

CALIFORNIA CLIMBER

FALL 2019
N° 30

PRINTED
IN THE
U.S.A.

FREE



INSIDE

20 / **BEHIND THE LENS** THE FIDELMAN COLLECTION
36 / **DISPATCH** DEATH SPIN
48 / **DESTINATION** SPLIT ROCK



Climbing Is Our Passion





ALIEN REVOLUTION

The Mother of Modern Cams



WIRE ROPE DRAW

UIAA / CE Rated Life Safety Product

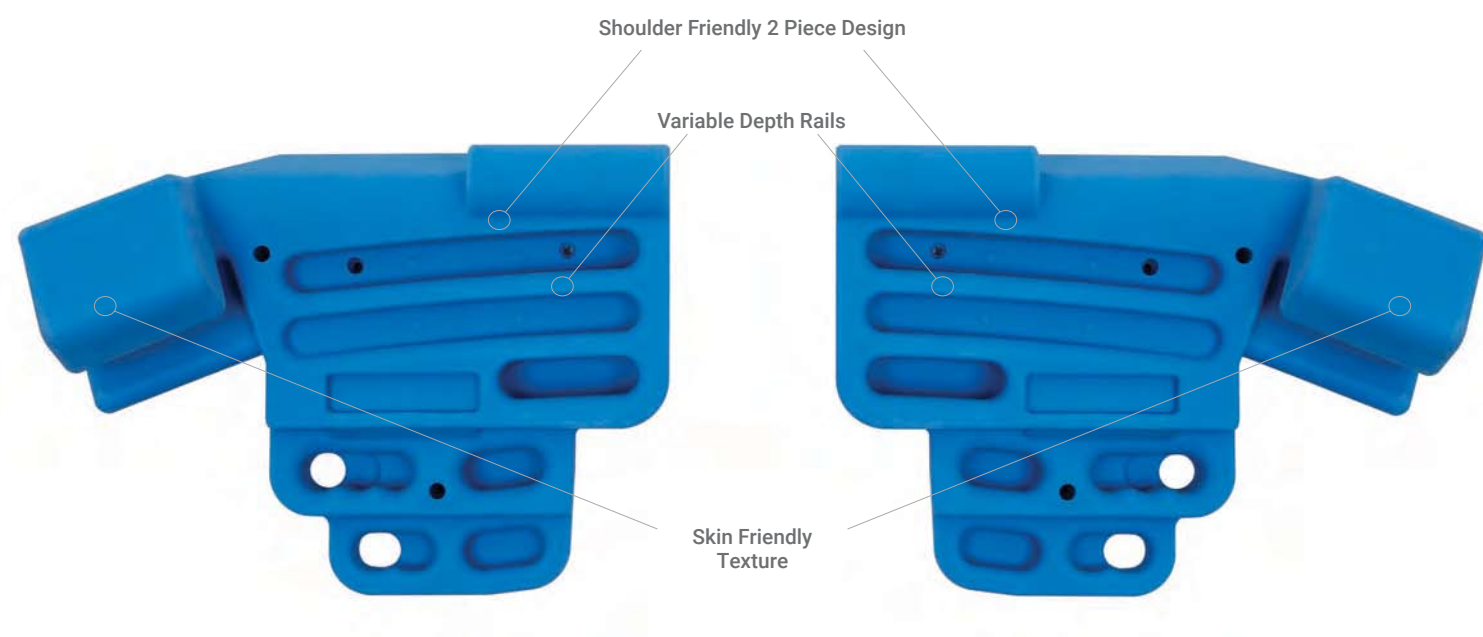


CALIFORNIA CLIMBER

NO. 30
FALL 2019

CALIFORNIACLIMBERMAGAZINE.COM

TRAIN BETTER



ROCK PRODIGY TRAINING CENTER

DEPARTMENTS

08/EDITOR'S NOTE
10/EVENTS
12/ROUTE OF THE SEASON
14/STAND BY YOUR VAN
16/REVIEW
20/BEHIND THE LENS
64/LAST GO

FEATURES

36/DISPATCH: DEATH SPIN
36/DESTINATION: SPLIT ROCK



ON THE COVER

John "Yabo" Yablonski soloing the first ascent of *Spiderline* (5.11d), Joshua Tree National Park.
IMAGE + DEAN FIDELMAN

THIS PAGE

Jazzmyn Zamora climbing an un-named V1 at Luffenholtz Beach.
IMAGE + DEAN FLEMING

Integrated Training App



TRANGO

CALIFORNIA CLIMBER

CALIFORNIACLIMBERMAGAZINE.COM

PUBLISHER
Dean Fleming
ART DIRECTOR
Alton Richardson
SENIOR CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Jerry Dodrill, Jim Thornburg
SENIOR CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Fitz Cahall, James Lucas
CONTRIBUTORS
Alton Richardson, Dean Fidelman, Kim Pfabe, Jim Thornburg, Eric Bissell, Jane Jackson, Katie Goodwin, Frank Hoover, Barbara Woolsey, Bob Swift, Tom Frost, Jerry Galways and Richard Harrison.

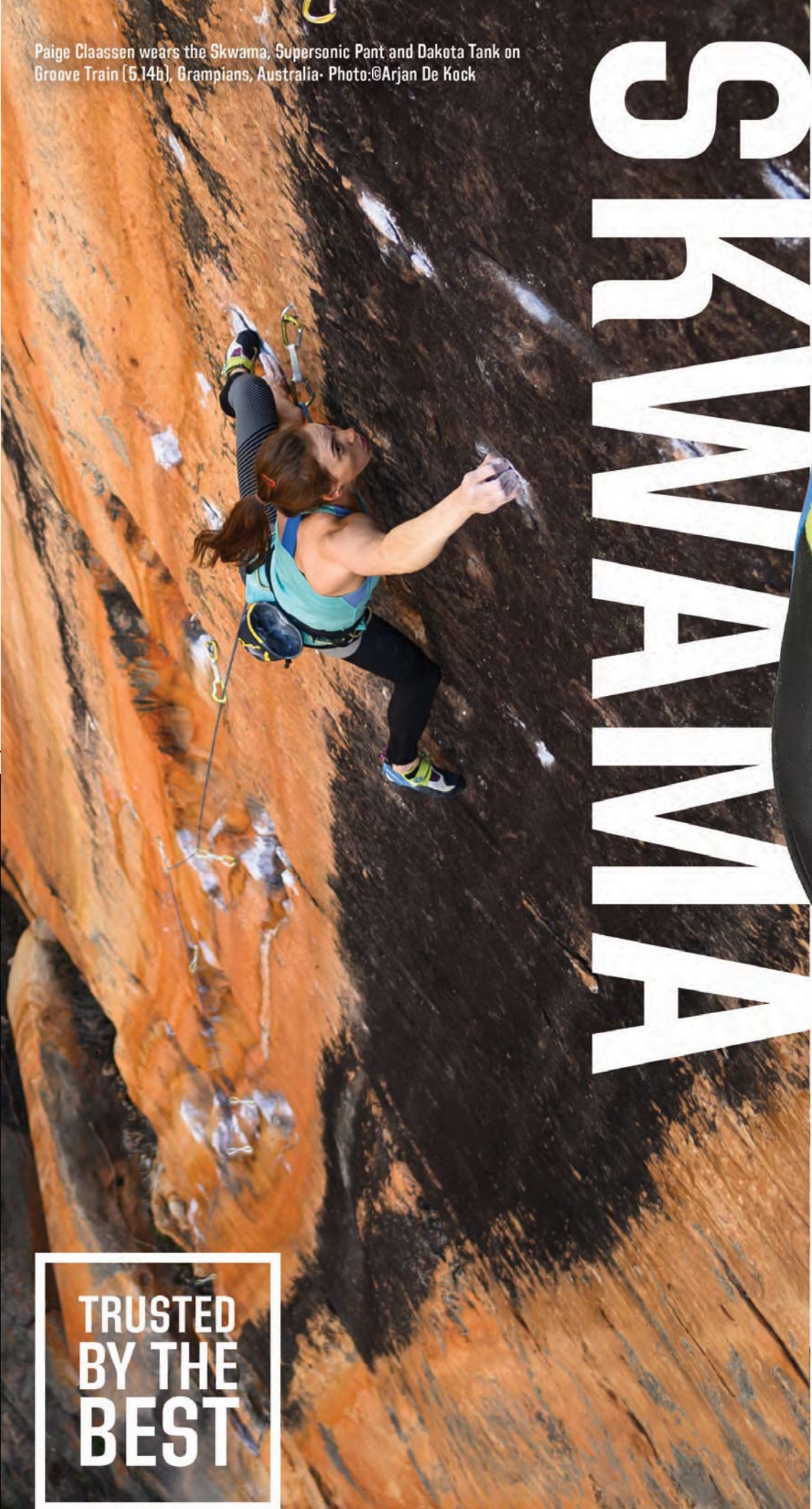
CALIFORNIA CLIMBER
22502 Colorado River Dr.
Sonora, Ca 93570
Phone: (209) 768-0110
Email: climb108@yahoo.com

MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF THE ACTIVITIES DEPICTED HEREIN CARRY AND PRESENT SIGNIFICANT RISKS OF PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.
Rock climbing, bouldering, ice climbing, mountaineering, alpine climbing and any other outdoor activity are inherently dangerous. The owners, staff and management of California Climber do not recommend that anyone participate in these activities unless they are an expert or accompanied by an expert. Please seek qualified professional instruction and/or guidance. Understanding the risks involved are necessary and be prepared to assume all responsibility associated with those risks.



Dave Stallard on *Better Than Sex Porpoises* (5.12c), Emperor Boulder.

JIM THORNBURG



TRUSTED
BY THE
BEST



vibram
XS GRIP 2

LA SPORTIVA
SPORTIVA.COM

C Simmons, Bishop CA. Photo: A Wickstrom

organicclimbing.com

EDITOR'S NOTE

THE GIFT About a week before we sent this edition of *California Climber* to press I received a voicemail from an old high school friend, a fly fishing guide named Nick who's spent more time on Tuolumne County's back roads than anyone else I've met. Nick's voice echoed strangely through the speaker on my battered phone: "Hey man, hope you're doing well, just wanted to let you know that they finally opened the road down to your little climbing spot by the river... it looks good, hope to see you out there." I thought back to last time I'd strapped on a harness and actually tried to push my limits on something taller than a 15-foot boulder. "Has it really been two years?" I wondered.

It's either a blessing or a curse and I can't tell which, but I do know that the ability to establish and climb new routes at a level that pushes your boundaries as a climber starts as a mild addiction until it steadily grows into an obsession – a fixation so strong that it makes most other types of climbing experiences seem benign, forced or downright boring. It seems like all of us know at least one person who's always blathering about their "new zone" and the fact that you should "really check it out!" I'm slowly realizing that I am that person, but the more I expand my friendships and climb with new partners, the more I realize I'm not alone.

"I've gotten really lucky finding new routes that push my limits," said photographer and guidebook author Jim Thornburg while explaining his long-time obsession with establishing new routes near his home in the Bay Area. "It seems like I often find routes that feel impossible at first, but I just keep trying them and then sometimes I end up doing them... it's an incredible gift."

In the Dispatch segment of this edition of *California Climber*, Thornburg takes us down the long and sometimes uncertain path that eventually lead him and other local route developers on a quest to uncover and equip new climbs along the coastline just north of the San Francisco Bay Area. Most importantly, Thornburg shows us that it often takes a fresh or even unusual perspective to look beyond the choss and see the potential for high-quality climbs – especially on the oddly featured stone found along the Central and Northern California Coast.

"Eventually, the lure of hard new routes to climb led us back to Alex's book," says Thornburg. "We glossed over the pages of easier climbs and gravitated to the crags with potential for harder lines... Looking back I just wasn't forward-thinking enough to cash in on the bounty Alex had discovered." For more, check out Dispatch: Death Spin on page 36. —DEAN FLEMING



Ben Pope gets a feel for route development at "The River Spot."

DEAN FLEMING



SIERRA NEVADA
ADVENTURE CO.
GEAR FOR WILD ENVIRONMENTS



173 S. WASHINGTON ST.
DOWNTOWN SONORA
209.532.5621
snacattack.com

everything you need
for your next
climbing adventure



Lizzy Ellison



The Eiger V10  Paul Robinson



EVENTS

OCTOBER 18TH-20TH, 2019:
FRIENDS OF JOUSHUA TREE
CLIMB SMART 2019

Join Friends of Joshua Tree this year as we bring the community spirit together with the stewardship mindset, along with the inspiration and guidance of dozens of pros and working AMGA and PCGI certified guides for a fun and amazing experience of climbing in Joshua Tree National Park. This year we have become a Joint Member partner organization to the Access Fund, increased our profile through more energetic local volunteer efforts, and redoubled our work with JTNP as a new Climbing Management Plan begins development. We need all climbers to be part of this movement to show our strength and diversity in numbers... Climb Smart is the exact place to do this. Also, it's super fun.

TO REGISTER FOR CLIMB SMART 2019 VISIT
EVENTBRITE.COM/E/FOJT-CLIMB-SMART-2019-
TICKETS-56753260530

NOVEMBER 1ST-3RD, 2019:
AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB
BISHOP FALL HIGHBALL CRAGGIN' CLASSIC

This three-day climbing festival is a true celebration of climbing and community in the Eastern Sierra. Started over a decade ago by local climbers looking to clean up the Buttermilks and afterwards drink some beers with friends, the Highball has always been a grassroots event

by climbers, for climbers. The event has grown to feature films, climbing clinics, slideshows, games, gear, local beer, and good times—all in a massive gathering in the heart of downtown Bishop. And of course, we take pride by giving back through local stewardship projects, which take place in the Volcanic Tablelands and the Buttermilks.

TO REGISTER FOR THE 2019 HIGHBALL CRAGGIN' CLASSIC VISIT
AMERICANALPINECLUB.ORG/BISHOP-CC

NOVEMBER 2ND, 2019:
TOUCHSTONE CLIMBING
BATTLE OF THE BAY AT DOGPATCH BOULDERS

Battle of the Bay at Dogpatch Boulders in San Francisco is the largest bouldering competition in the country. Test your mettle in our all-levels Citizens Category, where we reset the whole gym with brand new plastic problems for everyone to pull on. When you're done climbing hard you can party harder with free pizza, beer, and prizes. Heavy hitters can sign up for our Open Category for a chance at the crown and a \$10,000 cash purse! This is a USA Climbing National Cup Series event. Open competitors must register through the USA Climbing website and place in one of the top eight slots in the Redpoint Round to move on to the Onsite Finals Round.

TO REGISTER FOR BATTLE OF THE BAY 2019 VISIT
TOUCHSTONECLIMBING.COM/BATTLE-OF-THE-BAY/

From Humble Beginnings...



Made in the U.S.A. since 1983

Metolius



Eas|side Sports
Mountain Sports Specialists Since 1977

WE HAVE ALL THE GEAR
YOU NEED FOR:
Climbing
Bouldering
Mountaineering
Day hiking
Backpacking
Trail running
And just hanging out
in the Eastern Sierra

INCLUDING:
Mountain Footwear
Books and Maps
Apparel
Tents & Sleeping Bags
Accessories

WE RENT:
Climbing shoes
Bouldering pads
Tents
Sleeping bags
Backpacks

224 North Main St. Bishop, CA 93514, tel 760-873-7520
eastsidesports.com, info@eastsidesports.com

locally owned since 1977

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK



ROUTE OF THE SEASON

WORDS & IMAGE + DEAN FLEMING

BETA

ROUTE: The Fracture
GRADE: 5.10d
LENGTH: 70 feet
ROCK TYPE: Granite
SEASON: Summer & Fall
STYLE: Traditional, single pitch
RACK: Doubles from 1/8" to 1.25"
LOCATION: East Face, Sugarloaf
APPROACH: Thirty minutes
DESCENT: Lower off, bolted anchor
GUIDEBOOK: *Rock Climbing Lake Tahoe* by Mike Carville

DESCRIPTION

Sugarloaf can be seen from California's Highway 50 near the small town of Kyburz; a towering spire capped by a huge and intimidating roof system on its east side. Although the Sugarloaf formation appears close to the road at first glance, it does require a steep and somewhat grueling 30-minute uphill slog. Thankfully the trail to Sugarloaf is littered with neat boulders and smaller cliffs that are well-worth climbing if you'd like to break up the approach. Because of its relatively low elevation Sugarloaf is widely considered to be an excellent late fall and early winter crag that features everything from sport-bolted face climbs to single and multi-pitch crack climbs. The Fracture (5.10d) is an aptly named splitter finger crack located directly below the daunting roof of Grand Illusion (5.13b/c) on the East Face of Sugarloaf. The Fracture is considered by many to be a challenging 5.10d, but because of its short crux section and ample opportunities for excellent gear placements it does make a great route for those seeking safe crack climbs in the 5.10+ and 5.11- range. Although most parties rappel or lower from the bolted anchor at the top of the first pitch, there does exist a high quality 5.8 second pitch that ends at the ledge below Grand Illusion - a much more dramatic, logical and recommended location to end the climb.

Jim Thornburg climbing *The Fracture* (5.10d).

FIFTY YEARS
50
STRONG





“KANYE WESTY”

Eric Bissell an Jane Jackson's
1985 VW Westafalia Vanagon

CC: So where did you ever come up with the name for Kanye Westy?

EB/JJ: I figured Mr.West would appreciate having a 1985 VW van named after him. I checked #kanyewesty on Instagram to make sure no one else had already claimed it and was good to go. Kim Car-dashian didn't quite fit.

Why did you decide to go with a Westafalia?

Westy's are open and inviting. I like that people can stand outside a Westy and have a conversation with someone sitting on the bench seat at eye level. The surround windows and slider door make it very engaged with the landscape and counteract the van-cave atmosphere sometimes seen in cargo vans/Sprinters. They're the perfect size too, I like having not having a huge footprint at crowded crag parking areas.

What was your initial investment and what have you had to fork out since?

I bought the van for \$10,500. I've done most of the repairs myself, but take it to a few choice mechanics when I can't diagnose an illness. Maybe \$2,500 shop bills over

three years? I carry an assortment of spare parts in the van, and when Kanye gets sick I can start swapping out sensors and meters until we're all good again. Sometimes it's moody or gets sick, I'll baby it a little, and it'll get better. It's a weird van.

Have you done any custom modifications or upgrades?

100-watt Solar panel on top runs lights, house battery, inverter etc, a new propane tank, 15' wheels with AT tires, burly bumper to carry my Suzuki DR 350 on the back and some basic upgrades for a 30 year old van - new fuel lines, wiring harness, alternator. I love my Shureflo faucet.

What is your absolute favorite part about Kanye Westy? Least?

The pop top is game changer. Although not ideal for urban camping, it fits my lifestyle perfectly. Meant to be a sleeper, we use the top space to get crap from the floor out of the way once we've set up camp. Having headroom while hanging and cooking makes you feel good. Least favorite... awkward small talk at gas stations.

What was the best adventure Kanye Westy has taken you on?

We were looking for boulders at night in a remote spot of Northern New Mexico (bad idea) and drove into a marsh. The van sunk in and was digging itself to the axle as we spun tires. After spinning deeper and deeper into the mud, we opted to call it and sleep. It was winter and froze that night. At dawn we crawled back out into the marsh but at this point it was solid. An hour of chipping and the van was free! Drove out on the frozen marsh and found some incredible quartzite blocks.

Anything else you'd like to add?

Come on in, but leave your shoes at the door.



AT DOGPATCH BOULDERS
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND, 2019

OPEN: \$100 before Oct 30th
\$150 after Oct 30th

CITIZENS: Free for members
\$25 for non-members

SPECTATORS: Free for members
\$10 for non-members

Don't miss the biggest bouldering comp on the West Coast!
Push yourself in our all-levels Citizens category with brand new boulders and free beer, pizza, prizes, and more. Stick around for Open Finals to watch some of the best sports action all year.

Got your eye on the \$10,000 cash prize? Register for the Open category to compete with the best of the best. This is a USA Climbing National Cup Series event—Open competitors must register with USAC and compete in the Redpoint Round on Friday 11/1 for a chance at Finals on Saturday 11/2.



METOLIUS EASY AIDER

{ \$39.95 }

If you spend more than an hour in El Cap Meadow this fall you'll probably overhear at least a few different "best methods" for ascending fixed lines and/or fast, efficient aid climbing. At least a dozen different companies boast different daisy/aider combinations and many claim to have engineered the most efficient systems. In truth, the safest and best system is the one that you're most familiar and comfortable with, but if you're still learning the ropes and in the market for a aiders and/or daisy systems, the Metolius Easy Aider in paired with a traditional daisy chain or a Metolius Easy Daisy is a wonderfully adjustable and innovative option.

While most adjustable daisy chains and aiders require the climber to utilize one hand position for adjusting the system and a different hand position to clip the carabiner attached to the end, the Metolius Easy Aider offers a [revolutionary adjustable design](#) that allows the climber to operate both the buckle and the carabiner



without changing grip. Although this process is explained in much greater detail on via a video on the Metolius website, the basic idea is that a loop of webbing at the end of the aider can be gripped by the climber's thumb or fingers while the carabiner is simultaneously gripped and opened with the same hand. This allows the climber to lengthen the daisy/aider while reaching up with the carabiner open and ready to clip the next piece of protection.

The Metolius Easy Aider is made from 3/4" nylon webbing and has anodized CNC aluminum buckles for durability. Although [the Easy Aider is beefy](#) and will withstand wear over the years, it should be noted that this product is designed and rated for body weight only. The wide, comfortable foot stirrups buckle securely in place, making this the [ultimate ascender sling](#) (no more feet slipping out of the stirrups when ascending). For quick identification the Easy Aiders are labeled and [color-coded specifically for the right and left foot](#).

FIXE ROCA MONKEY 9.0

{ \$229.95 }

60M

This summer and early fall we tested Fixe/Roca's lightest and thinnest rope, the Monkey 9.0 Full Dry, while establishing routes on the Central California Coast and while cragging across the state. The ["stiff in a good way"](#) 9.0mm rope came out of the package running smooth for both belayer and climber, making for a perfect start to a great relationship. "The Endurance sheath allows for some of the easiest rope management we have experienced. After months of use not once did the Monkey hang up in the belay device; no kinky spirals to fight or sticking, just a [perfect glide](#) without feeling like the rope would slip. Not only does the tightly-woven sheath provide a smooth and easy handle, it provides addition protection against the dirtiest of dirt, sharp rock snags, and the Full Dry Treatment has kept the Monkey looking like new.



Although we mostly tried to destroy the Monkey 9.0 while establishing new routes on sharp coastal rock, the Monkey has been specifically designed by Fixe/Roca for [hard redpoints, fast and light ascents](#) of difficult long routes and mountain adventures where a less bulky and lighter weight cord can help with fast and efficient travel. The Monkey is triple certified for use as a single rope, double rope or twin rope use, is Full Dry and is compliant with the Water Repellent UIAA regulations. On top of this, Fixe/Roca also used their patented Endurance and SPD technology which is designed to reduce abrasion and penetration of ice, dust and sand between the filaments. In testing we found that the Monkey doesn't fall short for both climber and belayer and at a scant 58 grams per-meter it [stuffs easily in your pack](#) and won't break your back on grueling approaches.

Perfect Balance



MASTIA

Everything about the MASTIA has been designed to achieve perfectly balanced performance.

The result: maximum sensitivity in every movement for more efficient and natural climbing.

TENAYA®



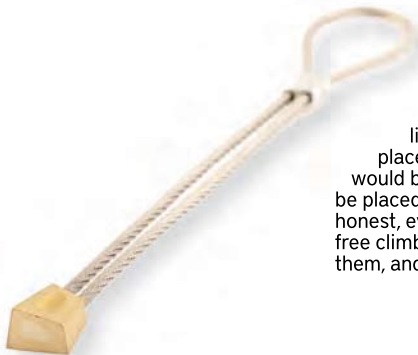
www.tenayausa.com

DMM HB BRASS OFFSETS

{ \$23.95 }

The DMM HB Brass Offsets are named after the man who designed them - Hugh Banner, the iconic British climber who started the company HB in the 1980s and pioneered the manufacturing of offset brass micro nuts. Before this time the only brass micro nuts in the World were the RP which did not include an offset option. Although today a few other manufacturers do make brass offset micro nuts, the HB is the tried and true option that most climbers around the globe choose to trust with their lives and limbs.

We found that the Brass Offsets **excellently protect small flared cracks**, often fitting perfectly where nothing else will go. The brass used for the head of the nut is soft enough to bite into placements, but hard enough to resist deforming and pulling through. The wires



of the DMM HB Brass Offsets are soldered directly into the nut head, allowing a thicker wire to be used and increasing overall strength. The color-coded swage gives **easy size selection** and allows the Brass Offset to self equalize when loaded, making the most of marginal placements. Although something like DMM HB Brass Offset micro nuts can offer placements when no other form of passive protection would be possible, they're still freaking tiny and should be placed with expert precision and the upmost care. To be honest, every time we've "tested" these small nuts when free climbing, we seldom weighted them and never fallen on them, and we usually place a "nest" of them, just to be sure.

CYPRESS CAMP CHAIR

{ \$0 }

After a long day at the cliff it's nice to plop down on your crash pad and relax with a craft beer, but wouldn't you rather chainsaw and then tediously hand-whittle a piece of furniture from a heavy piece of wood? If you're climbing in California's National Forests with the proper wood-cutting permits and you have a **pension for exhausting manual labor** tasks, you're in luck! In testing we found the process of constructing the Cypress Camp Chair to be tiresome yet fulfilling when paired with a positive mental attitude, freshly sharpened chains on our saws and a smoking grill with cheap hotdogs awaiting our return.

Some testers remarked that the seat and back of the Cypress Camp Chair was too firm, yet this problem was rapidly solved with a dirty towel and a sweatshirt placed under the butt and back. The Cypress Camp



* ADJUSTMENT
BLOCKS MADE
SEPERATELY

Chair was assembled in a maximum reclining position, yet we found this position to be **easily adjustable** with the addition of large, medium and small sized chunks of wood placed underneath the leg of the chair. If you're looking for an ultra-light pack chair that will cost you around \$100 and break the first time your friend tries to tackle you into the fire, then the Cypress Camp Chair is probably not for you. However, if you're seeking an extremely laborious and heavy object that is **100% organic and made in the USA**, the Cypress Camp Chair is definitely worth checking out.

Editor's Note: No live trees were harmed in the making of this product and/or review.

wired for action

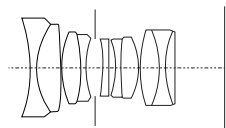
Ryan Pasquill, *Big Issue* (5.13c R), Pembroke, UK.
Photo: Ray Wood



DMM's 2019 range of wiregate quickdraws is trad to the bone—featuring satin anodised carabiners with a color-matched Dynatec sling. Available in 12, 18 and 25cm lengths.

Refinement you'll appreciate. Quality you can trust when you need it the most.





BETWEEN FRIENDS

WORDS + DEAN FIDELMAN / IMAGES + DEAN FIDELMAN COLLECTION

RIGHT

JOSHUA TREE 1972

IMAGE + Kim Cooper

The Epic Tobin Sorensen, his hands taped up for a burn on Tumbling Rainbow tries to stay warm by walking a footbridge support cable on a cold winter’s day. Dean Fidelman (left) and Gib Lewis (right) apparently haven’t quite yet learned the art of, spotting. The photograph was made by Gibs friend Kim Cooper and had never been viewed until it was rediscovered in 2009.

1978, JOSHUA TREE, CALIFORNIA “Dean, Dean, Dean! Make my picture! Yabo was sitting down, rope around his waist belaying John Bachar while he did a top rope burn. I put down the reefer I was nursing and looked at my hands covered in chalk, small spots of blood welled from the backs of them, evidence of too much strength, too little technique. Yabo yarded in a few feet of rope as I fished the camera from my pack, Bachar was at the crux and in lockdown mode so I figured this was a good time to make a photograph.

I discovered my passions early in life; photography and climbing, one lead to the other. As a wide-eyed teenager of the 70s I was struggling to be free and searching for inspiration. Images made by Glen Denny, Tom Frost and the Dolt (Bill Furher) fed my imagination. I longed for the skills to tell my Tribe’s story so perfectly. Just being there wasn’t enough for a StoneMaster, style, boldness and freedom ruled our world, pushing the boundaries was expected and we didn’t disappoint. Perfection wasn’t just a concept; it was simply a word and a way of living our lives.

In 2006 I began a three-year quest with the legendary author John Long to gather photographs and stories for the Stone Masters Book (StoneMater Press 2009). This journey was a turning point in my life and it fundamentally changed how I see photography and the climbing community. Dusty shoe-boxes kept in garages yielded gold, images that didn’t exist, time and time again, appeared. Every photograph has a story beyond what you see and know. This is what draws us in and beckons us to share the moment. I began to understand that my photographs only told a small part of our history and that it would take all of us to make this book.

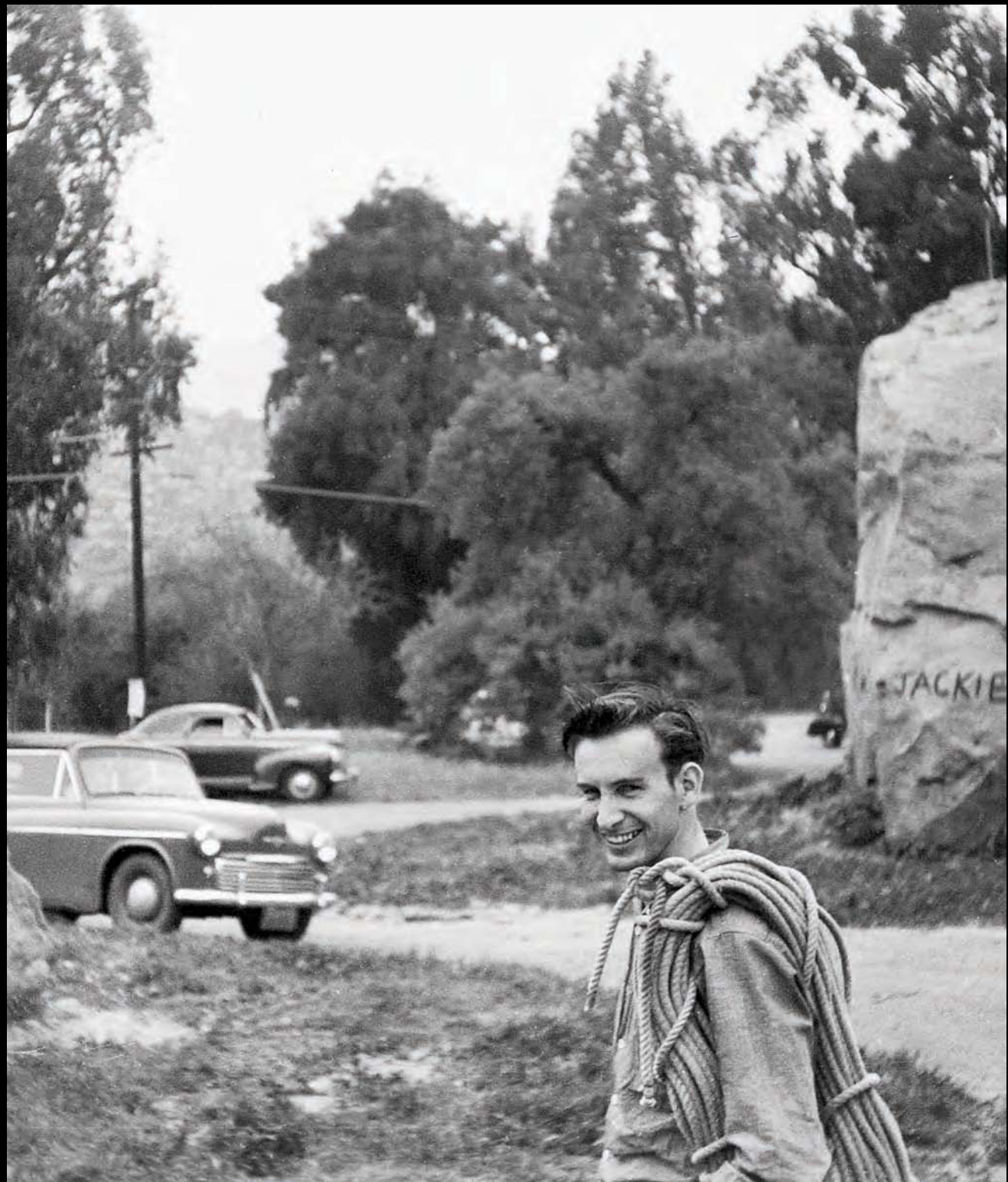
As a photographer, I’m constantly aware of my camera, the light, focus and composition. I feel safe and comfortable behind the lens, in control of the situation and able to express what I’m seeing and feeling. As a photo editor I decided to travel to each contributor and scan the work myself, every trip was like sitting around 10,000 campfires. My path with the StoneMasters book was to relearn what a great photograph really was. Imperfection would become perfect.

There is a certain truth that is clearly visible in a photograph made between friends; a fundamental trust and bond allows this to happen. In this moment there is no camera just a feeling - technique, focus and composition mean nothing. These images connect with us because they were made with love.

I used this approach again while gathering images for Yosemite in the Fifties (Patagonia Books 2015) go to the source and find the love, those images that never existed or were overlooked. Using today’s digital scanning technology twisted bits of film and images deemed too dark to print can be coaxed back to life. Each campfire fed my desire to continue searching and collecting our history, the photographs became music to my eyes visual notes for the symphony of the climbing life.

Shared experiences are a large part of climbing culture, racking up in the parking lot, drinking in the rain and the obligatory summit photograph. The images in this story were all made between friends; simple, passionate photographs of lives lived well. Nothing gets in our way when we view them, no logos to sell nor judgments to be made, just life.





LEFT

STONEY POINT 1952

IMAGE + FRANK HOOVER

A very young Royal Robbins flashing his grin during a Sierra Club outing at Stoney Point in the San Fernando Valley. Royal's reputation as a bold climber had already been established as a teen, one of his early partners was Frank Hoover a RCS team leader and an avid amateur photographer. "I wasn't a great climber at all, but I was there and I always had my camera."



ABOVE

YOSEMITE VALLEY 1957

IMAGE + BARBARA WOOLSEY

Mark Powell, Dolt (Bill Feuerer) and Warren Harding having a rainy parking lot moment after an early exploration on El Capitan's Nose route. Mark Powell (left) was to become the Original C4B (Camp 4 Bum) working as a fruit picker in the central valley then riding his bicycle back to the Valley. He lived to climb. Dolt (center) nearly died high on the route when a rat eaten hemp rope he was Prusiking on suddenly broke. Falling about a dozen feet he landed on the aptly named Dolt Tower, his quick thinking partners hauling him back from the void. Dolt saw God that day and would soon drop out of the quest to focus on inventing new gear. Many of the tools he made were used on the climb. Harding (left) would spend the next 18 months with a variety of partners before reaching the summit of El Capitan on November 12th 1958. Barbara Woolsey who was Powell's girlfriend at the time made the photograph. "I remember Dolt handing me the camera and telling me it was ready to go, just push the button, so I did."



CHONGO'S OFFICE, YOSEMITE 2006

IMAGE + DEAN FIDELMAN

Nestled in the Trees not far from the lodge cafeteria is the Office, named after the Monkey's Spiritual leader, Chongo. A place to bring your purloined coffee, sit in the Sun and pass the pipe while listening to Chuck lecture about all things Physics. The Professor was out that day due to the flooded meadow that leads to his office so Lucho Rivera and I made do with some smoke, and silence.



ABOVE

EL CAP MEADOW, YOSEMITE 2002

IMAGE + DEAN FIDELMAN

Young Monkey's Tommy Caldwell (left) and Chris McNamara discover the wheel. The Meadow is one of my favorite places to hang out with friends, a place to begin and end your day. Whether it's a quick bicycle repair or a layback day, El Cap meadow is the place to be.

RIGHT

CLIMBER OLYMPICS, JOSHUA TREE 1978

IMAGE + DEAN FIDELMAN

It was one of those windy freezing days in the Park, climbing just wasn't going to happen. Largo suggested we have a Climber's Olympics, "Ho Man" he bellowed, "perhaps the standing curb-jump should be first" Bachar began the competition, dressed in his finest Olympic outfit setting a new world record on his first attempt. (Left to Right) Mari Gingery, Roy McClanahan, Jessica Perrin, Rick Cashner and John Long checking out Bachar in mid flight. Lynn Hill checking out his...



YOSEMITE 1954

IMAGE + BOB SWIFT

Frank Tarver (LEFT) and Warren Harding (RIGHT) seen here racking up for the second ascent of the Lost Arrow Chimney in front of Warren's MG. Harding loved climbing, fast cars and women, not necessarily in that order. It's the random piles of gear, pins, slings, first aid kit and ropes that I love about this image, oh and Warren's hair, it's immaculate. Bob Swift, the team's third member, made the photograph, "It was my first camera. I picked it up the week before our climb. It wasn't until the second roll that I realized you could focus the lens."





LEFT

THE DOLT, YOSEMITE 1960

IMAGE + TOM FROST

Bill Feuerer was a complicated man, climber, artist, inventor and engineer. He served in the Army in the early fifties and was stationed in Germany where he purchased a 35mm Leica, most of his photography was made with this camera. In 1960 Tom Frost was in Yosemite to attempt the second ascent of the *Nose* on El Cap. He spent the day exploring the lower pitches of the climb with Dolt. Later that afternoon back at camp Dolt carefully loaded a fresh roll of black & white film into his camera and snapped it closed. Turning to Tom he offered him the camera, "Take my picture" he asked, Frost gladly accepted the Leica and made Bill's photograph. When Tom tried to hand Dolt his camera back Bill waved him off, "It's yours now; I want you to have it."

ABOVE

TOP OF THE *TOTEM POLE*, MONUMENT VALLEY, AZ 1972

IMAGE + JERRY GALWAS

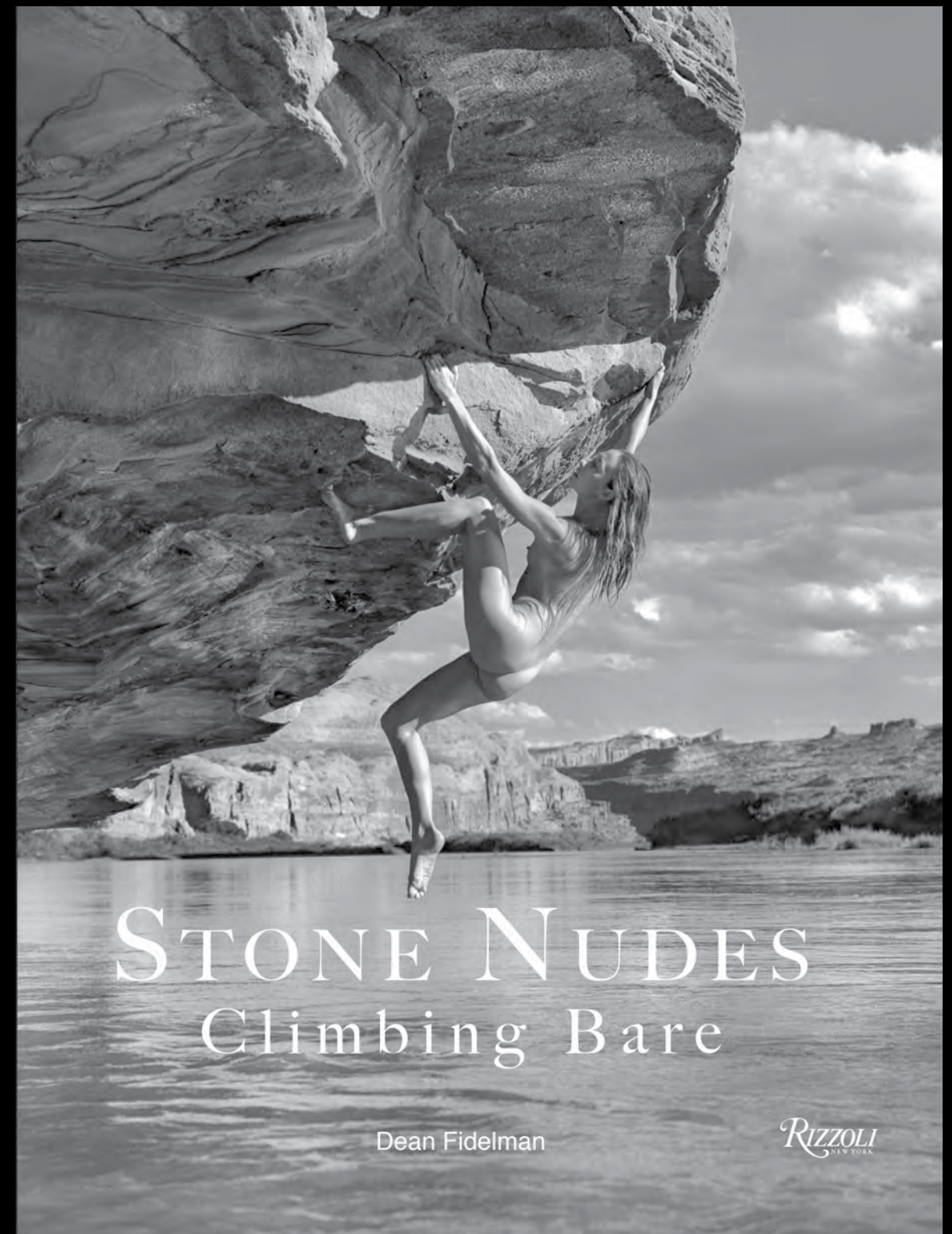
A summit photograph is a tradition for climbers, a keepsake of an epic route with equally epic friends. This self timer made image is from the first ascent of the *Totem Pole* in Monument Valley, hunkering down to avoid the wind the team celebrates their epic climb. (Left to Right) Mark Powell, Jerry Galwas, Don Wilson and Bill Feuerer.



TOBIN SORENSON, TAHQUITZ ROCKS 1974

IMAGE + RICHARD HARRISON

Nicknames and iconic poses were two of the things that “made” you a StoneMaster. Our inspiration came from old black & white photographs we’d find in books of Mountaineers who to a man, smoked. Tobin, the only non smoker in the group, strikes a pose.



Over 20 years in the making, StoneNudes is now a book due out in February of 2020 and published in partnership with Rizzoli Publications NYC. In celebration of this milestone I’m offering 200 special editions for preorder. This ultimate collection of the StoneNudes project includes a signed, numbered book with slipcase plus one 8”x10” archival signed print of your choice.

208 10”x12” pages with 132 beautiful photographs

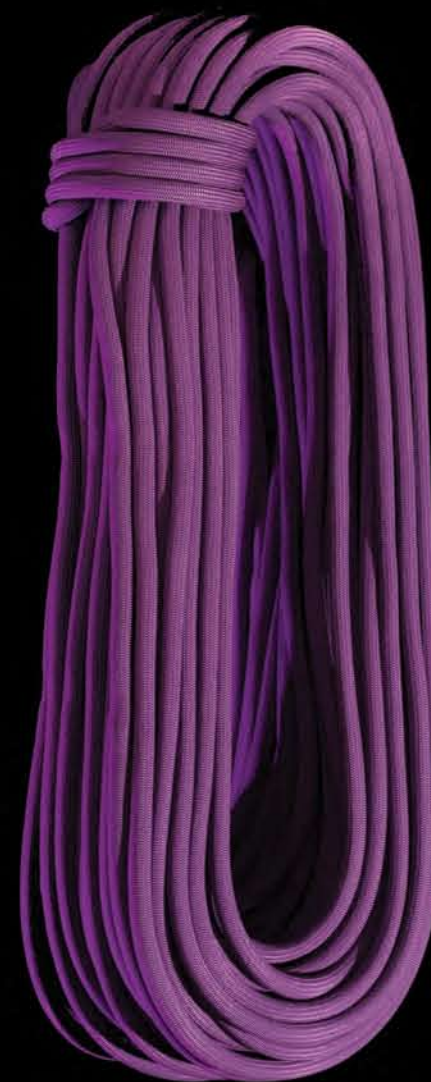
pre-order at stonenudes.com



MOE & JACK, JOSHUA TREE 1978

IMAGE + DEAN FIDELMAN

Style was everything to a StoneMaster and John Bachar exemplified this in his cool, cocky manner. Both on and the rock and off, competition between us could be fierce. Mike Lechlinski, aka, "Moe" was one of the most talented climbers in the group, his vision and boldness pushed us all. John had a sneer that I had wanted to capture for a long time. One day a bunch of StoneMasters were taking burns on a boulder problem and Moe and Jack were taking in the action. I grabbed my camera and lined up the shot, trying my best to be invisible when John slowly turned my way and smiled.



MONKEY 9.0 FULL DRY

Because Experience Matters



FIXEhardware





DISPATCH: DEATH SPIN

WORDS & IMAGES + JIM THORNBURG & KIM PFABE

Kim Pfabe on *Toxic Masculinity* (5.10c) at Kym's Gym, a new crag on the coast south of Steep Ravine. The routes at Kym's Gym check in at a median grade of about 5.10b, making the crag a perfect antidote to the oppressive difficulty found at nearby Mickey's Beach (where the median grade is about 5.12d).

DEATH SPIN

IN THE MID-1980S SCOTT FRY AND HARRISON DEKKER WERE THE LOCAL BAY AREA HARDMEN, PUTTING UP 5.13S AT NEARBY MICKEY'S BEACH THAT ARE STILL TEST PIECES TODAY. WHEN A BLOND 17 YEAR OLD NAMED ALEX CATLIN CLAIMED TO HAVE FOUND AND DOCUMENTED A TREASURE TROVE OF NEW ROUTES AND POTENTIAL NEW ROUTES NORTH OF MICKEY'S (INCLUDING A 5.11CX ROUTE HE NAMED DEATH SPIN), CATLIN WAS MET WITH ANIMOSITY AND INCREDULITY. EVENTUALLY, THE LURE OF HARD NEW ROUTES TO CLIMB LED US BACK TO ALEX'S BOOK; A HAND-MADE PAMPHLET WITH A MISPELLED TITLE: "THE BAECH."

TOP RIGHT

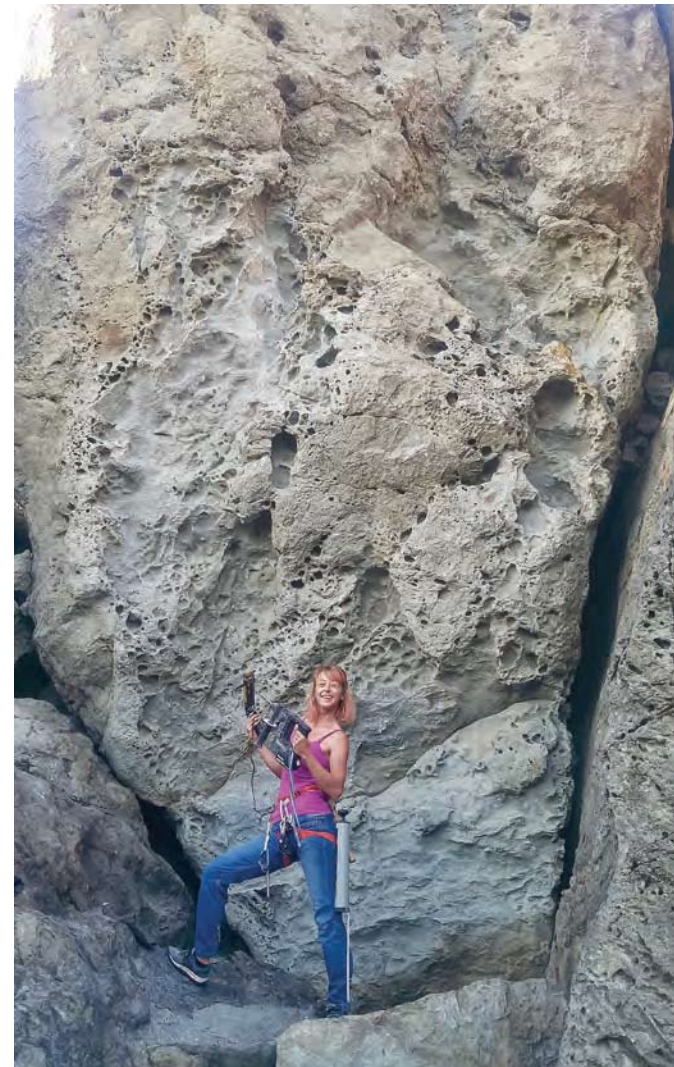
Kim Pfabe armed for "friendly" bolting at the base of Vent #5, another recent addition to coastal climbing. The steep, pocketed crag has three pumpy jug hauls, two 5.10c's and a 5.11c.

BOTTOM RIGHT

Samuel Crossly on *Micro Aggression* (5.10a), Kym's Gym. This new route milks every inch out of the multi-tiered crag and is currently the longest route in the area at 90-feet.

In 1984 I handed my first job application to a Scotsman named Jamie. Jamie was a climber and the last legit manager of the Telegraph Avenue North Face store before it was taken over by corporate droids and run into the ground a few years later. I had no idea how to fold a shirt or work a cash register and since I'd never had a job; my "resume" was nothing more than a paltry list of rock climbs I had done. I also was adamant that I could only work three days a week since I needed to climb the rest of the time. Certainly I wouldn't be hired when there were so many qualified salespeople available.

Oddly, Jamie asked me to come back the following day for an interview. Thankfully he asked me zero questions about sales techniques or merchandising. Instead we talked about climbing. We talked about routes we'd done, epics we'd had and about routes we wanted to do. By the end of the interview I had my first real job. I remember Jamie telling me, in his thick Scottish accent, "You'll do fine here laddie - I'd rather buy a sleeping bag from a punter who has spent the night shivering on a bivi ledge than from some Nancy Boy who learned sales in a classroom."



Upon starting work I learned that my #1 duty was to be available to slip into the back office to talk to Jamie about climbing whenever he wanted. It didn't matter if customers (there weren't many) were waiting for help in the store, or if shirts were left unfolded on the tables. Jamie figured that was work for the non-climbers on the staff. This all suited me just fine. And if I spent an hour in the bathroom when the latest Climbing Magazine arrived? Well, Jamie considered that to be "research" and it was ok by him.

It was a wonderful, if misleading introduction to the world of gainful employment. One by one, the non-climbers were replaced with climbers. Eric Ingenito, a skinny teenager from Orinda put up a homemade fingerboard in the back and taught me how to do a "Lolotte" (a drop-knee move he had picked up climbing in France). John Burcham, a quiet trad climber from West Virginia would later put up amazing first ascents throughout the Southwest. John was also a budding adventure photographer who gave us a mind boggling slideshow one night - we weren't surprised when he went on to work for National Geographic.



Christine Zalecki on *Better Than Sex Porpoises* (5.12c) at the Emperor boulder. This route, originally a choss pile, cleaned up nice and emerged as one of the better lines on the coast.

Kim Pfabe pauses at the lip of the roof on *Toxic Masculinity* (5.10c). A fun and tricky sequence past the overhang leads to an airy headwall featured with spaced but positive crimps.



Jamie also brought in Karen t’Kint, a climber also and the only one in our lot who had any business aspirations (she went on to become the sales manager for Five Ten and Prana). For Karen it must have been like herding kittens to keep the store from becoming a climbing flophouse.

Finally, in his last act before his work visa expired, Jamie hired a boy named Alex Catlin. I didn’t know what to make of him then, but I would recognize his type were I to meet him today. Alex was 17, a few years younger than me. He was blond and absurdly handsome. He had an exotic older girlfriend and he had already been climbing in Spain and Thailand - two worldly new “sport” climbing destination that were barely more than rumors at the time. He carried himself like a Wall Street executive and spoke with the affectation of an eastern philosopher. My natural inclination was to jealousy despise him, but he was the only person I had ever met who was more psyched on climbing than myself, and so an awkward friendship was born.

“Death Spin?” my friend Scott Frye chortled, “5.11c X??” he said incredulously, “Who is this Alex Catlin kid anyway?” Death Spin was the name of a route Alex had made the first ascent of in the hills above Stinson Beach. Scott and Harrison Dekker were the local Bay Area hardmen at the time, putting up 5.13s at nearby Mickey’s Beach then that are still test pieces today. The only other route we knew of rated 11c X was the soul-wrecking and world-famous multi-pitch *Bachar-Yerian* in Tuolumne Meadows.

Intrigued, we went to check Death Spin out, but failed to find anything other than a chossy 20-foot tall boulder. The next day at work, Alex assured me that we had, in fact, found the route. Any credibility I had assigned to him flew out the door. Death Spin, in our eyes was not even worth climbing. Childishly, we began referring to Alex as Barney Rubble.

<~~~~>

By 1988 Jamie’s run as manager of the North Face store had come to an end. We got a new non-climbing android of a manager (head hunted and hand plucked from a JC Penny store). One by one, us climbers were replaced by “team players” who fell in line with the companies’ new corporate direction. Before we left, Alex handed me a 20-page hand Xeroxed and stapled guidebook to climbing on the coast.

“*The Baech?*” I read the title aloud as I looked at him quizzically. “You know it’s spelled “Beach,” right?” I chided. “What?” he said, looking again at the title, “Oh, well whatever, you gotta check out *The Egg* and *The Emperor* and *The Pocket Roof*, they’re incredible!”

I tried to hide my skepticism as I accepted the book. For the last two weeks Jamie worked at the store there was a little pile of *The Baech* books on the front counter, but when the new manager came she threw them out on the grounds that they didn’t meet the new corporate standards. I kept my copy and pulled a copy out of the trash for Scott.

A bouquet of Queen Anne’s lace blooming on the approach to Kym’s Gym. The Emperor Boulder and *Endless Bummer* are seen in the background.
IMAGE + Kim Pfabe

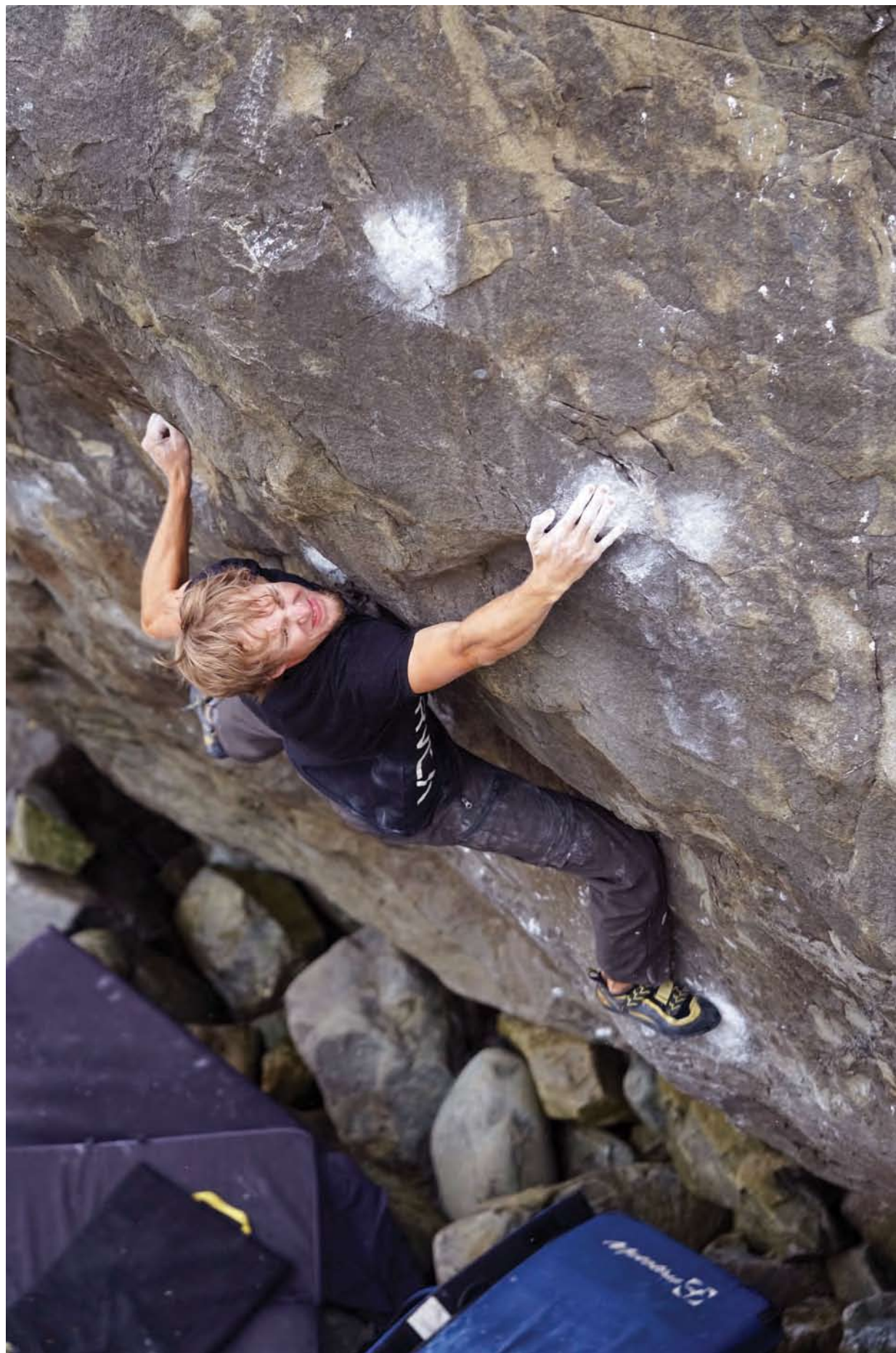


DISPATCH



Scott Frye on the first ascent of Surf Safari (5.13d), a powerful, 35-foot roof that ends in a notorious mantle. This route was one of the hardest in California when Frye made the first ascent in 1992. The original route, Endless Bummer (5.13b/c) climbs just to the left. The hillside surrounding this formation is undergoing massive erosion. Get on it while you can!

Keegan Williams on *Fuck Off* (V7) on the Fuck Yeah boulder, a massive block of grippy, bullet-hard sandstone. The boulder is currently home to five stellar problems from V3 to V7. A minimum of about six pads is needed to make these heady climbs reasonably safe.



~~~~~

Eventually, the lure of hard new routes to climb led us back to Alex's book. We glossed over the pages of easier climbs and gravitated to the crags with potential for harder lines. I visited the 70-foot tall Emperor Boulder and deemed it too chossy. Scott Frye was able to realize the vision Alex had had with his ascents of *Surf Safari* (5.13d) and *Endless Bummer* (5.13b) on The Pocket Roof. Looking back I just wasn't forward-thinking enough to cash in on the bounty Alex had discovered. Other climbers top roped on the Emperor but left it unbolted due to choss.

~~~~~

Finally, in 2015, Steven Roth took a hike down to The Emperor and got inspired to try an old Alex Catlin toprope project. "The rock was definitely chossy" recalls Roth, "But the line is irresistible". Roth figured that with some cleaning and bolting, the route could be a good one. "By the time the route was finished, we had spent about 8-10 hours cleaning away loose rock" The finished product, a steep 5.12d arête, features wild positions and has become an overnight sensation with local climbers capable of the grade. Other climbers have since become inspired to clean some of the other lines on the wall, and today the rock boasts six independent lines ranging from 5.11c to 5.13a.

This past summer, Bay Area local Kim Pfabe became interested in establishing new routes on a remote stretch of coast to the north of the Emperor. During a sport climbing trip to Kyparissi, Greece, Pfabe was exposed to what she

describes as "Friendly bolting" where the routes are bolted for the people who will climb them the most - namely beginning to intermediate climbers.

"We don't have much of that here in the bay", says Pfabe. "So when we started to develop the new cliffs on the coast it felt right to import some of that Greek style."

Three new crags - Vent #5, Kombucha Crag and Kim's Gym host a total of 14 fun new routes ranging from 5.8 - 5.11c, and are all equipped with Titanium glue in bolts. In addition to the new routes, the crags are also a getaway that feels quite remote despite its proximity to huge urban centers. While developing the crag over the course of 25 days during the summer of 2019, Kim and I encountered perfect weather and zero other humans. The only sign of previous climbing was a rusted piton that was likely placed by Alex Catlin nearly 30 years prior.

~~~~~

When I said earlier I would recognize Alex's type were I to meet him now, I meant I would be able to recognize his insatiable thirst for exploration. Alex is one of those rare people that find new places for people to climb. After he left the Bay Area, Alex went to Thailand and then to Mexico where he has put up literally thousands of new routes at scores of amazing new areas like Potrero Chico, El Salto and La Bestia Cave. His under the radar approach reflects his absolute dedication to the exploration side of the equation. Looking back, Death Spin was perhaps the ascent that sparked one of the most prolific first ascensionists of our generation.

Jeff Papp nabs an ascent of the classic *Fuck, Maybe?* (V6) on the Fuck Yeah Boulder. A coastline of large talus blocks extends from Steep Ravine past the Emperor with many tall faces and cavernous roofs. *IMAGE + Kim Pfabe*





—

## DESTINATION: SPLIT ROCK

—

WORDS + DEAN FLEMING // IMAGES + JIM THORNBURG & DEAN FLEMING





**AN ALARM SOUNDED AT 5AM JUST BEFORE NICK STUMBLED OUT OF HIS MOM’S MID-90S DODGE MINIVAN TO START COFFEE. WE HIKE NEAR DAYBREAK FROM MOSQUITO FLATS JUST OUTSIDE OF TOM’S PLACE, ALONG THE LITTLE LAKES VALLEY TRAIL TO LONG LAKE AND THEN FOLLOWED A FAINT TRAIL UP TO THE DESOLATE DADE LAKE. FINALLY, AROUND 9AM, WE STUMBLED TO THE BASE OF THE IMPOSING SIERRA SUMMIT BEAR CREEK SPIRE FOR WHAT WE THOUGHT WOULD BE A SAFELY-TIMED ALPINE START FOR A ROUTE THAT IS NOTORIOUS FOR AFTERNOON THUNDERSTORMS IN LATE SUMMER AND EARLY FALL.**

After scrambling and skittering up a semi-steep snow slope to the base of Bear Creek Spire, we tightened our approach shoes, flaked out the long 70-meter rope and re-racked our small selection of gear which included a few cams and a large hexcentric that we intended to “throw” behind big blocks at belay ledges. Nick won the game of roshambo with a perfectly timed “scissors” and then headed up the first pitch – an enticing slab littered with large flakes and giant feldspar crystals. On a large ledge about four pitches up we paused to take in the view, which was unfortunately shadowed by a gigantic jet-black thunderhead looming directly over the summit of the spire. I heard a rattling sound and looked down at the rack hanging around Nick’s shoulder. The carabiners were vibrating so hard from the electrically charged thunderhead that they were clicking and clacking together like wind chimes.

The first lightning strike seemed to land somewhere near the spire, and although it wasn’t a direct hit as we are both still alive, it did impact with such force that we both lost our vision and hearing for almost a full minute. When the bright white fuzz faded from our eyes we were both softly screaming and feeling each other’s faces like two blind soldiers after a grenade had landed near their foxhole. In an effort to minimize the number of rappels and leave as little gear as possible, we decided to quickly retreat down the side of the cliff face toward a snow gully which we figured we could then downclimb to the talus field far below. I recall a few very sketchy-seeming anchors on horns followed by me slipping then sliding into Nick as he braced for the impact between a sheet of ice and the cliff – an act that likely saved both of our lives during the icy downclimb.

In a damp cave in the talus field below the spire we shakily rolled wet cigarettes and talked about where we should go to dry off. The answer was unanimous: Split Rock; a wonderfully restful and relaxing block of perfectly fractured granite positioned conveniently between Creek Campground and Donner Pond on Cold Stream Road near the North Lake Tahoe town of Truckee.

<~~~>

By the fall of 2008 Nick and I had been touring the state in his mid-90s Dodge minivan for almost five months, parking at various climbing areas at or near Sonora Pass, Tuolumne Meadows, Bishop and Lake Tahoe. In this half-year climbing trip I remember some successes, but I seem to hold on more tightly to memories of rappelling through rainstorms, stuck ropes, rock fall, brutal bushwhacks and soaked sleeping bags. It seemed that finding great routes to nearly kill ourselves on was far easier than finding sunny boulders just footsteps from the car, with flat areas to dry our ropes, nearby swimming holes to help recover our moral and sore legs, and some excellent problems for the boring hours near dinner time.

It seemed that no matter how far south we might be, we always gravitated to Split Rock; a place where all of these wonderful things are awkwardly wedged between the pristine Cold Stream Canyon and a modern campground full of RVs blasting generators while gangs of kids kick up dust on their bicycles. After another of many nightmarish adventures in the High Sierra, we’d skid to a stop in the parking lot near Donner Pond and toss our wet clothes, sleeping bags and ropes onto the fence before walking the casual 100 yards to the boulders where we’d lounge on our crash pads between half-assed burns on one of the many crimp faces or intimidating slabs that Split Rock has become famous for.

<~~~>

The striking features and easy access of Truckee’s Split Rock have made it a popular bouldering area since the early 1970s, and it’s possible that some top roping and “soloing” took place on the boulder as early as the 1960s. But the climbing routes on Split Rock are not the only historically significant part of this area. Split Rock sits only feet from a plaque that memorializes the initial conservation victory of the nascent Truckee Donner Land Trust, a 160-acre land purchase in the early 1990s that significantly expanded Donner Memorial State Park; a public park that includes the popular Split Rock Boulders.

The scary slabs and vertical faces are what made Split Rock famous in the 1970s and beyond, but that’s not all that you’ll find here; in fact, a few very high quality modern boulder problems can be found on the boulders’ overhanging facets – routes like *The Physics Project* (V11), *Essence of Gonzo* (V8), *Bear Hug Arête sit* (V7) and the very difficult and only recently repeated post-break *Moffat Problem*.

“Paul Ottis helped solve a long standing mystery by sending the first known post-breakage ascent of the Moffat Problem on Split Rock,” said guidebook author Dave Hatchett. “This climb has denied all takers since it broke many years ago, and it was originally rated V8.”

The aptly named Split Rock is the main attraction at this zone, yet a few other boulders can be found scattered around the forest nearby and can easily be worked into a convenient afternoon circuit. Although every single facet of Split Rock’s halves are absolutely stacked with quality problems, it’s not a destination worth white-knuckling through Friday night Bay Area traffic for a full weekend of sending. More so, Split Rock is better known for after-work sessions with friends or as a great place to find reprieve after long and difficult days in the Sierra.

## PREVIOUS

Because most or all of the moderate problems at Split Rock were first climbed in the late 1960s or early 1970s, they were either left un-named or the names of these problems have been lost to history. While most of the moderate tall slabs and arêtes at Split Rock have safe, flat landings, a few, like the (V1) Arête pictured here, top out high above sharp rocks. Pictured here, Wes Miraglio navigates cautiously above the talus.

## LEFT

### ANOTHER SUMMER (5.12A)

Excellent quality low angle slabs and technical near-vertical faces can be found on both sides of the corridor that separates Split Rock. While this corridor is wide enough to easily walk through, it’s small enough that it makes for a somewhat terrifying landing zone - especially for the steeper problems on the western half of Split Rock. Pictured here, Joel Ruscher works his way into the don’t-want-to-fall-zone on a tall and exceptional un-named (V2). *IMAGE + DEAN FLEMING (BOTH)*





---

#### LEFT

Split Rock's convenient location and high concentration of quality problems has made it the perfect spot for late afternoon sessions or after-work circuits for both Truckee locals and visiting climbers since the 1970s. Pictured here, Heidi Ruscher takes an evening lap on one of the tall but mellow slabby arêtes on the eastern half of Split Rock.

#### ABOVE

Although tall, moderate slabs, vertical faces and arêtes are what Split Rock is most regarded for, a small selection of high quality modern boulder problems can also be found on Split Rocks overhanging facets. Pictured here, Wes Miraglio works the top of the difficult *Essence of Gonzo* (V8).  
*IMAGE + DEAN FLEMING (BOTH)*



---

The steeper west side of Split Rock's corridor hosts a superb traverse and about seven interesting "up" problems that all feature excellent quality rock and unique incut holds up a near-vertical face. Pictured here, Christine Zalecki takes the most commonly climbed path up this face – an un-named problem that checks in around (V2) and offers the shortest topout above the widest area to throw pads in the Split Rock corridor.

IMAGE + JIM THORNBURG

---








---

#### LEFT

Split Rock has been lovingly referred to as “the Indian Rock of Truckee,” referring to the easily accessible after-work boulders that found at Indian Rock and Mortar Rock Parks in the heart of Berkeley, California. Not unlike Indian and Mortar Rock, a seemingly infinite number of eliminate problems have been created by local boulderers. Pictured here, Heidi Ruscher makes her way up a rail of incut edges before choosing one of a dozen topout options on the west side of Split Rock.

IMAGE + DEAN FLEMING

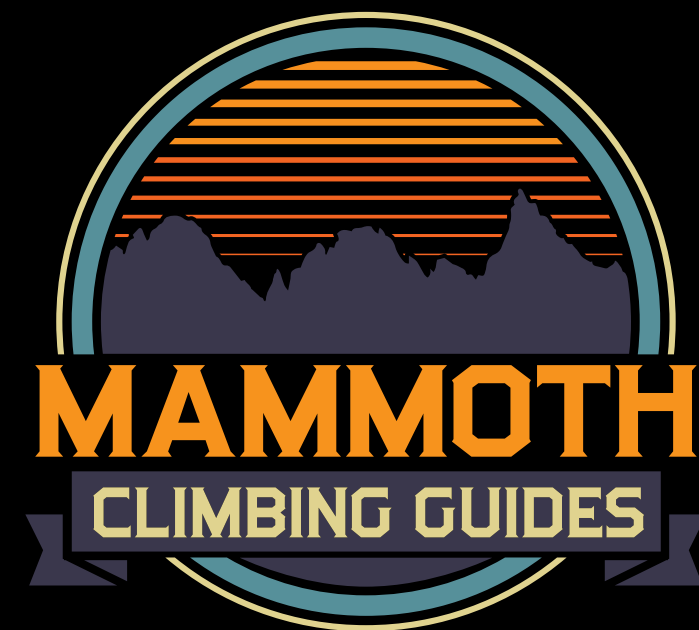
#### ABOVE

Split Rock features seven distinct arêtes that range in style from blunt to sharp and overhanging to slabby. Since each of these arêtes can be climbed on either the right side or the left side, 14 high quality arête problems that range from balancey slabs to steep, barn door-inducing test-pieces can be found here. Pictured here, Christine Zalecki takes on one of the most obvious arête problems at Split Rock, an un-named (V2).

IMAGE + JIM THORNBURG



Christine Zalecki working her way up the perfect incut edges and unique solution pockets found in the orange-streaked rock on the steepest side of the Split Rock corridor. This problem [an un-named (V2) on the far climber's left side of the face] requires excellent footwork and a cool head for the somewhat nerve-racking topout.  
IMAGE + JIM THORNBURG



WE HAVE THE BETA ON:

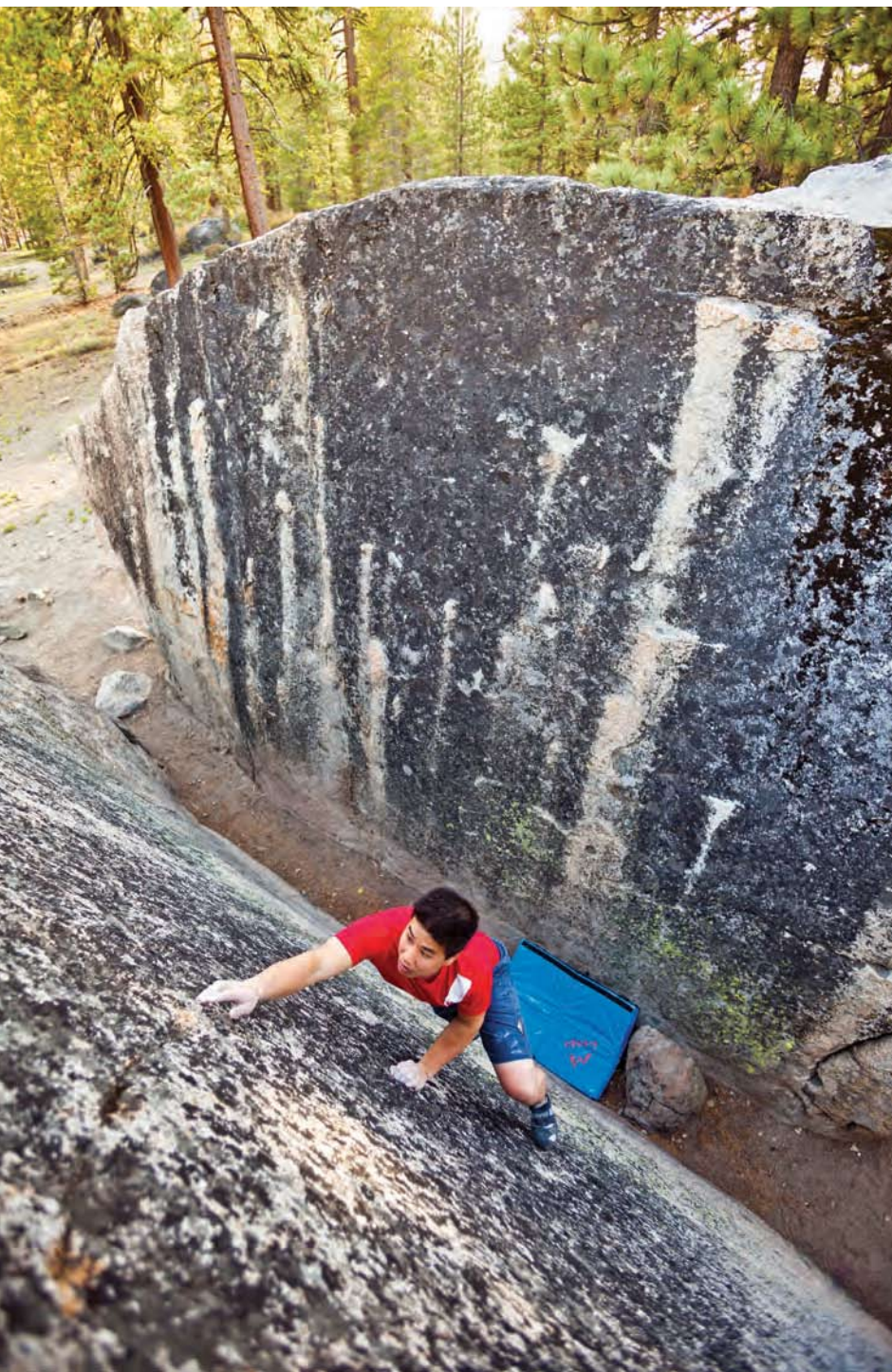
Pine Creek, Rock Creek, The Buttermilks, Cardinal Pinnacle, Volcanic Tablelands, Owens River Gorge, Alabama Hills, Whitney Portal, Crystal Ridge, Sherwin Plateau, Tioga Cliff, Casa Diablo Mountain, Benton Crags, Clark's Canyon, The Warming Wall, Horseshoe Slabs, Sunshine Wall, Hole in the Wall, Crystal Crag, Mammoth Crest, Way Lake, North Shore Crag, Lions Den, Hartley Springs, Bachar Boulders, Aeolian Buttress, Sagehen Summit, Al's Garage, Alpers Canyon, Matrimony Wall, TJ Lake, Looking Wall, Dike Wall, Bear Crag, Lundy Canyon, Little Egypt,

AND A HELL OF A LOT MORE.

INFO@MAMMOTHCLIMBINGGUIDES.COM | (210) 816-2410 | MAMMOTHCLIMBINGGUIDES.COM

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.  
Mammoth Climbing Guides operates under permit on the Inyo National Forest.





## THE BETA

### GETTING THERE

From southbound I-80 in the town of Truckee take the Donner Lake exit, crossing Donner Pass Road. Drive straight past gas stations to the end of the pavement making sure to keep left where the road turns to dirt. This is Coldstream Road. It's possible to park along this road or to go through the State Park Entrance and pay \$5 for parking. Hike west for about 1/4-mile past Donner Pond on hiker's left and the absurd campground on hiker's right until you run into Split Rock.

### WHERE TO STAY

It's possible to find a campsite just footsteps from the boulders at the Creek or Split Rock Campgrounds, but these will cost you at least \$20 per-night depending on the season. Excellent free camping can be found all over the greater Tahoe region if you poke around.

### GUIDEBOOK

*Bouldering Lake Tahoe North/West Shore* by Dave Hatchett



### LEFT

Kenny Suh nears the committing upper third of the huge slab that makes up the east side of the corridor between Split Rock's two halves.

IMAGE + DEAN FLEMING (BOTH)

### ABOVE

The aptly named *Bear Hug Arête*, a classic (V4) stand start or a steep and thuggish (V7) from the sit, begins by squeezing opposing holds up a blunt prow. Pictured here, a climber [name unknown] has made it through the direct opening moves and is now faced with insecure slapping moves that lead up the knobby arête to a rounded topout.

## THE TICK LIST

### BOULDERS

Every slab on both boulders (VB-V3)  
Every arête on both boulders (V1-V11)  
*Bear Hug Arête* (V4) or (V7) sit  
*Slam Dunk* (V5)  
*The Physics Project* (V11)

# CLIFFHANGER GUIDES



JOSHUA TREE, C.A.

PRESENTS:

## 2019/20 SLIDE SHOWS



### KEVIN DANIELS

SAT, MARCH 7th



### DEAN FIDELMAN

SAT, NOVEMBER 23rd (StoneMasters)

SAT, APRIL 4th (StoneMonkeys)



### TODD GORDON

SAT, FEBRUARY 1st

BURGERS (with vegetarian option) + RAFFLE (with high-end swag) + COMMUNITY & CULTURE

SPONSORED BY:



+ cliffhangerguides@gmail.com or Tel:(760) 401-5033 for details and tickets + 5pm-10pm + \$25 early bird, \$30 at door +



DISTRIBUTORS

LOS ANGELES

Arc'teryx La Brea  
159 South La Brea Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90036

Sender One  
1441 S. Village Way  
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Rockreation  
11866 La Grange Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90025

Hangar 18 Upland  
256 East Stowell Street  
Upland, CA 91786

Hangar 18 Hawthorn  
4926 West Rosecrans Avenue  
Hawthorne, CA 90250

Hangar 18 Riverside  
6935 Arlington Avenue  
Riverside, CA 92503

The Factory  
1547 West Struck Avenue  
Orange, CA 92867

Top Out Climbing Gym  
26332 Ferry Ct  
Santa Clarita, CA 91350

Gear Co-Op  
3315 Hyland Ave  
Costa Mesa, CA 92626

LA.B  
1375 East 6th Street Unit #8, Los Angeles, CA 90021

Cliffs of Id  
2537 S Fairfax Ave  
Culver City, CA 90232

Vertigo Boulders  
266 E Magnolia Blv  
Burbank, CA 91502

Hollywood Boulders  
1107 N Bronson Ave,  
Los Angeles, CA 90038

SAN DIEGO

Mesa Rim  
10110 Mesa Rim Road  
San Diego, CA 92121

Vertical Hold  
9580 Distribution Avenue  
San Diego, CA 92121

Nomad Ventures  
405 West Grand Avenue  
Escondido, CA 92025

JOSHUA TREE

Nomad Ventures  
61795 Twentynine Palms Highway A,  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Cliffhanger Guides  
6551 Park Blvd,  
Joshua Tree, CA 92252

CENTRAL COAST

Pacific Edge  
104 Bronson Street  
Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Sanctuary Rock Gym  
1855 East Ave  
Sand City, CA 93955

CENTRAL FOOTHILLS

Metal Mark  
4042 N Cedar Ave  
Fresno, CA 93726

Alpenglow Gear Co  
40879 CA-41 #1f, Oakhurst, CA 93644

Sierra Nevada Adventure Company Sonora  
173 S Washington St, Sonora, CA 95370

Sierra Nevada Adventure Company Arnold  
2293 CA-4, Arnold, CA 95223

Sierra Nevada Adventure Company Murphys  
448 Main St, Murphys, CA 95247

SACRAMENTO

Sacramento Pipeworks  
116 N 16th St, Sacramento, CA 95811

The Boulder Field  
8425 Belvedere Ave #100, Sacramento, CA 95826

BAY AREA

Berkeley Ironworks  
800 Potter St, Berkeley, CA 94710

The Studio Climbing  
396 S 1st St, San Jose, CA 95113

Great Western Power Co.  
520 20th St, Oakland, CA 94612

Dogpatch Boulders  
2573 3rd St, San Francisco, CA 94107

Mission Cliffs  
2295 Harrison St, San Francisco, CA 94110

Planet Granite Belmont  
100 El Camino Real, Belmont, CA 94002

Planet Granite Sunnyvale  
815 Stewart Dr, Sunnyvale, CA 94085

Planet Granite San Francisco  
924 Mason St, San Francisco, CA 94129

Bridges Rock Gym  
5635 San Diego St, El Cerrito, CA 94530

WINE COUNTRY

Rockzilla  
849 Jackson St suite 5A, Napa, CA 94559

Vertex Climbing Center  
3358 Coffey Lane  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

NORTH COAST

Far North Climbing Gym  
1065 K St C, Arcata, CA 95521

EASTERN SIERRA

Big Willi Mountaineering  
120 S. Main Street, Suite 13, Lone Pine, CA 93545

Elevation  
150 S. Main St.  
Lone Pine, CA

Eastside Sports  
224 N Main Street  
Bishop, CA 93514

Hostel California  
213 Academy Ave, Bishop, CA 93514

Sage to Summit  
312 N Main Street,  
Bishop, CA 93514

Spellbinder Books  
124 S Main Street, Bishop, CA 93514

Mammoth Mountaineering  
3189 Main Street  
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546

Mammoth Gear Exchange  
298 N Main Street,  
Bishop, CA 93514

Black Sheep Coffee  
232 N Main Street,  
Bishop, CA 93514

Mountain Rambler  
186 S Main Street,  
Bishop, CA 93514

Fixe Hardware  
107A South Main Street, Bishop CA 93514

GREATER LAKE TAHOE AREA

Basecamp Climbing Gym  
255 N Virginia Street,  
Reno, NV 89501

Blue Granite  
1259 Emerald Bay Rd, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Greater Tahoe Gripworks  
Pine and, Sage Ave, Markleeville, CA 96120

High Altitude Fitness  
880 Northwood Blvd  
Incline Village, NV

Alpenglow Sports  
415 N Lake Blvd, Tahoe City, CA 96145

Truckee Sports Exchange  
10095 W River St, Truckee, CA 96161

The Backcountry  
11400 Donner Pass Rd #100, Truckee, CA 96161

Strawberry Station General Store  
17481 HWY 50 Twin Bridges, CA 95375



**BUY\*SELL\*TRADE\*CONSIGN**

**\*NEW/USED OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT \* CLIMBING GEAR \* PAD RENTALS \* FRIENDLY ADVICE \* GUIDEBOOKS \* PART-TIME HUMOR \* CAMPING & BACKPACKING SUPPLIES \* FREE TOILET**

**NOW OPEN IN OAKHURST**  
**(SOUTH OF YOSEMITE ON CA-41)**

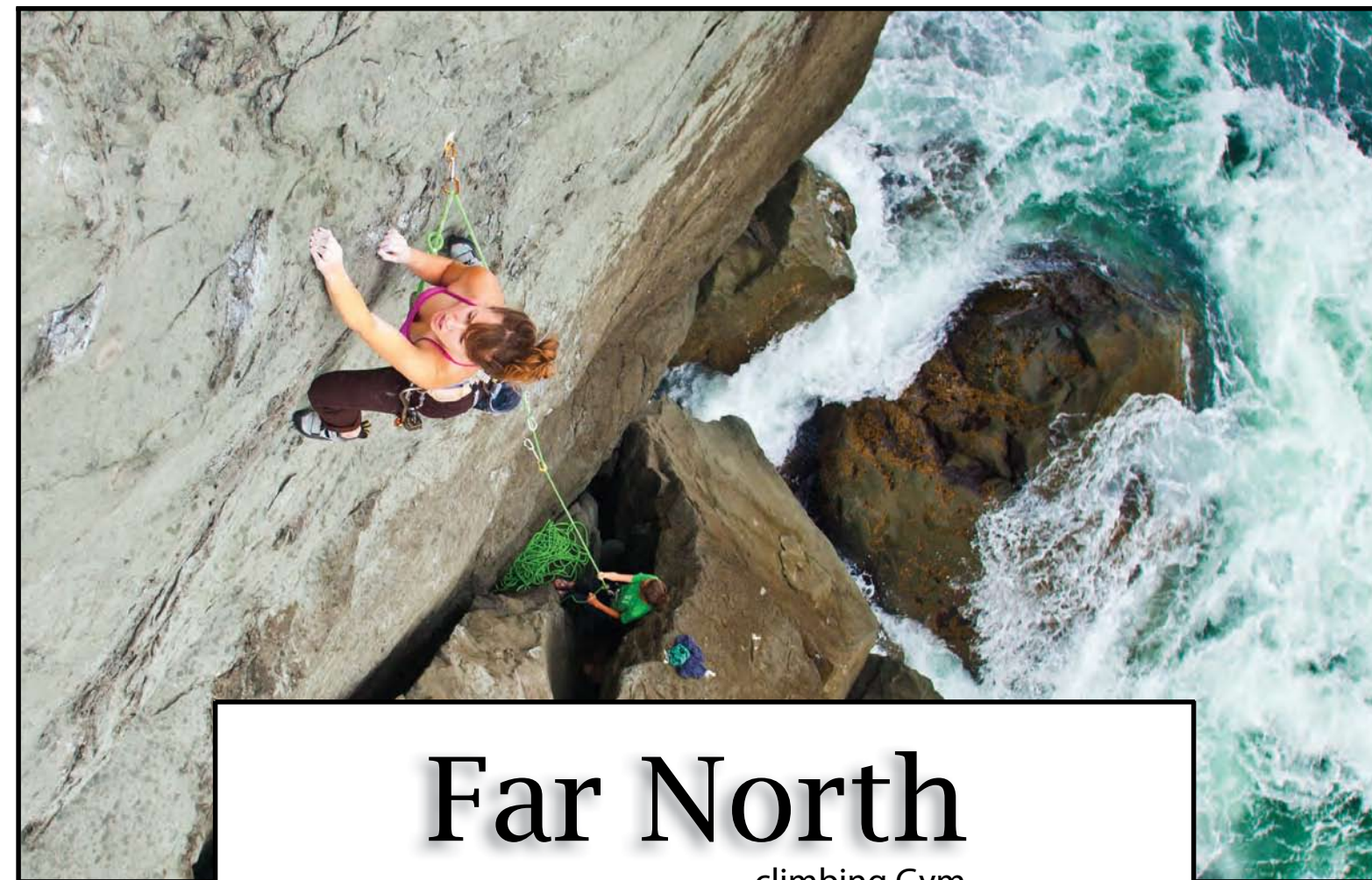
**40879 STATE HWY 41 \* SUITE 1F \* OAKHURST, CA 93644 \* (559)800-8099 \* ALPENGLOWGEARCO@GMAIL.COM \***  
**@ALPENGLOWGEARCO ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM**



**THE FORCE (V9),**  
CAMP 4 BOULDERS, YOSEMITE VALLEY

21 year-old competition climber Megan Mascareus laps the 1991 Jerry Moffat test-piece *The Force* (V9), an incredibly powerful and technical problem that is situated directly adjacent to the historic *Thriller* (V10) and nestled beneath one of the most incredible oak trees in Yosemite Valley.

IMAGE + DEAN FLEMING



# Far North

climbing Gym



Humboldt County's  
Premiere indoor climbing  
center

1065 K St, Arcata, CA  
707-826-9558



Images + Dean Fleming



# ALEON

© 2017 adidas

PRIMEKNIT  
SOCK-LIKE  
CLOSURE SYSTEM  
FOR EASY ACCESS

C4 STEALTH® COMPOUND  
FOR UNBEATABLE GRIP  
AND SUPERIOR EDGING  
PERFORMANCE

CONCAVE TOE  
BOX FOR TOTAL  
CONTROL



FIVETEN.COM