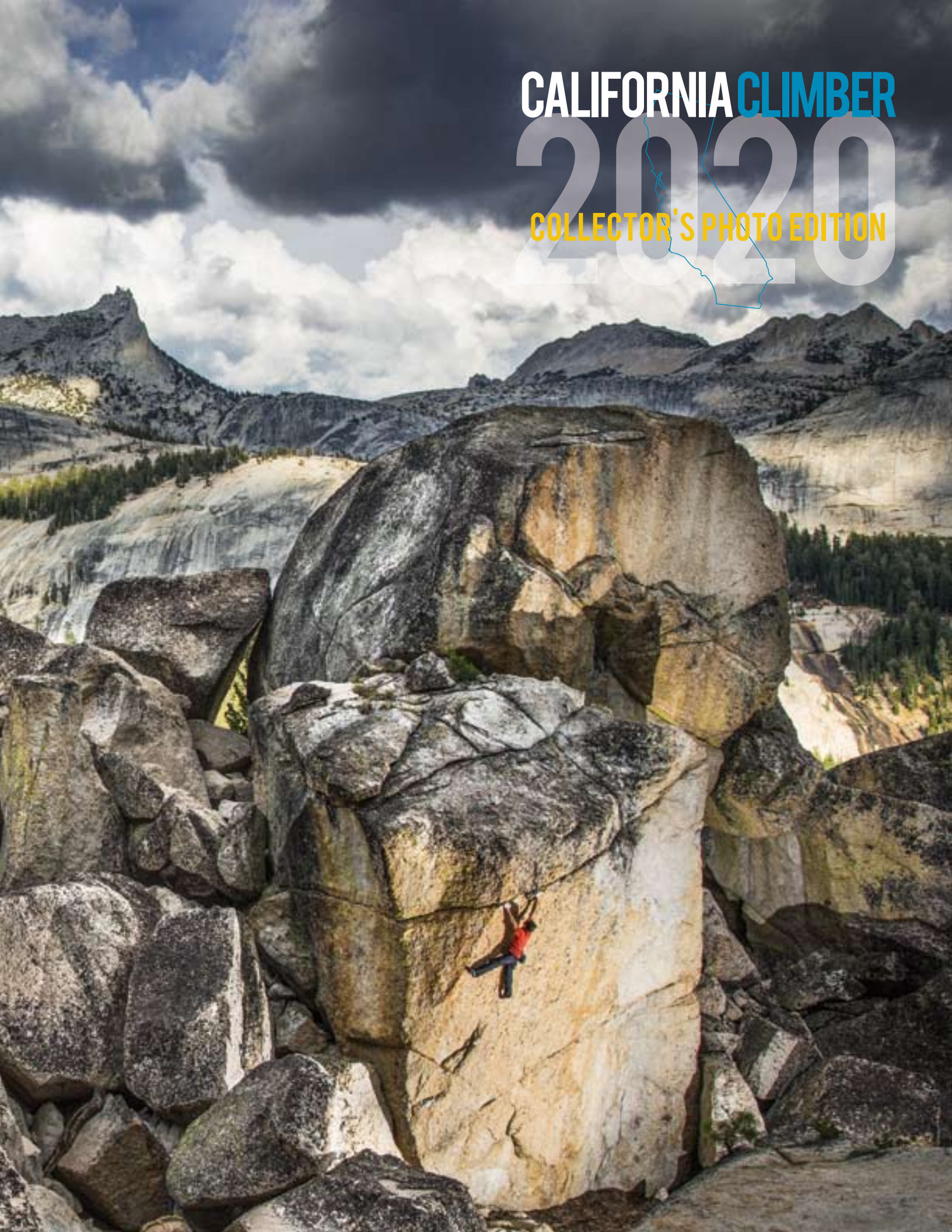


CALIFORNIA CLIMBER

2020

COLLECTOR'S PHOTO EDITION







# Climbing Is Our Passion







## ALIEN REVOLUTION

The Mother of Modern Cams



## WIRE ROPE DRAW

UIAA / CE Rated Life Safety Product



**CALIFORNIA CLIMBER**  
COLLECTOR'S PHOTO EDITION

CALIFORNIACLIMBERMAGAZINE.COM

DEPARTMENTS

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

FEATURES

30/GOLDEN STATE GALLERY:  
COLLECTOR'S PHOTO EDITION



ON THE COVER

Lonnie Kauk on the first ascent  
of *Boogieman* (V7), Toulumne  
Meadows, Yosemite National  
Park.  
IMAGE + Christian Pondella

THIS PAGE

Roby Rudolph after climbing  
*Scarface* (5.12) on Liberty Cap,  
Yosemite Valley.  
IMAGE + Austin Siadak

# FOCUS ON YOUR CLIMBING, NOT YOUR HELMET



## YOUR HELMET SHOULDN'T BE IN YOUR WAY.

THE HALO IS DESIGNED WITH EASE OF USE, COMFORT,  
AND BREATHABILITY IN MIND, ALLOWING CLIMBERS  
TO FOCUS ON WHAT MATTERS: **CLIMBING.**



# CALIFORNIA CLIMBER

CALIFORNIACLIMBERMAGAZINE.COM

## PUBLISHER

Dean Fleming

## ART DIRECTOR

Alton Richardson

## SENIOR CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jerry Dodrill, Jim Thornburg

## SENIOR CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

Fitz Cahall

## CONTRIBUTORS

Caroline Treadway, Greg Epperson, Christian Pondella, Piper Michelle, Jim Thornburg, Austin Siadak, Devlin Gandy, Ben Ditto, Peli, Access Fund, Dean Fleming

## 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.



Alex Witte climbing *Double Whammy* (5.11b), Riverside Quarry.

JIM THORNBURG

A large photograph of a climber, Margo Hayes, training on a climbing wall. She is wearing a black tank top and blue pants, and is reaching for a red climbing hold. The wall is covered in various colored holds. To the right of the main image is a large, vertical text overlay that reads "SOLUTION CAMP GO MP". Below this text is a large image of a black and red climbing shoe, the Solution Camp Women's climbing shoe. The shoe has blue and red accents and a black sole. Below the shoe is a small black box with the text "ARRIVING APRIL 2020". Below the shoe is the Vibram logo and the text "XS GRIP 2". At the bottom right is the LA Sportiva logo and the text "SPORTIVA.COM".

# SOLUTION CAMP GO MP

ARRIVING APRIL 2020

vibram XS GRIP 2

LA SPORTIVA SPORTIVA.COM

TRUSTED BY THE BEST

MARGO HAYES trains in the **NEW** Solution Camp Women's climbing shoe, available April 2020! - Photo: ©Arjan de Kock

C. Simmons, Bishop, CA. Photo: A. Wickstrom

organicclimbing.com





asanaclimbing.com

EVERYTHING  
BOULDERING



EDITOR’S NOTE

A THOUSAND WORDS **AS A KID I’D CAREFULLY CUT THE PAGES OUT** of climbing magazines and pin them to my bedroom walls. Chris Falkenstien’s incredible

last light shot of Ron Kauk tiptoeing his way up *Peace* (5.13c) was next to my window – Greg Epperson’s stomach-churning image of Peter Croft soloing *Tips* (5.12a) hung above the door– Heinz Zak’s portrait of Lynn Hill casually hiking the *Pancake Flake* during her free ascent of *The Nose* (VI 5.14a) was pinned over my dresser– Dean Fidelman’s photograph of John Bachar bouldering *Up 40* (5.11b) was taped next to the light switch – Jim Thornburg’s iconic photo of the first free ascent of *Magic Line* (5.14b) was stuffed into a frame that hung crookedly above my tiny pile of random climbing gear, like a ghetto shrine to both climber and photographer. My teenage self thought it was glorious, and that girls, if they’d ever seen it, would have dug it.

Eventually my mom tore down all the pictures and ordered me to patch the holes in the walls and doors so we could re-paint the room. It was a bummer, but I was about to head off in my early 90s Ford Explorer to live the “climbing life” and I didn’t want to drag around those scraps of paper anyway. Unnecessary material items didn’t fit into my idealistic vision of a minimalist pursuit... or something like that.

I’ve always enjoyed trying to do things that can be frustrating; things like skateboarding, carpentry, pottery and auto mechanics. I’ll even try the occasional offwidth on top rope. But when I tried taking pictures of my friends rock climbing around the age of 19 with an old Pentax I instantly became jealous of the “nerds” who took photography class in high school. I quickly realized that making high quality climbing photographs would take years of practice, dedication and mentorship. Years later I was lucky enough to bump into and then latch on to mentors like Jerry Dodrill and Jim Thornburg; two World-class climbing and landscape photographers who were both kind enough to spend countless hours explaining to me exactly why all my pictures sucked. At the age of 26 I made my first acceptable rock climbing photograph, and I was totally hooked.

Years later I’ve found that selecting photographs for print in *California Climber* has been one of the most unique, challenging and rewarding experiences of my life. While scrolling through hundreds of submissions, it sometimes feels like striking gold when an image jumps off the screen. I could drone on for pages about technique and lighting and composition, or I could lie to you and tell you that I have a college education that guides our selections. In truth, I just look at the pictures and try to determine if the 14 year old version of myself would be psyched, or not. I guess my goal has always been pretty simple. I want to make a magazine that kids might cut up and pin to their bedroom walls.

But if this magazine gets stacked under a pile of moldy towels next to your toilet, well, that’s pretty damn cool too.

In this 2020 Collector’s Photo-Edition of *California Climber* you’ll find 32 back-to-back pages of photographs. In this Special Issue we celebrate the unique and truly epic art that is climbing photography, and pay tribute to both the iconic and the lesser-known landscapes, routes and individuals who continue to create the most inspiring rock climbing images on the planet – right here in our backyard. Most importantly, we want to celebrate and thank you, the reader, for supporting California’s independently published climbing magazine since 2012. We hope you’ll enjoy this issue as much as we’ve enjoyed making it. –DEAN FLEMING

From Humble Beginnings...





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

everything you need  
for your next  
climbing adventure



Made in the U.S.A. since 1983

Metolius





EVENTS

**FEBRUARY 1ST, 2020:**  
CLIFFHANGER GUIDES PRESENTS:  
A SLIDE SHOW WITH TODD GORDON  
5pm-10pm at The Bugaloo Backstage, Joshua Tree Lake  
Campground. \$25 early bird or \$30 at the door, supper  
included, raffle (with high end swag).

FOR TICKETS, CONTACT CLIFFHANGER GUIDES:  
CLIFFHANGERGUIDES@GMAIL.COM OR (760) 401-5033

**STARTING FEBRUARY, 2020:**  
2020 TOUCHSTONE CLIMBING SERIES  
BOULDERING & ROPES

ROPES:  
**February 7th (5pm-10pm)** – Diablo Rock Gym, Concord  
**March 27th (5pm-10pm)** – The Studio, San Jose  
**May 29th (5pm-10pm)** – G.W.P.C., Oakland  
**June 12th (5pm-10pm)** – Berkeley Ironworks, Berkeley  
**August 1st (12pm-5pm)** – Mission Cliffs, San Francisco

BOULDERING:  
**April 4th (12pm-5pm)** – Cliffs of Id, Culver City  
**April 18th (12pm-5pm)** – Dogpatch Boulders, San  
Francisco  
**May 8th (5pm-10pm)** – MetalMark, Fresno  
**June 6th (12pm-5pm)** – LA Boulders, Los Angeles  
**June 20th (12pm-5pm)** – Hollywood Boulders, Los  
Angeles

**September 26th (12pm-5pm)** – Verdigo Boulders,  
Burbank  
**October 2nd (5pm-10pm)** – Sacramento Pipeworks,  
Sacramento

**FEBRUARY 28TH, 2020:**  
BISHOP AREA CLIMBERS COALITION  
**PRETTY STRONG FILM SHOWING**  
7pm-10pm @ Inyo Council for the Arts  
Join us as we celebrate the Bishop debut of *Pretty Strong*,  
a “climbing film about women, by women, for everyone.”  
Tickets will be \$10.

**MARCH 31ST, 2020:**  
TOUCHSTONE CLIMBING  
WOMAN UP SETTERS APPLICATIONS  
Touchstone Climbing is now accepting routesetter  
applications for the 2020 Woman Up Climbing Festival.  
Woman Up Setters work together to set all problems for the  
festival’s Open and Citizens Competitions and teach setting  
clinics. Setters of all abilities are encouraged to apply.  
Application deadline is 3/31/2020.

**THROUGH APRIL, 2020:**  
JOSHUA TREE NP  
CLIMBERS COFFEE  
Saturdays & Sundays, 8am-10am, Hidden Valley  
Campground. You’re invited to stop by Hidden Valley  
Campground on Saturdays and Sundays. Bring your own  
mug and enjoy a free cup of coffee, tea, or cocoa.

Eastside 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  
eastidesports.com, info@eastidesports.com

locally owned since 1977

OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK



@bluewaterropes -100% family owned, dedicated to crafting the finest quality ropes since 1969. @boonespeed photo



BLUEWATER  
ROPES

FIFTY YEARS  
50  
STRONG





Happy Boulders parking, 2011  
IMAGE + DEAN FLEMING



Happy Boulders parking, 2017  
IMAGE + PIPER MICHELLE

THE RISE OF CLIMBING  
AND THE HIDDEN COST  
OF FAME

WORDS + ACCESS FUND

**CLIMBING HAS GONE MAINSTREAM**, with Red Bull sponsorships, President Obama tweeting about the Dawn Wall, Alex Honnold at the Oscars, and the upcoming Olympics. If you were climbing 20 years ago, you probably saw the same couple of cars in the pullout every weekend, and could count on one hand the number of people you saw at the crag. But today, those five or six cars have ballooned into literally hundreds on a busy weekend. And it's the same story at climbing areas across the country.

THE PRICE OF FAME

But climbing's rise in popularity has had an unintended effect—trails are falling apart, the base of cliffs and boulders are becoming pounded wastelands devoid of plant life, shade trees are dying, and bits of climbing tape and bar wrappers float by in the breeze. The original developers of many of our most popular crags could scarcely have imagined how popular climbing would one day become.

"We're at a tipping point," says Ty Tyler, Stewardship Director for Access Fund. "The overwhelming majority of our country's climbing areas were developed decades ago, under the radar, and were not created to withstand the sheer number of climbers using them today."

Being outside in unspoiled nature has always been at the core of the climbing experience, alongside the camaraderie shared with other climbers and the joy of pushing ourselves to physical and mental limits. Jamming splitters under a bluebird sky in the Utah desert, or crimping hard on bomber Tennessee sandstone boulders with the fall colors blazing all around. These are experiences that none of us forget, and they are part of what sets climbing apart from other sports. But those experiences are threatened.

Climbing has come into its own as a mature activity, but the infrastructure at our climbing areas has not kept pace. We're at a critical juncture, right now, where we need to make big investments in our climbing areas before we ruin these places and compromise what is so special about the climbing experience.

"We need to say goodbye to a past where we could do whatever we wanted, wherever we wanted," says Peter Croft, legendary stonemaster and climbing lifer. "Even with the best of intentions, we are making a bigger impact than ever before."

A FAMILIAR DILEMMA

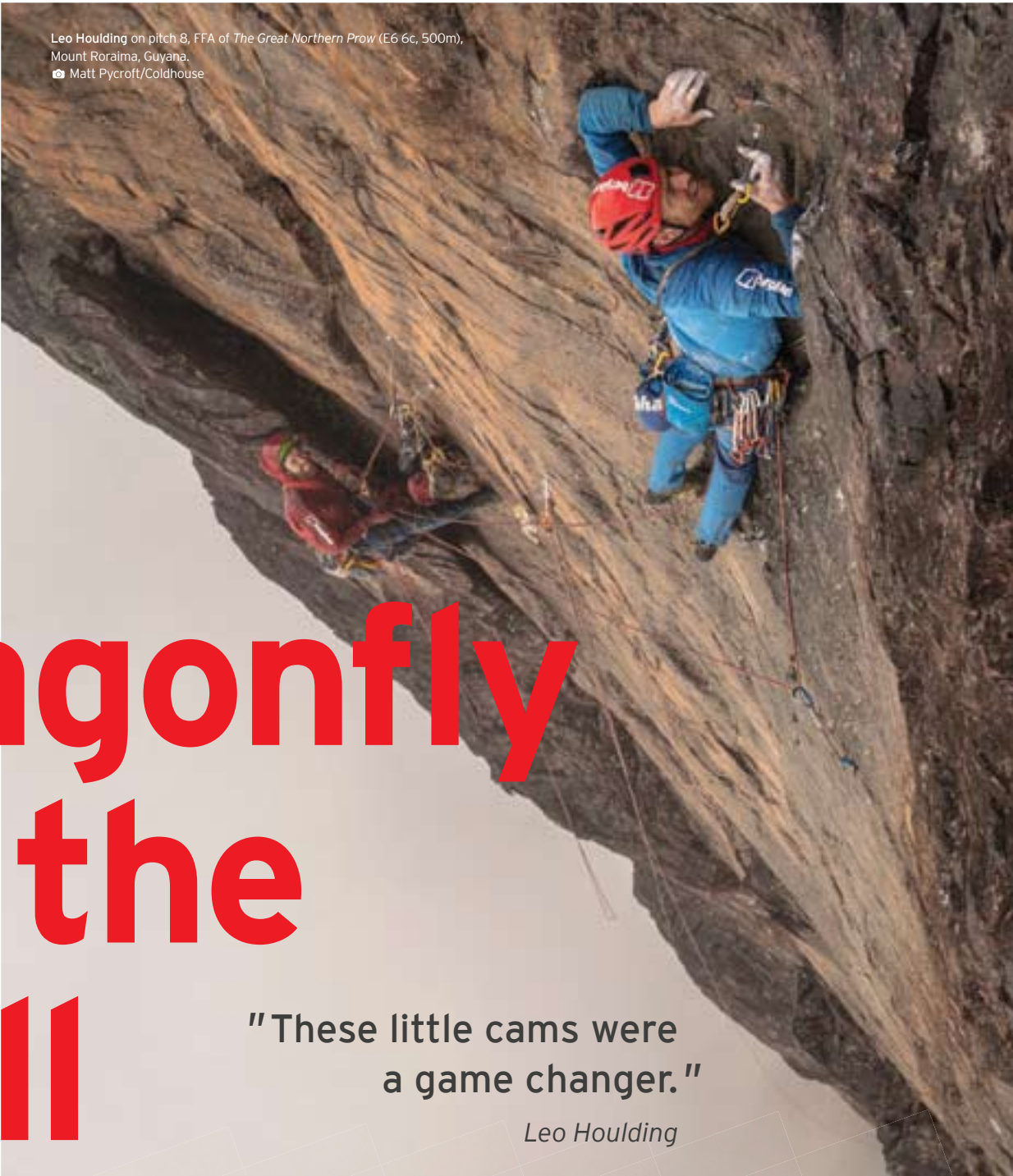
This problem is not unique to climbing. Mountain biking, hiking, and many other outdoor activities have faced and overcome similar challenges in their maturity, forcing leaders in their communities to reckon with the blossoming popularity of their sports and their associated impacts. Take hiking and backpacking for instance. As popularity grew steadily over the 20th century, impacts at popular destinations like Yosemite were immense. The serene meadows we take for granted today were being trampled bare by hikers, and popular trails would sprout spurs and parallel paths that deepened with every season, making an unsightly mess of some of the most scenic hikes in the park. The National Park Service noted that "by the 1970's, many trails were 'loved to death'."

But the park was able to curb these impacts by concentrating hiker use. They installed boardwalks through the meadows, provided navigation signage, and placed natural barriers to direct traffic onto trails, preserving the environment that visitors were there to experience in the first place. While popular hikes like the Mist Trail and Lyell Canyon now include more human-built features than before, their beauty is undimmed, and the remainder of the park—mostly wilderness, largely unvisited—is shockingly empty and ripe for adventure. Though crowding remains a major issue, the impacts on the environment have been controlled through thoughtful planning and infrastructure.

dragonfly  
on the  
wall

"These little cams were  
a game changer."

Leo Houlding



Leo Houlding on pitch 8, FFA of The Great Northern Prow (E6 6c, 500m), Mount Roraima, Guyana.  
© Matt Pycroft/Coldhouse

**Dragonfly Micro Cams** provide versatile protection for narrow cracks and small pockets. The holding power of the TripleGrip lobes inspires confidence and minimises 'walking'.



Dragonfly Micro Cams range 1-6



# ACCESS

## WHAT'S NEXT FOR CLIMBING?

So where do we go from here, as a climbing community? To start, we invest in car-to-climb infrastructure—parking, bathrooms, trails, and reinforced staging areas—at popular crags and boulders. This is expensive, highly technical work that includes building retaining walls, staircases, and belay platforms to prevent continued erosion. In hot spots like Smith Rock and the Gunks, and newly developed areas like Denny Cove, this work has already been done to great effect. Climbers are directed and concentrated onto well-built, strategic infrastructure, concentrating impact onto durable surfaces that can withstand the traffic and protecting the surrounding environment so that the animals and plant life we share these areas with can continue to thrive.

A newly constructed belay platform at Denny Cove in Tennessee gives climbers a safe and dry place to belay while protecting the surrounding ecosystem from erosion and rapid degradation.

This infrastructure will help protect our crags and boulders from the increased visitation they are already facing. In the short-term, these efforts will create disturbances around the work site, but in the long term they will lead to healthier ecosystems—preserving our climbing areas and our access well into the future.

The need for these changes may be unpalatable to some climbers, especially those who remember a

different, wilder climbing experience and the raw adventure, self-reliance, and independence it brings. Luckily, we are blessed with vast wild landscapes and countless climbing areas in this country, many of which are yet to be discovered. From obscure but excellent gneiss boulder fields only an hour north of New York City, to off-the-radar crags right under the noses of the usual Bishop long weekend crowds, there are still ample opportunities for a climbing experience defined by solitude and the absence of human touch. In the hundreds of millions of acres of wilderness and otherwise undeveloped or simply remote landscapes across the nation, the opportunities for true climbing adventure, way out there, totally self-reliant, are enough to fill many lifetimes.

But for the crags that are famous, and that are slammed every weekend, it is time to act. We can choose to let our climbing areas continue to get beaten down and denuded, or we can invest in infrastructure that saves these special areas. The challenges we face as a climbing community are serious, but by no means unbeatable. We have the resources, knowledge, and skills to prevent the degradation of the crags we love.

"With grit and common purpose, we can protect our most precious climbing resources," says Croft. "And by starting now we get to chart our own course, and create the future we want to see."



subscribe at [californiaclimbermagazine.com](http://californiaclimbermagazine.com)  
donate to [climb108@yahoo.com](mailto:climb108@yahoo.com)



 **WHITNEY PEAK**  
HOTEL

255 N. VIRGINIA ST. DOWNTOWN RENO | 775.398.5400

 [@WHITNEYPEAKHOTEL](https://www.facebook.com/whitneypeakhotel)  [@WHITNEYPEAKRENO](https://twitter.com/whitneypeakreno) [WHITNEYPEAKHOTEL.COM](http://whitneypeakhotel.com) [#STAYwhitneypeak](https://www.instagram.com/whitneypeak)



ROUTE OF THE SEASON

IMAGE + JIM THORNBURG

Garrett Randall climbing *Flight Simulator* (5.12b), The Grotto, Table Mountain.

BETA

ROUTE: Flight Simulator  
GRADE: 5.12b  
LENGTH: 110 feet  
ROCK TYPE: Volcanic/Latite  
SEASON: Winter & Spring  
STYLE: Sport, single pitch  
RACK: 10 Quickdraws  
LOCATION: The Grotto, Table Mountain  
APPROACH: Thirty minutes  
DESCENT: Lower off, bolted anchor. **70m rope mandatory!**  
GUIDEBOOK: *A Climber's Guide to the Sonora Pass Highway 2nd Edition* by Brad Young & Steve Dawson

DESCRIPTION

In the shaded chasm of Table Mountain's Grotto, vivid lichens and moss colored vivid shades of green, yellow, red and orange creep up the uniformly spaced columns and then onto an incredibly steep upper headwall. At the tallest and center-most portion of this formation is a perfectly square-cut pillar of stone that creates the route *A.C. Devil Dog* (5.10d). Often described "like climbing a refrigerator," *A.C. Devil Dog* is certainly one of the most unique climbs in California and a perfect way to start *Flight Simulator* (5.12b), the proudest line of overhanging jugs on the Grotto's upper headwall. From the top of *A.C. Devil Dog*, a singular bolt directly above the pillar leads straight up large jugs for the first three bolts on incredibly overhung rock. The crux of *Flight Simulator* comes at the final two bolts where the route becomes more powerful and balancy. Although *Flight Simulator* is safely bolted, it is likely named because a fall in the crux (a short traverse section just before the top anchors) will send you flying into space!

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.



www.tenayausa.com





## “FELIX”

Peli and his 1987 Toyota Pickup

CC: Where did you find this setup and how much did it cost?

Peli: It was a good friends’ loss and my gain. I found it in San Diego. Thanks Joel! His neighbor was actually about to tow it to the junkyard because it was sitting on the street for so long.

Where did the name come from?

Felix is my other nickname from fishing. When I was working on a fishing boat there was a passenger on the boat named Felix, and he was smoking weed in the bathroom. I went into the bathroom after him and then the other passengers told the captain that I smelled like I was smoking weed. So after that all the other crew members were joking with me and calling me Felix or asking me if I was partying with Felix.

Any modifications?

I came up on a cheap vintage camper shell from a Good Samaritan in Arcata who left a note on the truck to tell me that they had a shell that would fit this model truck. It’s hard to find a shell for the truck because it’s not a full long bed length– it’s a weird model that’s a few inches shorter– on the registration it says “utility vehicle.” The shell leaks of course, but it’s still a miracle. Since then I’ve just replaced the battery and got a new “brazo zerta,” which I guess is Spanish for some sort of tie rod that I had replaced in Baja.

How’s the gas mileage?

Recently I discovered that I get about 20 miles per-gallon without anything on the roof, but loaded down with three surf boards and a kayak on the roof I get about 18 miles per-gallon, even with a leaky carburetor!

Is there a reason you went with a truck instead of a van?

Yes. I needed the 4 wheel drive for diving on the beach looking for surf and just for standard exploration almost anywhere I usually go. I also don’t know how to work on a van.

How does this set-up work offroad?

Really, really well. The 4x4 works greats and it surprises me all the time.

Do you live in the truck full time?

No, somewhat, lately I’ve just been taking it around in the off-season from fishing, so living in it a lot more now, but friend’s couches are pretty nice too.

Any drawbacks to this model truck?

Yeah, but mostly just because of its age. The leaky camper shell is a bit of a drag, especially when everything is in there. There’s water in the doors, water in the floor boards and the window doesn’t roll all the way up. So yeah, there are a few drawbacks in the wet season.

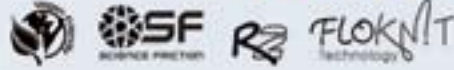
What was your best trip in Felix so far?

I have a lot of good memories with the truck in Baja. Probably the best time I’ve had was with two good friends down around Bahia de Los Angeles, just cruising around, really cramped into the front seat with a bunch of Tecates. We drove way out to an old Spanish mission one day on a really long dirt road and traded off holding the wheel and pushing the throttle so that we could roll smokes and tinker on things the whole way out there. Also that trip we did a lot of random exploration around Baja- I attempted to go up a few really big sandy hill climbs that were pretty funny.

What are your plans for the winter?

Avoid the rain. Baja and tacos.

HAYWIRE



WINNER

INDUSTRY  
AWARD 2018



Featuring an industry first 3D molded toe box, the Haywire delivers an unbelievable amount of comfort to performance ratio. This award-winner defies conventional rock shoe logic by giving you that ultra-sensitive feel while maintaining a supportive toe-box.



Defined by Passion  
MadRock.Com



REVIEW

COLLECTOR'S PHOTO EDITION

PETZL SPIRIT EXPRESS

{ \$23.95 - \$24.95 }

The Petzl Spirit quickdraw known as the Express isn't the lightest, smallest, or cheapest quickdraw on the market, but for over twenty years it has been widely considered as the benchmark for excellent quality utility quickdraws. The Spirit was among the first carabiners on the planet to offer a "Keylock" gate closure system which allows for easy clipping and massively easier unclipping. The straight gate Spirit biner also features a textured gate that makes these actions even easier. The design of the bent gate allows the rope to be clipped smoothly and efficiently. But the best feature of the Spirit Express is a somewhat difficult to describe "snapping" sound that just resonates the quality of the materials and construction.



As one of the oldest high quality quickdraws in existence, we've had the pleasure of testing these units for over twenty years. Aside from the occasional dogbone [nylon sling] replacement that would be mandatory for any piece of climbing gear that is more than two decades old, these quickdraws have stood the test of time beautifully. The Spirit Express is available in two lengths: 11cm and 17cm.

LA SPORTIVA COBRA ECO

{ \$140 }

A re-edition of the classic La Sportiva Cobra, the Cobra Eco is a great slipper for use on all types of rock, with a nice blend of sensitivity and edging performance. The new Cobra Eco is nearly identical to the original Cobra, but as its name would suggest, boasts a much more environmentally friendly footprint. 85% of all the components used to construct the Cobra Eco are derived from recycled materials (sole, upper and webbing) and guarantee low environmental impact through metal-free tanning and water-based adhesives. La Sportiva FriXion® ECO rubber is obtained from recycling the rubber used in standard production (sole and heel) and guarantees the same high level of grip and durability.

While the original Cobra was designed for steep, technical terrain – mostly sport climbing and bouldering – we've found that the Cobra also works incredibly well on slabs and cracks; especially thin cracks where sensitivity and malleability is crucial. In testing we'd recommend going at least 1.5 sizes smaller than your regular street shoe size as we did find (as expected) that these slippers do stretch to form-fit the foot.



# CLIFFHANGER GUIDES

JOSHUA TREE, C.A.



## SUMMIT OR PLUMMET

WWW.CLIFFHANGERGUIDES.COM



TENAYA MASTIA

{ \$190 }

The Mastia is the newest and most aggressive shoe in the Tenaya line; a split-sole shoe combining **down turned precision** and **sensitivity with edging power** designed for cutting edge performance and control. The split sole construction allows for extra flexibility while reducing edge deformation— basically the Mastia makes it easy to down-point pressure on overhangs and also can stand on dimes. The advanced technology and construction minimizes pressure on the toes while maximizing transmission of power.

The Mastia features Tenaya's first ever **thermally molded heel cup** for maximum precision while heel hooking. Our testers with narrow feet have previously experienced baggy spots in the heel area of other Tanaya models yet the Mastia fits our narrow-



footed testers like a glove. The Mastia also features a sticky rubber covered toe box for increased protection and grip while toe-hooking.

The single Velcro strap on the Mastia allows for **quick entry/exit** and great foot retention, but some testers remarked that the shoe could benefit from some extra padding under the metal buckle which is a bit more forward on the foot than typical Velcro straps and has a tendency to dig into the foot when the strap is cranked ultra-tight. In overall review the Mastia was **comfortable** (especially for those with narrow feet) and preformed incredibly on steep terrain and on technical vertical terrain.

TOTEM CAMS

{ \$89.95 }

A few years ago our friend Kenny handed us a rack of strange, almost triangular-looking cams, and asked if we could try them out. When looking up at a difficult lead, it's sometimes intimidating to add such unfamiliar pieces of gear to your rack. Although it took us a while to work up the courage to thoroughly test these odd-looking Totem Cams, the results were pretty shocking.

The Totem Cam offers **extraordinary holding power** and unique capabilities with its patented Direct Loading System; a unique design that includes multiple clipping



points which adjusts the way the camming system is loaded – essentially the **device is loadable on all four lobes, or only two lobes**. Because the Totem Cam is loadable on only two lobes, it is absolutely **revolutionary for aid climbing**, particularly in larger, blow-out pin scars. In testing we also found the Totem Cam's design to keep the cam from walking and make cleaning very hassle-free. The only real negative aspect of the Totem Cams is their large sized trigger and webbing system which adds up to be very bulky when you have a full rack.



MY HELMET  
MY CHOICE

Planning for the unexpected while escaping into the vertical world to take a break from the daily grind is what allows me to enjoy the adventure.  
#HelmetUp

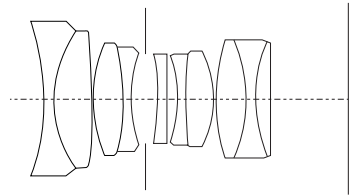


**BOREA**  
Pony-tail friendly climbing helmet that guarantees a certain level of protection that goes beyond the industry standard with TOP AND SIDE PROTECTION. [www.petzl.com/HelmetUp](http://www.petzl.com/HelmetUp)

**PETZL®** Access the inaccessible®



Ben Moon on the teetering, always windy crux of the second pitch of *Scirocco* (5.12a), Needles.



WORDS & IMAGE + JIM THORNBURG

When I started climbing in 1981 I was, like many young people, kind of turned off by status quo sorts of things. As a skateboarder I always wanted to do what was new; climbing was the same. I spent my first years learning to smear up slabs, climb cracks of all sizes and figure out boulder problems at Indian Rock. That’s what there was. Bouldering was the most fun, but it didn’t have the spook factor of slab climbing or the intensity of crack climbing. In 1982 I bought a climbing magazine that had a tiny, grainy, under-exposed photo of a sun-blackened, muscle-bound dude named Tony Yaniro on a new route he had established in the Needles. The route was described as a “soaring, 500-foot arête.” I had no idea what an arête was, but I knew I had to go.

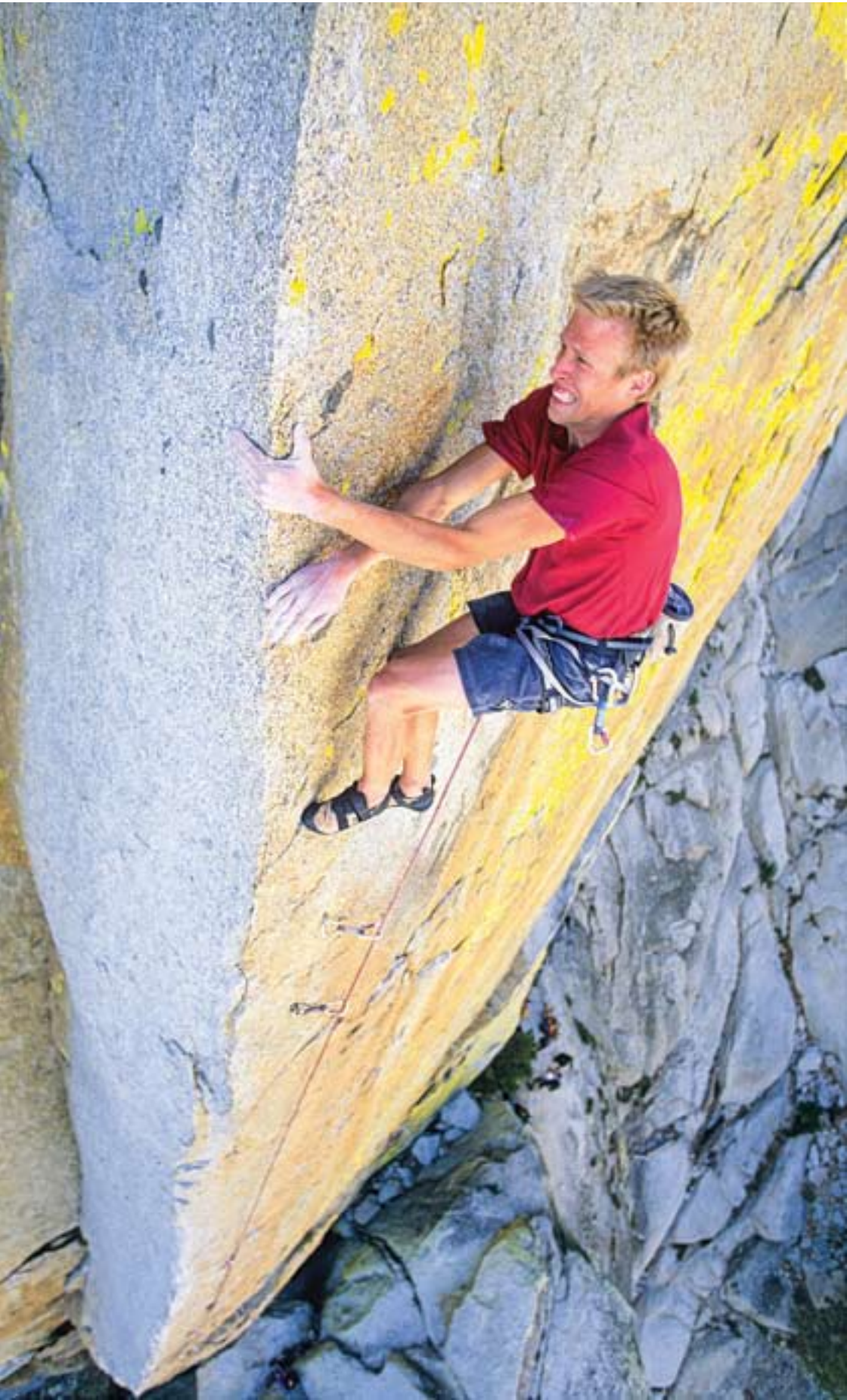
On my first trip to The Needles, I was content to just look at it. The first pitch was an unbelievably beautiful wall of golden patina plates that only touched the arête in a few places. At 70 feet, the patina faded out and the white arête soared into the sky. The black, far-apart bolts were easy to see on the blank, vertical face, and it terrified me to think about climbing it. I calmed myself down by thinking I didn’t have to. But then, almost as if my thought conjured him, this dude named Ron Carson shows up out of nowhere and asks my partner Melanie and I if we can give him a belay on the first pitch. It was strange, because this was 1983, and there was literally no one else at the crag that day or the entire weekend for that matter. So next thing I know I’m putting Ron on belay and up he goes looking solid (Ron was one of the best climbers in California at that time). About halfway up, without a sound, he came off. It was about a 25-foot fall, and while I was shaken, Ron just got back on without a rest and finished the pitch. I gave it a feeble try on top rope. Just tying in was scary (you scramble down to a huge chockstone in a chimney, and when you pull onto the wall you’re stepping into 100 feet of instant exposure). It was super hard and even on top rope I was gripped by the wind and exposure. The thought of leading the first pitch vanished from my plans as I discovered how small the holds were and how far apart the bolts were, and the thought of even trying the blank, runout arête above made me sweat and want to barf.

I spent the next week simultaneously obsessing over and trying to forget I had ever seen the route. For the next five years a day didn’t go by where I didn’t think about the

route. In 1986 I returned to the first pitch and sent it on lead after a few tries. It was still hard and there was a scary clip that freaked me out to the point that when I looked up at the spaced bolts on the smooth second pitch I couldn’t commit to trying it. Three years later I went back. By this time I had onsighted 5.12c and red pointed 5.13c. I felt ready for the second pitch, which was rated 5.12a. I started up, feeling freaked out, but really keen on giving it my best effort. The climbing was even cooler than I had imagined with little scoops and crisp edges for your right hand and the cutter arête for your left, while your feet smear the face and hook the arête. As I got higher, I recall being stunned by both the position (so exposed and always windy) and the climbing, which becomes increasingly thin and balancey and runout the higher you get.

The crux was brutal. I recall no holds whatsoever - you clamp the arête with both hands and pray your feet stick while you fight the wind that is trying to blow you around the arête and into eternity. Somehow, through eyes that were wet from the wind or fear or both, I scraped up this part and clipped a rusty bolt. From there it was just another 25-foot runout to another bolt and then one more runout to the anchor. I made it 15 feet above the bolt. From there, the holds disappeared again, and after some excruciating time, I figured that I was going to have to climb around the edge of the arête, but every time I started to do that, all I could have think about was that if I fell, I’d fall for 50-feet on the wrong side of the arête and my rope would slice on the edge. I was so close to realizing my dream, but I also couldn’t calm my spooked mind. I tried to tell myself the move was only 5.10 (it probably is), but I couldn’t commit. After about 30 minutes of hanging on, getting slowly more pumped, I finally gave in and down climbed to the last bolt, left a bail binder and lowered off.

Ten years later, I went back to Scirroco, armed with none other than Tony Yaniro. He lead the route and then rappelled down and replaced several of the 1/4 inch bolts. In the photo you can see both the old and new bolts below Ben’s feet. I finally sent the second pitch that day on top rope. This photo is from that day. I don’t love the composition of the photo (I was teetering on the arête in the wind), but I like how Ben’s expression helps tell the story of how you feel on the arête.

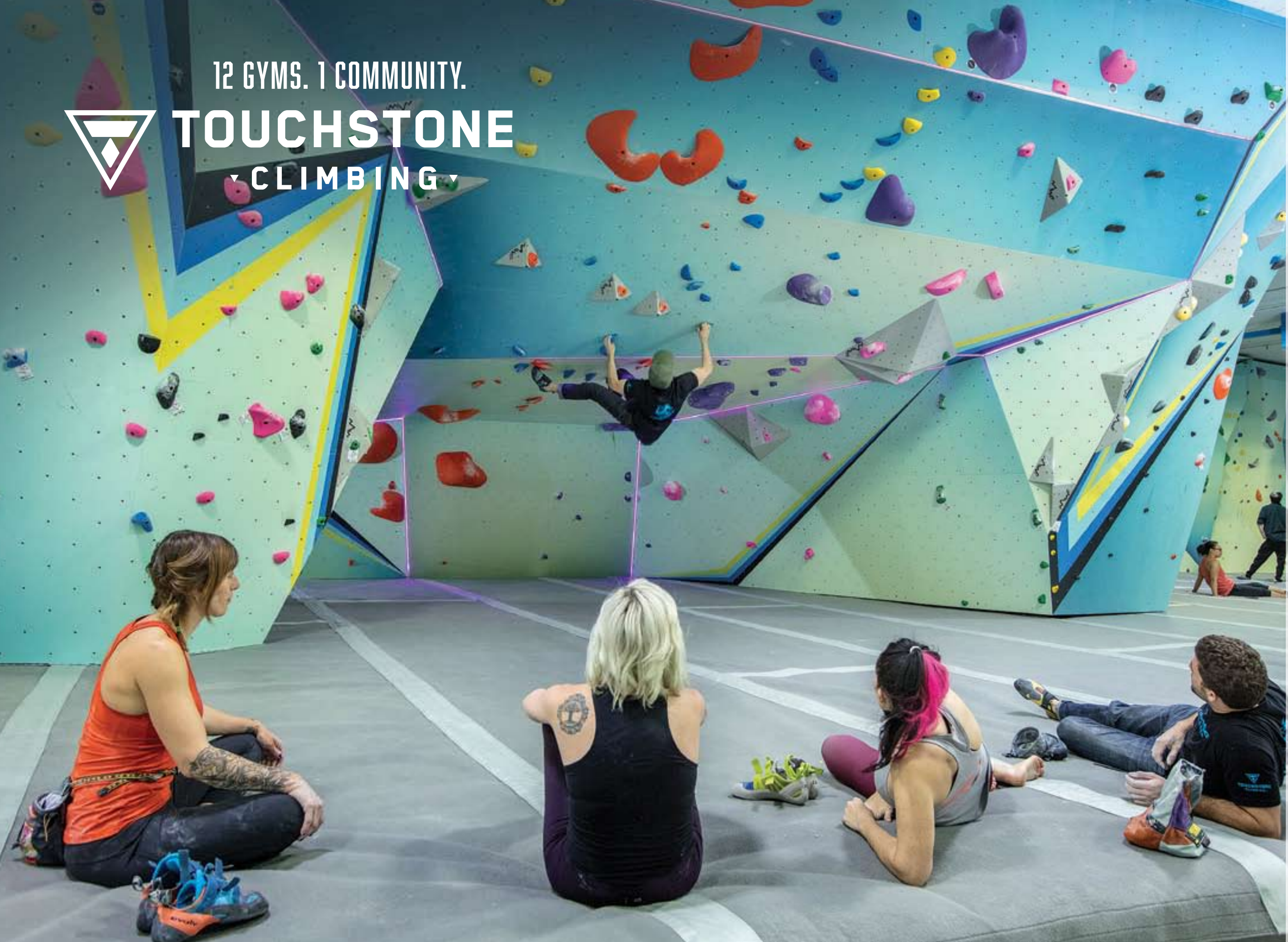




12 GYMS. 1 COMMUNITY.



**TOUCHSTONE**  
CLIMBING



**MISSION CLIFFS**  
SAN FRANCISCO



**DOGPATCH**  
BOULDERS



**GREAT WESTERN**  
POWER CO.



**BERKELEY**  
**IRONWORKS**



**PIPEWORKS**



**STUDIO**  
CLIMBING



**METALMARK**  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA



**VERDIGO**  
BOULDERS



**CLIFFS**  
OF ID.



**HOLLYWOOD**  
BOULDERS



**DIABLO ROCK**  
CLIMBING





**CLIMBER** Lonnie Kauk  
**LOCATION** Buttermilks, Bishop  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Christian Pondella



GOLDEN STATE GALLERY

# 2020

COLLECTOR'S PHOTO EDITION



**CLIMBER** Surfer Bob  
**ROUTE** *Twilight Zone*, 5.10d, Yosemite Valley  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Greg Epperson

Chuck Pratt's 1965 ascent of *Twilight Zone* (5.10d) remains one of the greatest ascents in climbing history. Although the pitch protects reasonably well with large cams, a plethora of techniques combined with the stamina of a bull is needed to remain fresh and efficient while climbing a wide crack of this caliber.

**CLIMBER** Richard Miranda  
**ROUTE** *The Philosophy of Time Travel*, V3, Upper Arboretum, Columbia  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Dean Fleming

Columbia's unique formations have gained a reputation for fun and interesting climbing on excellent quality limestone and marble, but it is this area's unique surroundings and labyrinth-like terrain that separate it from other bouldering areas.



**CLIMBER** John Scott  
**ROUTE** *The Amazing Ginsu*, 5.12b, Hidden Wall, Calaveras Dome  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Jim Thornburg

The first major rock formation encountered when driving into the Mokelumne River Canyon below Salt Springs Reservoir is the North side of Hidden Dome. The hidden East Side of this formation boasts a 600-foot-tall vertical to overhanging wall. It's here that John Scott and Troy Corliss established unbelievable routes like *The Amazing Ginsu* (5.12b) and *Mephistopheles Throne* (5.12d).

**CLIMBER** Pete Takeda and Jeff Perrin  
**ROUTE** *Sunkist*, VI 5.8 A3, Yosemite Valley  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Greg Epperson

"Dangling 50-feet away from the wall it seemed like hours of untangling as I slowly spun in circles..." said photographer Greg Epperson. "I soon realized that the heat-polished cam on my rappel device was letting rope slip through, very slowly."





**CLIMBER** Alton Richardson  
**ROUTE** *Momma Bear*, 5.12b, Middle Fork  
Stanislaus River  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Dean Fleming

California's dedicated route developers have been exploring the extensive Sierra drainages north of Yosemite for decades, including the Stanislaus, Mokelumne and Yuba river canyons. While no one has found, or is expected to find, another Yosemite Valley, a lifetime of high quality boulder problems and short sport climbs are being steadily uncovered and opened up each year.





**CLIMBER** Clara Lopes  
**ROUTE** *Mortal Combat*, 5.12b, Table Mountain  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Jim Thornburg

The rock quality at Jamestown's Table Mountain on Highway 108 can vary from excellent to absolute choss, but the diverse cragging options, short approaches and incredible scenery have quickly turned this expansive area into a fantastic resource for central California climbers. Pictured here; Clara Lopes ventures up a large section of high quality stone on *Mortal Combat* (5.12b).





**CLIMBER** Matt Fultz  
**ROUTE** *Reality Check*, 5.12c, Promontory  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Dean Fleming

Once a minefield of mushrooming rusty bolts, the North Coast crag Promontory was re-bolted and revitalized in 2015 by local climbers and the American Safe Climbing Association. Today Promontory is one of the most popular crags in Northern California, a place where quality routes like *Reality Check* (5.12c), which was originally established using removable bolts, now deservedly see their fair share of traffic.



2020  
COLLECTOR'S PHOTO EDITION

**CLIMBER** Jeff Schoen  
**ROUTE** *Mocha Choca Latte Ya-Ya's*, 5.12d, Tuolumne Meadows  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Jim Thornburg

*Mocha Choca Latte Ya-Ya's* (5.12d) is just one of Jeff Schoen's many worthy first ascents on Sierra granite, including classics like *Lighten Up* (5.12b, five pitches) in Yosemite, and *Mocha Velvet Stout* (5.12d, three pitches) and *Wildcat Buttress* (5.12c, seven pitches) in Tuolumne Meadows. While these climbs are undeniably great, they remain obscure, partly because they are so hard, and partly because Jeff was so soft spoken about their quality.



**CLIMBER** Ron Kauk  
**ROUTE** *Positivity*, 5.12d, Tuolumne Meadows  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Greg Epperson

Over the course of nearly four decades legendary California climber Ron Kauk has added a huge number of high quality and difficult routes to the sub-alpine climbing paradise of Tuolumne Meadows along Yosemite National Park's Tioga Pass. Far off the highway at the seldom visited Micro Dome, his route *Positivity* (5.12d) is a hidden gem.

**CLIMBER** Mari Gingery  
**ROUTE** *Pyromania*, 5.13b, Needles  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Greg Epperson

The incredible *Pyromania* on the Fire Wall at Needles involves two distinct boulder problem cruxes: a long reach or a dynamic move is followed by difficult moves to get out from under a small roof and onto a juggy rail. Yet many climbers find the final stretch, a burning endurance undercling, to be the redpoint crux.



**CLIMBER** Anne-Marie Lambert  
**ROUTE** *Unknown*, 5.10b, Alabama Hills  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Dean Fleming

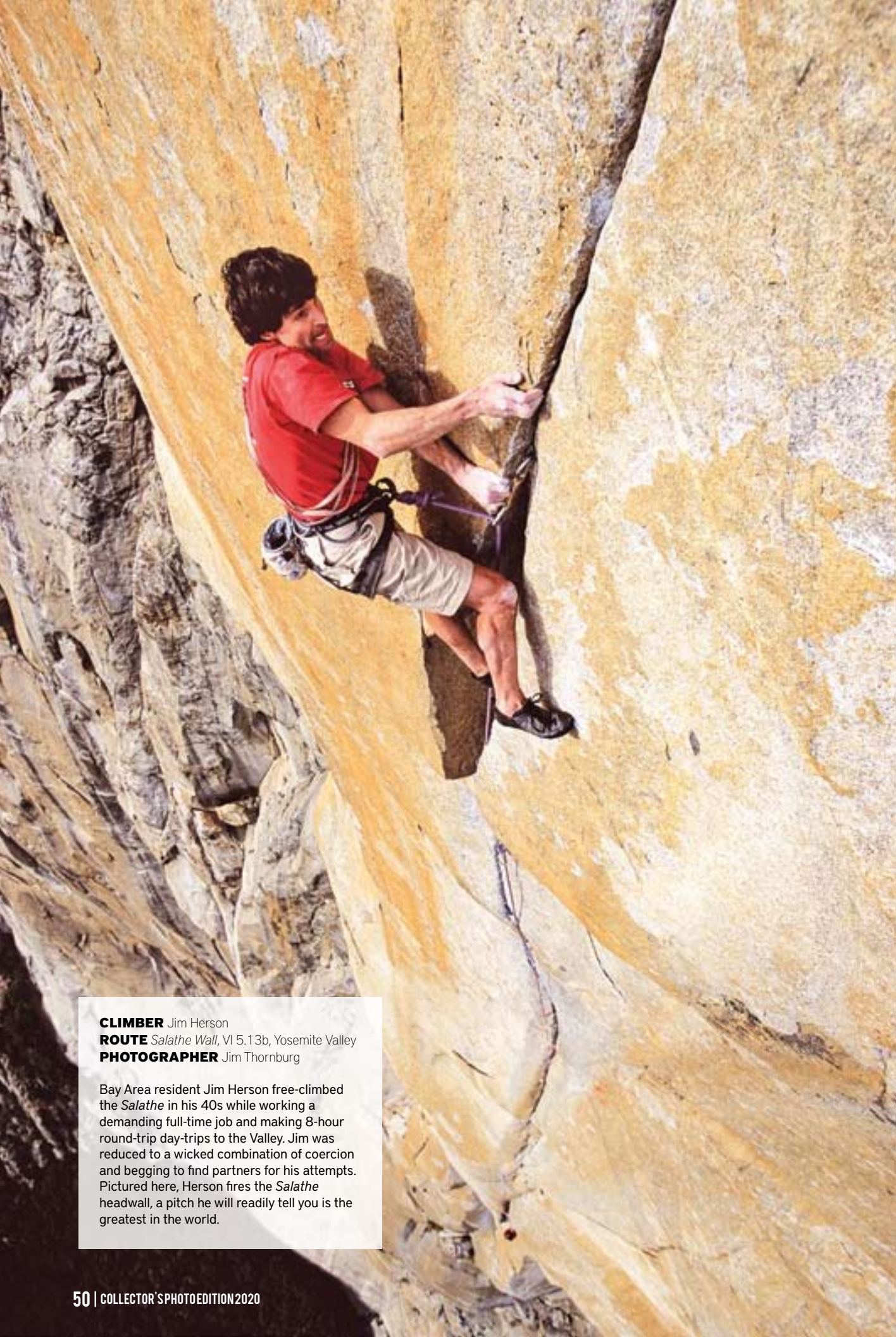
The climbing options in the idyllically positioned Owens Valley extend far beyond the Buttermilks and the Table Lands to outlying areas like the quartz monzonite dome-land of the Alabama Hills located just a few miles west of Lone Pine. The “Bamas” are most noteworthy for easy access, a relaxed feel and incredible views of the Sierra Crest to the west and the White Mountains to the east.



**CLIMBER** Jesse Huey  
**ROUTE** *Regular Northwest Face*, 5.12a,  
Yosemite Valley  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Austin Siadak

Although the Regular Northwest Face is sometimes regarded as a moderate big wall free-climb, especially when compared to free climbs on El Capitan, the final cryptic slab of the route, known as the “heartbreaker slab (5.12a),” has thwarted many onsite attempts.





**CLIMBER** Jim Herson  
**ROUTE** *Salathe Wall*, VI 5.13b, Yosemite Valley  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Jim Thornburg

Bay Area resident Jim Herson free-climbed the *Salathe* in his 40s while working a demanding full-time job and making 8-hour round-trip day-trips to the Valley. Jim was reduced to a wicked combination of coercion and begging to find partners for his attempts. Pictured here, Herson fires the *Salathe* headwall, a pitch he will readily tell you is the greatest in the world.



**CLIMBER** Rami Annab  
**ROUTE** *Tartufo*, V11/12, Kyburz  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Caroline Treadway

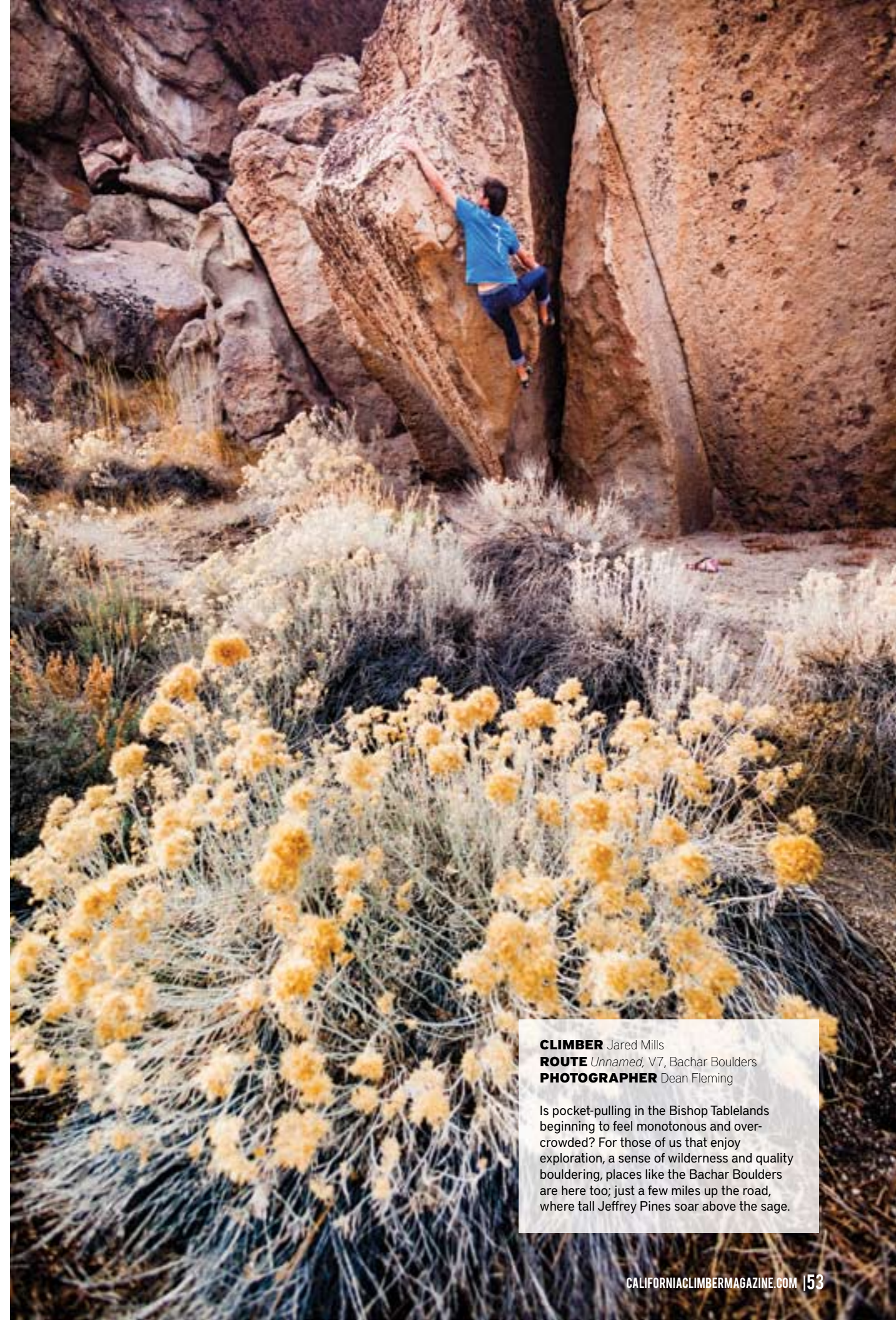
Rami Annab quickly grabbed the third ascent of this unique line, located just outside the town of Kyburz on I-50 near Lake Tahoe. *Tartufo* (V11/12) was established by Jimmy Webb and Carlo Traversi - Webb discovered the boulder sometime in 2017 and then Carlo managed the first ascent in December of 2018. "Props to Jimmy Webb for finding this gem last year," said Traversi, "And yes, that's essentially a granite tufa."





**CLIMBER** Den Ditto  
**ROUTE** *Honky Special*, 5.13, Cardinal Pinnacle  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Christian Pondella

In the summer of 2017, Bishop local Chase Leary, unlocked the secrets to the A1 third pitch of *Cardinal Sin* (5.12c, A1), creating the full free climb, *Honky Special* (5.13). This pitch has some truly obscure and technical moves on a sloped arête to access a blank dihedral. Ben Ditto has found his way through the cryptic lower section and now must negotiate a tight tips crack to the belay.



**CLIMBER** Jared Mills  
**ROUTE** *Unnamed*, V7, Bachar Boulders  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Dean Fleming

Is pocket-pulling in the Bishop Tablelands beginning to feel monotonous and overcrowded? For those of us that enjoy exploration, a sense of wilderness and quality bouldering, places like the Bachar Boulders are here too; just a few miles up the road, where tall Jeffrey Pines soar above the sage.



**CLIMBER** Obe Carrion  
**ROUTE** *Hang Time*, V4, Echo View, Lake Tahoe  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Dean Fleming

Sitting on a sandy, west-facing and wide-open hillside, Echo View is one of the most convenient bouldering areas in the Tahoe Basin. Most of the landings at Echo View are excellent, with the exception of *Hang Time* (V4); a problem that forces climbers out over the void for a potentially big drop to the pads.





**CLIMBER** Rob Moellering  
**ROUTE** *Weasel Boys Arete*, 5.12b, Joshua Tree  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Jim Thornburg

The Lost Pencil is located way out in the backcountry of Joshua Tree National Park, an hours' hike from the remote Geology Tour Road. Rob Moellering finds solitude on the immaculate, tilted formation.





**CLIMBER** Sonnie Trotter  
**ROUTE** *Pineapple Express*, V 5.13b, Yosemite Valley  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Austin Siadak

Trotter ignores the wild exposure and calmly sends the *Black Cave* pitch (5.13b) on his first try during the first free ascent of his route *Pineapple Express* (5.13b), a new variation to the North America Wall and El Nino.



COLLECTOR'S PHOTO EDITION  
2020

**CLIMBER** Babsi Zangerl  
**ROUTE** *Everything is Karate*, 5.14c/d, Pine Creek Canyon  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Ben Ditto

*Everything is Karate* (5.14c/d) climbs a steep wall of bullet granite following a seam that was bolted by Pat O'Donnell in 2012 and finally sent by Ethan Pringle in 2016. Karate has been repeated a handful of times, including by Chris Sharma in 2017.



**CLIMBER** Hidetaka Suzuki  
**ROUTE** *Grand Illusion*, 5.13b, Sugarloaf  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Greg Epperson

Between the late 1970s and early 1990s Hidetaka Suzuki had either established, redpointed or onsighted nearly all of the difficult cracks in California, and many others beyond the Golden State. In his prime he made quick work of the Sugarloaf test-piece *Grand Illusion* (5.13b), a route that continues to frustrate today's strongest climbers equipped with modern small cams.



**CLIMBER** Alex Morris  
**ROUTE** *Tips*, 5, 12a, Yosemite Valley  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Austin Siadak

In 1982 Jonny Woodward and Brian Courtney scraped together the brutal face moves (5.12) that lead to the beautiful crack *Tips* on This and That Cliff in Yosemite Valley for the route's true first free ascent. Yet most climbers today still prefer the original start used by John Bachar and Ron Kauk during their ascent in 1975 – a fixed aid that gains easier access to the splitter crack above.







**CLIMBER** Facundo Langbehn  
**ROUTE** *Once Upon a Time*, V1, Black Mountain  
**PHOTOGRAPHER** Devlin Gandy

On the tallest summit of Southern California's Black Mountain sits *Once Upon a Time* (V1); a line of crimps and edges up a stunning saucer of a boulder that sits perched above a steep slab that rolls steeply into a crevasse. The sketchy landing zone gives this problem an "R" rating, but the views and vibes from this location still draw heaps of suitors each season.



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

L.A.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

JUST SOUTH OF YOSEMITE  
IN OAKHURST, CALIFORNIA

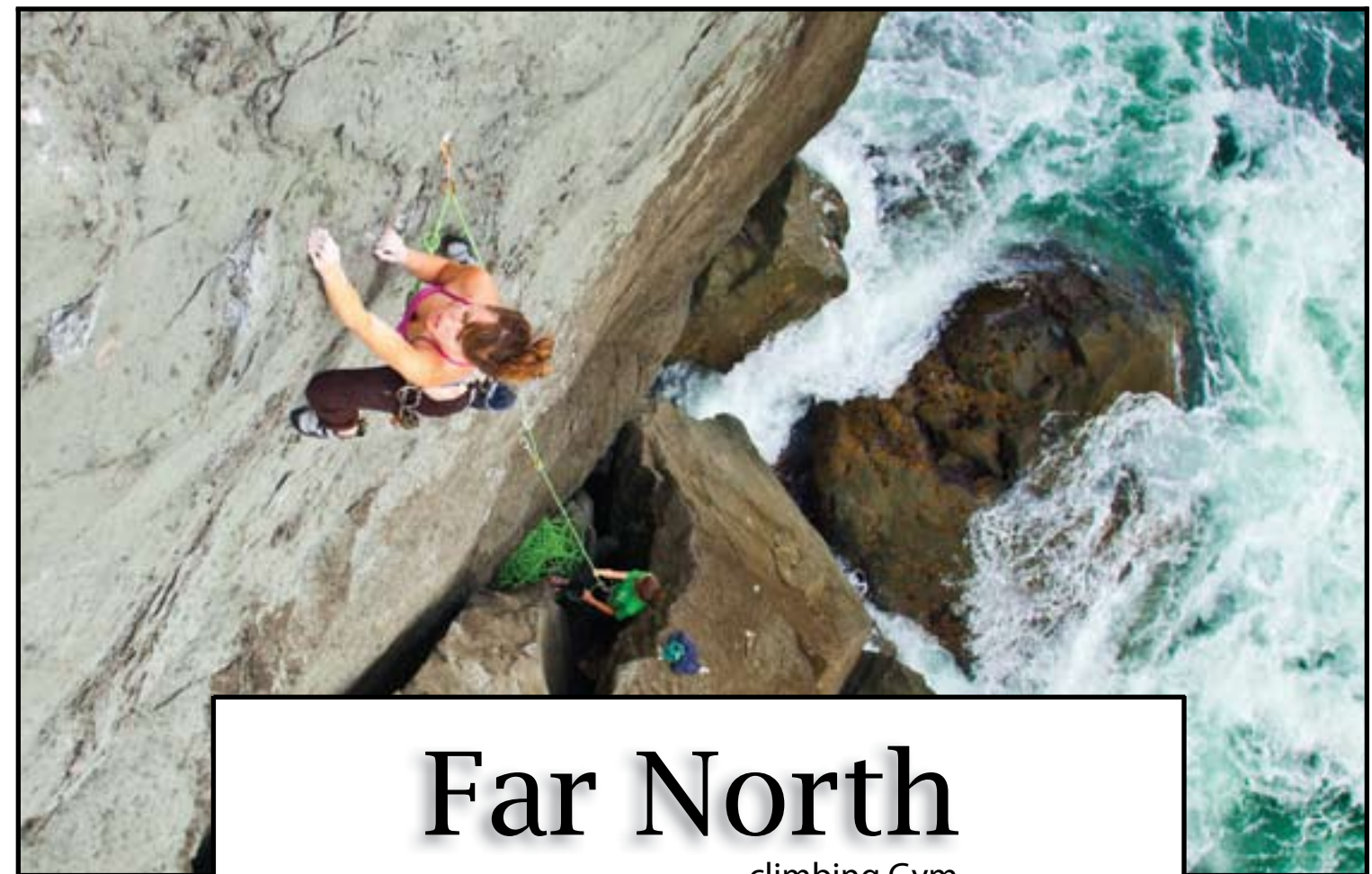
40879 State HWY 41 \*SUITE 1F\* OAKHURST, CA 93644 \* (559) 800-8099 \*  
ALPENGLOWGEARCO@GMAIL.COM \* @ALPENGLOWGEARCO ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM



**CASCADE CRACK (5.10b),**  
CASCAE FALLS, YOSEMITE VALLEY

Yosemite's obscurities can be truly excellent, and finding seclusion in the Park's vast and beautiful wilderness can provide some of the most rewarding climbing experiences in California. Trevor Carter finds solitude just feet from the highway on *Cascade Crack* (5.10b).

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



