

The Big Chill ** 180 m, 5.11c/A0 or 5.12a/b

CMC Valley, The Ripple Wall

Andy Genereux & Jeff Marshall June 2001

F.F.A. Pitch 1: Raphael Slawinski, July 2002

The climb is Located to the right of *The Maker* on The Ripple Wall in the CMC Valley located behind Mt. Yamnuska. It was originally attempted by Simon Parboosingh and Anthony Neilson. Using aid techniques they had reached the start of the crux section halfway up the first pitch. With Simon was tragically killed in August of 1994 in a mountaineering accident. The route seemed abandoned, after several years of neglect it was decided to try and push this line to reach the top of the wall in honor of Simon's memory.

The route was completed ground up using a power drill. The original ¼" bolts on the lower half of the first pitch were all replaced. All bolts were drilled from free stances no hooks were used. The route was established over two days due to very cold temperatures on the first attempt. Due to cool temperatures and poor spring climbing fitness, the first pitch thwarted several free attempts by Genereux at a clean red-point. Eventually it went with a hang on the crux due to a lack of stamina and raw fingers. This pitch was red-pointed in 2002 by Raphael Slawinski. The grade was confirmed at 5.12a/b and took Raphael a couple of separate attempts to get it clean. Although there are lots of bolts this climb is "**not a sport route**". You will require a rack to 3.5", include a set of micro cams, and several long slings. Double ropes are highly recommended.

To Start: Locate a line of bolts approximately 15 m right of the start for *The Maker* found roughly at the centre of The Ripple Wall. This climb is detailed on page 226 in the 2000, Bow Valley Rock by Perry and Josephson which is now out of print.

P1: 5.11c/A0 or 5.12a/b, 45 m. Steep juggy face climbing up to the second bolt. Devious moves lead right then up to a third bolt with some larger holds up to a small ledge with a large flake on the right. Climb the flake and move past the bolt on sustained climbing. The line moves left, up past three bolts with continuous hard movement. Make very difficult thin sequence right surmounting a bulge (12a/b), to gain a rising ramp up and right. Sustained rising traverse moves continue up and right to the second bolt then step right to gain a small ledge with a bolted belay.

P2: 5.11a/b, 50 m. Climb the steep face past two bolts directly above the station. At the second bolt move leftward making a difficult rising traverse to gain a ledge (note the ringbolts to the left side of the ledge are for rappelling the route, not the belay). Climb up the solid grey face on sustained climbing (5.10+) past four bolts to the base of a crack. Gain the crack using several awkward body positions and several face holds (5.11a/b) climb the crack for 10 m to a bolted belay on the right.

P3: 5.10d/5.11a, 45 m. Climb up the shallow corner and intermittent crack for 5 meters at a bolt move left and climb the right facing corner to a bolt below the bulge. Climb the bulge past a second bolt on hard moves. Continue up the corner moving left at the roof. Climb the crack and corner for twenty meters to a pedestal and bolt belay. **Note:** *The Maker* line crosses at this last corner section at about half height and moves out to the right.

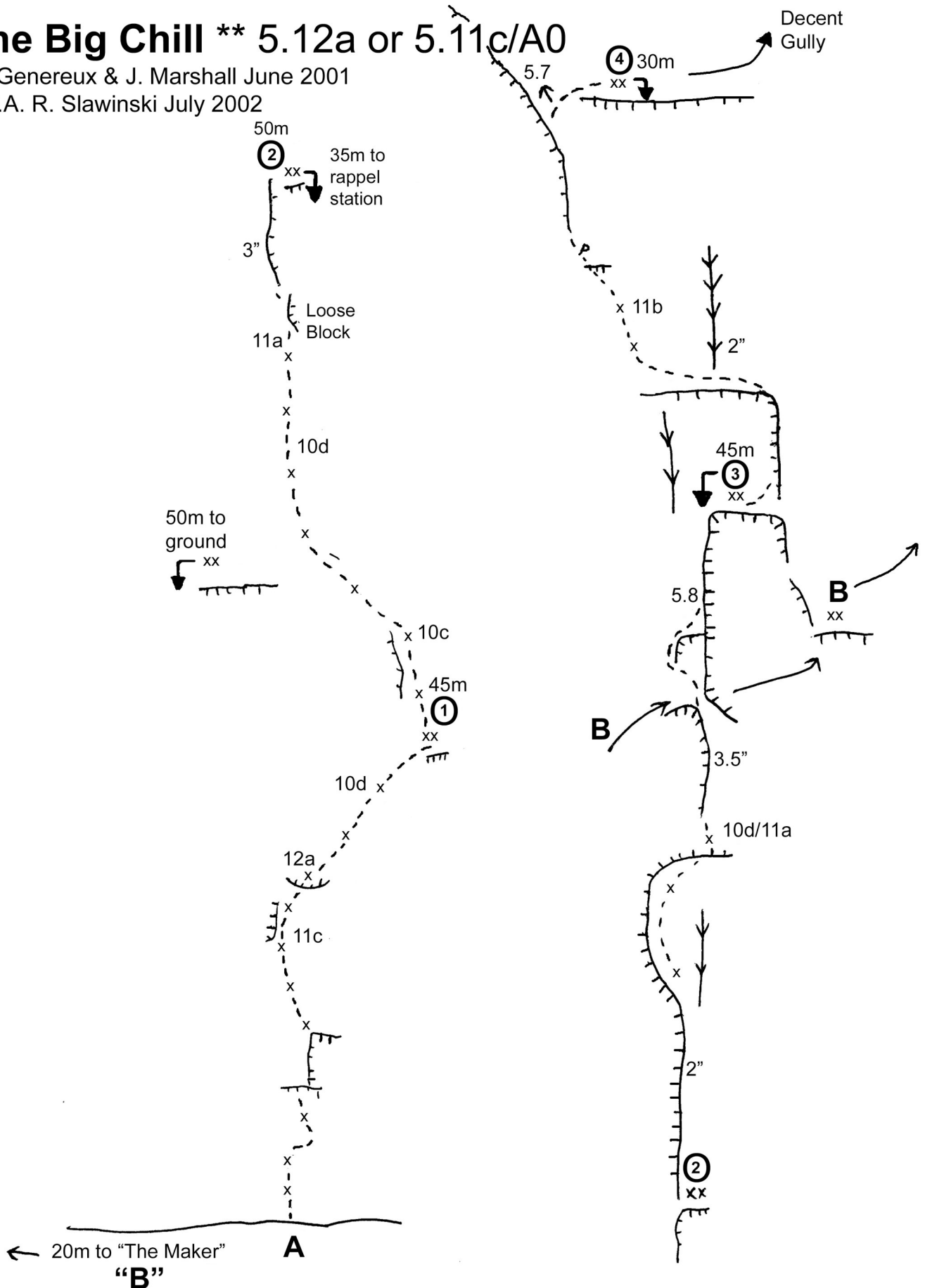
P4: 5.11b, 40 m. Commit to the corner on the main wall to the right side of the pedestal. Climb this for 5 m (poor protection) to gain a ledge traverse left along the ledge placing gear in the obvious groove about halfway across. Continue left to a bolt and climb the steep wall on sustained moves (11b) up and left to gain a crack. Climb the crack for ten meters until a large ledge makes it possible to move right to a two-bolt belay directly over the pedestal below. Or alternatively continue in the crack up a rounded rib (5.7) to the top of the wall.

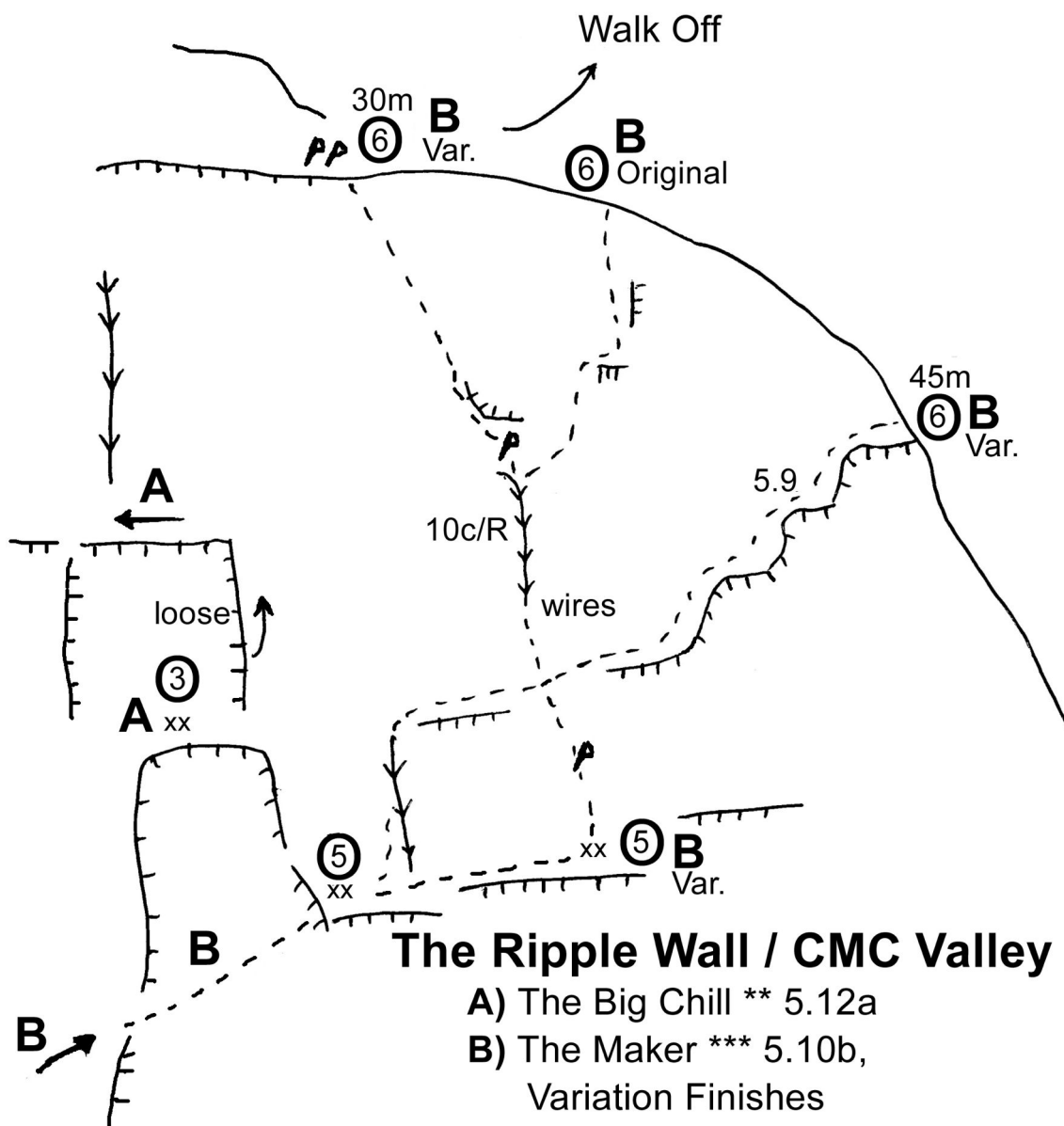
Descent: From the very top of the **Ripple Wall** rappel as for the climb *Parboosting* 40 m to the climbers left or walk off to the climbers right into the Descent Gully. Using this option requires some 5.5 down climbing and a full rope rappel. For *The Big Chill* the best option to descend is from a lower ledge rappel anchor two thirds the way up on the final pitch: rappel the route from ring bolt stations. Two X 55 m ropes required to rappel either *The Big Chill* or *Parboosting*.

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Note: There is a new bolt belay for the alternate pitches 6 direct finish, which is recommended. There are a few wire placement below the crux in the shallow corner but no pro is available in the corner for 10 m. The climbing is however very good. There is a two-piton belay on the ledge for the left alternative finish. From here walk off to the right and descend the decent gully. The other option is traverse left along the ledge for 10 m and rappel as for *The Big Chill*, three rappels off ring-bolts, two 55 m ropes are required.