, drive across the 3 Sisters Dam at the north end of the lake. Take the road south through the campground for 5km to the locked gate and park in the designated lot. One boulder is down the road 50m overlooking the lake. For the other, take a trail from the car to the lake in 100m; it is in a peaceful spot with driftwood and a peninsula. It is a popular fishing hole so expect odd stares from the catch 'n release crowd. Rumour has it, some house-sized boulders can be found about 40 min. up the trail leading to Goat Glacier from the campground.



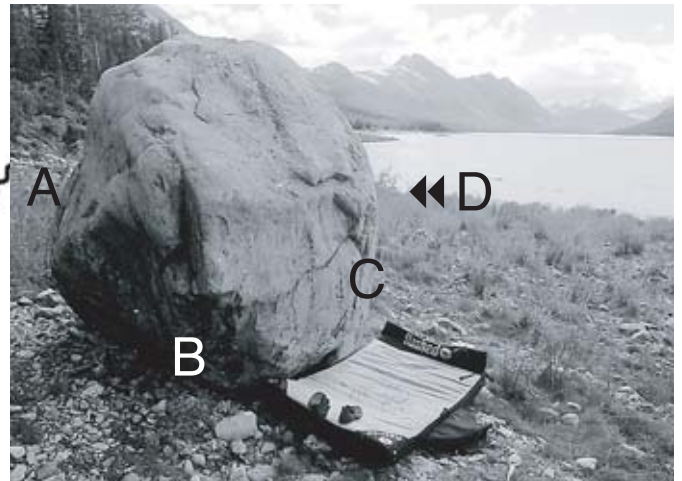
Fishing Boulder #1 -VB

50m on the road south of the parking lot. Start lakeside in trees and hand-rail out and around to the roadside on fun jugs.



Fishing Boulder #2 -V0 (pic at left)

100m from the car at water's edge. Sit-start up edge between the 2 stumps in photo, then go right. Sit-start up next edge left (SE-other side) and reach to jugs traversing left to easy slab.



Merman's Egg -V0-V3

- A -(VB) Up slab, sides out, using divots and seam; easy descent south
- B -(V3) Sit-start; bad feet low, hands on edges dyno to the 3rd/4th edges
- C -(V0) Go up face using shallow corners
- D -(VB) Go up depression facing the lake

Buller Boulder

The single Buller Boulder is on the far left side of the boulder slide which touches the Smith-Dorrien. Park in a big pull-out on the west side or along the road directly in front of the slope. Hike down onto the field and over left - 100m from the road. In the photo, it is the left boulder, the overhanging side being Buller's Day Off and is only about 6ft tall. *Those not familiar with the 1980s, this was a good/bad movie.



A - Buller Circle (V0) start near the back tree and traverse the entire rock, changing onto a lower ledge on the west side

B - Buller's Day Off (V0) Sit-start on west face, hard reach to a fin, grab one step then the flat top and up

Aid Abandonment, A4 Kanga

FA-J.Milburne, 1997

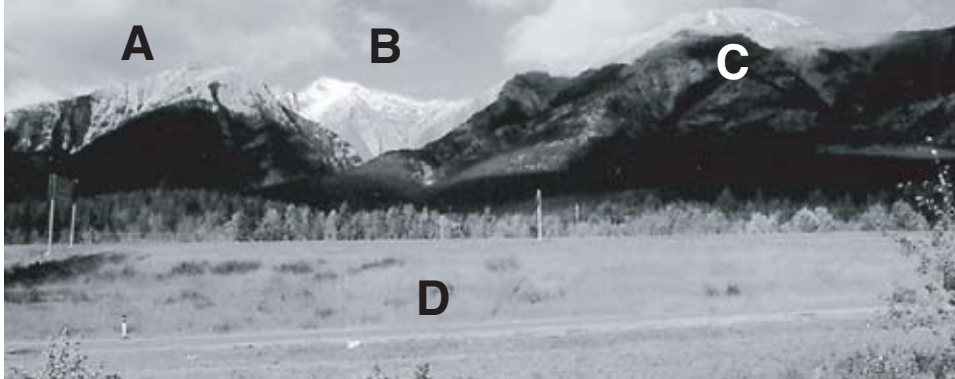
This unnamed aid route forces itself up a slabby wall right of the sport climb Superior Cackling Chickens and just left of a ugly left facing corner on Kanga Crag. Park at Whiteman Pond on the Smith-Dorrien and hike the trail to Kanga Crag in 10 minutes. Follow up along the wall to the sport route 'SCChickens.' Get cracking by aiding to the first of Milburne's bolts (freeclimbable). The rest are widely spaced up the dark grey slab for about 30m. Link each bolt using only an array of hooks, beaks; pins may help. The bolts just end somewhere below the roof so ascentionists should be prepared to continue up or set an anchor. The bolts were hand-drilled solo on lead. Milburne seems to be pursuing other interests leaving this Kanga artpiece up for auction.

Unnamed or the SE Summit of Charles Stewart or just some peak in Canmore

FA- Unknown

This mountain with apparently no name looms over the town of Canmore, when covered in snow, looks a little Himalayan. An easy peak to do in foul weather as no difficulties exist, yet care should be taken where all four ridges dramatically converge to a pinnacle the size of a kitchen table. As you get onto the bowl/face move over right to the humped ridge a few hundred meters up to avoid the really loose scree. Descend the bowl. Expect 4 hours from Canmore one way.

From Canmore, cross Hwy#1 and hike into the known sport venue of Stoneworks Canyon. Once in the pretty, tight, Stoneworks Canyon continue up the open valley. Access the peak's bowl via a gravel moraine on the left. Plod upward, then traverse right after a hump to get off the scree(descent) and onto a better ridge of rock easily visible from town. Follow it to the summit - an apex of four ridges. The summit is so small it is mostly a cairn. It was traversed over from Lady Mac to the Tit in the early 1980s. With snow on it, it kinda looks like Everest with Lady Mac dressed up as Lhotse and the Tit as Pumori -no? Maybe reading a little too deep into Canmore's landscape!



A- the Squaw's Tit

B- a mtn.? the one described above

C- Lady Macdonald

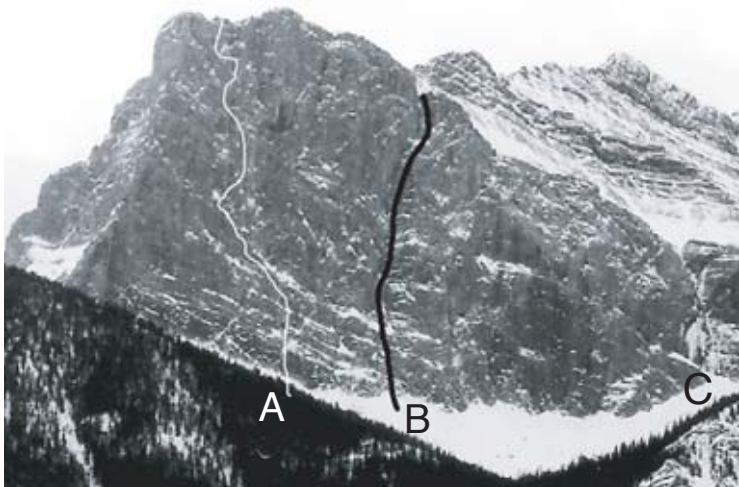
D- Trans-Canada and
the off-ramp leading
from the gas stations

Shining Path, 5.9 A2, 500+m (Ship's Prow)

FA - D.Marra and S.Elliot, summer 2001

It seems, no matter what climbing area you turn to in any country, there is a route named the Shining Path. In the first edition of the Underground Guide to Kananaskis 2004, there is The Shining Path on the Mt.Indefitigable slab, coincidentally also well over 500m. So, here is another one - the Bow Valley's! The Shining Path was a Peruvian terrorist group responsible for 20,000 deaths! This route was attempted years ago and left as a project. Still unclaimed, a different party gunned up to the base and had a go at this very obvious right-facing corner that seems to be perpetually running with water. Well, they succeeded; possibly the combined strengths of an alpinist and a sport climber. It did take them a long time however as they finished the last section in the dark with no torches.

The rock is said to be typical surrounding rock: good/bad/great/poor. The rack too is typical: many pins, no bolts, standard rack. There are a few different approaches, but the first ascensionists believe the el directo version up the drainage to be the best. It is a bit of a bushwack at first but opens higher up. To descend, take the easy scree slopes on the east side of the peak.



Climb up the main corner system passing the odd piece of fixed gear. More than half way up, the rock steepens and bad rock is had. Aid through this for a number of body lengths on dicey gear. Continue free climbing up until another short stretch of steep aid. Here, a huge rock finger protrudes out and back against the rock wall. Pass it, and move right then back into the corner. Continue up an out right until obvious steep, horrible rock is come upon. Go back left on slabs and multiple indistinct corners to the top. The last distance could be completed a number of ways.

A - 'Broadside': see other local guidebook

B - 'The Shining Path', 5.9 A2

C- Little Bobby Onsite ice route

Mt. MacGillvary 2450m

FA- unknown

Mt. MacGillvary is a dominant peak overlooking Heart Creek and the Trans-Canada Hwy. The true summit is actually further south but most associate the north peak as it. The obvious long craggy east ridge going to the main summit seen from the overpass needs an ascent. Park at Heart Creek and hike up to Waterfall Wall. To the left, take a beaten trail up high to a viewing lookout(trail to Heart Slabs). Pick yer way down the other side back to Heart Creek's valley. Follow up the above hillside and into the MacGillvary bowl. Find a easiest way over the cliffband and back south to the south ridge. Follow it up the south buttress to the summit - may be isolated 4/5th class moves here but mainly a scramble. The two big ridges to the south have not been climbed, leading to the true summit.



Cougar Creek Pulldowns

There are many small outcrops up Cougar Creek spread up to Canadian Forks that make good bouldering spots. Many have been climbed on for years making for clean walls. Below is a description to some of them. Another odd point of interest is the large, ugly right-facing corner up and left of the crag Buffalo Head. This was TR'd some time ago by G. Macrae and he said it was difficult especially going over the final roof.

It was also tried ground-up but if the very loose rock reported could be blown out, it may make a hard line but would take serious cleaning. If you continue still up and left of here, another forgotten, unnamed crag appears. This is mostly one big roof(photo) with some aged pitons driven in spots and can make for tricky practice aid but too could be transformed into something sporty given some time spent.



Park at Cougar Creek and hike for 10 minutes to the canyon entrance. The first bouldering outcrop can be found about 75m on the left just inside the trees on a flat area that seems to be perpetually in a high school party zone - please help clean up this silliness. The yellow rock is about 2.5m x 4m. Continue up the left side of the creek for 50m to a bulging crag. There are many good moves here on overhanging jugs. You will not find too many good top-outs at Cougar so downclimb or jump to the mat.

Hike the right forested trail between Made in the Shade cliff and Poolside cliff. In the nice forest here are 2-3 outcrops that make good places to burn out the muscles at the end of the day.

Where the trail emerges at Poolside, a grey rectangular boulder can be traversed on decent rock. The more crazy friend may try to make some problems outta the boulder jutting out of the moving creek directly in front of the Poolside crag.

Li'l Gaffer

Li'l Gaffer is a crag halfway to Grotto Slab on the left side of the creek. Hike up Grotto Creek past His/Hers Falls, past the hoodoo, past Armadillo Buttress, then the 10m high Li'l Gaffer sits opposite the valley/creekbed from a big, low angled slab. It is a deserted project from the mid-90s and the result is many 3" empty holes littering this solid chunk of rock. O.K. for bouldering(bring pad-creekbed landings) or for a TR'ing- there are hefty trees above but bring long slings. Just follow the holes up. Bouldering walk-offs or to set up a rope can be had on easy ledges to the right.

Glenfiddich - 5.7, 175m

FA- G.Smith, L.Heidt, C.Perry, D.Swan, May 1986

Glenfiddich is the only staked property on this scrappy cliff known as Whiskey Wall. It is the highest altitude you can achieve up Grotto Canyon; that combined with a good view, short approach and a SE exposure, makes it worthy of more attention. Avoid if you have spent considerable time at Lake Louise: it's good but a little dirty. The Glenfiddich line is the obvious left-facing corner near the middle of the wall and is partially visible from Hwy#1, however the corner does not touch earth so it starts further right at a smaller left-facing corner. For access: hike up Grotto Canyon, turn left at the waterfalls and continue through 'The Narrows' until the canyon ends and the valley opens. Hike a trail through short pines and forge up a west slope and trees to the brownish wall which is just before the cave-hoodoo formation. Descend south; a 30m rappel is required to get over a cliffband. Gear: TCU's, medium Friends, 1 set of nuts only, pink Tri-Cam and no pitons. Longer runner for pitch 4.

- 1.) Climb the corner, then traverse left along an obvious ledge to a small corner with a small tree. Go up the corner, then move left to a two-bolt belay- a fun pitch. Now remember, this is '86, so don't expect beefy Fixe Rings. (5.6, 35m)
- 2.) Climb a steep groove to gain the main corner and continue up this to a scoop on the left with a 2-bolt belay. (5.7, 40m)
- 3.) Climb the slabby left wall of the corner until the corner steepens and gets a bit looser. Go left and climb a rib, then, traverse right to a small tree and piton belay. You can now feel exposure and will enjoy whosoever choice it was to come here. Maybe....(5.6, 30m)
- 4.)Maybe, meaning this next pitch. Unique but a little unnerving, likely harder on second, a memorable crux. Move diagonally up and right, first over easy ground, then across a steep slabby break into the bottom of a blank corner(tree runner.) Step down smearing and traverse horizontally right across a foot ledge below a steep wall until it's possible to climb up on good holds into the bottom of another corner. Climb the corner and move out right to a difficult mantelshelf and a tree ledge. Once the second removes the tree runner, care is needed as the pro is sad potentially creating a small pendulum. It is possible to combine pitch 5 here with a 60m rope. (5.7, 40m)
- 5.) Climb the crest of the rib to the top. (5.5, 30m)

Bouldering North Lower Narrows

There's a good bouldering traverse at the entrance to The Narrows on the north side directly opposite the sport route 'Mighty Mite'. Start at its' lowest point and go left on some good jugs and bulging grey rock. Bring a pad or walk-off to the right near the start.

Grotto Mtn. SW Ridge

FA- unknown

The original scramble up Grotto with views of Cougar Creek. Park for Cougar Creek, just before the canyon entrance, cross the dry bed, and make a way up through trees straight up until a drop-off appears forming the SSW ridge. Follow this easily up until upper scree slopes and the deeply rutted and dusty ACC Trail.

Jubilee Tarns

Reported to be a memorable spot to hike to and relax. A local actually hauled his family up and spent a night on the island perch(not recommended!). Off Hwy#1 at Dead Man's Flats, take the ramp and drive south to the road's end near Alpine Resort Haven lodge. Hike up Centennial Ridge Trail west .5km then SE for 5km to base of Mt. Collembola. Hike west to Mt. Allan ridge and find a trail that heads into the low cirque. Continue up to the mini-lake. Some boulder problems may be had here?



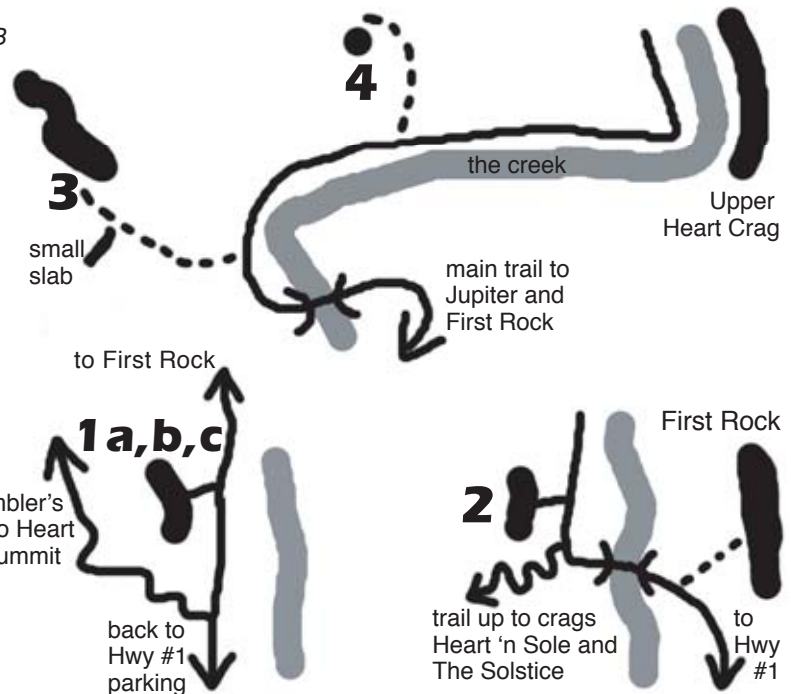
Heart Creek bouldering

Bouldering up Heart Creek is limited but since the access is so short it may be worthwhile to lug the pad outta the trunk. Routes 1a, 1b, 1c and 2 are exceptional problems and are only 10 feet off the main hiking trail. Route 3 is intimidating as it climbs a bonging flaked arete - furthermore, there is potential for two sport routes on this 15m high crag: one up the grey north slab, the other up a steep V-dihedral. Route 4's phallic demeanor is rather limp and plays hard to get- a bushwack.

#3-Huck the Fin -V1



#4-Phoner About My Boner -VB



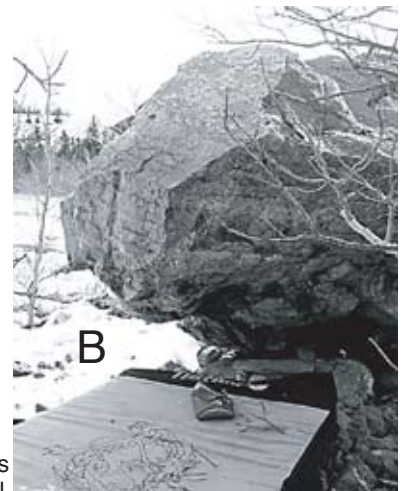
- #1a,b,c (V1-3) three sweet lines up overhanging jugs
- #2 (V0) beautiful moves up steep rock, walk off left
- #3 (V1)'Huck the Fin' up north cracked arete, both feet on ledge, pinch up to left rib, off left.
- #4 (VB)'Phoner about my Boner' from saddle, follow seam, sides out. Downclimb crumbly east side.

Scrambler's Trail to Heart Mtn.summit

The Campfire Ring

Nexy stop Regina? Need to pee before letting the Front Ranges fade in the rear view mirror? Make one last *ditch* effort to flex. The Campfire Ring, a micro area can be seen from the Trans-Canada and is 50m from the east-bound lane. Drive east on Hwy#1 and once the McConnell Face appears start slowing down. After a significant dip in the topography, pull off into the ditch where the grouping of grey boulders can be seen sitting on the edge of the ravine.

A-(VB)SS from left ledge, fling up edge. Up the center and right side from SS would be good.
 B-Skywalker vs. the ATAT(V3/4)worth the stop! Good luck on the flash ascent if your shaped like Don Whillians. SS, hands on big pulls, left foot level with head(knee in mouth), smear R.foot, super dyno to top jug! Luke was so stoked after lots of tries, overcome with slaying it, he fell off the flat top backwards and into the aspens, breakin the fall.



Heart Lakeview Slabs

Routes by Josee Larochelle, Leslie Nicholls, Stewart Midwinter, July 2001

Heart's Lakeview Slabs are an alternative to work the slabs alone. There are presently two TR'ing routes up the slab's center, both using the same anchor - a chopped off pine.

Park at Heart Creek Trail parking lot and walk to the first bridge. 10m after it, turn right, bushwack up left side of a narrow V creek drainage. Climb 120m from the main trail.

Scramble up the lower left side of the slab and put a long sling (5m is best - slab top is rounded) on the nearest tree.

'Ripped Green Pants', 5.9, the left side goes up a lower water-smoothed section and 2nd half climbs a blank crux section. Pockets near the top.

'We must We must!', 5.9, the right side, also in 2 sections joined to the steep upper blank section.



Dotted line is approximate way to get to Lakeview Slabs, with Heart Mtn. behind.



Leslie Nicholls starts up Ripped Green Pants

WINDTOWER LOOP

This is a superb jaunt that circum-navigates the entire Windtower and the reward is summitting after passing under one of the craziest walls in the Bow Valley making a lasting impression of what this peak stands for which you may not get from simply hiking up the west slopes (the descent).

Park in a small pull-out on the right side of the Smith-Dorrien next to the lake. Cross the road and hike up a beaten trail up the left side of Spurling Creek to West Wind Pass in about one hour. Take time to relax on the idyllic green terraced fields then go left (north) and find one of two animal trails that pop over the ledges and downclimb easy but loose vegetated ground to a large ledge that hikes out toward the Windtower. slowly make your way across this scree flank and when it ends follow a trail under the dark, scary north face that dips down (where the Homer-Wood route starts) then slogs back up again forever.

The trail aims for a funny rock pinky jutting out of the horizon, passes it and levels out thankfully into the SE bowl. The trail comes and goes so head up and right to the back of the bowl. Early in the season there is a good spring for filling the water bottle and makes a good place to endure the expanse of the SE face. Keep hiking to the top of the scree then move out right onto nice stepped ledges. On a good blocky rock, surmount a short exposed spot

that eventually puts you on the west slopes. The hike to the summit is short. The summit of the Windtower is no place for error or goofing about as the earth comes to a sudden stop with 500m of air to the scree. We lay down (be very cautious, more-so in bad weather), and inched forward to peer over the maw. To descend, hike down the west face, find the easiest way down a short crumbling wall then follow a trail to the West Wind Pass, a wonderfully terraced rest-stop. Once rejuvenated, hike back to Smith-Dorrien Trail.



McGillvary Canyoneering

At any time of the year, albeit much more adventurous in winter, this exercise in canyoneering makes up for a potentially ruined day be it the weather or sapped energy to climb. It is a few kms of never-scary but tricky maneuvers up man-made fallen logs, ladders and fixed ropes lines all in a beautifully tight, sculpted and mossy canyon. At the end is a traveller's journal found hung under the overhang of a cliff in a old rusted can. Walk further up to the abandoned bolted University Wall, and then to a cool car-sized chockstone fallen between cliffs which marks the end of the fun. A disjointed long ice flow has formed about another two kms from here and can be scoped from Grotto Canyon. From Dead Man's Flats, drive east on Hwy#1 and watch for a pull-off into a unnamed parking lot. Hike south down a shaggy road for a few hundred meters. At a tall wall of pine trees, turn right and go west for a bit. Look for a logged path into the wall of pines and follow it south to the canyon entrance, enter....



Central Groove, 105m 5.8

FA - C.Perry and J.Martin, 1976

Gear?= pins, med.cams, hexes, Tri-cams, some nuts

This enjoyable route is not as popular as the left side of Crag X and will slowly be forgotten about but the rock and climbing is good. Park along Hwy#1A 1/4km east of Gap Lake picnic area where the train tracks cross the road. Walk down a road for a few hundred meters and go left onto a flagged trail passing a crazy barking dog kennel and go past the north side of the fence. Go through trees further and go up a scree slope when your in the middle of Crag X. It starts in a big corner system with an obvious V-notch. Look for an orange piton part way up.

- 1.) Climb up into the corner and to a ledge, then left to a bolt belay.(5.7, 25m)
- 2.) At the left end of the ledge, climb a corner (pin), go up and right across a tricky slab(pins) and traverse into the corner(a relief!) pop in some good gear, and go up to the broken ledges and construct a belay.(5.8, 25m)
- 3.) Climb groove above to a big ledge with a tree.(25m, 5.5)
- 4.) A funky bouldery move up a blank black-streaked wall(hard pro)gets ya into a system which is followed to the forest. Tree belay. (30m, 5.7+)



Entering the corner on the first pitch.



Line of route is approx.



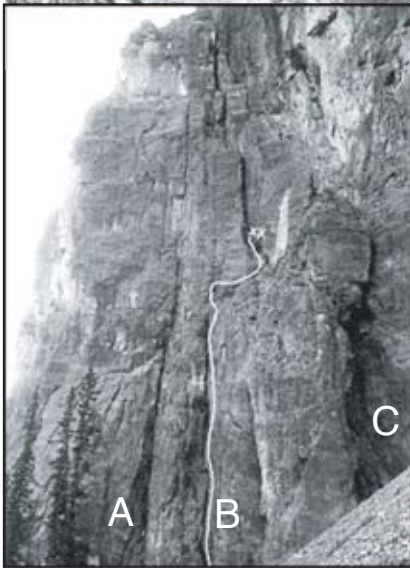
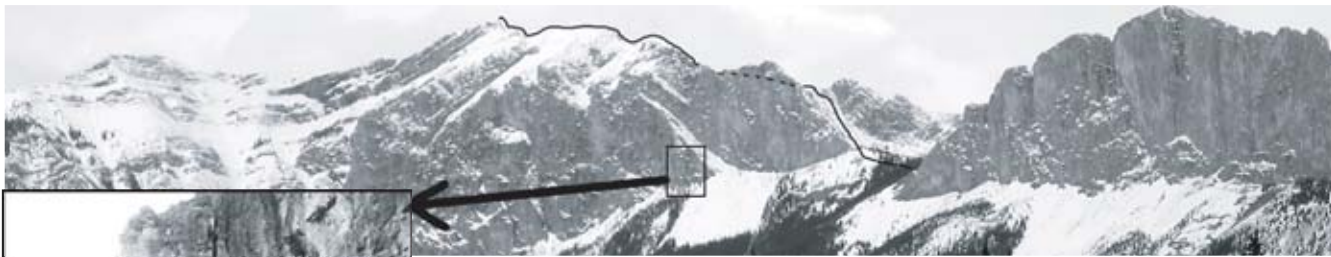
Cruxy move above the third belay ledge.

Goat Mtn. 2405m

FA- Unknown

Described here is the fastest way up and down Goat Mtn., a very nice hard scramble up to an impressive summit. The long ridge starting from Hwy.#1A which includes Door Jamb Mtn., Loder Peak and eventually Goat Mtn is also a popular ascent/descent but will add a considerable amount of time to the day going up and down the undulating ridgeline and with snow may make it unsafe. Therefore, even with snow, this is still the best bet to summit. An ice axe is recommended as some of the route is not seen from the road, faces north and may have snow depending on the month. Some parties may also want to take a rope and some gear as the route does have minimal fixed pins/bolts. The route has a huge range from fun scrambling to unnerving downclimbs, strolls to short walls, some slabs, some short juggy walls. The views are superb - it is a classic Front Range summit.

Park at Yamnuska. Hike up the new trail to the where it exits below Grillmair Chimneys on Yam. Hike left to the western col of Yam. Walk through the woods to the high yellow subsidiary buttress of Goat. Continue behind it right to a easier angled broken-stepped wall. This is the first leg and the condition of it can be seen from the Trans-Canada. Variations to the top of this step exist and is hard to say which is best-right, middle or left side, but it is generally similiar. Weave a path up here, (a few hundred meters) on fun rubblely rock! Go left up the ridge. At one point, a drop- down on the north side must be taken then the ridge regained above a ugly tumble if fallen. Continue up the ridge which broadens out huge in spots and is a walk. At one point a short slabby wall (fixed gear) has to be climbed on thin holds. Continue up the ridge where a easy, fun and juggy band is surmounted to reach the open summit. The fasted descent is described here and either plant one car at Jura Creek or walk back to Yamnuska! From the summit plateau, peer over the west side into Jura Creek below. Find a open, steep scree slope that drops down. Be warned it may not be totally accurate so make sure it is right before making a running-ski descent. The correct scree slope has no noteworthy obstacles and is navigated to Jura Creek with the usual deeking right and left in spots. However a good landmark to shoot for is if the scree run exits left of a small 100+m high prowed tower jutting from Jura Creek with trees below its' yellow NE face. Hike into a jumbled outwash left of the prowed tower and eventually to the open cobbled valley of Jura. Turn left and walk out south for a few kilometers below the towering west side of Loader which comes out to the Hwy. 1A.



Spelunker's Door 5.8 A1 or 5.10a, 50m

FA- G.Cornell and T.Devonshire, Aug.2000

Bring a headlamp if the climb tempts one to see if this could actually be anything of a cave system for Goat. The route is very obvious from the west col of Yam as a deep crack directly above the blatant square scree slope which can be seen from Hwy #1 (and Calgary!) Hike up to the west col of Yam, take an undulating animal trail in the woods to the yellow wall of Goat. Hug the cliff, clamber around a tree and keep along the cliff until you reach the deep grey gash. This wall has been tried (hangerless bolts) and the gash makes a fun TR from a slung chockstone. Walk down and around to start the route in a open book corner. A few more crack lines need an ascent like the sweet one left (#A) on this detached part of Goat Wall dubbed Sundingo Tower. Climb the steep juggy corner to a small ledge. Either aid up the wall on a bolt and 2 rivets or crank over the wobbly flake(10a). Continue up and left(bolt) to the big ledge and carefully traverse right to the cave door and 2 bolt rap belay. Any further development here will likely need the odd bolt as the cracks are a little wider than most peoples gear in these parts.

A - nice, unclimbed 2 pitch continuous sweet crack with the second going over a roof

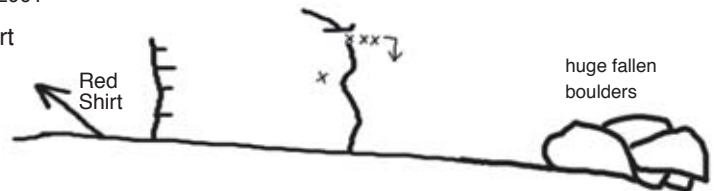
B - Spelunker's Door; 2-3 more potential crack pitches above for new routing

C - TR problem in dark slot; need 2 bolt hangers to reach fixed sling, back up with 5-6" cam or go up

In the Spirit of the Toque, A2, 20ft., Yamnuska

FA- G.Cornell, Oct.30, 2001

A short but vertical bulging micro seam on white rock 50m right of Red Shirt next to Excalibur. The crack is good but the surrounding rock is flakey and chips easily and is meant to stay a practice aid line. For gear take RP's, micronuts, Tri-Cams, and some gear to 2", but no pitoning. Aid the seam over a bulge, pass a rivet, to a 2-bolt and piton belay. This route may have become a ghost, thus, more obscure when climbers find it a million years from now.



New Dawn, A1+ 20m

FA- G.Cornell, June 2003

An awesome splitter crack(for the CMC Valley). Hike over Yamnuska and drop into the CMC Valley. Hike up to The Runes, then take a good trail under Frodo Buttress. The line is above the trail on a detachd white wall under the route Kazak. Take gear up to 2". To make it worth the hike, make a sit-start just right under a tiny roof, go past a piton and aid or freeclimb up the straight crack. The crux is moving through the upper section of the crack. Move right and back left to a 2-bolt belay. Rap the route.

Cute Crack, 5.5

FA- unknown

Very obvious when hiking off the south routes of Bilbo Buttress in the CMC Valley. Seen as a short steep crack just across the valley in trees. Drop down to where scree slope ends in trees, cross up to the sweet but stumpy hand crack. Solo it or toss in gear. About 10m high on excellent stone. Belay from tree or walk the rope down the right slope back to the bottom and use a natural earth bollard as a belay(not good on the rope). Still lots to explore up in the Descent Gully of Bilbo.

Coire Dubh Area Sport Routes

This is a multi-pitch venue on the right side of Nanny Goat Buttress just left of the winter route Coire Dubh. There are 2 routes that start a short distance apart and join just below a large ledge at half height on the buttress. These routes are fully bolted and no gear is required. They may be rappelled with a single 60m rope.

Approach: park as per Kid Goat and walk in. Stay low in the valley until below the big drainage between Nanny and higher Goat Slabs. Hike up the drainage on trails at first then on rock slabs until the waterfall. Angle up left about 40m until a dead tree. "The Bell Route" climbs up from here and "Less Art!More Pop" starts about 15m left. The approach should take about 45 minutes.

"Less Art!More Pop!" 3 pitches, 5.11b (or 5.10b with 3 points of aid)

FA(ground up) Keith Haberl, Brian Spear, Spring 2004. Additional bolts added by Brian Spear and Aaron Sheldon on 2nd ascent.

A fun romp on excellent stone. The hanging slab on the second pitch is very exciting. The first pitch has an intimidating headwall but by pulling on three draws in a row, the grade stays at 5.10b.

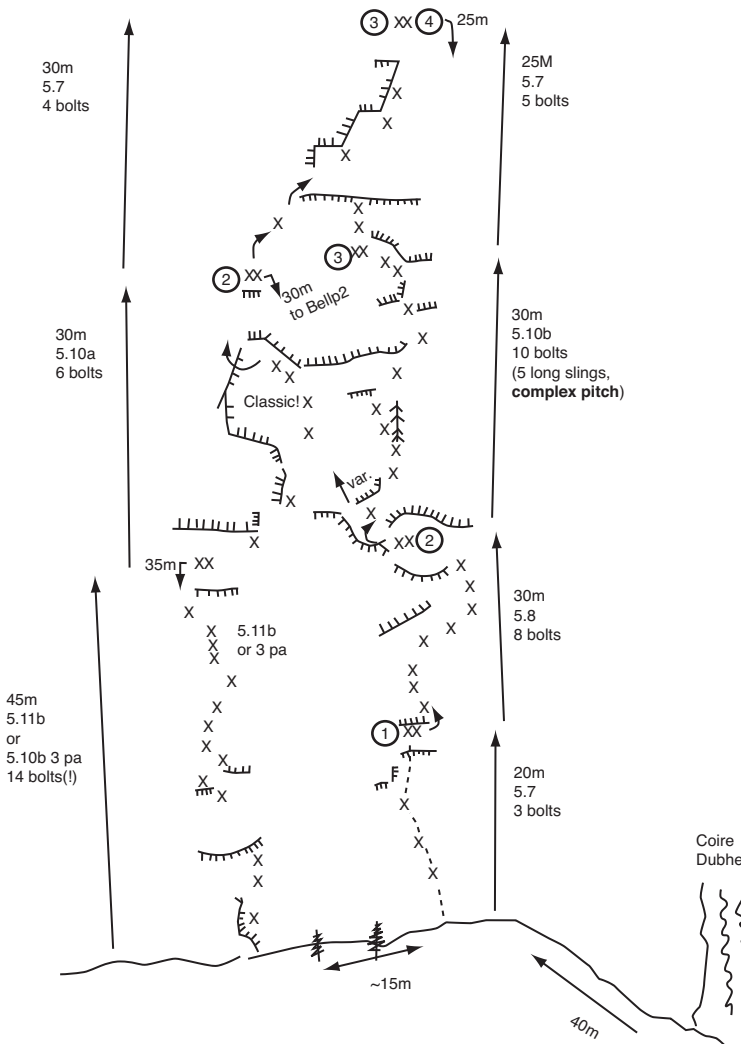
- 1.) 45m, 11b or 10b A0. Climb up onto a shattered pillar then past a few bolts to a large scooped ledge. Pass the overhang above(bolt) to a good stance. Delicate 5.10 climbing weaves through waves of rock to a ledge by a yellow streak. Continue up and left to a steep headwall. Climb this (11b) or pull on bolts to final wall. Belay on a ledge below a massive overhang.
 - 2.) 30m, 10a. Traverse right under the overhangs and up into a easy corner. Climb up easily to below a massive overhang with a hanging slab on the left. Don't worry, it's only 10a. Beautiful climbing below the overhang past 2 bolts leads to a dramatic escape left and up to the belay. If this is your high point a 30m rappel diagonal right leads to the top of pitch two of 'The Bell Route.'
 - 3.) 30m, 5.7. Angle up and right on easy ground to join the final pitch of 'The Bell Route'. Anticlimatic but O.K.
- DESCEND: as per 'The Bell Route' 3-4 rappels on a single 60m rope.

"The Bell Route" 4 pitches, 5.10b

FA (ground up, two bolts only) Brent Raymond, Brian Spear, Spring 2003 Rap bolted by Brent Raymond, Brian Spear, David Begg

A mostly easy climb with a serious and complex pitch that can be avoided by escaping to the middle of pitch 2 of 'Less':lowers grade to 10a.

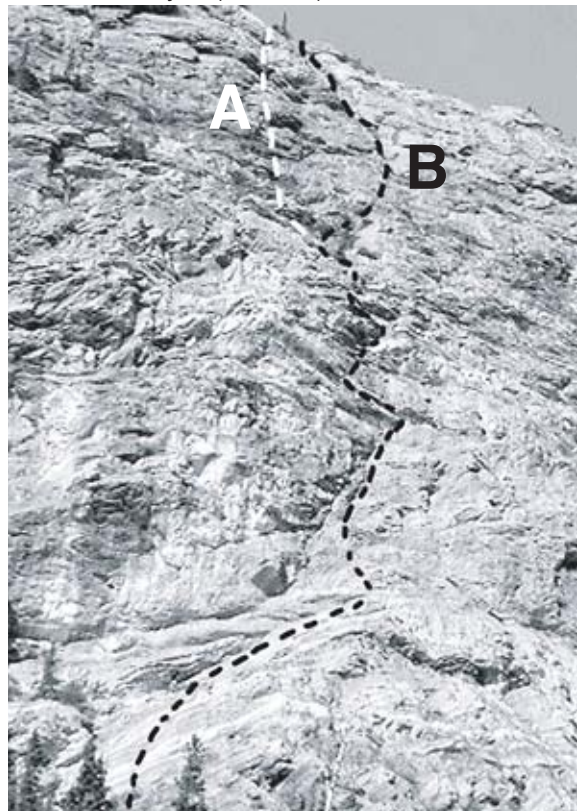
- 1.) 20, 5.7. Climb nice though rough rock past a small overhang to a ledge.
 - 2.) 30m, 5.8. Pass an overlap on the right and climb a slab that steepens. Traverse easily right then up to a ledge. Belay in sheltered alcove.
 - 3.) 30m, 5.10b. Pass the overhang on the left and climb easily to a steep corner. Climb the left wall with strenuous moves between good holds to a small ledge below a massive overhang. Tip-toe right to pass the overhangs then up to a steep wall. Climb this with difficulty to the top and a belay on the left. A complex pitch with potential rope drag and some loose rock. VARIATION: from the belay angle up and left to join the hanging slab of 'Less Art!'. Call this route 'Bellissima.'
 - 4.) 25m, 5.7. Climb past 2 bolts to a good ledge. Climb the right leaning corner to a final belay below massive terraces.
- DESCEND: 4 station to station rappels on a single 60m rope.



Empty Flask, 5.8 (Chocolate Frog Var. on Goat Mtn)

FA- S.Midwinter and L.Nicholls, July 2002

Not much is known about this 3-pitch variation but basically it starts out of the pitch 5 alcove on Chocolate Frog and goes straight up to the top with 5.8 as the crux. This makes for a better finish if everything is going good. Also, there is a bolt at the top of P1 that can be used to belay off(off-route).

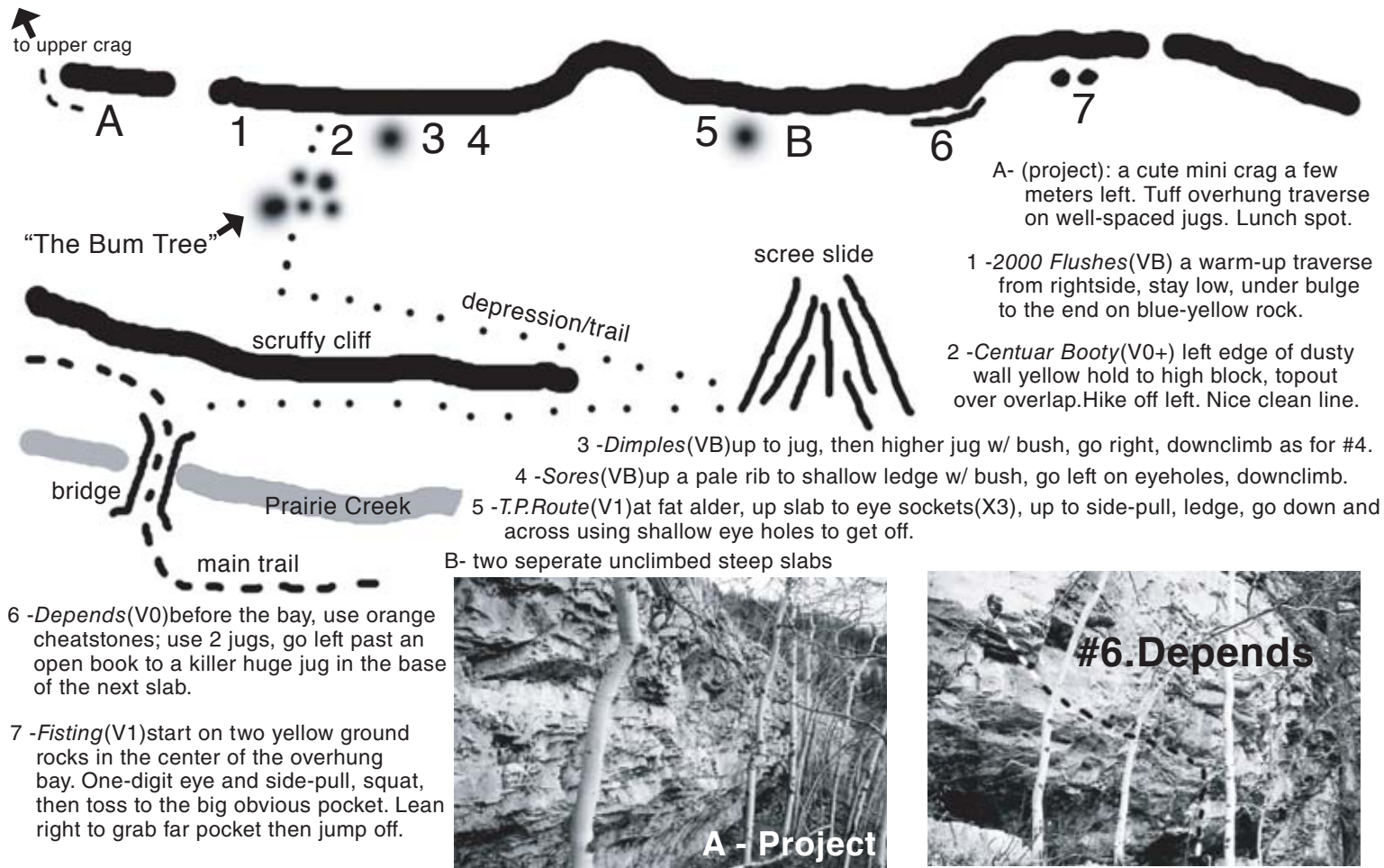


A-Empty Flask(5.8) var. to Chocolate Frog

B-original Chocolate Frog line (5.7)

the bum tree

This crag is situated up Prairie Creek, is hard to see from the road and totally obscured from the main trail thanks to a sea of arching alders. Facing south like the White Buddha, but is only a ten minute approach from the road. The rock is pocketed slab or overhanging jugs, the scope is limited yet there is still some unclimbed lines. However, the upper crag's (7min. uphill) leftmost end has some possible highballs on good rock. From the highway, hike up Prairie Creek to the first bridge. Cross it and go back east along a scruffy cliff. Before a slide, hook back up north on a trail-like depression and follow it to the horizon where it fades out. Scramble up towards a group of pine trees in the alder forest; the left one has a curious deformation which named the crag above-seconds away. Opening up new lines will involve a little dusting, but choss is very minimal. Also a path along the crag's base would be minimal but needed work. Landings are good but a pad is good too.



culvert Crag



Surprisingly, this hard little gym never had any signs of previous bouldering since it's only 30m from the road. Park as for Prairie Creek Trail and hike down the east side of the creek from the culvert. The problems are on clean yellow rock, but the rest is bad mossy crap. A fast pump.

- 1 - (V0) start near the middle-right end and traverse low using a horizontal finger crack. Reach to important low pocket and nice reach to far jug.
- 2 - (project) right of cheaters, over lip to good jugs in orange, stand, reach...?
- 3 - (V1) stand on the two cheater rocks (use pad!) good start jugs, get above lip, launch to high jug left of loose flat flake, awkward traverse off left.

Forgot-the-Winter-Gate-is-Closed-Boulders

On descending down the hill to the Elbow Falls winter gate on Hwy#66, two eggy smooth boulders can be seen 20m in the ditch on the south side. A few blockading boulders along #66, but these are the tallest, about 7ft and may not be seen if you drive too fast. Makes for a good end of day pump to add just another outdoor activity to the roster too if the weather starts to turn and you don't feel fully done with K-Country for the day. Go check 'em out, you may be surprised about the two problems that exist. Furthermore, they are kinda sheltered from passerbys driving the road. A pad is a must or expect tailbone problems.

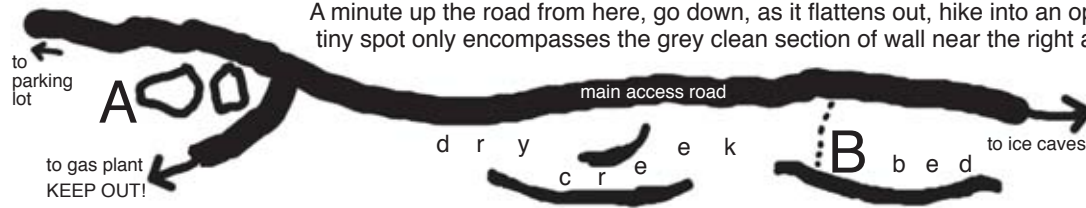
Right Boulder(V0)- SS on the backside and from O.K. holds stretch up to a high left ledge, get up and circle the boulder.

Left Boulder(V1)- SS on the backside. Find O.K. holds, legs crammed into chest!, reach high, mantel, stand and circle the boulder.

Canyon Creek North

Most of the Canyon Creek outcrops have a low band of chossy rock making close-to-the-road bouldering very limited in scope. However, here are the closest stuff in the area: park at Canyon Creek. Bike the road (with a pad) for only 12-15 minutes. Pass two boulders at the turn-off to the gas plant which sit on a knoll 15ft. above the road and can be played on so long as you can deflect embarrassment from passing workers.

A minute up the road from here, go down, as it flattens out, hike into an open field 50m into the dry creekbed. This tiny spot only encompasses the grey clean section of wall near the right avoiding the yellow choss to the left. Five



problems have been done near the four eye sockets (jugs) and trying to get from one corner to the next. One of the best is traversing around the far right arete on a set of crimps. Don't climb above the lower band of rock as it is very loose. A good pump! And for forgotten roped lines there's a 40m defined left-facing corner with top anchors around the bend north of the Dust Bowl crag; a miny sport crag across the valley from Dust Bowl in the chasm; and the mega obscure aid line above the road across from Larry Ostrander's Memorial Plaque.

- A - silly fun on two boulders that sit next to the gas plant turn-off
- B - wall with about 5 problems 50m from the road, bring a pad

Canyon Creek South

Only one humorous problem can be done here but is simply something to do to get outta the car for a stretch however big, unclimbed, highball lines are close by...

A spread of small reddy rocks can be seen to the SE from the road (#66) as it dips down at the turn-off to Canyon Creek. Either park at the south lot next to the river or in the ditch across from a ugly roadcut. Dodge the cow poop 50m from the road to one 4ft rock with an overhang. Sit under the lip and reach up for a jug and then a higher one. Exit over left is easy and right is a gravel, but solid and a fun huff. To find those big FA's, walk south on a grassy hill and follow a path down 100m to the river's edge. Across the sharp river bend is a obvious jumble of red boulders that had fallen from the above cliff. A pad would be a must. There are about 5 significantly large faces and the rock is likely like the 4ft rock near the road. The main challenge is finding the perfect time of year to cross the river - it's only about 15m across but is deep in spots, however a summer attempt may be the bomb. The arrowheaded slab looks unbelievable as does the one plopped in the river. Someone go git on this place!

Ghost Lake Skate Day Off

WARNING! only for off days in the middle of winter! Be sure ice is 100% frozen thick: some reassuring signs are ice fishing huts, vehicle tracks, or people. Makes for a different outdoor activity and the distant view of the Front Range is taunting. From Hwy#1A park at the Ghost Lake Boat Launch and either skate down the lake west or go across in 1.5 km. Be wary when snow blankets the surface and expect creaking noises. Carry any necessary precautions. Use at own risk!



Allen Bill Pond Picinic Boulders

Wanna show-off to grandma what you crazy climbers are all about? She can walk Fluffy around the right side of the lake over to the 2 boulders situated near picnic tables. Easily seen from the right end of the parking lot. In winter, access is less than a minute as the pond is frozen over and used for skating. But granny may not be too thrilled as it's much trickier than first glances. Good hands but horrible, slippery footing all performed in super-tuck position. A participation badge for those who get a 1/4 way around! From Hwy#66, park at the popular Allen Bill Pond.

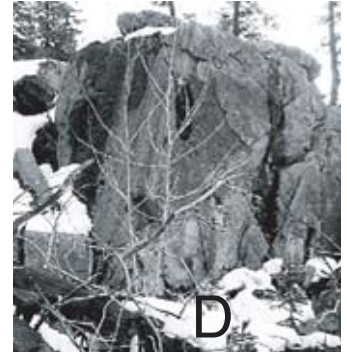
Williams Coulee Boulder

The cusp of the mountains many climbers may not know about, the Porcupine Hills. The Williams Coulee Boulder can have only 3 problems but is only 5m from the car on a quiet road. Don't land on the dead animal carcasses! From K-Country, drive to Longview. Go 39km south to Chain Lakes. Go east on Hwy#533 for about 25km and at a 90 degree bend in the road, turn off left onto a rougher road and follow it for about 1.5km- you will see a band of sandstone running NW. The boulder is in the south ditch. About 6 boulders have broken from the outcrop but are on private property. Camping in the brambles of Chain Lakes Park may be something different from pines.

A great drive past erratics and a hillside rockwall overlooks as you drive south on Hwy#527 (all on private property). A bridge across an expansive creek has a bluff of rock outcropping to the north- may be accessed via a scenic lookout. Willow Creek Provincial Park is such a pretty oasis for the prairies with different views mountains as your backdrop. From Williams Coulee Boulder, go east on Hwy#533 to Nanton. Drive to Stavely and go west on Hwy#527 following signs for the park which appears after about 15kms. The campground is tucked nicely in a coulee where the creek makes a calm bend allowing for swimming. A band of sandstone across the beach may taunt the bored boulderer into some barefoot crankin. This outcrop is below the main road in and can be seen from the park entrance sign.

Big Choss-Yamnuska

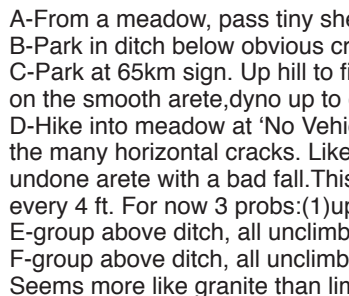
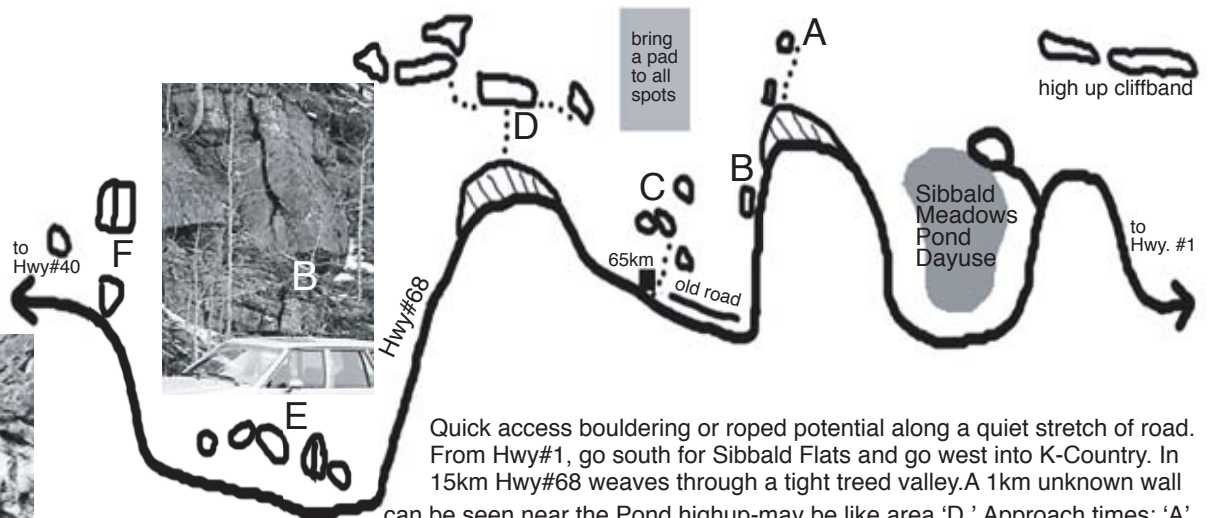
No first ascents are being proclaimed here, said that, the proceeding problems did not appear climbed on previously, but, to stick with tradition, who cares! Approach as for Big Choss. Besides the barbed wire fence boulder, the others are down and just west of the Team Work Boulder.



A- (VB) this has got a freshly cleaned traverse off to add bit more to this short warm-up crack. Hike past the Fairy Boulder west and about 15m after hopping over the barbed wire fence, take a animal track down to it. Climb the diagonal crack and either topout or traverse off right.
 B- (VB) like 3m down from Team Work Boulder. SS and go right under the roof, reach jugs off left.
 C- (V1) walk 5m west of 'B'. Using a hidden pull in white rock left of center, crouch with the fallen blocks, reach to grey crimp and up to the big jugs. Very enjoyable with a pleasing topout.
 D- (V0) hike down from 'C' and go 30m west into the woods. You should be 25m directly below the Guano Cone. Scamper over some fallen debris. SS at the nose and take it up to a half-moon jug then up.
 E- (V4) 'You Washed My Klan Hat with the Colors'- there! how's that for not naming routes 'evil or scary'! You can find this north facing blank slate by hiking 10m down from 'C': SS using tiny triangular step on the right. Reach up the right corner, and make a hard reach across the blankness using a midway pinch-sloper, smearing the face with feet, to the left juggy corner. Use both sides to do the scary topout. Niiiiice!



The Sibbald Corners



Quick access bouldering or roped potential along a quiet stretch of road. From Hwy#1, go south for Sibbald Flats and go west into K-Country. In 15km Hwy#68 weaves through a tight treed valley. A 1km unknown wall can be seen near the Pond highup-may be like area 'D.' Approach times: 'A' is 2min.; 'B' is 30sec.; 'C' is 1min.; 'D' is 5-10min.; 'E/F' are both within 25sec.

A-From a meadow, pass tiny shelf, into woods 100m. Go over left overhang just right of crack and up. Center could be done. Fun, flat spot. V0
 B-Park in ditch below obvious crack. SS in cutaway, up arete, left to crack, layback it to finishing mantel move. Off left. Fun entertainment. V0+
 C-Park at 65km sign. Up hill to first rock(50m). SS off flake, dyno up. Second rock is 10m behind: an improbable smooth face with cave. Hands on the smooth arete, dyno up to good top rail and off. Third rock: go up 15m to flat wall behind tree. Only right arete done from SS, face undone.
 D-Hike into meadow at 'No Vehicles' sign and up scree to wall with big roof. Scruffy, but gear lines could go up clean sections, need cams for the many horizontal cracks. Like the other rock along Sibbald it seems much harder than limey and very blocky? Sidehill right to see an undone arete with a bad fall. This crop may be an example of the long cliff east of Sibbald Pond and finally a cliff that wouldn't have a route every 4 ft. For now 3 probs: (1) up bulge, traverse slanting break (2) up steep jugs to grey hump, off right (3) right of B, over dark overlap, poor.
 E-group above ditch, all unclimbed: obvious awkward fist crack; large boulder with cobbly overhang; potential up the forest?
 F-group above ditch, all unclimbed but tried: cobbly 'hang in ditch'; 20m up is the amazing 15ft. crack, bomber with pinchers plus armbars! Seems more like granite than limestone. Unlikely for many to go up and flash this crack. Excellent end-of-day topper.

Mystery Cochrane Boulder

Unless someone knows otherwise, this boulder on the east side of Cochrane is likely impossible to access as the Gleneagles Golf Course sits above it and railway property sits below it. It is included simply to acknowledge its existence. Best seen through binoculars from a spot near the east end of Railway Avenue in Cochrane. It sits on a hillside past a clay shelf 100+m above the railway tracks.

Did you know: Dry, loose sand has an average density of 1442 kg/m³?
ARENOLGY 101

Bearspaw Crag

Just TRY to leave town. 4.5 kilometres past the Stoney Trail intersection (which is kinda-sorta the west edge of Calgary at the moment) out the Trans Canada Highway, take the exit at the Old Banff Coach Road overpass and turn north. Shortly, after 600 metres, turn left at the T - intersection with Township Road 250, and 250 metres further turn right onto Calling Horse Drive. Pull off and park in the ditch maybe 100 m up, where there is a break in the fence allowing access to the grassy hillsides to the east. Walk across the hillsides above the creek toward the NE. Find the overlook to the Bearspaw Reservoir under some power lines and descend a track toward the creek. Cut back right to the rock. Twenty minutes should do it. You can also drop into the drainage earlier (swampy, prickles, but it will go, too), or split the difference and sidehill between the two routes. There are many paths, as this is a popular walking area. You will find the climbing on heavily eroded sandstone outcrops that face generally east. [UTM 11 U 0690068 / 5664224] These run intermittently for several hundred metres back upstream (south) from where the path drops around their north end above the reservoir.

The best (the most used) bouldering is a clean, relatively solid outcrop with flat, prepared landings just where the path meets the line of cliffs. The further south you venture beneath the scarp, the dirtier, and in some ways the more interesting, the climbing gets. The rock is soft as shortbread and forms into wild overhangs and huecos. Cliffs can reach 15 metres in height. How do you deal with this stuff? You will discover that the medium is in a constant state of erosive change. Although most lines were explored and climbed on top rope 30 years ago (vintage topos suggest a unique "B" grading system), you will likely find any route needs re-cleaning before every ascent to clear the layer of loose particles that seems to form each season. Don't even try to drill bolts (check the torn out holes under the "B. Harris" overhang). And I would wager a well-placed cam in one of the many attractive cracks could conceivably wedge apart the whole formation. Before it collapsed, this was the location of the incredible roof problem "Stark Reality". If this off-hands monster, dead horizontal for 30 feet just 3 to 5 feet above the ground still stood, pilgrims would be traveling from Bishop to try their hand. Possibly the best attitude would be to assay some variant of Pfaffenstein style, eschewing hard-assed North American techniques in exchange for bare feet, jammed knots, and no chalk. In the early days at Bearspaw, anchors for top ropes were fabricated from rebar hammered into the dirt above the cliffs. Few of these installations remain today, but the tactic should still work fine – tuck a post maul and some big stakes in with your bouldering pad.

Panorama Hills

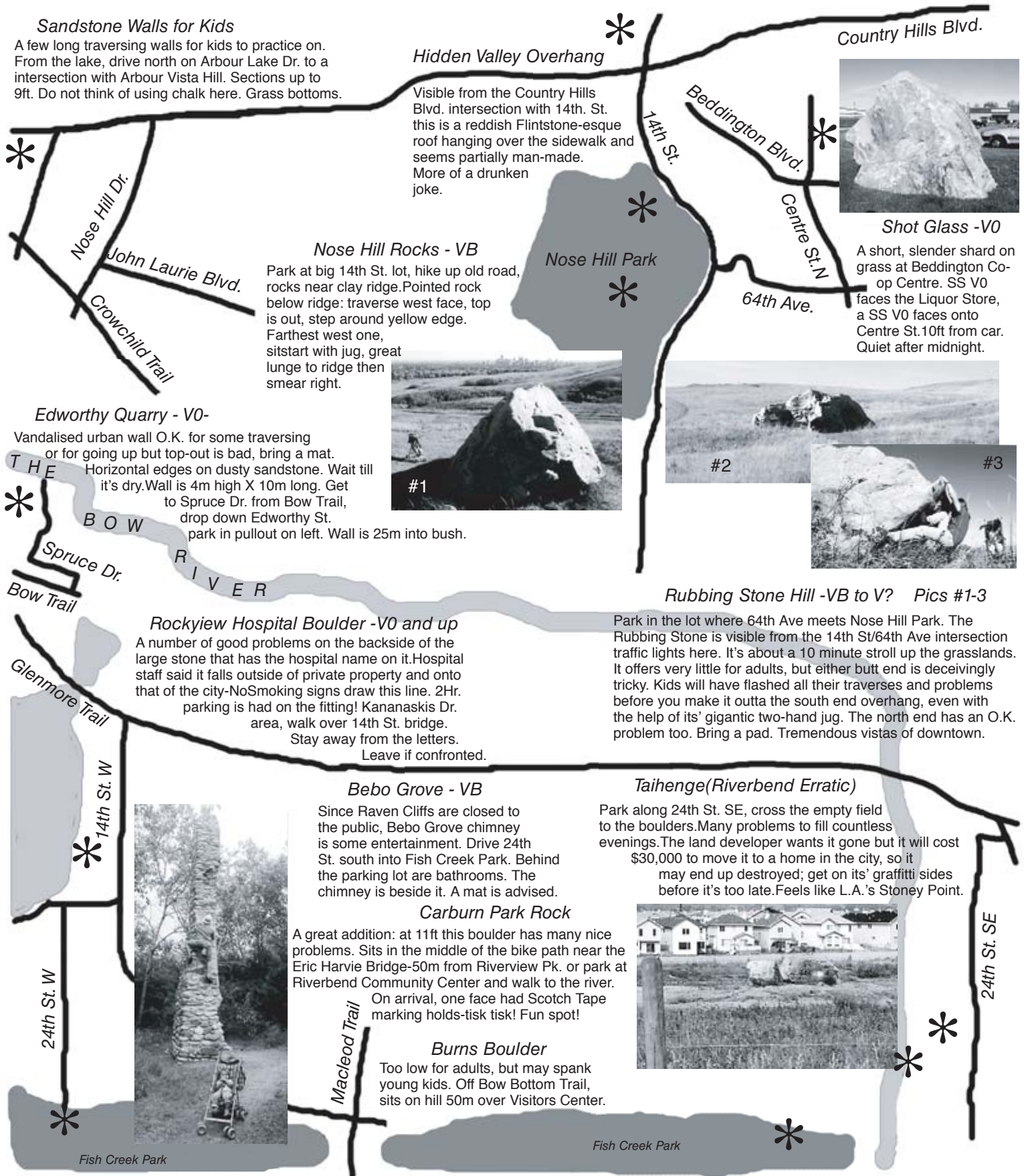
Like Bearspaw sandstone, each visit will seem like a FA, and it's hard to tell if any outcrops have been done before. But act responsible here as it is a sensitive area. A few points to think about: stay on the rutted paths and don't cut across grassland; this is a highly flammable area so if you smoke ciggies, please leave them in the car; beware of loose rock-holds can snap anytime; be inconspicuous, don't wear neon lycra - a sensitive area that borders a golf course (Hhmm!)- pick up stray golf balls and any garbage. A mat is highly recommended as most problems sit-start and are overhanging over prickles at times. Furthermore, many problems have a nice ledge to place a mat on. Although it is public accessible, described is the least visible approach from Country Hills Blvd(Calgary, if that was not clear yet). Turn up Panorama Hills Blvd, then left onto Panorama Hills Drive and follow this for about 1.2km and park near a large open grassland. Walk up the paved bikepath west a few hundred meters to the overlook. Either quickly drop down a ridged path or follow the bikepath left a few hundred meters and look for a trail down to the cliffband. The best time to visit is a winter day as snow doesn't last long here and it gets plenty of sun. Thankfully traffic is too far away to be an audience. No grades given, just thumbs-up ratings. Enough problems to cover an afternoon.



- 1.) this is the first boulder when descending down from the hillside path about 25m north. Sitstart, go up nose over overhang. 🤔🤔
- 2.) 'Bikejump Boulder'-old wooden ramps left from wacko mtn.bikers. SS, up right side of overhang. Very hard to exit on flat exfoliating flakes.
- 3.) hike thru boulders. Traverse rounded wall to a crack then along easier rightside - kinda weird. 🤔
- 4.) 3 unclimbed overhangs: go up 80 degree west wall. Feels exposed as a fall to the mat would just toboggan you away. 🤔
- 5.) Up left snout of cone using good sidepulls but finish is sick slappers. 🤔🤔🤔 thus far, and may be the best line here when sent.
- 6.) 'Big Heuco Crack' - up easy crack to big heuco finish left, used for upper access. #6a: 4ft. fallen rock, may warrant traverse on smooth side.
- 7.) use left of two cracks and finish left over horn jug.
- 8.) go up just left of cutaway overhang to jug, to horizontal crack and finish up exposed grey rounded topout a little to the right. 🤔🤔
- 9.) up short wall to top-rail then move out and over right of jutting rock surmounting it on the right.
- 10.) up ramp and rusty colored face, exiting left. Dirty, not recommended.#10a: huge roof-problems would be crazy - ugly fall factor.
- 11.) hike uphill. Leftfoot on left face, left arm jamming crack, right appendages feel up slopers, exposed high step, exit on bald top-out. 🤔
- 12.) scramble small knob to avoid the dirt trail, kneebars the scoop, exit left of incuts. Silly excuse to chalk hands. Don't bother.
- 13.) lowriding overhung sloper project on tall left wall, other possibilities may exist above.
- 14.)a. SS, go up neat porous ribs to blocks. b.Just right, go up to blocks. c. line 2m right- over bulge to blocks.Test all holds.Try traverse.🤔🤔🤔
- 15.) SS up yellow rock on good holds. SS up yellow/rusty finger crack, with face variations. 🤔
- 16.) hike up and right. Traverse blocky yellow overhang using top rail or try SS right and go over top.
- 17.) 'Dam Face'- hike 5 min. over to bikepath then up hillside and down into hidden coulee. Up dirty knobs, traverse off. Can be seen from road.
- 18.) 'Jason + Melissa?' on north facing wall. Up holds on the right side of painted names. Potential to right needs cleaning above a ledge. 🤔🤔

The Urban Boulders of Calgary

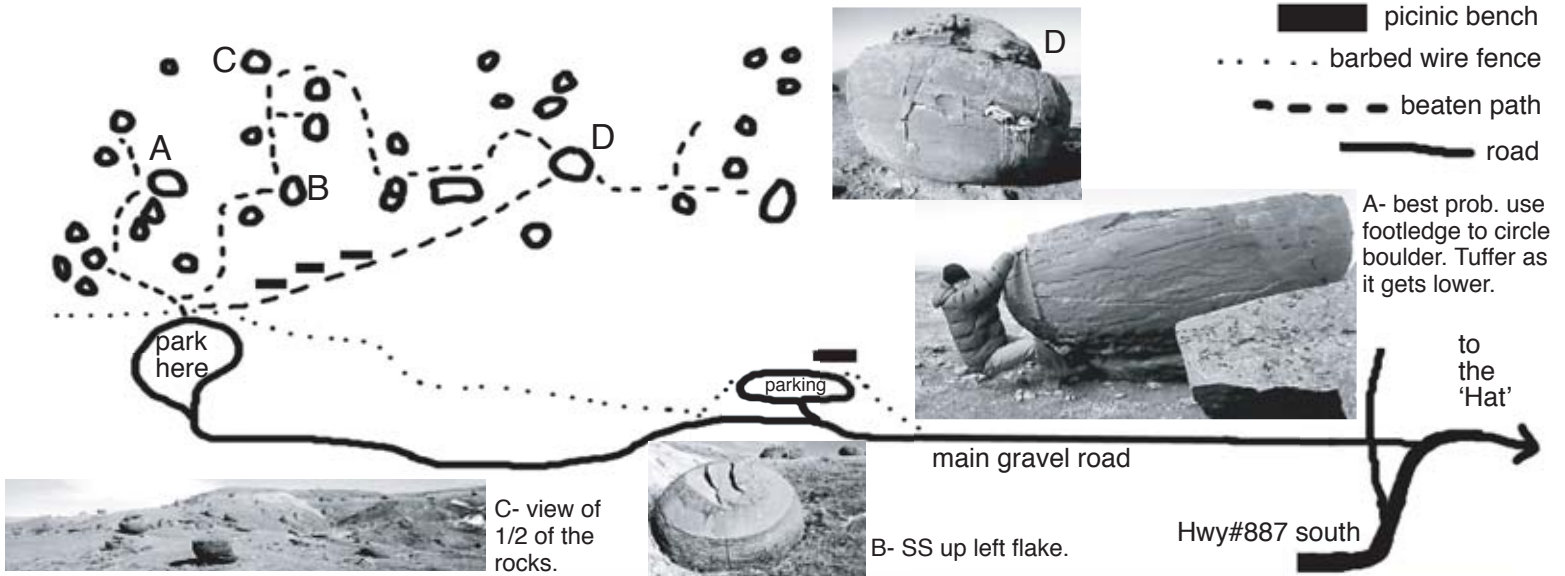
In addition to what has already been printed about bouldering within Calgary, there is still more to the urban scene. With the city's love for decorating the sprawl with landscaping boulders there may still be more potential out there - at least for kids the possibilities are endless. Not so much destinations, but if ya keep an extra pair of shoes in the car, your in the area, bored, these are something to kill time. A pad is recommended at most spots, as is not making a scene and keeping a low profile. In 1995, Raphael Slawinski showed an underground guide he used in the early 90s while trapped in Chicago. He did the cranks with his friend Jeff Elam who then printed and stapled copies up of "Bouldering at the Harbour Wall"- this is an ode to being trapped in the concrete jungle.



Red Rock Coulee

That is it, the Rockies climbing trip is over and your now on the road back to Regina. Yam faded in the rearview mirror long ago and boredom has set in like a bad disease. But wait! before the prairies get even flatter and that Welcome to Saskatchewan sign appears there is one last chance to get the arms pumped out on some boulders. Red Rock Coulee is a trippy Alberta natural area and can be even worthy of a side run from the #1 in winter if the surrounding area is blown free of snow-this corner of Alberta heats up good so don't blow it off. It would make a great set for a cheesy sci-fi flick with the many dozen red spheres emerging from the grasslands at odd angles placed precariously on slopes, some still intact up to 8ft high while others are sheared in half or diced up like lunar vegetables. The globes are solid, smooth, with juggy tops, slopping dishes, or pumpy crimps. **DO NOT EVEN THINK OF USING CHALK HERE!** The bullet-riddled posted sign asked that you don't off-road or disturb the flora; the rock is so bullet-proof tourists clammouring on the spheres seem to not be of concern, but chalk would be simply stupid. Don't let the height fool ya, this is sit-start heaven and the moves can be desperate. Watch out for snakes and other critters. Stay on worn paths and avoid making moves across sections of orange algae. There are picnic tables near the parking lots, but no garbage bins or toilets. The spheres are congested across about 500m of hillside and minutes from the car. A few lonely spheres are further across the coulee which covers many acres.

To get to Red Rock Coulee, drive Hwy#1 to Medicine Hat. Go SW on Hwy#3 for 25kms and before the acreage community of Seven Persons, go south on Hwy#887 for about 20-25kms. Watch for a brown sign calling for the coulee just before a sharp bend left in the road. Go off straight onto a gravel road for about 100m. Cross a gravel road and continue up the steep hill (no exit sign) to the top. Either park in the first lot or go to the higher main lot. The entire area is fenced off with barbed wire but has turnstile openings to get through.



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