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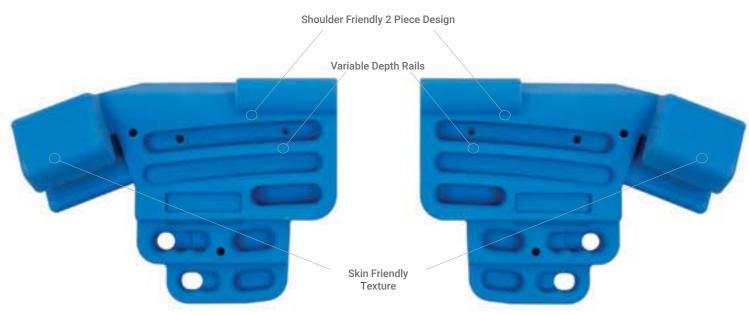


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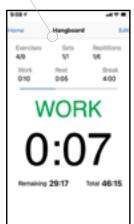
Katie Lambert climbing *Ecstasy* (5.13b), Pine Creek *IMAGE* + BEN DITTO

THIS PAGE

Austin Gwinn climbing the Becky Route (5.9) on the Mustache Wall, Pine Creek Canyon. IMAGE + KYLE QUEENER











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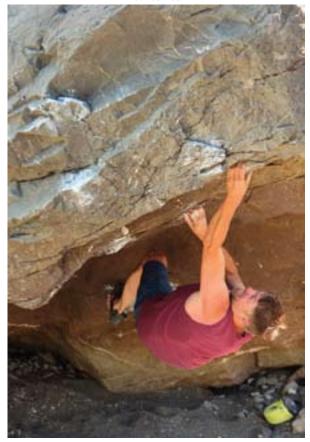
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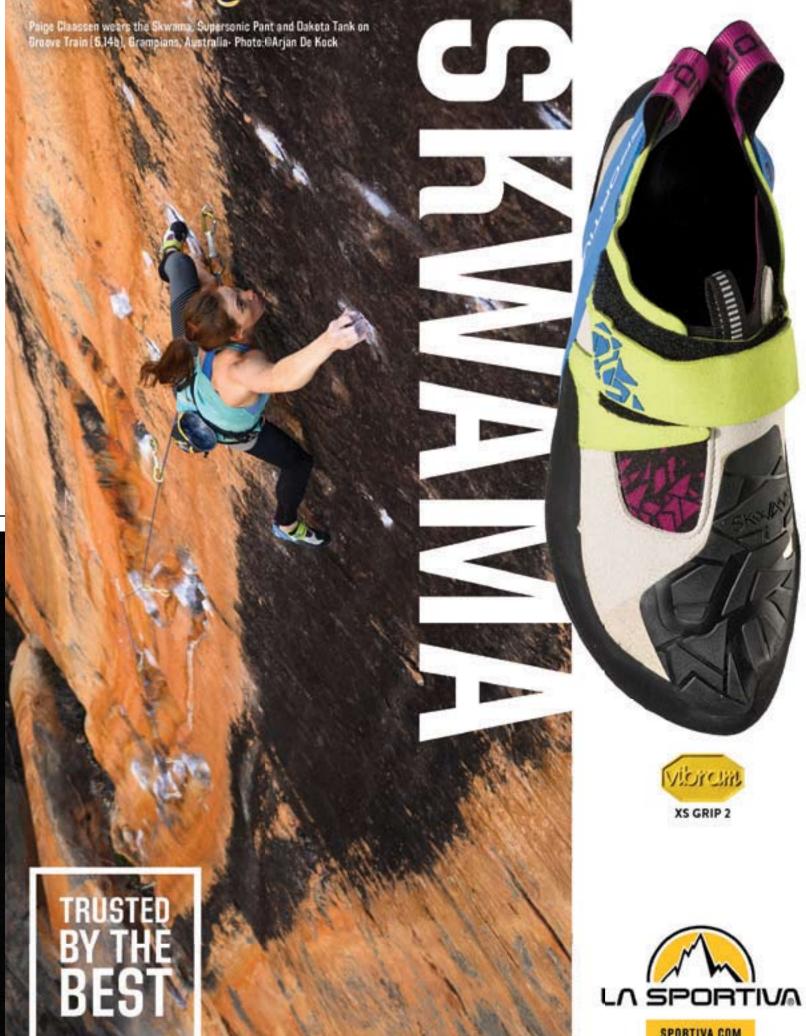
MOST, IF NOTALL OF THE ACTIVITIES DEPICTED HEREIN CARRY AND PRESENT SIGNIFICANT RISKS OF PERSONAL INJURY OR DEATH.

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.

Chris Summit climbing Firestarter (V6)







XS GRIP 2

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EDITOR'S NOTE

THE TOUR

DURING THE FIRST FEW YEARS

of my climbing career a typical climbing trip for me would look

something like this: An adult would pull up to my parents' house where I'd be waiting outside ready to throw my loose climbing shoes, chalk bag, belay device and harness into the back of the car (I had no backpack), then we'd head off to some place in the forest that I had never heard of. At the parking area we'd fashion some kind of sack or pack out of something like a plastic grocery bag for my effects and then I'd backpack coil the rope and sling it over my back. At the base of the cliff the adult would gaze up at the rock and fiddle with the rack while I also looked at the rock and tried to pretend like I knew what I was looking at. Then we'd "do" rock climbing. I never knew if the routes had been done before or if we were the first to do them. I didn't know that a climb could have a name or an official grade aside from "hard" or "easy." I didn't know that people wrote these things down in books and drew maps of the climbs. I just knew that we were "doing" rock climbing and that it was

In the years that followed I met people like Brad Young, Marc Crum, Micha Miller, Dave Harden, Dave Yerian, Nole Tillery and Hope Wolf, all of whom took the time to explain to me the nuances of rock climbing. As a young adult I learned a lot about guidebooks as I began to help friends with editing, grading, topography and mapping for a guidebook about climbing on the Sonora Pass Highway. Just after high school I co-authored a small guidebook for the boulders of Columbia, California, where I learned just how labor intensive and painstaking guidebook creation

DOWNTOWN SONORA

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With the wealth of information available today, both in print and online, it's sometimes hard to comprehend that climbing existed before the conception of the climbing guidebook. Until the early 1970s guidebooks for even the most famous crags like Yosemite Valley were, at best, simple written descriptions of a few major climbs, if they existed at all. In those days social interaction was necessary to find information about new climbs; sometimes you'd even need to throw down a case of beer or a meal to get the goods on the latest routes. But if you were really lucky and you fell into the right crew, you'd get "The Tour;" a highly coveted and sometimes strictly vetted act where a local climber with a wealth of knowledge drags you around the cliffs or boulders and shows you what's good. If you've ever been lucky enough to have "The Tour" you'll know that there is no quantity or quality of published information that could ever substitute it.

n this issue of California Climber we've opened a new feature segment called "The Tour," where we give local route developers and guidebook authors the opportunity to take us on a virtual visit to their cherished local crags and boulders. And who better to start things off than Sonoma County resident, local route developer and guidebook author Chris Summit; a person who has literally dedicated their life to discovering rocks and sharing those discoveries. For the inaugural feature in this issue Chris takes us to the excellent creek-side boulders of Dos Rios in Mendocino County accompanied beautifully with photos by Bay Area route developer and guidebook author Jim Thornburg. For more on Dos Rios check out "The Tour" on page 26. -DEAN FLEMING

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SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2019:

ADOPT-A-CRAG: LIZARDS MOUTH

The Pad Climbing Gym is hosting an Adopt a Crag at Lizard's Mouth. Volunteers are needed to clear trash from approach trails, remove graffiti, paint local structures with the aid of Los Padres National Forest, and possibly perform trail rehabilitation. Meet at the trail head to Lizards Mouth as it has the most open space parking on West Camino Cielo. There will be a staffer set up at that location to launch the clean up from.

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

CLIMB SMART 2019

Join Friends of Joshua Tree and the Access Fund as they bring together community spirit and stewardship, along with the inspiration and guidance of dozens of professional climbers and AMGA and PCGI certified guides for a fun and amazing experience climbing in Joshua Tree National Park. A Leave No Trace partnership and training will be held on October 17th.

COMPETITIONS

AUGUST 30TH: (5pm-10pm) *Touchstone Climbing Series*, Great Western Power Co., Oakland

SEPTEMBER 28TH: (12pm-5pm) *Touchstone Climbing Series*, Verdigo Boulders, Burbank

OCTOBER 4TH: (5pm-10pm) *Touchstone Climbing Series*, Sacramento Pipeworks, Sacramento

NOVEMBER 2ND: Battle of the Bay at Dogpatch Boulders, San Francisco

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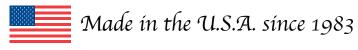
WE RENT: Climbing shoes Bouldering pads Tents Sleeping bags

Backpacks



From Humble Beginnings...











"HELGA"

Katie Goodwin and her 2018 RAM Promaster 1500 Hightop

Where did you find her and how much did she cost?

After a fairly exhaustive search for used vans of all makes and ages I found myself in Las Vegas (as happens) in the dead of July on a dealer lot. They swindled me into a deal I couldn't refuse, likely because it was July in Las Vegas and who the hell is buying ugly vans in Vegas in July? I still paid more than I ever have for a vehicle but that's what loans are for right?

How'd you land on Helga for a name?

The van quickly earned the name Helga. She is beefy and boxy not that attractive and ruthless (apologies to anyone named Helga I am sure you are beautiful and refined).

My mom was in town visiting when it all went down. To set the scene it was during an eruption of multiple wildfires and Nevada and California were choking in smoke. We had 24 hours to drive to Vegas pick up the van and drive back to Sonora, CA where I was living at the time. We left Vegas late at night, the van was a completely empty cargo hull, loud and echoing as I pushed through the windy, dark desert highways, it handled terrible without any weight in it.

My mom had killed most of a bottle of wine and was sound asleep in the passenger seat. Around 2 am somewhere in the middle of Nevada the jack rabbits started darting out into the road fast and furious, at least one every

mile, deer looming on the dark shoulder and god knows what else hiding in the bushes. Try as I might, I continually mowed down jack rabbits in the new van (the clearance is quite good) so I didn't feel much but there was a loud and definite thud with each bunny Helga mercilessly took out. With every hit my mom would lurch momentarily awake and ask if I was OK. No- I was gripped, positive I was going to total this brand new killing machine in the middle of the desert. Finally I couldn't take it anymore, I found a pull off somewhere outside Benton and laid down on the cold hard metal floor in the back and slept for a few hours. Our relationship was not off to an auspicious start. Helga was a killer, the next morning I inspected the front bumper and found several sets of perfect jackrabbit ears imprinted in dust. Sorry bunnies!

Christ, that's a massacre! What modifications have you done since?

Well Helga was just an empty cargo shell when I bought her. I have been working over the last year to convert her into a standard camper van. I had no clue what I was doing when I started, I am not one of those organized people with binders of research and spreadsheets ready, I'm more of a youtube as you go, phone a friend type person, which has lead to me doing most projects twice to get it right. There is still a lot to do, but I got Helga fully insulated, flooring in, half of the tongue and groove cedar ceiling and siding in and built a

My Dad came for a visit last fall and helped me run some basic electric and offer encouragement to take a jig saw and angle grinder and cut a 14x14 inch hole in my roof for a vent/fan. He told me when he was a kid they would put 'coyote doors' in the roofs of their cars in rural Kansas to drive around and hunt coyotes, 'super easy'. I figured I should

I tied in 8 LED lights on a duel dimmer switch which is pretty darn fancy for me, one of my friends said it was so bright in my van I could process a crime scene in there. I still don't know what that means.

My favorite and proudest feature of the van is the custom, hand milled cedar live edge kitchen counter top. I milled it with an Alaskan mill attached to an 880 chainsaw that









HippyTree is honored to collaborate with fellow tribesman and climber Jimmy Webb on an exclusive capsule collection. Inspired by the mountains and landscapes from his Southeastern roots, this collaboration is a reflection of Webb's style with an emphasis on functionality, durability and comfort.







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STAND BY YOUR VAN

my buddy Kai graciously let me borrow. I still have a lot of work to do but it's pretty livable. A big shout out to all the people I have swindled into helping me on the build!

How's the gas mileage?

Better than my old '97 Tacoma, which isn't saying much. The van is a FWD, V6 gas engine. I average about 18/MPG.

Is there a reason you choose this specific van?

Honestly this was a bit of an impulse buy. I still feel a little uneasy about joining the heard of modern #vanlifers. I did a lot of looking, initially was really drawn to a turd brown Chevy G10, I really wanted a creeper van, the uglier the better. But when I really started digging in I had concerns on gas mileage and tendencies to over heat. I have two dogs and spend a lot of time lapping Sierra mountain passes or crossing the Mojave Desert. I would have preferred a 4x4 van but I'm not that rich. I thought a FWD van was a decent compromise, which got me looking at the Promaster. Also, I am pretty tall, 5'10 it seemed pretty luxurious to be able to stand up in the van.

How does she do off road?

Well....besides that time Google maps detoured me onto a desert two track dirt road somewhere outside of Joshua Tree in the middle of the night and I was forced off into deep sand by an 18 wheeler big rig coming the opposite direction it handles OK. Lesson learned, always carry a shovel and truck drivers are good diggers.

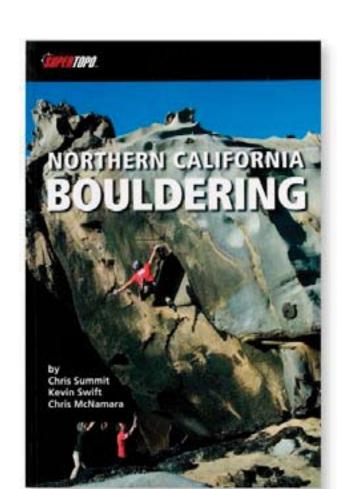


How do the dogs like the var

They are pretty stoked on it, Big Nate treats it like a parkour course and pulls some crazy moves to get up on the lofted bed. It is a major upgrade in space from the years we spent crammed in the bed of my old Tacoma. Only crux is there is only one passenger seat, there is the occasional squabble over shotgun.

Do you plan to build in a quarantine area for Big Nate after he rolls in used diapers?

You know it's not a bad idea, at a minimum maybe install a shower kit. I did install D rings that I can tether him to in the back so he can't touch anything until I find a place to wash him. He is gross, like a truffle pig for human shit. This winter he managed to find a baby diaper full of poop in a seemingly remote area and smear the fresh shit all over his face and body, I snuck him into a laundry mat and washed him in a laundry sink...#vanlife





NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BOULDERING HIGHLIGHTS:

50 of the best bouldering areas from just north of Yosemite all the way up to the Oregon border and west to the Pacific Ocean. With color maps, action photos and supertopo photos as well as detailed descriptions of all the boulder problems it's easy to use and easy on the eyes. Nearly every type of rock imaginable is included from limestone and sandstone to granite and volcanic tuff. All of the areas included are immersed in a variety of world class scenery from sea level to the alpine environments of the high Sierras. This guide contains new material highlighting new areas, and a selection of the best areas from the other two guides already in use, Bay Area Bouldering and Lake Tahoe Bouldering.

Northern California Bouldering includes new areas near Sonora and Bear Valley in the Central Sierras all the way up north past the best Tahoe areas to Bald Rock and Mt Lassen in the northeastern corner of the state. The order of the book then travels southwest down the Central Valley to the Bay Area's best, then up north past a few newer inland areas and finishes in the far north on the Pacific Coast at the Arcata areas. Also included in brief detail are 20 Bonus Areas that are less popular or newly developed like Mount Tamalpais and the Sierra Buttes. All combined it makes a grand total of 70 areas with over 1700 problems!

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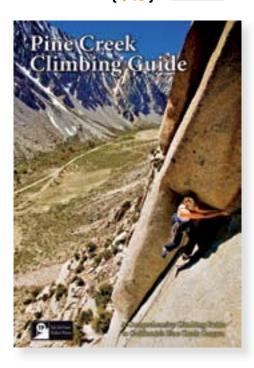
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SUMMER PRODUCTS

PINE CREEK CLIMBING GUIDE

{ \$45 }

ancy fonts with quality photographs and professional design elements can make a climbing guidebook look beautiful, but only an author who is willing to take on a true labor of love can make one functional. To make a quality guide authors need to climb (or try to climb) all of the existing routes at an area. In a place like Pine Creek Canyon (nearly 700 routes from 5.3 to 5.14d) even visiting the base of each route to snap a photo would be a huge undertaking. Pine Creek Climbing Guide authors Mary and Tai DeVore live in nearby Bishop, California and have been climbing in Pine Creek Canyon since 2006. Tai is currently the President of the Bishop Area Climbers Coalition and Mary operates the Bishop Yoga and Pilates Center. With well over a decade of experience climbing in the Canvon and the support of the local community, Mary and Tai were the perfect team to tackle this huge guidebook project.



The new Pine Creek Climbing Guide features everything you've come to expect from modern guidebooks including full color photos, detailed maps, gear beta and solid descriptions. Even at a glance it's apparent that the Pine Creek Climbing Guide has a user-friendly layout that makes grasping the scope and scale of the area very attainable. Action photos have been conveniently labeled with the featured route's corresponding route description page number. In the route descriptions each climb's pitch length, gear beta and descent info is clear and concise. The approach information is clear, but not so wordy that it becomes confusingthis is almost always backed up by very clear overview maps. In review, not only is Pine Creek Climbing Guide the only comprehensive guidebook to Pine Creek Canyon, it's also a damn fine guidebook that obviously has been painstakingly compiled by dedicated local authors. Support local self-published climbing

TRANGO CITY SENDER

- { \$125 }

Whether you're a casual indoor climber seeking afterwork recreation at your local gym, or a devout climbing fanatic that needs to follow their weekly training regiment, you probably need a pack that is big enough for your gym kit, a laptop and a change of clothes. Until recent years, if you didn't feel like rocking your Jansport from 9th grade or a huge cragging pack, you were simply out of luck. Thankfully Trango has designed their new City Sender pack with you (and a lot of other people) in mind. The City Sender is a sleek nine-to-five pack with climbing specific features including a vented shoe pouch, a zipped chalk bag pocket and a gear daisy chain. Other features of the bag include twin full-length zippers that give easy access to the entire main compartment, Fidlock (TM) magnetic hood buckles for quick opening and closing, Titan Wrap fabric and welded zippers that shed water and resist abrasion, and a15-inch internal laptop sleeve that is also accessible via a side zipper. All this wraps up a 24-liter capacity that is just big enough for your gym kit, laptop and a change of clothes, but won't feel too bulky when you're riding your bike to work or crammed on the BART at 5pm.





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Ryan Pasquill, Big Issue (5.13c R),

climb now work later

SUMMER PRODUCTS

CAMPTRICAM

— { \$23.95-\$69.95 } ———

t wasn't that long ago that you could look at the rack of most experienced climbers and find at least one Tricam - a strange yet versatile device that famously protects otherwise unprotectable features like solution pockets and flaring horizontal cracks. Most climbers would still agree that visiting places like the Gunks in New York (a place with many horizontal placements) without multiples of pink through purple is a serious mistake. These unique pieces of pro can be used either as cams or nuts and are ideal in horizontal cracks, pockets, and shallow vertical cracks. The larger sizes are an affordable way to augment a rack of cams, but are bulky and loud and really awkward to place with one hand. The smaller sizes, however specialized, can be a godsend. Tricams can also be placed in icy cracks where regular cams might not work.



The engineers at CAMP recently addressed the problem with awkward one-handed Tricam placements by attempting to solve one of the age-old guestions with the Tricam - how to stiffen the sling without impeding its ability to engage the camming action. After experimenting, Camp rested on a simple solution: by carrying the inner band of webbing further towards the head and using a new stitch pattern the result is a naturally stiffer sling that makes one-handed placements easier, but still engages the cam in active mode and will even increase durability over sharp edges with the additional layer of material. While our testers haven't gotten our hands on these newly renovated models, we've had enough experience with traditional Tricams to recommend that serious and adventurous climbers consider purchasing at least one - and if you only get one, get the pink one - it fits everywhere!

ASANA INTRO TO BOULDERING PACKAGE

— { \$200} ——

Getting into climbing can be pretty intimidating, especially when you start looking into all the gear you'll need to summit things like Great Trango Tower. But it's not all so overwhelming, especially in the world of bouldering where a few basic items can help get you out to the boulders and back home safely. The folks at Asana recently decided to make this even easier by creating a heavily discounted Intro to Bouldering Package that features everything you need to get out and start brushing and crushing boulders. With a retail value of \$276, the package includes a Sidekick Pad (48"x36"x4"), a Roll Top Community Chalk Bucket, a Posse Pack, two bags of 4oz White Dirt Chalk and a Slimline Chalk Brush.

Although the Sidekick pad is not a full-size crash pad, it does make a perfect butt pad to start low problems or a lightweight pad that's convenient



to throw down to wipe your shoes and provide some protection for easy circuits. The Sidekick is also the perfect add-on pad to any of Asana's other high-end crash pads. Knowing that bouldering pads are a significant investment, Asana basically designed a sleeker, trimmed down version of their other pads, keeping the same foam structure, handles, and bomber cover construction. If you're planning to get into bouldering in any serious capacity, you'll almost certainly end up with a chalk bucket, a small climbing pack and a brush at some point in your career, making this package (with a \$76 savings) the best introductory bouldering package in the business.

and 25cm lengths.

Photo: Ray Wood

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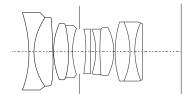












WORDS & IMAGES + DEAN FLEMING

o privileged young American males of the past three decades, there's perhaps nothing quite as dangerous as a backpacking bachelor party weekend. To those who have experienced this horrifying tradition, the mere mention of these four words can easily conjure far too vivid memories of sunburns, dehydration, drunkenness, bad psychedelic trips, and worst of all, macho feats of strength performed by individuals experiencing all of the previous three conditions. About a decade ago I learned this lesson while seven miles into the backcountry as I tried to hoist my underwear-clad, limp, lobster-colored friend away from the edge of a 60-foot vertical cliff while he slurred "fuck off" and threw haphazardly aimed punches in the general direction of my face. But there was a bright side, as a few hours after all this chaos I discovered one of the coolest cliffs I've ever seen. Far too "exhausted" to even consider approaching the base for farther inspection, I swore to

The following summer I enlisted my friend Ryan Curry to venture back to the un-named lake where I found the cliff the previous year. Curry is the type of guy that could easily hang with a backpacking bachelor party of twenty roughnecks, or sit peacefully in a back-rub semicircle while sipping kombucha – he's easy going is what I'm trying to say. Well Curry was so full of psych he even offered to carry the heavy bag with the giant rack and pack a few extra beers to throw in the river near camp. He's a hell of a guy... you get the idea.

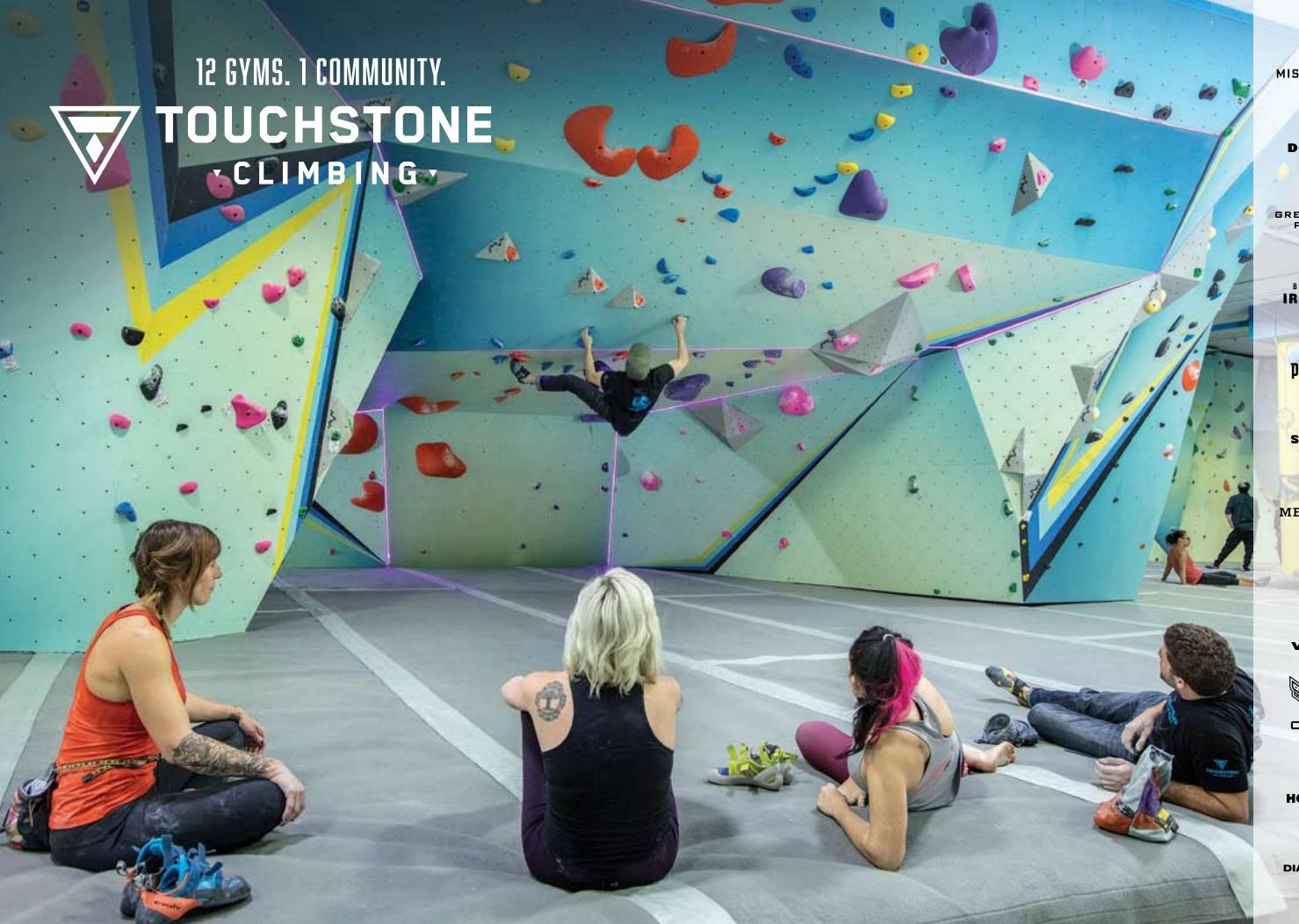
At the trail's end we waded through ferns and scrub brush, high-stepping the occasional downed fir tree charred black from a fire a few years prior. In later trips we'd learn to pack a small inflatable raft to sail across the lake and skip this entire mile of bushwhacking. Along the trail we talked about a new reality television show where a guy named Bear acts like he can survive in the wilderness. We jokingly wondered if "Bear" could even shoulder our heavy packs,

let alone put up a new route after the grueling approach. After setting up camp on a small sandy patch near a river, we skirted the base of a 100-foot tall cliff to an obvious 7" crack that we'd been scouring for the last half mile of the approach. I lead the pitch which turned out to be somewhat uneventful; aside from the name we gave the climb: Bear Grylls Can Suck... you get the idea.

After warming up with a few pitches on the smaller cliff near camp we decided to swim around a rocky escarpment that jutted into the lake to see if we could find our way up to the "big cliff." We found a 4th class gully and quickly surmounted a big ledge at the base. Once on top we set eyes on a 200-foot tall orange, black and white-streaked granite cliff as steep as the east side of El Cap and splintered with damn-near perfectly sized, mostly clean cracks. It was so spectacular in fact, that a person as lazy as I am was convinced to hike back to it about fifty times over the following ten years. I'd tell you where it is, but I honestly don't know and I've never bothered to look it up – it's just that place that I went for a really exhausting bachelor party about a decade ago, so I know where to park.

The photograph featured here was taken from the top of the first climb that we established on the "big cliff," a something like (5.10c) thin crack. That tiny dot in the frame is Curry heading up one of his longstanding projects at "the Lake," a torturous 200-foot tall arching crack that starts at 3" and widens to 4." This crack splits the proudest and tallest headwall on the cliff. To make even one of his several attempts on this route, Curry had to haul a minimum of five #3 and five #4 Camalots about six miles into the backcountry. One time, he even drug a friend along to help belay so I could take this picture. Like I said, he's a hell of a guy











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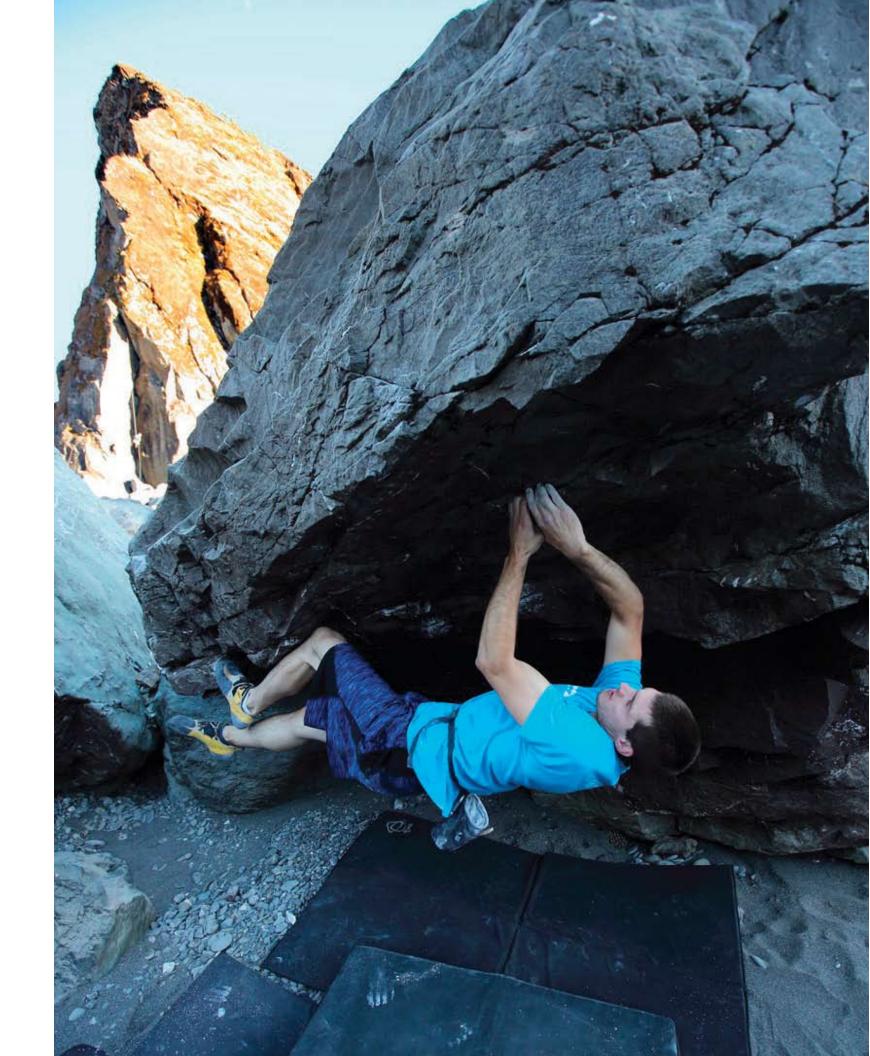
Matt Worthen sending Firestarter (V6).

THE TOUR:

DOS RIOS WITH CHRIS SUMMIT

IMAGES + JIM THORNBURG // WORDS + CHRIS SUMMIT

I FIRST HEARD ABOUT ROCKS ON THE WINDING ROAD TO THE MENDOCINO COUNTY TOWN OF COVELO ALONG THE EEL RIVER FROM MY AUNT AND UNCLE ABOUT 25 YEARS AGO. A FEW YEARS WENT BY BEFORE I HAD A FREE RAINY DAY AND THE COURAGE TO DRIVE UP AND POKE AROUND IN THE HEART OF THE "EMERALD TRIANGLE," THE UNDERGROUND MARIJUANA GROWING CAPITOL OF THE WORLD. FINALLY, I BUCKED UP, GOT IN MY TRUCK AND HEADED FOR COVELO. ON THIS TRIP I FOUND A SERIES OF BOULDERS ALONG THE BANKS OF THE EEL RIVER NEAR THE SMALL TOWN OF DOS RIOS. TUCKED BETWEEN PRISTINE CRYSTAL CLEAR SWIMMING HOLES, THE ROCKS FOUND HERE ARE SOME OF THE MOST RARE AND SOLID ON EARTH; UNUSUALLY LARGE CHUNKS OF SERPENTINE AND SCHIST WITH WATER POLISHED GREENSTONE AND CALIFORNIA JADE.







endocino County is comprised mostly of small backcountry areas that are still a bit untamed. Sometimes it has a mellow, laidback, Northern California Rasta vibe, other times it feels like you're in an old Wild West movie. It's a place that's never been well-known for rock climbing; in fact, even many locals don't know much about the unique and plentiful rocks scattered around their backyard. But there does exist a small local crew of climbers from the small Mendocino town of Covelo. This bunch is known to some as the "Covelocos" and is headed by longtime California climber John Gruey. Besides the Covelocos, my friends and I from Sonoma County and a few folks from Humboldt County have historically been the most frequent visitors to the Mendocino rocks. While we've had fun keeping this place under the radar for many years, we now feel it is time for this sacred spot to be shared and enjoyed by all

fun keeping this place under the radar for many years, we now feel it is time for this sacred spot to be shared and enjoyed by all.

Dos Rios and the Eel River Boulders will never be considered a world class destination, but there are some niche futuristic double digit boulder projects waiting to be done and a lifetime of fun to be had on the existing classics for locals and climbing road-trippers passing by on the Redwood Highway (US101). The gorgeous emerald green swimming holes found along this section of the Eel River warrant a visit on their own, yet climbing the slick rocks between dips in the pools might just add a few special techniques to your bag of tricks and some priceless memories to your bucket list collection. Like all climbing areas and of course every natural area on our precious planet, these Mendocino County climbing areas need to be cherished and respected. Leave No Trace and then do more by cleaning up others trash when you can. Just be respectful and tolerant of other users - humans or critters.

OPPOSITE PAGE

Chris Summit repeating his classic *Emerald Triangle* (V5). This problem is located on the steepest side of a huge chunk of rare California Jade. Interesting features, unusual texture and brilliant colors make it a must-do problem at Dos Rios.

LEFT

Chris Terry on the mega classic Electric Eel (V4). Electric Eel is found on a steep and clean high boulder face and features sinker slot pockets and beachfront property. It's the original bouldering classic of the area.

ABOVE

Chris Summit on the *Blob* (V3R).







Ashley Reed warming up at the Swallow Rock Boulders.

RIGHT

Vanda taking a dip in the Middle Fork of the Eel.

ABOVE

Local water snake chilling in the river. These little guys are not poisonous or harmful but are a crucial part of the local ecosystem. Remember to be respectful and tolerant of other users, including the local wildlife.

here are several different types of stone at Dos Rios but the most prevalent are Serpentine and Schist with water polished Greenstone and California Jade. Climbing this slick and blank, custom featured stone involves a unique technique we call "campusing with feet" or "controlled slipping" and requires next level smearing and "try-hard-cranking." Using chalk on the slick polished holds often feels like a thin layer of ball bearings and has led to understanding and adopting next level new fangled friction tricks like chalk to dry the hand then pat your wet shorts (wet from swimming in the river of course) and then rub your hands together until they are sticky, and this can, in some cases, believe it or not, make your hands stick better to some of the smooth sloping handholds.

Conditions at the Eel River Rocks can be a bit extreme and varied. Dos Rios (~1000' elevation) is a warm-summer Mediterranean climate zone. Summers can be scorching hot, but that's when the world class swimming holes are perfect with crystal clear swimming pool temperature water. Climbing can be done in the evening during summer when the sun sinks behind the hills and the rocks get cooled by shade for the last few hours of the day. When a cool wind or occasional fog blows in from the coast a nice long session can be had. In summer the mornings are best with cool conditions for more extreme sendage. In the heat of the day you just swim and sleep in the shade under a boulder before the final evening crush-fest. In winter and spring the river can be too high for a lot of the rocks but there are plenty of rocks above the high water line that are climbable all four seasons.

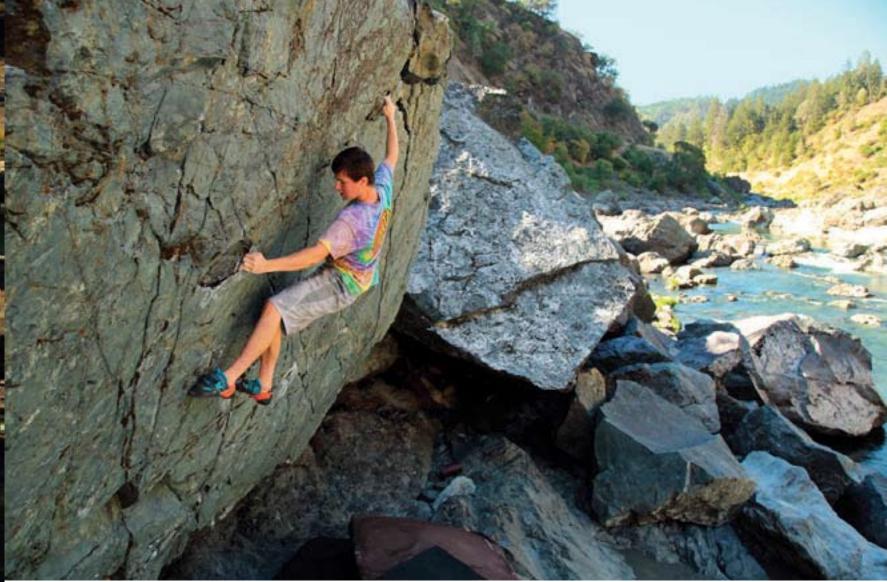


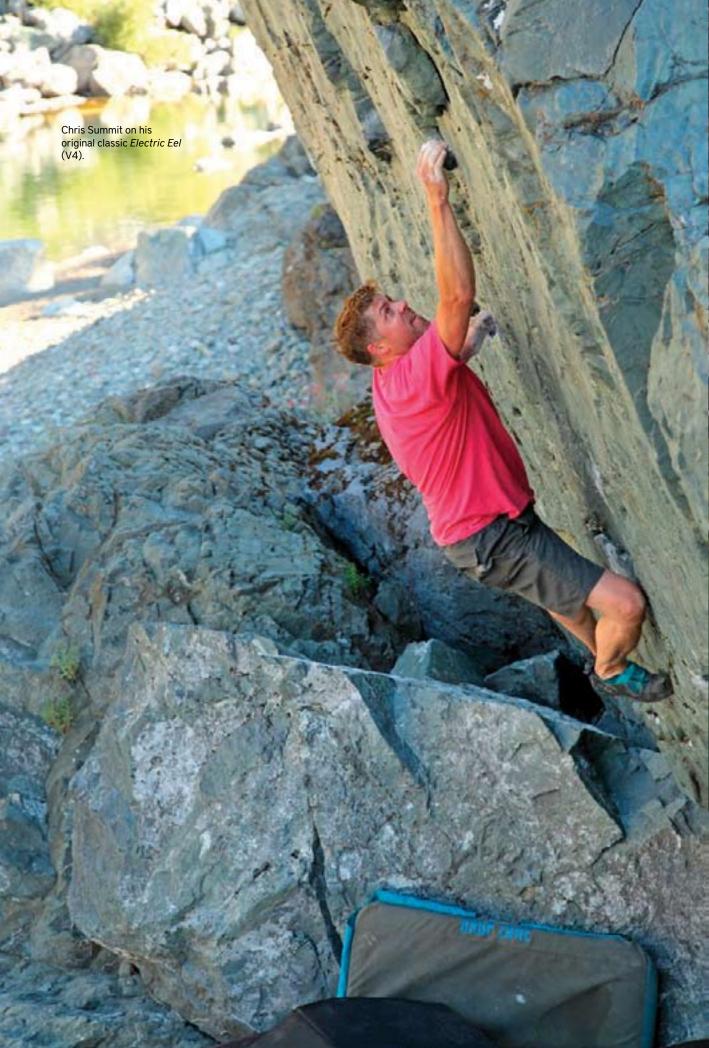


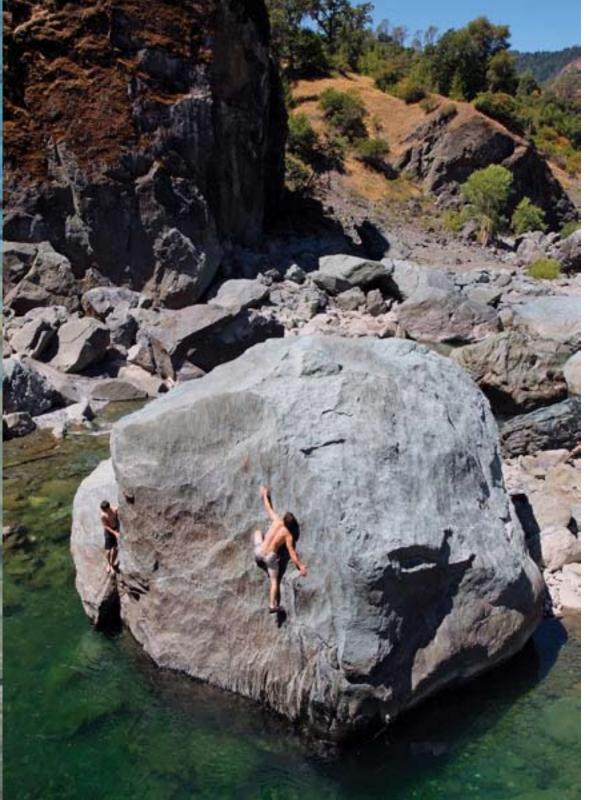


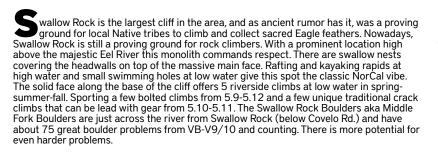
LEFTAshley Reed on the *Bomb Slab* (V0) with Swallow Rock in the background. Swallow Rock is the largest cliff in the area, and as ancient rumor has it, was a proving ground for local Native tribes to climb and collect sacred Eagle feathers. With a prominent location high above the majestic Eel River this monolith commands respect.

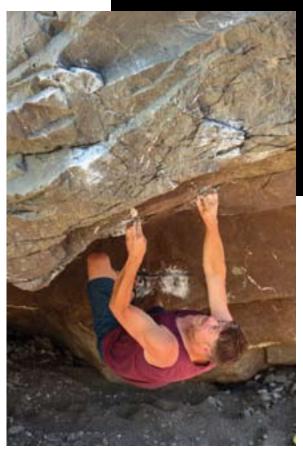
BELOWChris Terry lapping *Electric Eel* (V4).











LEFTEvan Wisheropp on a new deep water boulder first ascent Strainer at Swallow Rock.

ABOVEChris Summit climbing
Firestarter; a steep cave

with incut holds and really explosive movement.

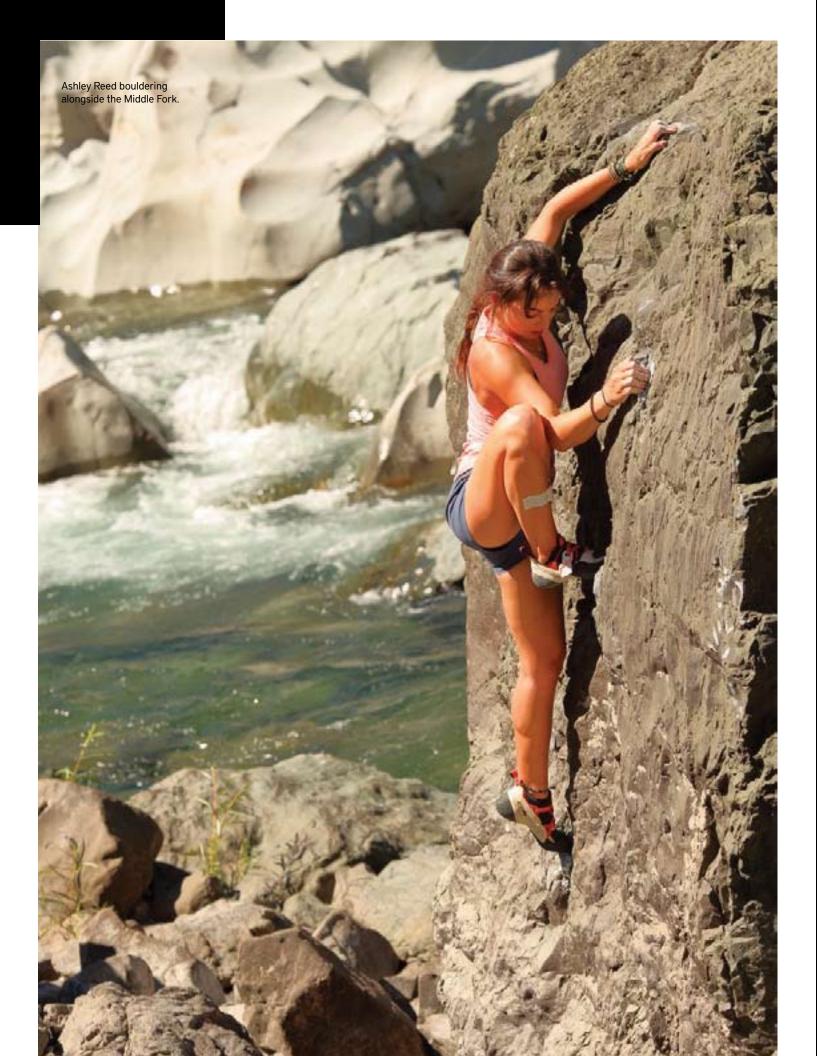
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Deadman's Rocks (aka Main Fork Boulders) are about 1.5 miles west of Swallow Rock. They get their name from the local climbers due to a dead body found floating in the river nearby long ago. These rocks have a few of the best and first established boulder problems, top ropes and short routes in the Dos Rios zone. The short sport routes are often overgrown with poison oak and rattlesnakes but are challenging and bouldery on a cool pinnacle spire. There is a classic splitter, Mainline Crack 5.10 TR or lead but also goes at about V1R/X as a highball/solo. Electric Eel V3 on a steep and clean high boulder face with its sinker slot pockets and beachfront property is the original bouldering classic of the area. VB-V7/8.

<~~~>

The Hideout boulders are just west/upstream from Deadmans. They got their name from the feeling of seclusion although you are just below the highway. The rocks are not easy to get to with a steep hill guarding the hike down from the road so your average river tourist will usually not bother. Two large ~25-30ft boulders with bolted TR anchors and a few short routes from 5.7-5.12 along with about 25 excellent boulder problems from VO-V7. Crystal Method V3 is the classic highball and Twisted V7 is the classic lowball test-piece and one of the steepest at Dos Rios.







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GETTING THERE

DRIVING DIRECTIONS- About 12 miles north of Willits on The Redwood Highway/US101 take Covelo Road/CA162 east toward Dos Rios and Covelo. ~14 miles from US101 is the parking for Deadmans Rocks on the left/riverside of the road in a large dirt pullout. ~15 miles from US101 is the bridge on CA162 and the Dos Rios Boulders. Swallow Rock will be visible up river. Park at the turnouts near, or just past the bridge for Swallow Rock or ~15.5 miles from US101 is the most direct parking on the right side of Covelo Road for the Middle Fork/Swallow Rock area.

APPROACH-Most of the zones are a bit off the beaten track, out in the backcuts, away from food, water, gas, ambulances, hospitals and cell service so although you may be only five or ten minutes from the road, the trails can be rough and steep. Getting hurt here or having your car break down might be worse than at most other bouldering areas. Although the main areas are right off the road near the river they are down short steep hills, often without official trails and with a lot of scrambling on slick talus to navigate from boulder to boulder so the terrain can feel bit rugged.

WHERE TO STAY

Free camping can be found about 1 mile west of the Dos Rios bridge on CA162 on a small dirt road that leads to a large turnout or with 4x4 clearance further down the rough dirt road on the beach of the river. There is also the official Eel River Campground about 45min east of Dos Rios past Covelo at Black Butte River Ranch near The Falls swimming hole and bouldering area.

GUIDEBOOK

Northern California Bouldering by Chris Summit and the upcoming Redwood Burl - Climbing Guide to Northwest California by Evan Wisheropp.

THE TICK LIST

Electric Eel (V4) Emerald Triangle (V5) Tricks Are For Kids (V8) Covelocos Corner (5.10) Eagle Feather (5.12)











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LEFT

Your friendly local guide Chris Summit chillaxin NorCal style under the problem *Firstarter*.

RIGHT

Lauren Sprague climbing some rare sculpted California Jade.

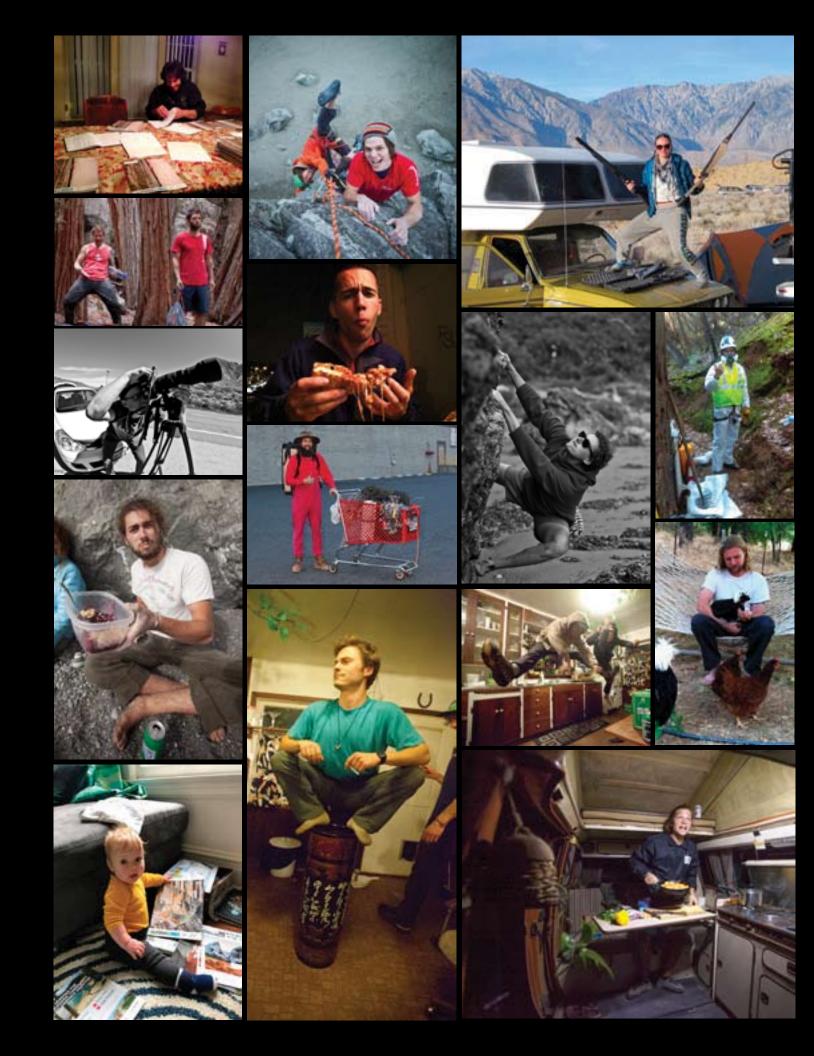
CALIFORNIA CLIMBER

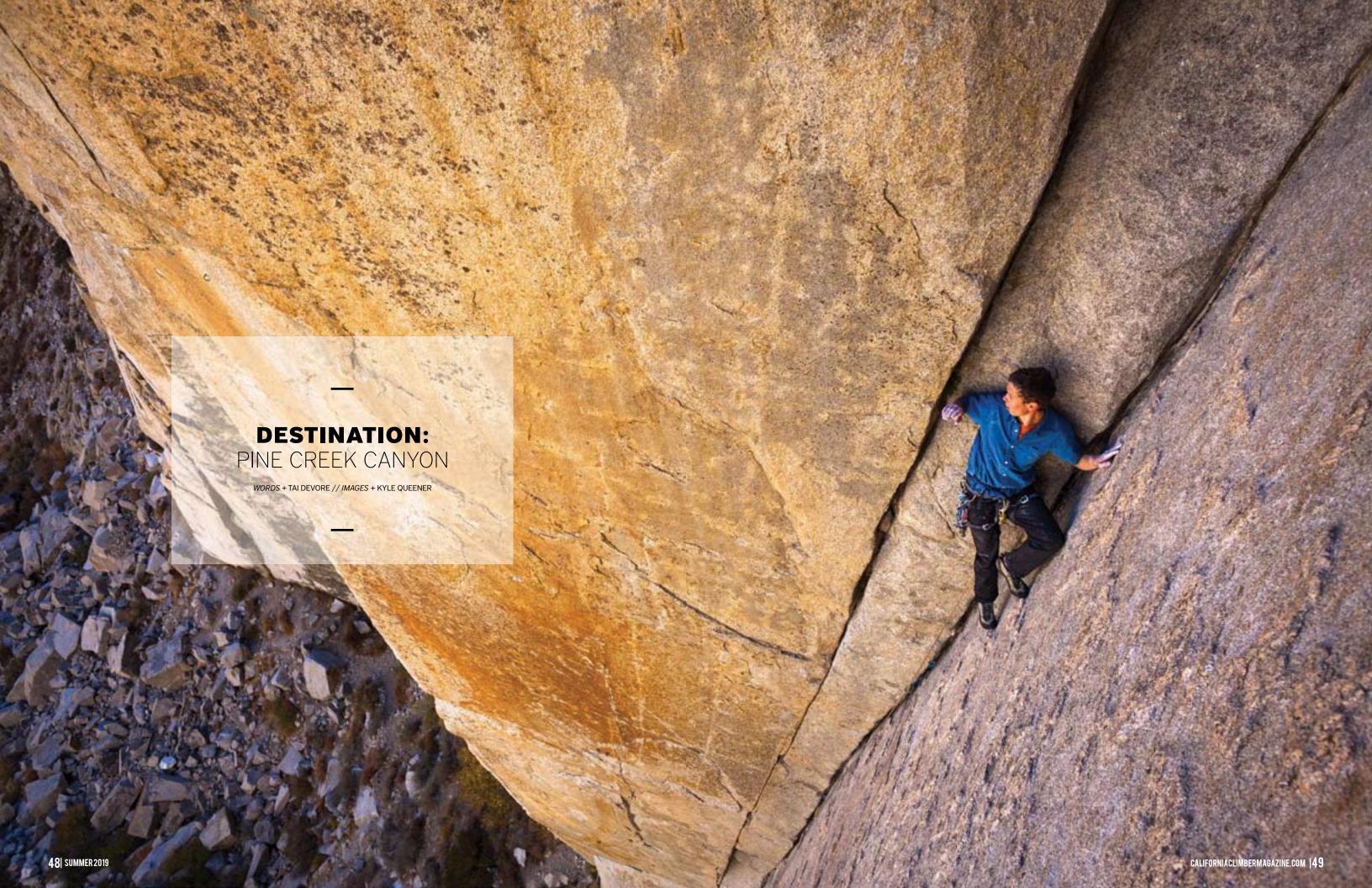
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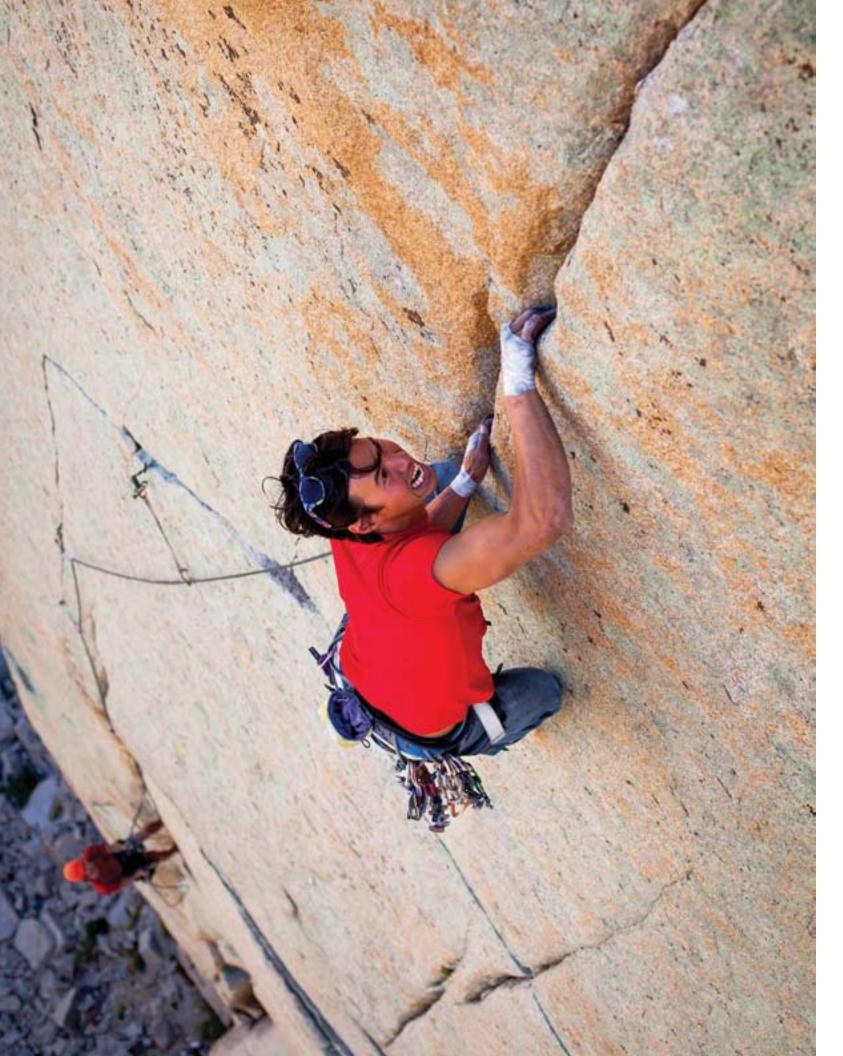
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LOCATED JUST A FEW MILES NORTHWEST OF THE POPULAR CLIMBING TOWN OF BISHOP, CALIFORNIA, IT'S SURPRISING THAT THE BROKEN GRANITE **CLIFFS OF PINE CREEK HAVE ONLY RECENTLY GAINED POPULARITY. ALTHOUGH TECHNICAL CLIMBING HAS** TAKEN PLACE IN THE CANYON SINCE THE LATE 1960S, THE AREA HAS BEEN HISTORICALLY **SHADOWED BY THE MULTITUDE OF EXCELLENT CRAGS AND BOULDERS IN THE EASTERN SIERRA. NOW THAT ENOUGH CLIMBS HAVE BEEN SCRUBBED** OFF AND ESTABLISHED, TRUE **MAINSTREAM ATTENTION IS** WARRANTED.

Nestled between Mt. Tom to the south and Wheeler Ridge to the north, these front country crags mainly face south, but there is enough shade to make climbing possible even in the heat of the summer. Traditionally the most traveled crags are located in the Pratt's Crack Canyon, a sub canyon of Pine Creek that offers a variety of technical cracks and faces. Copious amounts of wind and a cool creek make Pratt's Crack a summer destination, yet the quality routes that have been established outside of the Pratt's Canyon in recent years make year-round climbing at Pine Creek more of a possibility.

A BRIEF HISTORY AS I SEE IT.

In 1968, legendary wide crack connoisseur, Chuck Pratt wandered into Pine Creek, a swath of steep granite cliffs, iust a few miles northwest of the Eastern Sierra town of Bishop. By the late 1960s, Pratt was amongst the most skilled free-climbers in the West. He had established many of Yosemite Valley's most technically challenging and mentally intimidating crack climbs; routes like Crack of Doom (5.10a), Twilight Zone (5.10d) and Entrance Exam (5.9). It's not surprising that upon driving up Pine Creek Canyon, Pratt headed straight for the most striking and utterly intimidating wide crack line, that can be seen from Pine Creek Road. This sub-canyon, now known as Pratt's Crack Canyon, is comprised of granite buttresses that rise nearly 200-1000 feet in plumb vertical facets from the talus below. In typical Chuck Pratt fashion, he decided to head up a cleft where two large walls join and form a daunting, laser-cut 250 foot-tall 7" crack.

The namesake Pratt's Crack (5.9) was the first documented climb in Pine Creek Canyon and is still an intimidating two-pitch undertaking. Even though Pratt put Pine Creek on the map, the grandfather of Bishop climbing, Smoke Blanchard, had soloed and scampered here previously. The next wave of climbers in the 70s and 80s

contributed new routes at a slow pace, generally following natural features in a ground-up manner. Some of the major players of the time were Allan Bartlett, John Fischer, Gary Slate, Kevin Leary, Bob Harrington, Doug Robinson, and Tony Puppo. As ethics changed in the 1990s and sport climbing gained popularity, most East Side route developers went to the Owens River Gorge for its plethora of first ascents, yet a few visionaries ventured out of the Gorge to establish the first set of bolt protected routes in Pine Creek Canyon. Louie Anderson, Gary Slate, Tom Herbert, Larry Kuechlin and the prolific Marty Lewis had an empty pallet and chose some of the most striking lines in the canyon.

The bouldering boom in the 2000s slowed the pace of development for just enough time for yet the next set of developers to get roped in. These motivated individuals started exploring outside of the Pratt's Crack area, finding their own crags and setting the style for those areas. Kevin Calder, Milo Cagle, Herm Harrison, Greg Barns, Nick Farley, Robert Newsome, Aaron Martin, Dan Shively, Denise Barger and many others helped hammer out the early infrastructure of what we see now. When Marty Lewis and Kevin Calder realized the potential of the Mustache Wall – a featured cliff close to the road that stays shady and cool – we wondered what else could be around. As 2010 came and went, many of the same players never left. Marty Lewis, Milo Cagle, Dan Shively, and Denise Barger continue to explore and do their thing, bringing in the current group of first ascentionists.

What began with a handful of 5.13 routes culminated with Ethan Pringle's redpoint of *Everything is Karate* (5.14c) [bolted by Patrick O'Donnell- FA spring 2017]. With more popularity, Pine Creek has drawn stronger climbers (Ben Ditto, Tom Helvie, Darrell Hensel, Katie Lambert, Tom Moulin, Patrick O'Donnell, Chris Sharma and Tim Steele) that have established more difficult lines. To date the broken cliffs and striking buttresses at Pine Creek have yielded nearly seven hundred routes, some up to ten pitches long, ranging in difficulty from 5.5 to 5.14.



As popularity of these crags increases, more people will come to enjoy this fledgling destination. Accordingly, it is important to note that this canyon is residence to the Sierra Bighorn, an endangered species of sheep that in the past were decimated by herded domestic sheep and were almost lost. The most sensitive time for these beautiful animals are in the spring and fall. In the spring, the pregnant yews are giving birth and traveling up canyon to the high country. In the fall, the herd is heading down canyon to winter in the Wheeler Crest. During these times, please leash your dogs or consider leaving them at home. Please remember that there is little to no infrastructure to accommodate the people who recreate in Pine Creek Canyon. Please bury your waste or better yet, use Wag Bags and pack it out. Simply following standard Leave no Trace ethics will help to ensure that Pine Creek continues to provide an adventurous and wild setting for future generations of area climbers.

Mary and Tai DeVore live in Bishop and have been climbing in Pine Creek Canyon since 2006. Tai is currently the President of the Bishop Area Climbers Coalition and Mary operates the Bishop Yoga and Pilates Center.

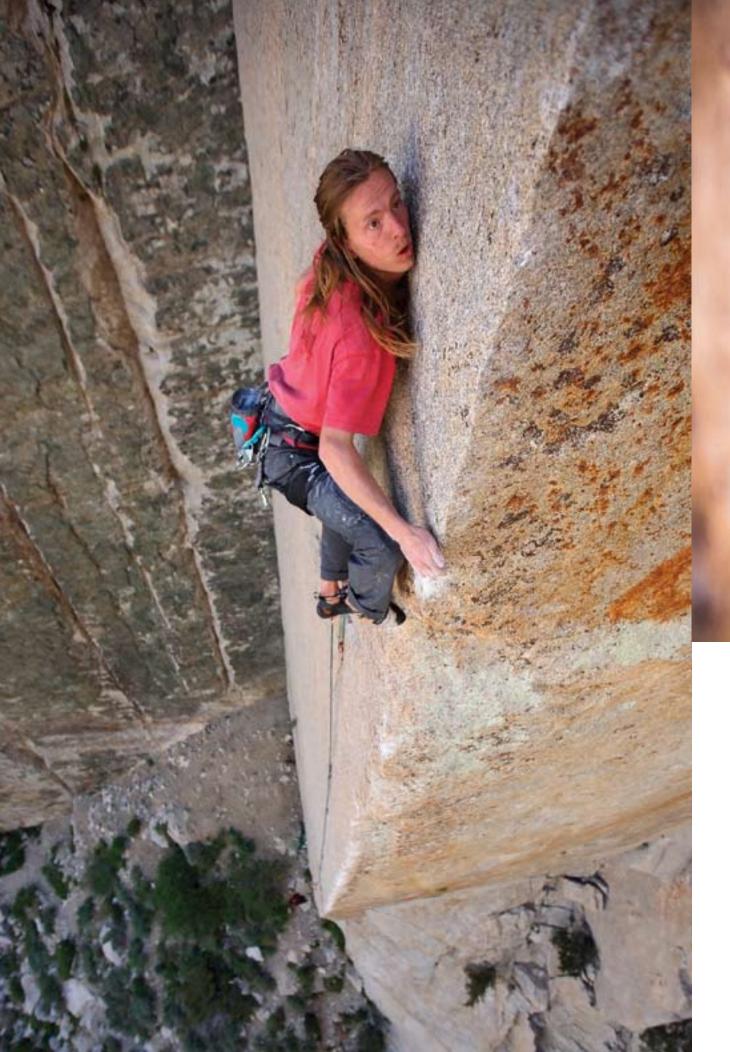
PREVIOUS

Calder Davey climbing Sheila (5.10b). Sheila was likely the first 5.10 route on the Eastside and remains a stunning Pine Creek classic.

LEFT

ANOTHER SUMMER (5.12A)

This fantastic multipitch test piece climbs smack dab through the center of a prominent headwall at the top of the Rites of Spring Buttress; a steep and challenging wall that holds excellent multi-pitch classics as well as singlepitch cragging. Pictured is Dennis Limm working through the upper crux on the fourth pitch.





LEFT

ECSTASY (5.13A)

Ecstasy was made somewhat famous in the classic film
Moving Over Stone, where first ascentionist Tom Herbert
climbs the outrageous knife-edge arête while his father T.M.
Herbert climbed the adjacent wide crack Pratt's Crack.
Pictured here; Austin Gwinn cruxes on another series of
seemingly endless right hand slapping moves.

IMAGE + JIM THORNBURG

ABOVE

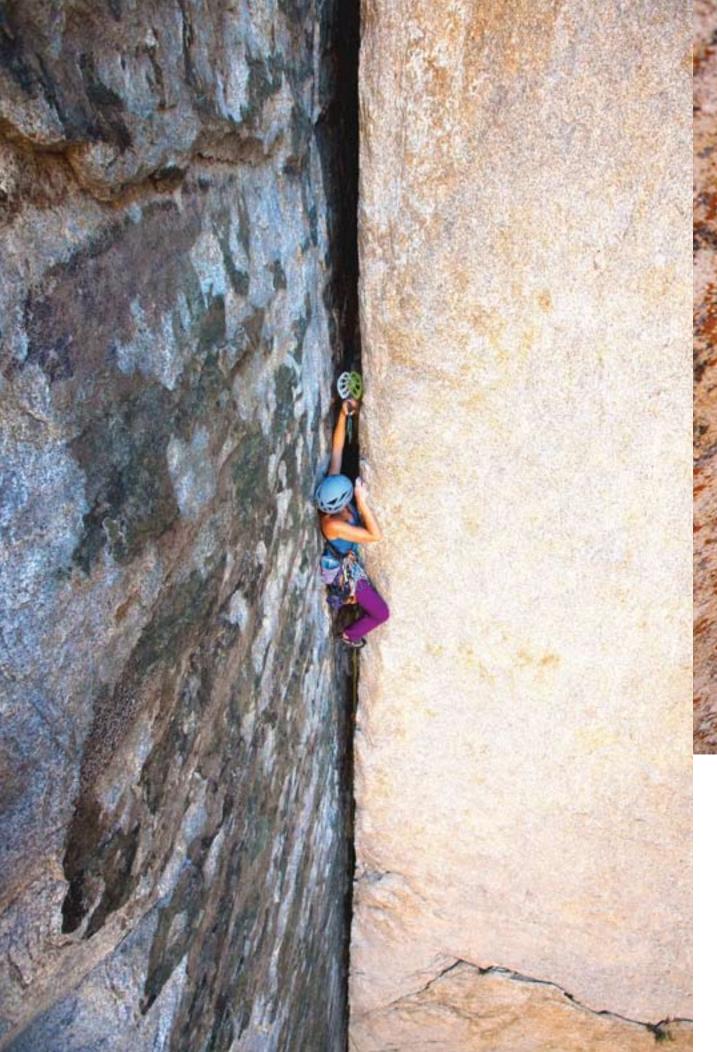
QUEEN OF THE HEARTBREAKS (5.11B)

This climb is located on the seemingly blank face just to the right of the imposing corner of Sheila (5.10b) and climbs a bolted arête and smaller corner before surmounting a small roof. The fun begins after the roof as you trend up and right following a series of edges up a beautiful patina face. Pictured here, Calder Davey styles the upper sequences.

nd

GOOD TO BE TALL
(5.12C)
This is just one of many premier sport climbs found on the right side of Little Pinnacle, a broken mass of rock that holds moderate routes on either end, and more difficult climbs in the middle. In this photo first ascentionist Tai DeVore shows us that in fact, sometimes it is good to be tall.







LEFT

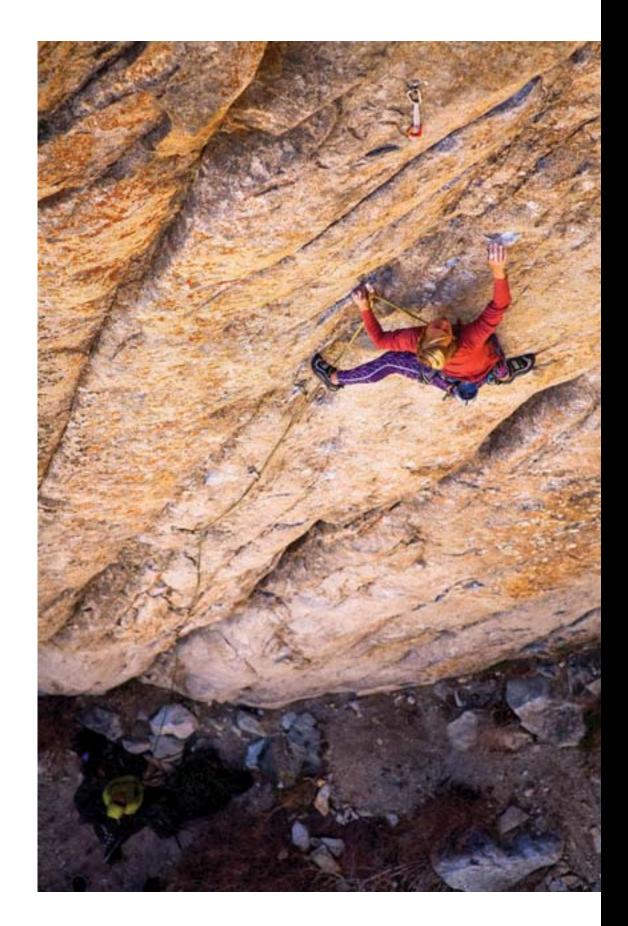
PRATT'S CRACK (5.9)
Chuck Pratt and Bob Swift completed the first ascent of this namesake route in 1968, taking the route all the way to the top of the formation and rappelling off the backside using only hexes and pitons for protection. This climb remains the most obvious line in all of Pine Creek Canyon and continues to backen those who enjoy challenging wide and continues to beckon those who enjoy challenging wide cracks. Pictured here, Katie Goodwin places some modern protection on an old school pitch.

ABOVE

SUPERGRINDER (5.11A)Supergrinder is located on a clean slab to the right of a large weakness on the Mustache Wall. Summer shade, friendly sport routes and a mellow approach make the Mustache Wall one of the most traveled crags in Pine Creek. Pictured here, Tai DeVore cruises mellow patina after pulling the crux on the second pitch.

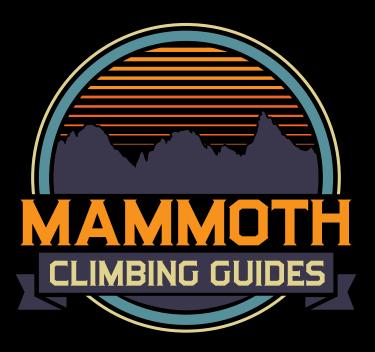


SUPERMEGA (5.12A)
This super and mega route climbs the first two pitches of Supergrinder (5.11a) or the adjacent route Sidecar (5.10c) before moving up and right out a patinafeatured face for two more pitches. Pictured here is Marty Lewis redpointing the crux for the first ascent with Kevin Calder, Tai Devore and Darrell Hensel.



FLAMETHROWER (5.11C)

Ranae Scott has already made her way up the slashed slab and past a small alcove above a sub-anchor. This section features big moves out an overhang and a pumpy









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An unknown climber on *Coven* (5.11a)

THE BETA

GETTING THERE

Pine Creek road is located 29 miles south of Mammoth Lakes and 10 miles north of Bishop on US Highway 395. Turn west on Pine Creek road and drive around 7 miles. You will start seeing the buttresses and cliffs on the right.

WHERE TO STAY

There are many traditional accommodations and campgrounds located in and around Bishop and Mammoth Lakes. Unless posted, dispersed camping on public lands is legal and readily available in both Pine Creek Canyon and on nearby public lands. Please keep your use to only previously used campsites and clean up all trash.

GUIDEBOOK

Pine Creek Climbing Guide by Tai DeVore

THE TICK LIST

ROUTES

Big Deal

Sheila
Three-Hour Arête
John Fischer Memorial Route
Coven
Blindspot
Silverback
Hail to Hanuman
Ecstasy
Everything is Karate

NEW ROUTES

Please respect wilderness boundaries and local ethics when developing new routes at any destination including Pine Creek Canyon. It's always wise to first climb the established routes of the area and meet the locals - find out what the norm is and go from there.

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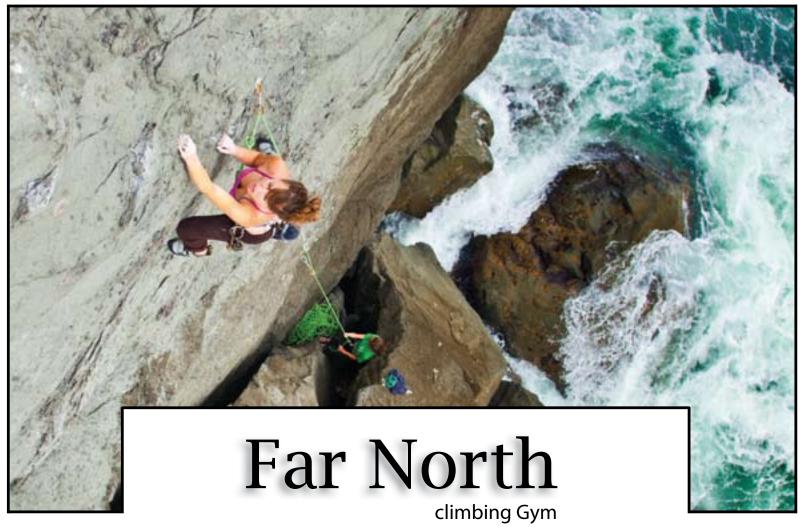
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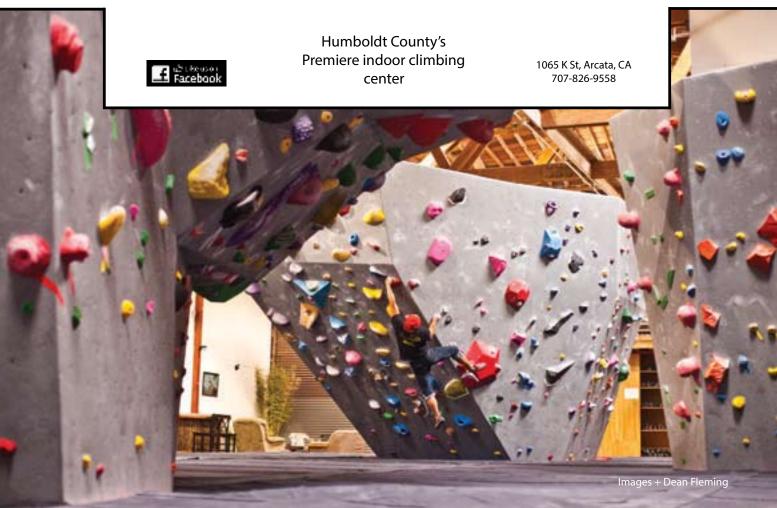
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