

# Phantom Bluffs East 2015 Update

**Access Caution:** The floods of 2013 dramatically changed or severely hampered easy vehicle access into the Ghost River Valley and Waiparous drainages. Until repairs can be made to these access roads unless you have access to a sturdy 4 X 4 type vehicle otherwise foot or bike travel may give your best outcome. Having a four wheel drive high clearance type vehicle for now is considered essential to safely access in the Ghost River Valley or the Waiparous Valley. The Devil's Gap valley is also affected by these issues but much less so and is not considered a significant challenge for vehicle access unless water levels are high at the bottom of the big hill. Sections of loose till in the dry river bed remain a problem for adequate traction to access this southern most situated valley of the three Ghost River climbing areas. However there are a bunch of new routes (**nearly 50!**) in the Phantom Bluffs East worth exploring and remember its only a 50 minute walking, 25 minute Bike access from the bottom of the "Big Hill" if you only have use of a two-wheel drive type vehicle and don't want to push your luck. Have fun be safe.

Can't believe its already three summers since the last guide was out and there has been significant new activity to report at the Phantom Bluffs East in the Devil's Gap (the southern most valley of the Ghost). This includes some retrofitting to existing anchors and replacement of aging self drives along with nearly fifty new pitches added. So there is a lot on offer for climbers to discover at these shorter crags. The first section to see extensive work was the Border Bluff Sector in 2012.

The **Gumbie Rock** formation was the first off the mark seeing some major redevelopment. Six-routes were added in 2012 to this small formation. The first two new lines are located in the gully/corner on the left side of the crag. Four new pitches added to the broader south facing cliff line filling the blanks. During the process the author also confirmed grades and quality ratings for the three existing routes found on this formation that were included in the new guide. This updated information is also included in this update.

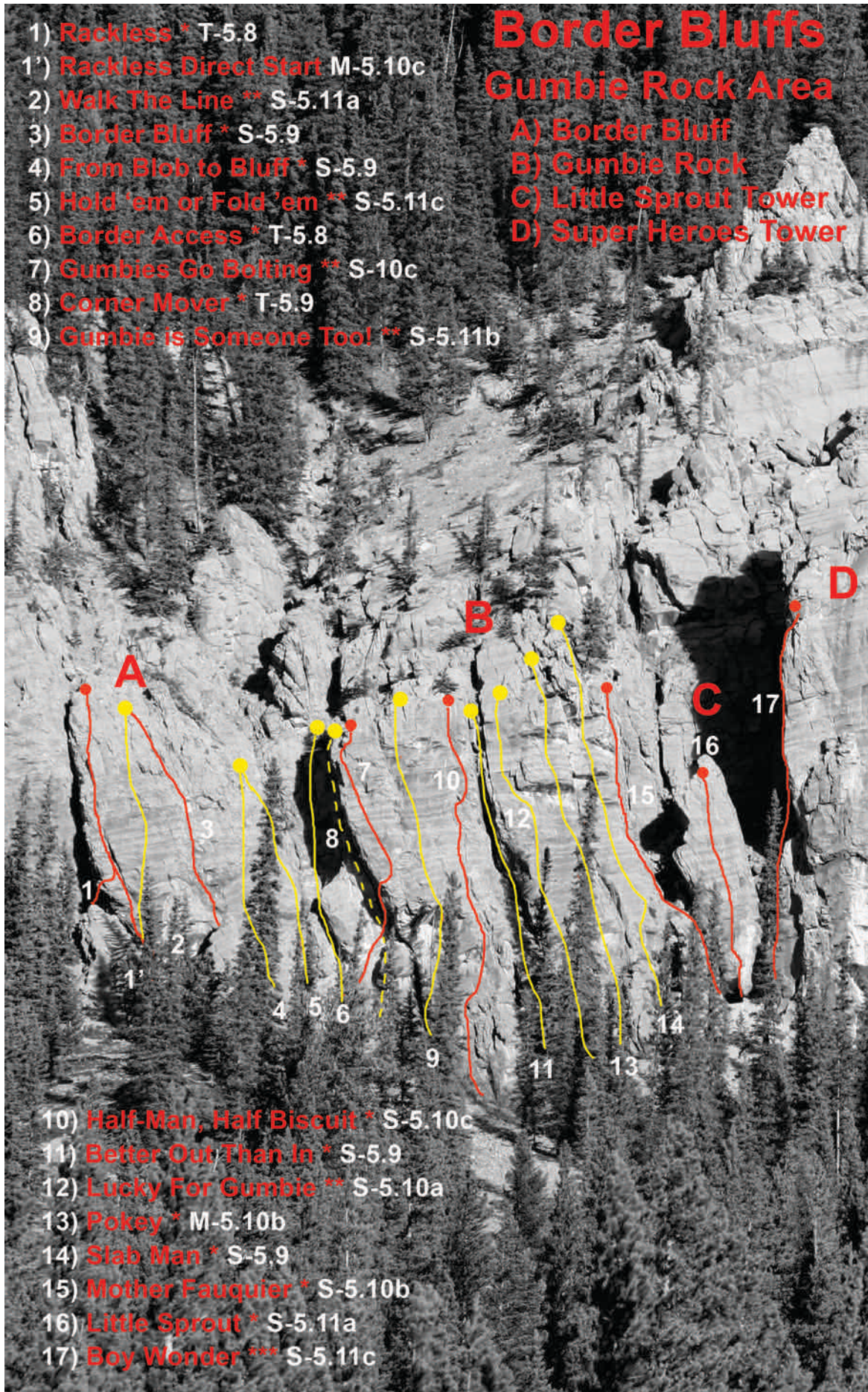
The small **Border Bluff** formation wasn't overlooked with significant expansion for routes during the 2012 season with three new lines added filling in most of the remaining blanks found on this small venue.

The original cliff to see development the **Borderline Buttress** also saw scattered activity on both sides of the formation in 2012. The Borderline Buttress / Right had a new sport protected route added on either side of the climb *Banditos* described on **page 225** of the new 2012 **Ghost River Rock Climbs** guide. On Borderline Buttress / Left there was also two new routes added and second extension pitches added to a couple of older existing climbs *Achilles* and *Traveling Light* both of these climbs are detailed on **page 228**. There was also some anchor replacement on the climbs *Strong Bow* and

- 1) Rackless \* T-5.8
- 1') Rackless Direct Start M-5.10c
- 2) Walk The Line \*\* S-5.11a
- 3) Border Bluff \* S-5.9
- 4) From Blob to Bluff \* S-5.9
- 5) Hold 'em or Fold 'em \*\* S-5.11c
- 6) Border Access \* T-5.8
- 7) Gumbies Go Betting \*\* S-10c
- 8) Corner Mover \* T-5.9
- 9) Gumbie Is Someone Tool! \*\* S-5.11b

## Border Bluffs Gumbie Rock Area

- A) Border Bluff
- B) Gumbie Rock
- C) Little Sprout Tower
- D) Super Heroes Tower



- 10) Half Man, Half Biscuit \* S-5.10c
- 11) Better Out Than In \* S-5.9
- 12) Lucky For Gumbie \*\* S-5.10a
- 13) Pokey \* M-5.10b
- 14) Slab Man \* S-5.9
- 15) Mother Fauquier \* S-5.10b
- 16) Little Sprout \* S-5.11a
- 17) Boy Wonder \*\*\* S-5.11c

*On the Border* and a few self-drive bolts replaced on this later route as well.

Further west along this band of crags also saw significant expansion: **Kids World Slab** with three excellent moderate routes added on the left side in 2012. All three climbs going at moderate 5.7 or 5.8 they are sure to be popular with the kid's and climbers looking to have a well protected introductory slab climbing experience. Then in 2013 the center section of this slabby face was developed with three slightly harder longer lower angled face pitches added to the fun cliff.

## Gumbie Rock

### **Border Access \* T-5.8, 25 m, gear to 3.5"**

*Andy Genereux, August 2012*

Located in the gully separating the Border Bluff from Gumbie Rock this intermittent crack climbs with a wide range of gear from micro cam's to 3.5" and makes for a good introductory traditional climb to reach a ring-bolt anchor.

### **Corner Mover \* T-5.9, 25 m, gear to 4"**

*Andy Genereux, August 2012*

Despite the grade this route was prepped on rappel due to issues with loose rock, a whole lot of loose rock...! The whole middle section of the corner was excavated to eventually reveal a good crack climb.

### **The Gumbie's Go Bolting \*\* S-5.10c, 25 m, 7 clips**

This climb is detailed on **page 237** of the guide. It had a bolt moved to reduce a bad fall at the crux. The route grade and star status were confirmed.

### **Gumbie Is Someone Too! \*\* S-5.11b, 25 m, 10 clips**

*Andy Genereux, August 2012*

Takes a line up the middle of the left half of the formation between the two existing routes described in the guide on **page 237** *The Gumbie's Go Bolting* and *Half Man Half Biscuit*. A definitive crux is turning the roof with sustained 5.10 face continues above.

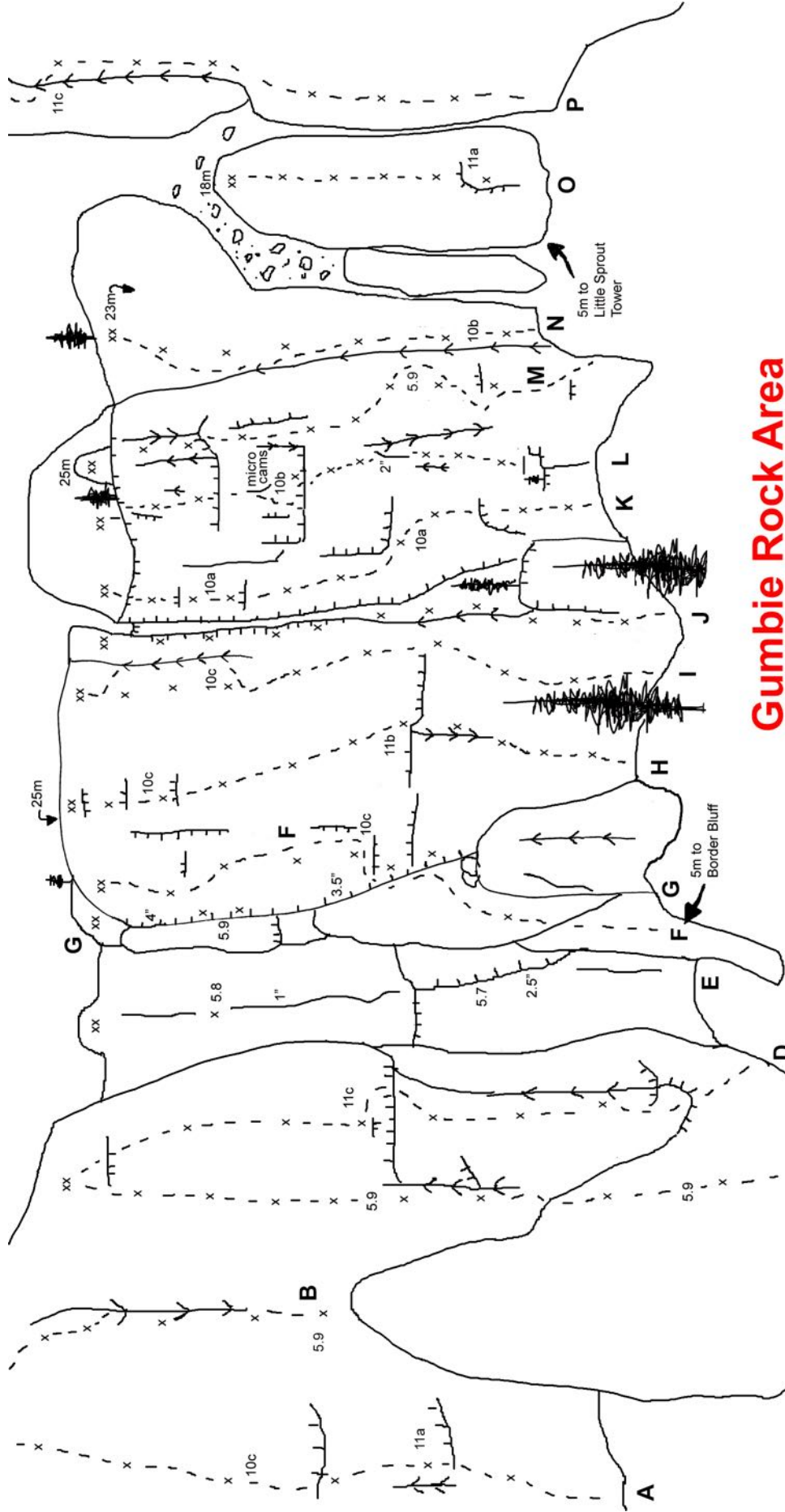
### **Half Man, Half Biscuit \* S-5.10b, 25 m, 7 clips**

Detailed in the guide on **page 238**, a recent ascent of this climb by the author has raised the grade to 5.10b from the previous grade of 5.9.

### **Better Out Than In \* S-5.9, 30 m, 10 clips**

*Andy Genereux, August 2012*

Climbs the wide corner/crack dividing the middle of the South face of Gumbie Rock on bolt protection. Staying out and stemming as the title suggests is the best option as the rock is more suspect the deeper you get sucked into this wide crack.



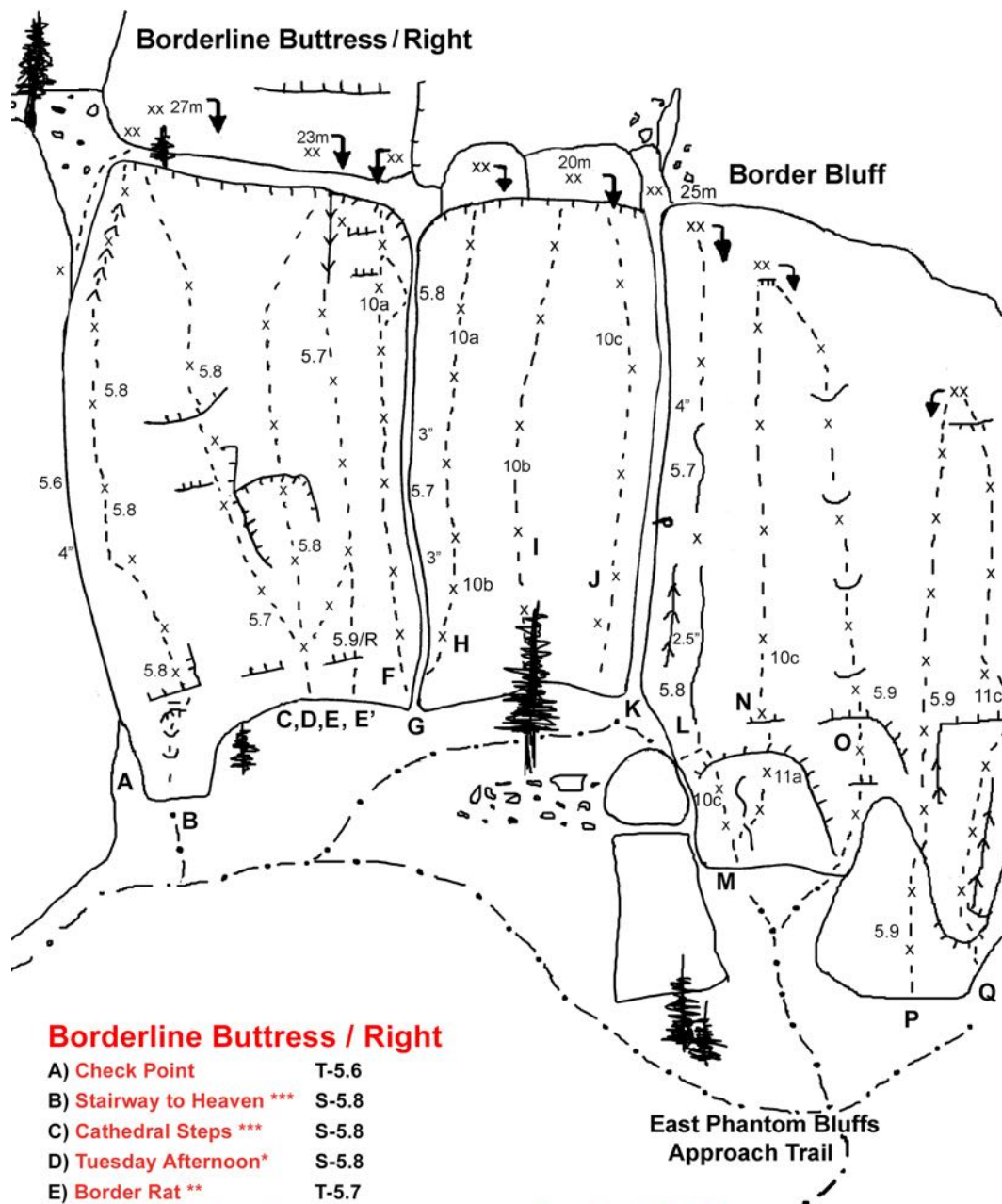
## Gumbie Rock Area

- A) Walk The Line \*\* S-5.11a, 8 clips
- B) Border Bluff \* S-5.9, 8 clips
- C) From Blob to Bluff \* S-5.9, 8 clips
- D) Hold 'em or Fold 'em \*\* S-5.11c, 6 clips
- E) Border Access \* T-5.8, gear to 3.5"
- F) Gumbies Go Bolting \*\* S-10c, 7 clips
- G) Corner Mover \* T-5.9, gear to 4"
- H) Gumbie is Someone Too! \*\* S-5.11b, 10 clips
- I) Half-Man, Half Biscuit \* S-5.10b/c, 7 clips
- J) Better Out Than In \* S-5.9, 10 clips
- K) Lucky For Gumbie \*\* S-5.10a, 9 clips
- L) Pokey \* M-5.10b, gear to 3"
- M) Slab Man \* S-5.9, 9 clips
- N) Mother Fauquier \* S-5.10b, 7 clips
- O) Little Sprout \* S-5.11a, 5 clips
- P) Boy Wonder \*\*\* S-5.11c, 10 clips

## Lucky For Gumbie \*\* S-5.10a, 9 clips

Andy Genereux, August 2012

Starting a few meters right of Better Out Than In this line of bolts follows a serpentine course up the best rock. Steady climbing at the grade through the upper section.



### Borderline Buttress / Right

- |                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| A) Check Point               | T-5.6           |
| B) Stairway to Heaven ***    | S-5.8           |
| C) Cathedral Steps ***       | S-5.8           |
| D) Tuesday Afternoon*        | S-5.8           |
| E) Border Rat **             | T-5.7           |
| E') Border Rat/ Direct Start | T-5.9/R         |
| F) Border Relations **       | S-5.8 or 5.10a, |
| G) Banditos *                | T-5.7           |
| H) Rat Free **               | S-5.10b         |
| I) Legal Alien**             | S-5.10b,        |
| J) Border Sweep **           | S-5.10c,        |
| K) Rat Patrol *              | T-5.7           |

### Border Bluff

- |                          |         |
|--------------------------|---------|
| L) Rackless **           | M-5.8   |
| M) Rackless Direct Start | M-5.10c |
| N) Walk The Line **      | S-5.11a |
| O) Border Bluff *        | S-5.9   |
| P) From Blob to Bluff *  | S-5.9   |
| Q) Hold 'em or Fold 'em  | S-5.11c |

**Pokey \* M-5.10b, 25 m, gear to 3.5 include micro cam's**

*Andy Genereux & Steve Birch, September 2012*

The crux comes turning the large overlap at two-thirds height. This is best done on the left to reach a thin crack above (micro cam's).

**Slab Man \* S-5.9, 23 m, 9 clips**

*Andy Genereux, August 2012*

This is the right most situated route on the South face of Gumbie Rock, it climbs the left face of the arête dividing this aspect from the confined East face housing the climb *Mother Fauquier*, detailed on **page 238** in the guide. It works up a steep short corner near the top to a bolted anchor.

## **Border Bluff**

This small crag is described starting on **page 234** of the new 2012 **Ghost River Rock Climbs**. This small formation had three new routes established this past summer filling in the remaining blank spaces.

**Walk The Line \*\* S-5.11a, 27 m, 8 clips**

*Andy Genereux, August 2012*

An excellent climb it starts the same as the direct start for *Rackless* described on **page 234** but moves right to the first bolt to overcome a steep technical bulge past two more bolts, afterwards steady slightly off vertical face climbing to finish.

**From Blob to Bluff \* S-5.9, 23 m, 8 clips**

*Andy Genereux, August 2012*

This route is found immediately right of the climb *Border Bluff* described on **page 237**. This is a different line, which climb's up past two bolts on the right side of the blob of rock sitting in front of the Border Bluff formation then stems across the gap between, onto a steep arête on the "Bluff" to finish.

**Hold Em or Fold Em \* S-5.11b/c, 20 m, 6 clips**

*Andy Genereux, August 2012*

Climb-up into a U-shaped void separating a large blob of rock from the main cliff on Border Bluff. Climb up past three bolts to an obvious roof at half height at the right-hand edge of the Border Bluff formation. Turning the roof holds the definitive crux.

## **Borderline Buttress / Right**

**Note:** All climbs on the **Borderline Buttress** are described from **Right to Left** as found in the new guide. The climb *Border Rat* 5.7 described on **page 225** was reworked and had the anchor replaced and a bolt added to the top section to reduce the final runout.

### **Rat Free \*\* S-5.10b, 22 m, 7 clips**

*Andy Genereux, August 2012*

Start as for the climb **Banditos** described on **page 225**, climb the wide crack for 2 m to a bolt on the right face. Move right from the crack where steady face climbing ascends the prickled grey face to the right of the crack to reach a ringbolt belay.

### **Border Relations \*\* S-5.8 or 510a, 23 m, 7 clips**

*Andy Genereux, August 2012*

On-sight rope soloed this is an excellent moderate climb. It takes the impeccable grey face immediately left of the climb **Banditos**. Stepping right to the **Banditos** crack at the second last bolt and hooking back left at the last bolt keeps the grade a consistent 5.8 on the pitch. Climbing straight up, past the final two bolts, this direct crux version is two number grades harder. The choice is yours, using either option has good climbing.

## **Borderline Buttress / Left**

### **Old Dog New Tricks \*\* S-5.11c, 5.11b, 40 m, 9 clips (each pitch)**

*Andy Genereux, August 2012*

A fine two-pitch harder addition to this cliff that can be linked as a sustained 40 m pitch or done as two shorter 20 m pitches. It starts 2 m left of the climb **Revelations** and crosses the bottom of **On the Border**. Overcoming the overlap 15 m up is the definitive crux but the upper pitch stays steady at hard 5.10 with another tricky 5.11 crux.

**Note:** The new top ringbolt belay also serves the climb **On The Border** and using the mid station allows descent to the base with a single rope doing 2 X 20 m rappels.

### **Achilles \*\* S-5.10b, 5.10b, 40 m, 8 clips**

*Jon Jones, Bill Rennie, & Andy Genereux August 1985 (pitch 1)*

*Andy Genereux, August 2012 (pitch 2)*

This climb is described on **page 228**. It had an upper pitch added called **Achilles Heal S-5.10d** which is a worthwhile but harder finishing pitch and is detailed on the topo drawing included with this update.

### **Achilles Heal \*\* M-5.10d, 40 m, gear to 2"**

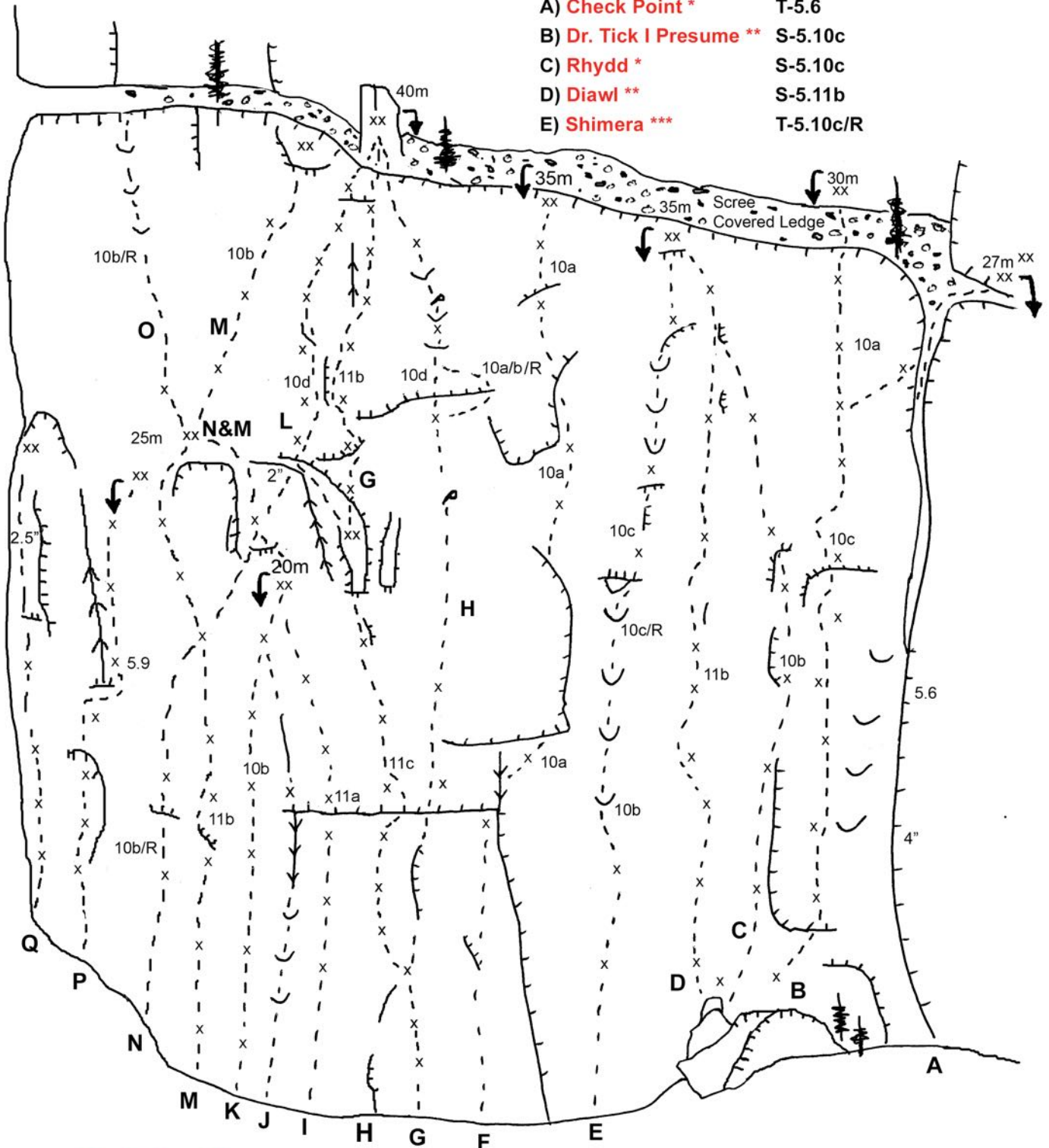
*Andy Genereux, August 2012*

This pitch is new 20 m extension above the route **Achilles** it requires a 2" cam to help protect the section above the belay otherwise it is bolt protected face. This extension also makes a good option for the route **Traveling Light** described on **page 228**. This new pitch is fixed. The gear recommendation is for climbing the lower pitch on **Traveling Light** to access this upper landscape. This pitch is also approached angling up and left from the anchor on lower pitch on **Old Dog New Tricks** as a slightly easier alternate finish for that route. See the new topo drawing included for complete details. The combinations described are best combined as a long 40 m pitches for the best experience.

**Descent:** Is via the climb **Old Dog New Tricks** 2 X 20 m rappels from ringbolt anchors.

# Borderline Buttress / Left Side

- A) Check Point \* T-5.6
- B) Dr. Tick I Presume \*\* S-5.10c
- C) Rhydd \* S-5.10c
- D) Diawl \*\* S-5.11b
- E) Shimera \*\*\* T-5.10c/R



- F) Revelations \*\*\* M-5.10a
- G) Old Dog New Tricks \*\* S-5.11c, 2 pitches
- H) On The Border \*\* T-5.10b/R or 5.10d
- I) Strong Bow \* S-5.11a,
- J) Old Style \* T-5.10b
- K) Achilles \*\* S-5.10b
- L) Achilles Heel \*\* S-5.10d
- M) Cling & Groove \*\* S-5.11a/b
- N) Travellin' Light, original \*\* M-5.10b/R
- O) Travellin' Light (Direct Finish) \* M-5.10b/R
- P) Borderline Behaviour \*\* S-5.9
- Q) Fightin' the Trend \* M-5.9

## Fighting The Trend \* M-5.9 30 m, gear to 2.5"

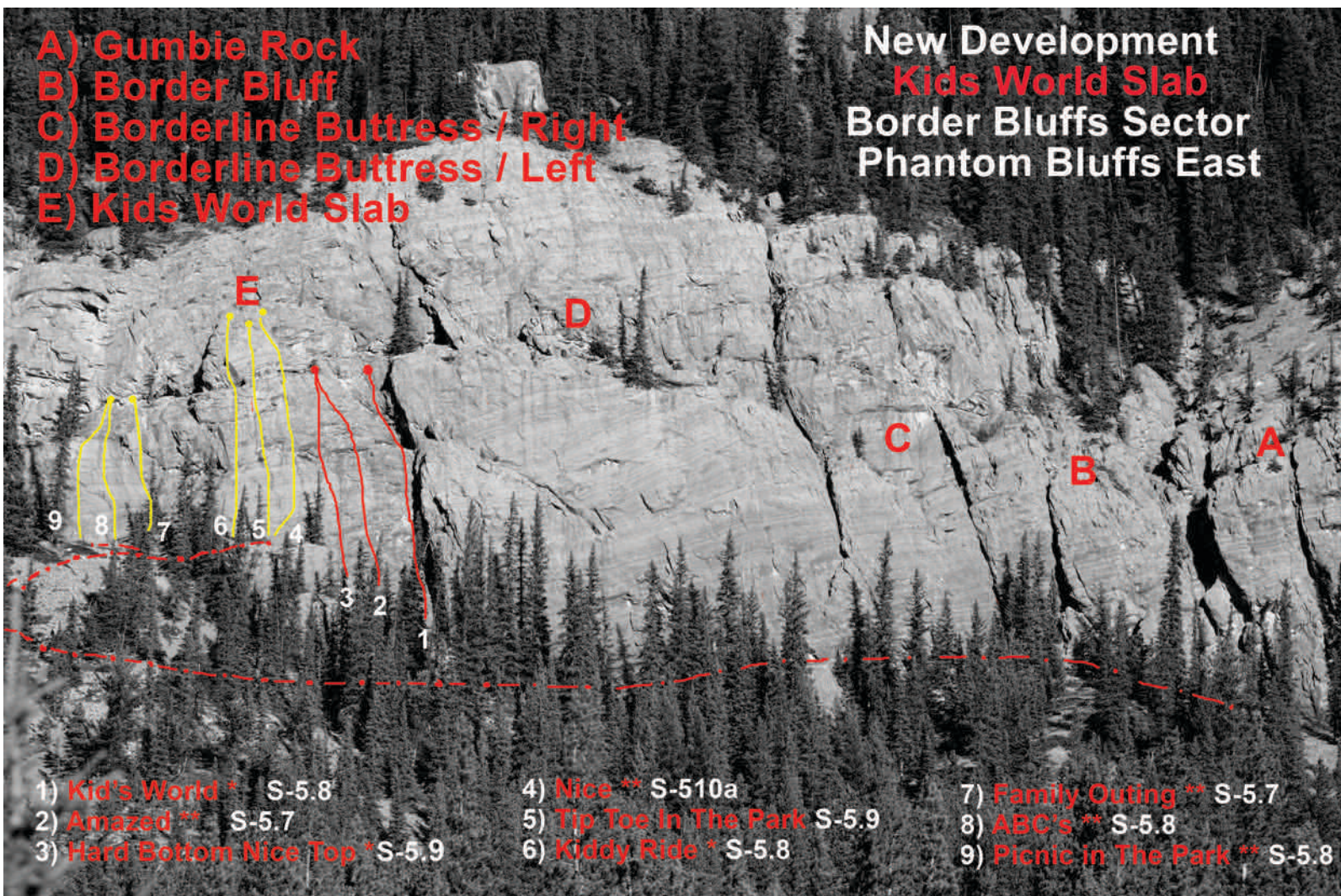
Andy Genereux, August 2012

This line hugs the left edge of the formation just left of the climb *Borderline Behavior* described on [page 229](#). Climb directly up the left edge of the Borderline Buttress formation past three bolts and continue directly up a shallow left facing corner using intermittent seams placing gear to reach a ringbolt anchor.

## Kids World Slab-Update

Six fun routes were added to the stellar rock found on the center and left side of this formation in 2012. All of the pitches were established on lead. The three climbs on the left were installed over a single mornings effort. The three climbs found in the central section all went up rope soloing over an afternoon. Also included in the new development was building the new trail to improve access these climbs with the added benefit of better access to the to the right side of the **Underworld** formation. The routes are described from "Right to Left" as they are encountered on approach and consistent with the new guide. Kids World Slab and the original climbs located in this sector are described on [page 229](#) of **Ghost River Rock Climbs**.

**To Start:** To access these climbs, take a good trail (**new**) from below the left most edge of **Borderline Buttress** formation traverse roughly 30 m left (west) below a small lower



cliff lying in front of the center section of the Kids World Slab then take a scree trail up hill about 20 m traversing 30 m westward to reach a switchback that overcomes the final bit of open scree slope moving back to the right to arrive at the climb *ABC's*. The new climbs found at the center section all start from a ledge platform on top of the small sub-cliff line sitting below the Kid's World Slab formation. The climbs in this middle section can be access from either direction. Access from the right side of the formation is gained by squeezing up a dirty groove/corner past a tree left of the climb *Hard Bottom Nice Top* **page 229**. Coming from the left (West is considered easier) on the new trail, drop down the scree slope 3 m rightward from the climb *Family Outing* described below and scramble up easy rock for 3 m to the right of some large spruce trees to gain a great belay platform.

**Nice\*\* S-5.10a, 24 m, 8 clips**

*Andy Genereux, October 2012*

The right most situated of the three central routes above the platform. Make delicate moves rightward to gain a bolt. Then climb more or less straight up past 7 more bolts to a ledge with ringbolts to belay.

**Tip-Toe in the Park \*\* S-5.9, 25 m, 8 clips**

*Andy Genereux, October 2012*

From the center of the staging platform head directly up past bolts to a semi-hanging belay from ringbolts.

**Kiddy Ride \* S-5.8, 25 m, 9 clips**

*Andy Genereux, October 2012*

Starts off on easy slab climbing from the left side of the belay platform, after a break at half height the grade and steepness increase for a sustained finish to a ringbolt belay.

**Family Outing \*\* S-5.7, 22 m, 7 clips**

*Andy Genereux & Steve Birch, September 2012*

Starting in a shallow groove, climb a line of bolts over slabby face shifting right into a shallow more pronounced corner at two-thirds height, up to a ledge to belay.

**ABC's \*\* S-5.8, 22 m, 7 clips**

*Andy Genereux & Steve Birch, September 2012*

The middle of three bolted lines located on the left side of this formation. It takes a slight weakness over excellent grey rock directly to a ledge with ringbolts to belay.

**Picnic in The Park \*\* S-5.8, 22 m, 7 clips**

*Andy Genereux & Steve Birch, September 2012*

The left most route on the slab. It climbs the lower angled face to a short arête right of large tree to share the same anchor as the climb *ABC's* on the right.

# Underworld Cliff



- E) The Devil Made Me Do It \*
- F) Raise A Little Hell \*
- G) Six Feet Under \*\*
- H) The Divide \*\* S-5.11a
- I) Inspirer \*\*
- J) Devil Deed \* S-5.11b/c
- K) Underworld \*\*
- L) Pushing Daisies \*

## Underworld Cliff / Right

- A) Dante's Serpent \* M-5.10b, gear 3.5"
- B) Devil Is In The Details \* S-5.9
- C) Down For The Count \*\* M-5.10b, gear to 2"
- D) Desperate Measures \* S-5.11c

## Kids World Slab / Left

- 1) Family Outing \*\* S-5.7
- 2) ABC's \*\* S-5.8
- 3) Picnic In The Park \*\* S-5.8

## Underworld Cliff

In 2012 there was a new trail pushed over from **Borderline Buttress** to access the eastern end of the **Underworld Cliff** which then works back rightward up to the **Kids World Slab**. This trail improvement also led to the establishment of four new climbs on the eastern reaches of Underworld Cliff in the summer 2013 which are described below. In 2014 a new trail was pushed over from Mixed Bag Crag to the centre portion of Underworld Cliff and is accessed off the **NEW Loop Trail** completed in 2014 expanding access options Two new climbs were also established in the center portion of the cliff in the fall of 2014 The climbs on the eastern end are all found right of the climb **Pushing Daisies** detailed on **page 231** of **Ghost River Rock Climbs**. The climbs are described **"Right to Left"** as they are normally encountered using the Border Bluffs Access Trail and to keep consistency with the format found in the new guide.

### Dante's Serpent \* M-5.10b, 30 m, gear to 3.5"

*Andy Genereux, July 2013*

As the new trail arrives at the eastern end of Underworld Cliff scramble up the short scree slope for several metres or alternatively traverse leftward from the west end of Kids World Slab to reach the start of this climb. The climb was established as an on-sight rope soloing effort. During the first ascent there were a few interesting moments

wrestling off a couple of large tombstone's threatening to chop the authors rope on this little adventurous foray, now a fun mixed protection climb to enjoy.

### **Devil Is In The Details \* S-5.9, 22 m, 7 clips**

*Andy Genereux, July 2013*

Put up on-sight while rope soloing, the route then required extensive cleaning on rappel to make it the safer version it is now.

### **Down For The Count \*\* M-5.10b, 22 m, gear to 2"**

*Andy Genereux, July 2013*

A failed hold and a bouncing luge like run down a rock gully for several metres precipitated the completion of this climb. Battered and bruised Andy returned a week later to see the line finished pushing the route after establishing the bolts and cleaning off loose rock on rappel before the eventual redpoint ascent.

### **Desperate Measures \* S-5.11c/d, 25 m, 7 clips**

*Andy Genereux, July 2013*

Climb up to a bulge where a bouldery hard to read devious crux is encountered requiring a desperate throw to a thin edge. Have fun!

### **The Divide \*\* S-5.11a, 30 m, 10 clips**

*Andy Genereux, October 2014*

Located between the climbs **Six Feet Under** and **Inspirer** described on **page 231** take an easy corner to the overlap. This testy route has two definitive crux sections the first is overcoming the obvious overlap the second the top bulge to reach the anchor.

### **Devil Is In The Details \* S-5.11/c, 22 m, 7 clips**

*Andy Genereux, October 2014*

This line starts from a base anchor bolt just left of a tree immediately right of the climb **Underworld** described on **page 231** in the new guide. Commit up to the first bolt and climb the overlap with a very out of context sequence to reach the easier upper face.

## **Mixed Bag Crag**

Two routes were added to this small formation to the undeveloped east facing aspect. The first **Puzzler** is found immediately right of the route **Baylie Flop** found on the SE corner of this cliff described on **page 233** of the guide. The second climb is found up hill at the right hand edge of the east face and features a more traditional approach.

### **Puzzler \*\* S-5.11a/b, 18 m, 7 clips**

*Andy Genereux October 2014*

There is a single belay bolt at the base of the wall to keep the belayer in place on this steep slope. Devious moves to start up this sustained technically challenging climbing to mid height where the technical difficulty diminishes.

### **High-Baller \* T-5.10c, 15 m, gear to 3.5"**

*Andy Genereux, October 2014*

Locate a belay bolt at the base of the wall from a boulder at the right edge of the formation commit leftward to reach a bolt, then take intermittent cracks to the top to reach ringbolts to belay.

### **Mixed Bag Slab**

This is a previously undeveloped small formation located directly below the Mixed Bag Crag. It had two moderate routes established in the fall of 2014 and it can be accessed off the newly finished Loop Trail which traverses the slope directly below these climbs.

### **Get Shorty \* S-5.9, 17 m, 6 clips**

*Andy Genereux, October 2014*

Located to the right of a large spruce tree on the right side of this formation it climbs a direct line to a ringbolt anchor.

### **Slab With No End \* S-5.8, 25 m, 9 clips**

*Andy Genereux, October 2014*

This climb starts left of the big spruce tree and angles rightward leaning path to share the same anchor with *Get Shorty* mentioned above.

### **The Gap**

This cliff has one new bolted route added between the climbs ***View de Minnewanka*** and ***Sunny Day*** described on **page 234** of the new Ghost guide.

### **Recovery Route \*\* S-5.10d/11a, 28 m, 10 clips**

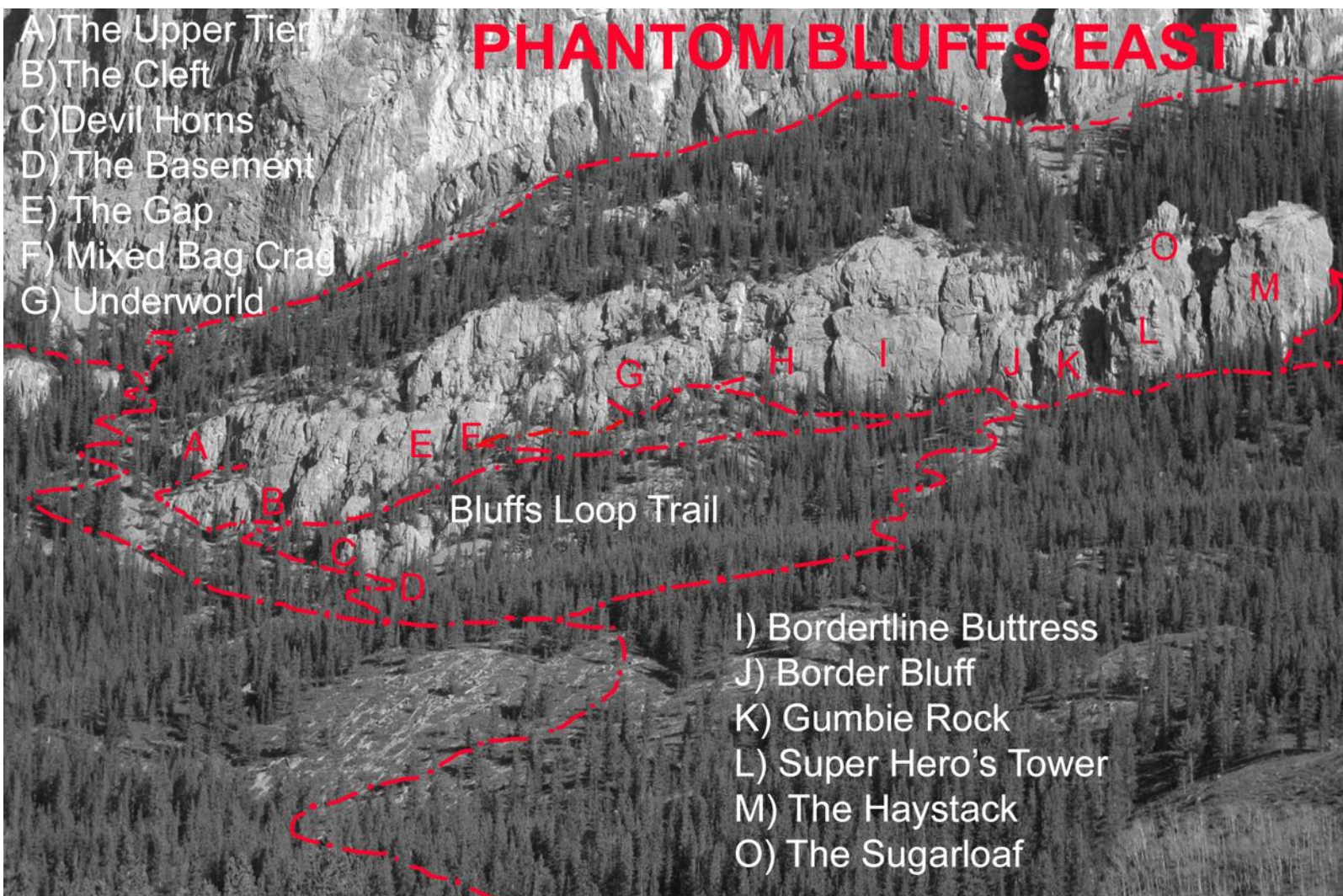
*Andy Genereux, October 2014*

Climb the bolted face to the deceptive but definitive crux at the final bolt using the anchor off the route to either side to descend.

## New Crags Update: For the western end of Phantom Bluffs East

### The Devil Horns, The Basement, The Cleft New Loop Trail Completed for Eastern Bluffs Access

The spring of 2013 saw a delayed start to the rock climbing season due to loads of late season snowfall. In early May looking to avoid the winter-like conditions in the Ghost I went exploring the south-facing western end of the Phantom Bluffs East. Once there, discovering a couple of hidden smaller crags that I called **The Devil Horns** and **The Basement**. Both of these small cliffs lie thirty metres below the main cliff line of Phantom Bluffs East but make a worthwhile stop on the way up to the western reaches of this popular higher cliff band of the East Phantom Bluffs. At the the upper main band of the “Eastern Bluffs” a new sector called **The Cleft** was also explored this lower angled face is set back between two protruding buttresses and so far has yielded seven new routes in the 5.8 to moderate 5.10 range. All three of these new venues host fully developed sport climbs to meet the increasing demand for moderately graded well protected climbing at the popular cragging scene found in the Phantom Bluffs East Sector. See the photo below to locate these newest venues and the new **Loop Trail** for improved access.



With the much improved access via the NEW **Eastern Bluffs Loop Trail** which was mostly established in the spring of 2013 and finally completed in the fall of 2014 and makes getting to these recently developed crags an easy excursion. To use this new trail take the normal **Climbers Access Trail** up to the fork as for the normal **Border Bluffs Access Trail** described on **page 217** in the new guide. From this branch stay left on the main trail as if continuing on up to the the Grey Ghost Wall. After heading west for roughly another 75 m from the first fork in the trail, a second branch trail that switchbacks up the hillside going initially off to the right. Take this trail for two to three minutes to reach **The Basement** a new shorter formation with three climbs on the south exposure. Just left again is the slightly taller cliff called **The Devil Horns** housing another six new routes. Working westward and up hillside for another two minutes on the new trail reaches the last new crag developed in 2013 called **The Cleft**. Here you will find some longer moderate routes awaiting climbers attentions. The trail running along the base of the upper cliffs to the right, (East) will take you back over to the middle of **Borderline Buttress** to close the loop. The Gap, Mixed Bag Crag, and Underworld Cliff can all be accessed from this direction. See the photo above detailing these new cliffs and the Eastern Bluffs Loop Trail.

## The Cleft

Is a newly developed formation on the western reaches of the Phantom Bluffs East. First Explored during the wet spring of 2013. This enjoyable area is set back between two protruding buttresses of lesser rock quality and has a very large-tall spruce tree sitting in front marking the centre-point of this crag. There is a broken corner or gash splitting the face off-set to the right of this large tree. The rock is particularly good to either side of this broken split. Two climbs are found right of this vertical tear and five to the left. Climbs are described **Right to Left** as are all of the climbs described coming over from Border Bluff Access Trail and traveling westward to this point and is consistent with the descriptions using the new **Ghost River Rock Climbs Guide**.

Unfortunately some climbs on this cliff are hampered slightly by ledges near the bottom of the cliff which breaks up otherwise stellar topography. All in all though a very good venue to get introduced to face and friction climbing on limestone. The routes are all sport protected and equipped with rappel ringbolts to descend. Having a single 60 m rope will get climbers off all of the climbs described in this formation.

### **Old Shoe \* S-5.8, 32 m, 10 clips**

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

Climb the corner splitting the main face from the right side confining buttress for 2 m to access the righthand bolt line on the face to reach a higher corner groove (easy).

Continue up the groove then overcome a steep headwall to finish at a ring-bolt anchor.

**Descent:** It is possible to rappel to the easy starting corner and down-climb.

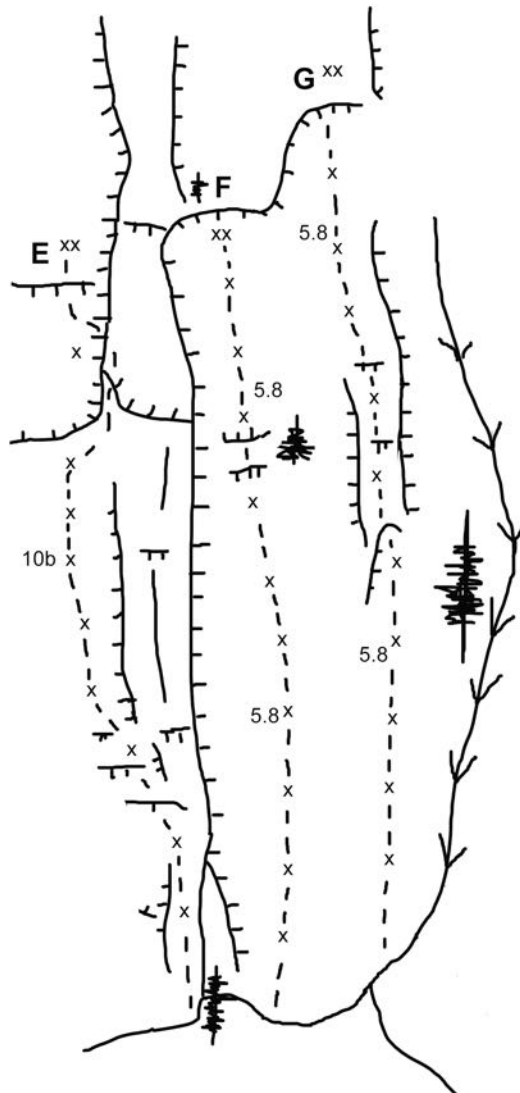
**Caution:** Lowering on a 60 m cord will leave you short of rope, make sure tie knots at the end of your rope if using this option.

## The Cleft/Right Side

E) **G.A.S.H.** \* S-5.10b, 9 clips, 30 m

F) **Slab Magic** \*\*\* S-5.8, 10 clips, 30 m

G) **Old Shoe** \*\* S-5.8, 10 clips, 32 m



### **Slab Magic** \*\*\* S-5.8, 30 m, 10 clips

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

Stellar bit of rock to the right of the gash splitting the face. Take the left-hand bolt line and the steady introductory grade make this a good climb to get your feet wet in this style of off-vertical face climbing.

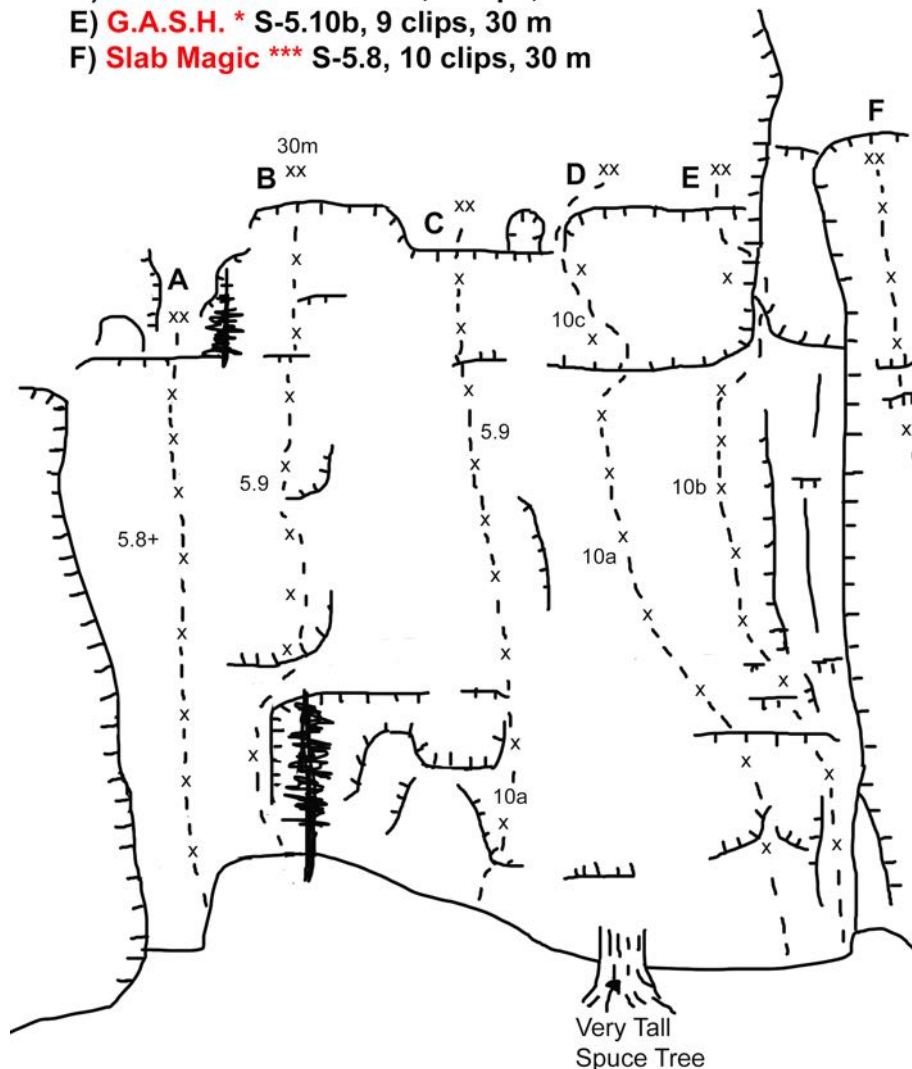
### **G.A.S.H. (Guys Against Sexual Harassment)** \* S-5.10b, 30 m, 9 clips

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

Climbs a bolt line on the left side of the gash splitting the face. The middle section is brilliant face movement, then overcomes the overlap on the right moving up the steep corner then back left past the final bolt to a ring-bolts.

# The Cleft/Left Side

- A) **Kiss The World Beautiful** \* S-5.8+, 8 clips, 25 m
- B) **Walk Down The Mountain** \*\* S-5.9, 8 clips, 30 m
- C) **Strange Way** \* S-5.10a, 9 clips, 30 m
- D) **Bomb Proof** \*\* S-5.10c, 9 clips, 30 m
- E) **G.A.S.H.** \* S-5.10b, 9 clips, 30 m
- F) **Slab Magic** \*\*\* S-5.8, 10 clips, 30 m



## **Bomb Proof** \*\* S-5.10c, 30 m, 9 clips

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

Named after the large block at the crux that was thankfully avoided during the on-sight lead while rope-soloing. The offending “ticking time bomb” has since been dismantled.

## **Strange Way** \* S-5.10a, 30 m, 9 clips

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

Starts just left of the big spruce tree mentioned above. The crux comes figuring out how to get by the first bolt, although there is still good climbing above.

## **Walk Down The Mountain** \*\* S-5.9, 30 m, 8 clips, (optional med-wire)

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

On-sight rope soloed, this is a fun climb that winds a moderate path, (optional med-wire at mid height) to a good ledge and ring-bolts.

**Kiss The world Beautiful \*\* S-5.8+, 25 m, 7 clips, 25 m**

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

Climbs the face located immediately right of the protruding buttress on the left side of the face confining this formation. Several large flakes were removed from this line, making it now a more beautiful climb and safer too..!

**The Devil Horns**

This little formation has two horned tower separated by a corner line called *New Style Old Grade*. This crag makes for a worthwhile stop on the way up to the upper Bluffs.

**Choss-Toss S-5.9, 13 m, 4 clips**

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

A bit of a filler route nothing special. You might include it if you were here as a possible warmup. Several large blocks were turfed off, what remains is nearly all solid.

**Devil's Arete \*\* S-5.10c, 17m, 5 clips**

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

Quite a fun route working the arete through the mid section is the business end on this one.

**New Style Old Grade \* S-5.8+, 17 m, 4 clips**

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

Takes the corner/crack dividing this formation. Gets a little burly at two thirds height. To lower or rapp use the ringbolt station to the right on the route *Devil Horns*.

**Devil Horns \*\* S-5.11a, 17 m, 5 clips**

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

Technical and devious climbing ascend this sustained affair.

**Cherry Bomb \*\* S-5.10d, 17 m, 5 clips**

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

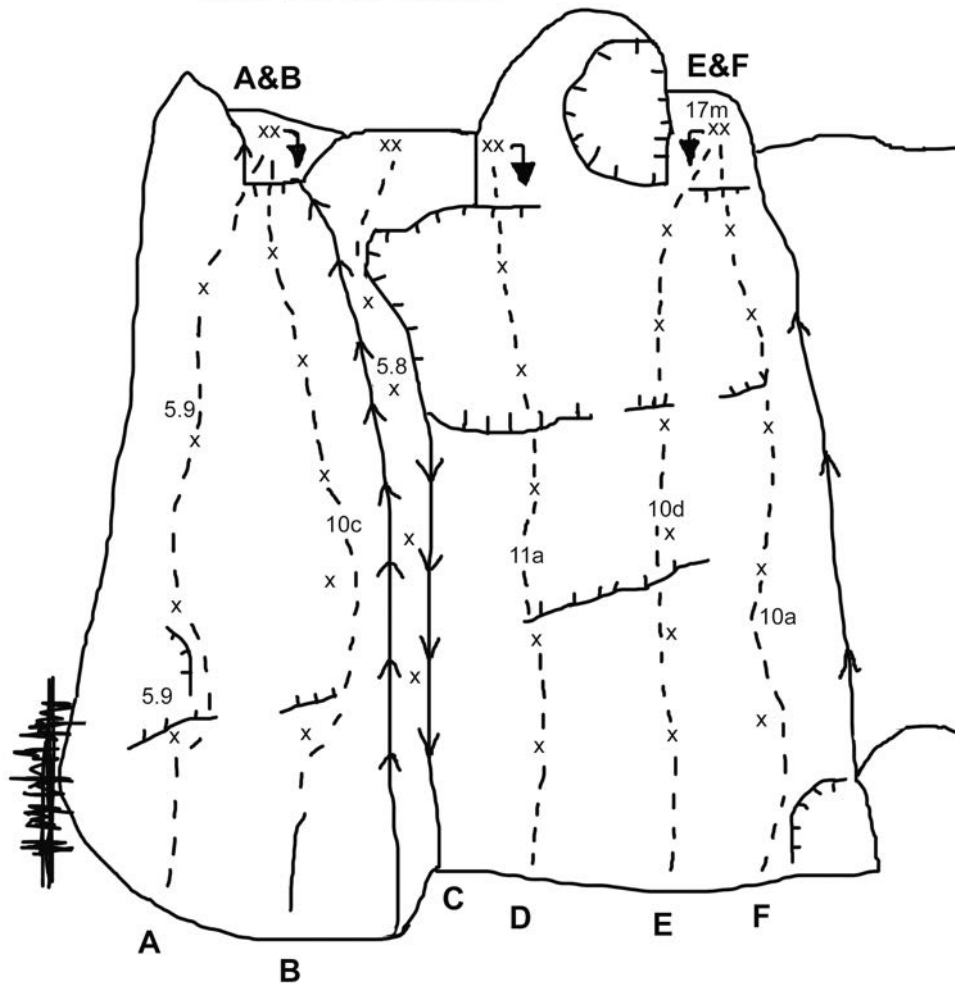
Named after the thousand pound boulder that threatened this route before it was removed with a few pounds of outward pressure. The route is now quite safe to challenge the upper 5.10 climber.

**Wake Me Up \*\* S-5.10a, 17m, 5 clips**

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

My first climb of the day on lead via rope-solo. This climb will quickly "wake you up" as the climbing stays steady from the first bolt onward.

## The Devil Horns



- A) **Choss-Toss** S-5.9, 13 m, 4 clips
- B) **Devil's Arete** \*\* S-5.10c, 17 m, 5 clips
- C) **New Style Old Grade** \* S-5.8+, 17 m, 4 clips
- D) **Devil Horns** \*\* S-5.11a, 17 m, 5 clips
- E) **Cherry Bomb** \*\* S-5.10d, 17 m, 5 clips
- F) **Wake Me Up** \*\* S-5.10a, 17 m, 5 clips

## The Basement

This small formation has three shorter technical face routes developed in 2013 all of them sharing a single top anchor above a ledge at two thirds height. The new Bluffs Loop Access Trail arrives directly below the crag below the climb *Cellar Dweller* at the centre of the formation.

### **The Kid At Play** \*\* S-5.10c, 15 m, 4 clips

*Andy Genreux, may 2013*

On the right side steady technical climbing to a bulge as the arete on the right side confines the south face of the formation.

**Cellar Dweller \*\* S-5.11a, 17 m, 5 clips**

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

Very fine technical movement but all too short on this sustained face climb.

**Boy in The Man \* S-5.10b, 15 m, 4 clips**

*Andy Genereux, May 2013*

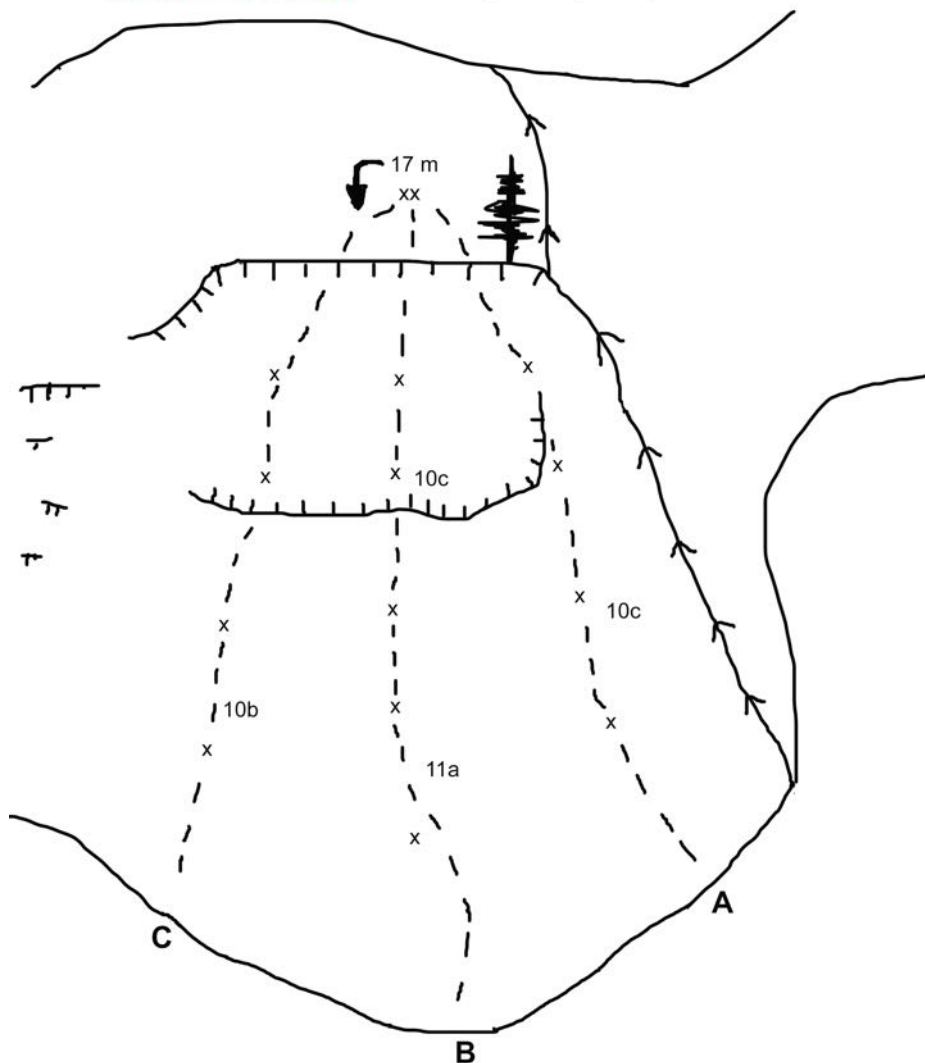
This one lets up on the upper half the crux comes getting by the first bolt.

**The Basement**

A) **The Kid at Play \*\* S-5.10c, 15 m, 4 clips**

B) **Cellar Dweller \*\* S-5.11a, 17 m, 5 clips**

C) **Boy in The Man \* S-5.10b, 15 m, 4 clips**



## Kolbassa Wall

There has been only one new route added to the **East Bay / Sector** of this crag and another existing climb that was completely retrofitted in 2012.

### **Corner Journey \*\* S-5.10c, 30 m, 11 clips**

*Andy Genereux, September 2012*

Starts as for the climb **The Freshest Sausages in the Valley** after the first two bolts heads right to follow the obvious left facing corner dihedral offering steady climbing.

### **The Freshest Sausages In The Valley \*\* S-5.11d/12a, 32 m, 13 clips**

This climb received a complete retrofit. It was reported recently that this 1997 route still had several hangers missing after 15 years! Well-actually all but one were missing. On my arrival at the top anchor I found a lone Rapp hanger with the second anchor bolt using a knife-blade piton and a carabiner. The anchor was replaced with new stainless studs with ringbolt hangers. On rappel what I noticed was that several of the existing studs seemed to be located in bad positions for clipping and several holds seemed loose requiring significant cleaning effort to repair the pitch. After replacing the original studs and some cases relocating bolts to better clipping locations. I climbed the route on top-rope and found the climbing sustained and much harder than the original 5.11a grade reported. A lot of dogging on my part was required to work out the crux moves. I felt the climbing was nearly a complete number grade harder!

What's up with that?

Was this climb ever properly climbed? If so, why wasn't there any hangers?

Why were there still several obvious loose holds on this route after 15 years?

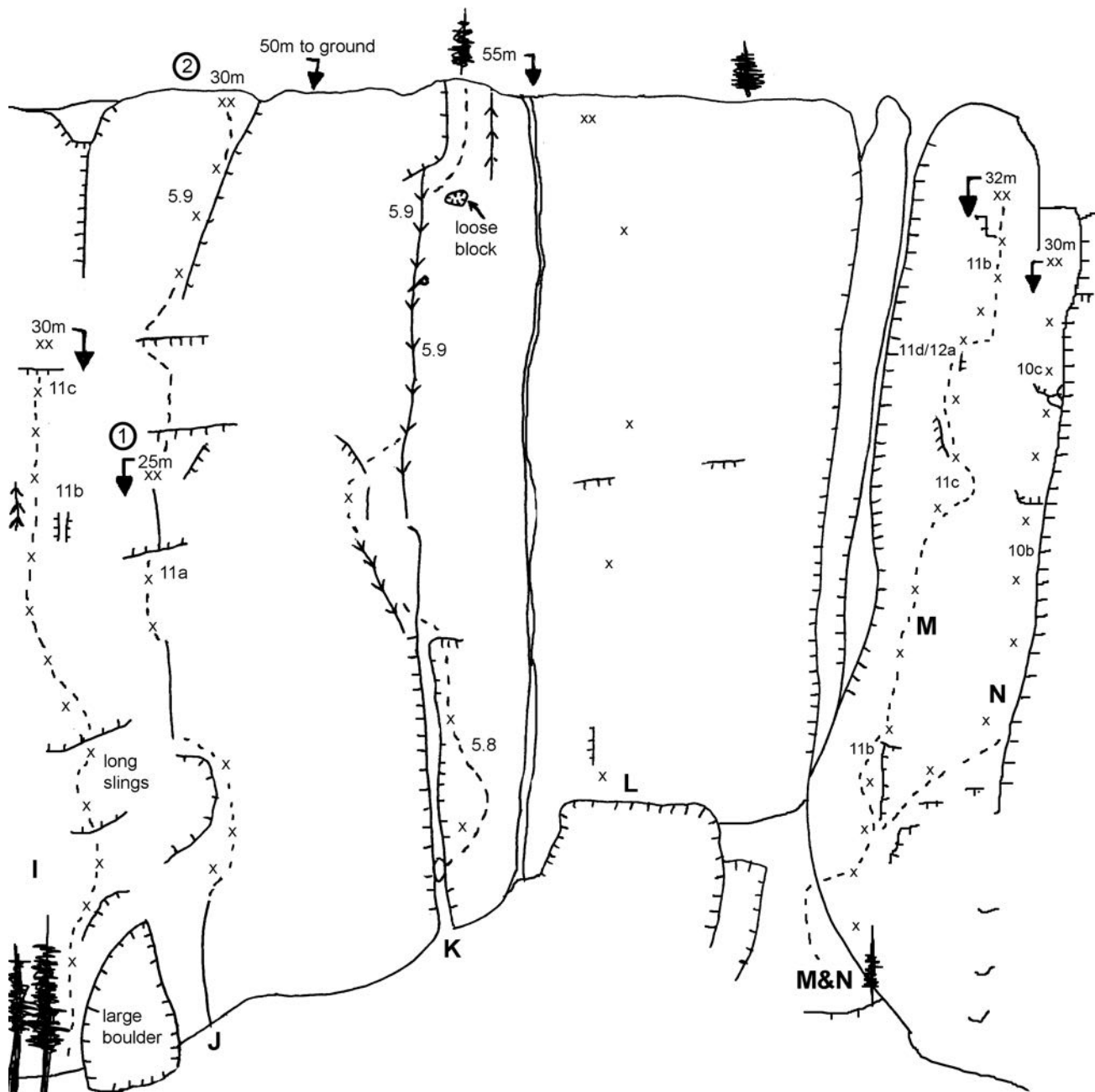
Why such a significant grade difference from then to now?

I finished off installing a single bolt for a base belay and excavated a small platform beside a tree for staging. Having worked out the moves it then took two goes in order to red-point the rig via rope-soloing. The technical crux sections for me proved very challenging and I feel the grade stated is more representative of the climbing.

Having said all that, I was able to get a hold of Dave Crosley to seek answers to these questions. He had a vague recollection of doing this climb. He claims that he was sure that he climbed the line with Joe Josephson belaying him. He didn't think the line was any harder than 5.11a back then. I'm chalking it up to "Youth & Exuberance," Dave is a very good climber maybe back in the day, he hadn't garnered the experience to get the grade right or he found a better way using those original "left handed clips." That said this is now a well protected sustained pitch and is a very worthwhile climb although in my opinion significantly harder than reported in the new **Ghost River Rock Climbs** on **page 262** with a **topo on page 261**. Have fun, I sure did!

# Kolbassa Wall / East Bay

- I) **Manitoba Stoned Pimps** \*\* M-5.11b, gear to 2.5"
- J) **If You love Her Buy Her a Gun** \*\* M-5.11a, gear to 3"
- K) **When Your This Big They Call You Horse** \* T-5.9, gear to 4"
- L) **Project**
- M) **The Freshest Sausages in the Valley** \*\* S-5.11d/12a, 13 clips
- N) **Corner Journey** \*\* S-5.10c, 11 clips



## The Haystack-Update

This larger formation saw only one “mostly” new route added and some retrofitting to rappel anchors. The climbs *Solitaire*, *The Grooves*, *Wasted* and *Lord of the Flies* all had new ringbolt anchors installed. *The Grooves*, along with its new anchor also saw a damaged ring piton replaced by a new bolt and the large tree at the base pruned back to make this introductory level climb significantly more enjoyable.

Below the south face there was also some trail work completed to make access easier.

The lone new route on this prominent formation was an attempt to straighten out of the “old School” climb ***Waste of Time***. In the end an almost independent version had a harder direct start at 5.11b to a new mid-point belay/rappel anchor added. The second pitch taking a fine but hard to read direct finish at 5.11a.

**Note:** The lower crux grade on the original *Waste of Time* has been raised up to 5.10d from 5.10b. The resulting new version called **Nick of Time \*\*** makes for a fine outing sporting modern protection and becomes a fine addition to this crag. Housing exceptional rock for most of the climbing, the route is sustained at 5.10 with definitive 5.11 crux points on both pitches. The route can be rappelled with a single 60 m rope by completing two 25 m rappels. The topo drawing included below details both the old and new versions of this climb. This latest effort was established on lead ground up by way of rope soloing. My hat is off to the lads on *Waste of Time* there were some exciting bits of climbing and true to form for John and Chas significantly under grading their effort.

### **Nick of Time \*\* S-5.11b, 50 m, 9 clips (each pitch)**

*Andy Genereux, September 2012*

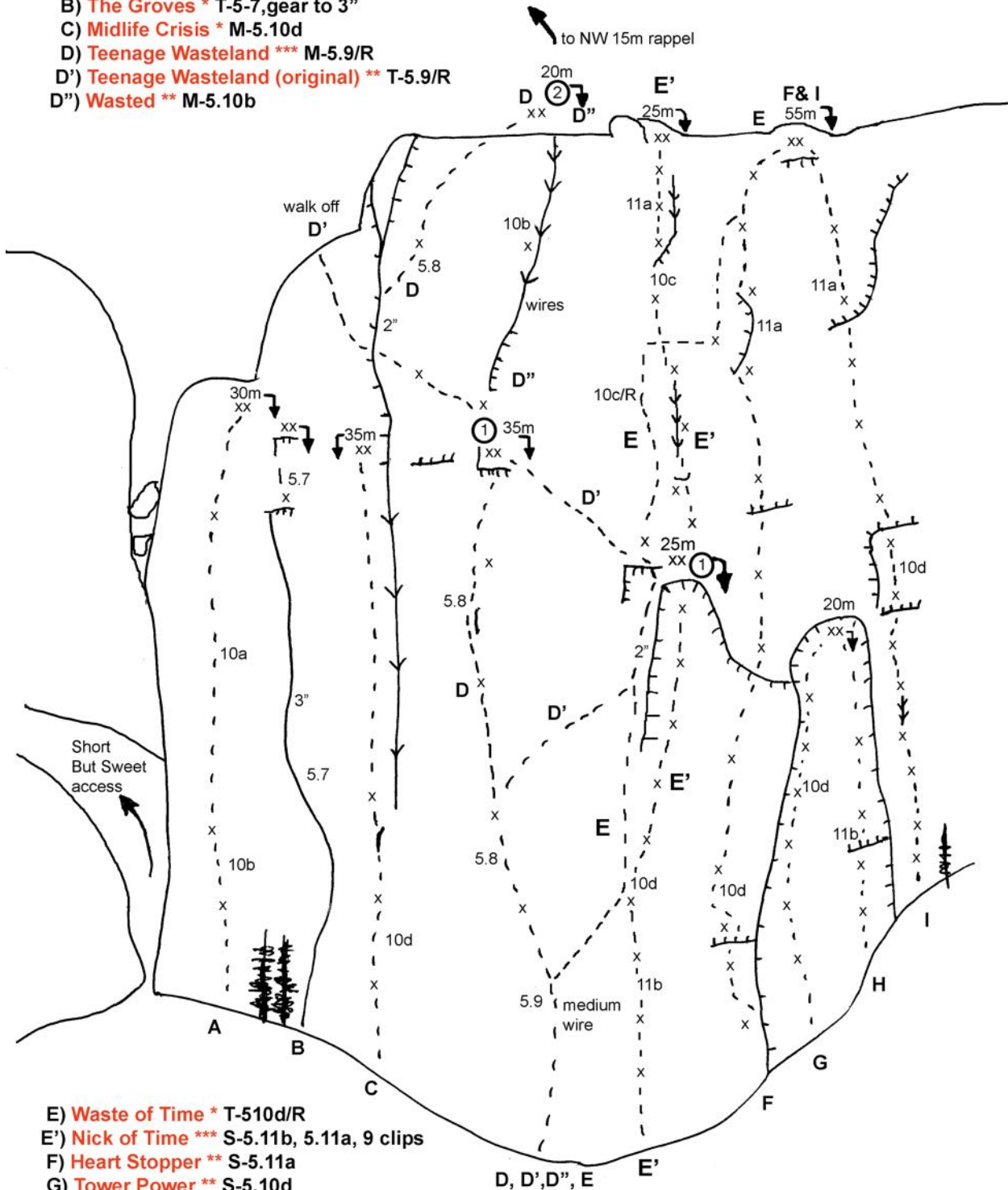
**To Start:** Located 2 metres right of the climb *Teenage Wasteland* locate a line of bolts detailed on **page 245** of new Ghost River Rock Climbs **topo page 246**.

**P1: 5.11b, 25 m.** Go directly up the line of bolts, the crux comes getting by the third bolt on devious technical face climbing. Above the sixth bolt taking a bolted pillar (slightly suspect rock) to a small ledge to belay.

**P2: 5.11a, 25 m.** From the right side of the belay head up past a bolt to enter a shallow groove. Take the groove to a slabby stance and make a committing move over a bulge above to enter a small leaning corner. Make a move left then hard thin pulls to get by the final bolt to the anchor on top.

# The Haystack / South Face

- A) Solitaire \*\* T-10b
- B) The Groves \* T-5-7, gear to 3"
- C) Midlife Crisis \* M-5.10d
- D) Teenage Wasteland \*\*\* M-5.9/R
- D') Teenage Wasteland (original) \*\* T-5.9/R
- D'') Wasted \*\* M-5.10b



- E) Waste of Time \* T-510d/R
- E') Nick of Time \*\*\* S-5.11b, 5.11a, 9 clips
- F) Heart Stopper \*\* S-5.11a
- G) Tower Power \*\* S-5.10d
- H) Quick Fling \* 5.11a,
- I) Lord Of The Flies \*\*\* S-5.11a

D, D', D'', E E'