

## Andrea's Pillars / New Area Ghost River Valley



The Andrea's Pillars as viewed from the Sentinel Cliff parking area

While putting up some new routes in the fall of 2011 at the north facing Sentinel Cliff Andrea turned around and saw some rock pillars sticking out on the lower part of Black Rock Mountain sitting in the warm sunshine. Two days later we were standing below the formations realizing that there was potential for some nice single pitch climbs. Several obvious cracks stood out with possible face climbs in between. The sector offers nice views looking looking down into the North Ghost towards Mt Aylmer. The routes face three aspects: east, west and south, but the wind can be a problem on this exposed ridge. During the fringe seasons spring and fall windy days could prove to be cold.

One year after the initial exploration Andrea, Mark, Paul and Tobias were back to start developing the cliffs. As the rock quality varies in between solid through crumbly cleaning was necessary on most of the routes, some more extensive than others. The first routes were climbed in the early spring of 2013 but the area was not explored further that year due to the immense the flood damages to the whole valley in June of 2013. The fall of 2014 saw renewed activity with most project being climbed. Now the Ghost River Valley has another sunny spot with nice (mostly) sport protected climbing. The small area still has some potential for additional route development. All existing projects are marked with a small sling in the first bolt (if not a trad line), please respect.

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**Access:** Park as for Sentinel Cliff, but head NE straight towards the Ghost River channel towards Black Rock Mountain (you can see the Pillars from the parking). Cross the river and try to find a tree leaning into the river bed on a 45° angle and marked with a pink ribbon (N51 19.052W115 11.797). A small rock karin (contributions welcome) marks the beginning of a marked trail (pink ribbons) which leads up to the Andrea's Pillars sector (~45 m, 200 m vertical) allow 15-20 minutes for the approach.

**Gear:** A 60 m rope is sufficient for all climbs and 10 draws get you up everywhere. If not otherwise stated, all routes have their own fixed rappel station/anchor. The gear requirement for the only mixed line to date is included in the route description.

### 1) **Project (Paul Taylor)**

### 2) **Bring Lots T-5.10b, 30 m, Rack to 5"**

*Tobias Link, June 2013*

Bring a standard rack .4" to 3" and double or even triple .5" to 1.5"

### 3) **Crack The Ripper S-5.11b/c, 30 m, 9 clips**

*Tobias Link, September 2014*

Although all crux sections are bolted, the protection of this route might feel a bit "sporty" for some people taste. Start on a super steep overhanging finger crack (crux, 2 bolts) working your way up dihedrals, cracks and steep faces.

### 4) **Joey And The Horny Goose S-5.10b, 28 m, 7 clips**

*Tobias Link, June 2013*

This line is the first you will encounter coming up the trail. A bolted crack leads up in the middle of the south face. Unfortunately the rock above is crumbly and the routes ends well before the top.

### 5) **Funk Arete S-5.10b, 25 m, 7 clips**

*Paul Taylor, June 2013*

A super fun route with a distinguished crux at the third bolt. Feels pretty hard for the grade, but once you figured out the funky sequence it isn't too bad.

### 6) **Project (Andrea Degagne)**

### 7) **Climbs Nice S-5.10c, 18 m, 6 clips**

*FA. unknown*

Bolted by Paul Gardener, this route is one of the best climbs on the Western Pillar. Nice face climbing to the anchors. It might need an additional bolt after the third one as it might feel a little bit sporty to some folks.



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### 9) **The Crack That Bites Back** S-5.9, 22 m, 10 clips

*Mark Carlson – June 2013*

A unique chimney/crack line which might feel harder if you are not a crack addict. Stem up the outside of the chimney. Look before putting your hand in a crack, or it might bite you back!

### 10) **The Pope's A Cowboy** S-5.11b, 20 m, 8 clips

*Mark Carlson – June 2013*

Saddle up and don't drop your hat when pulling onto the mini ledge at the roof.

### 11) **Blades Of Steel** S-5.11a, 20 m, 6 clips

*Mark Carlson – June 2013*

Big open handed holds lead to excellent sharp crimps up to the top.

### 12) **Break The Door Down** S-5.8, 12m, not recommended

Located on the back side of the eastern pillar directly opposite of the Corridor Route . Climb around the small tree up the corner. The crux is just before the second bolt. The third bolt is attached to a detached block the size of a large door. Don't break down the door, especially if you are attached to it. The anchors are only a move or two higher than the third bolt, so you may want to skip the third bolt entirely. Not recommended in its current state.

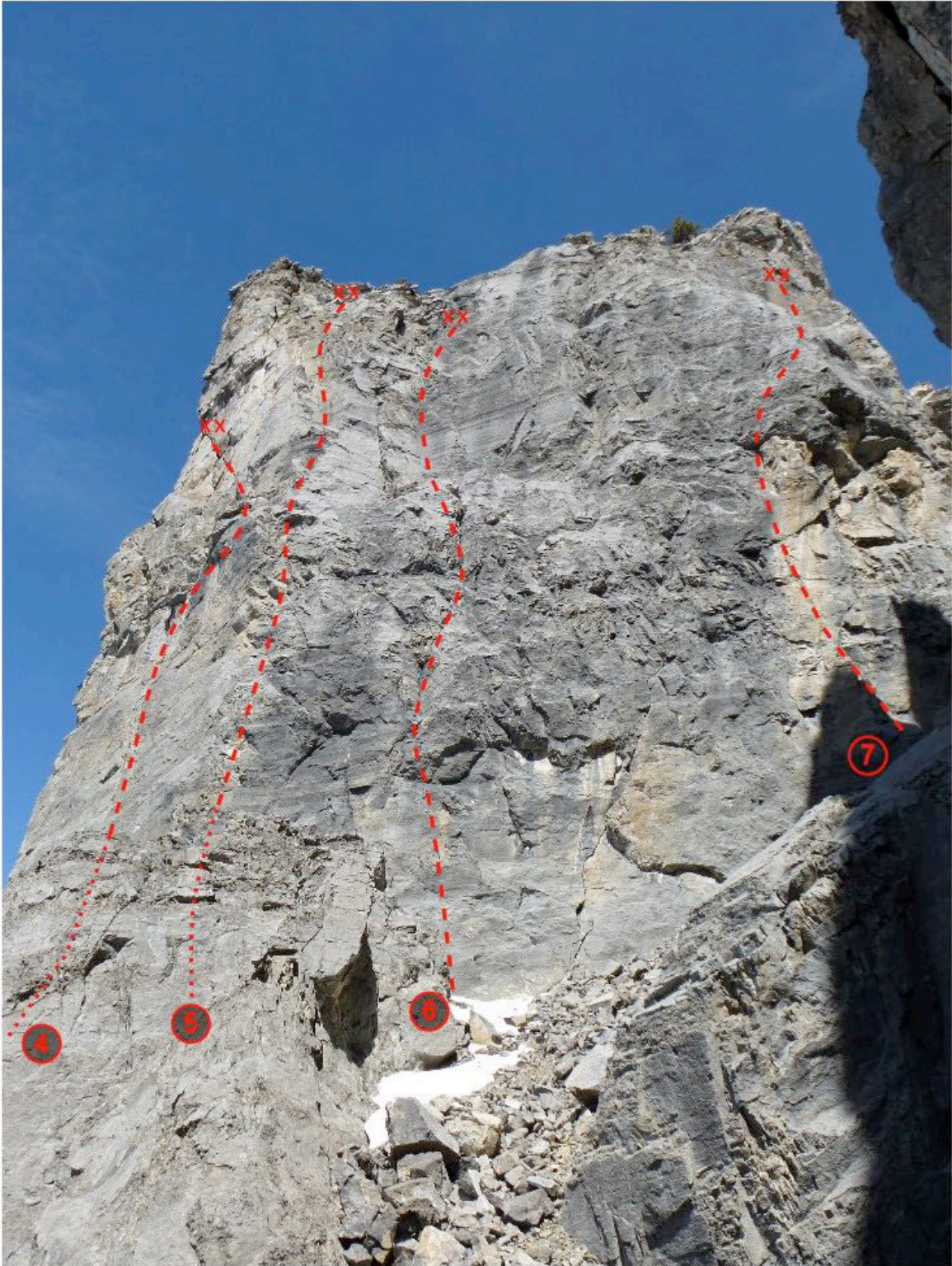
**Note:** no star rating have been applied to these routes for now until a consensus is reached as to grade and quality.

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8) Corridor Route – 10a, 18m

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The south and east face of the Western Pillar

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The west face of the Eastern Pillar

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12) Break the Door Down – 5.8, 12m