

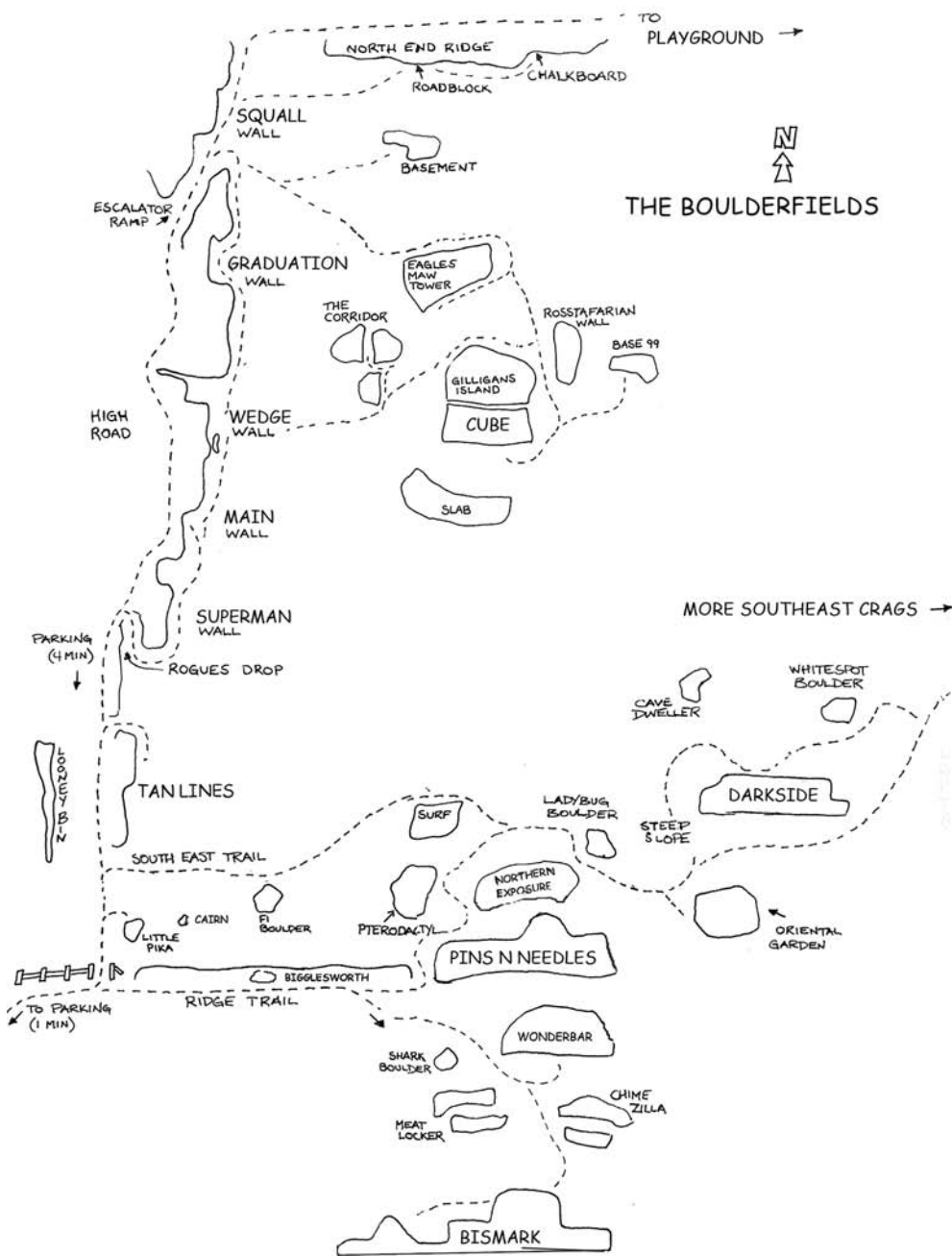
# KELOWNA ROCK

Climbing and Bouldering

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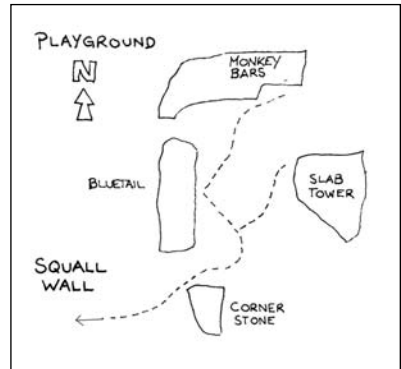
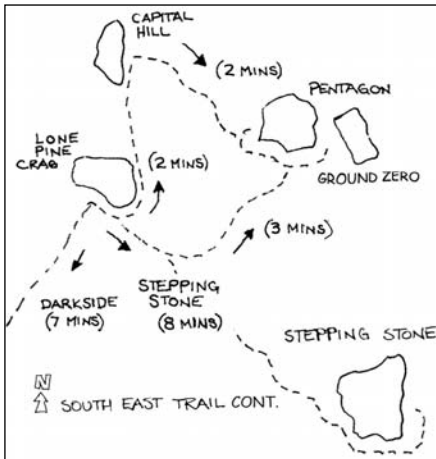
## The Boulderfields

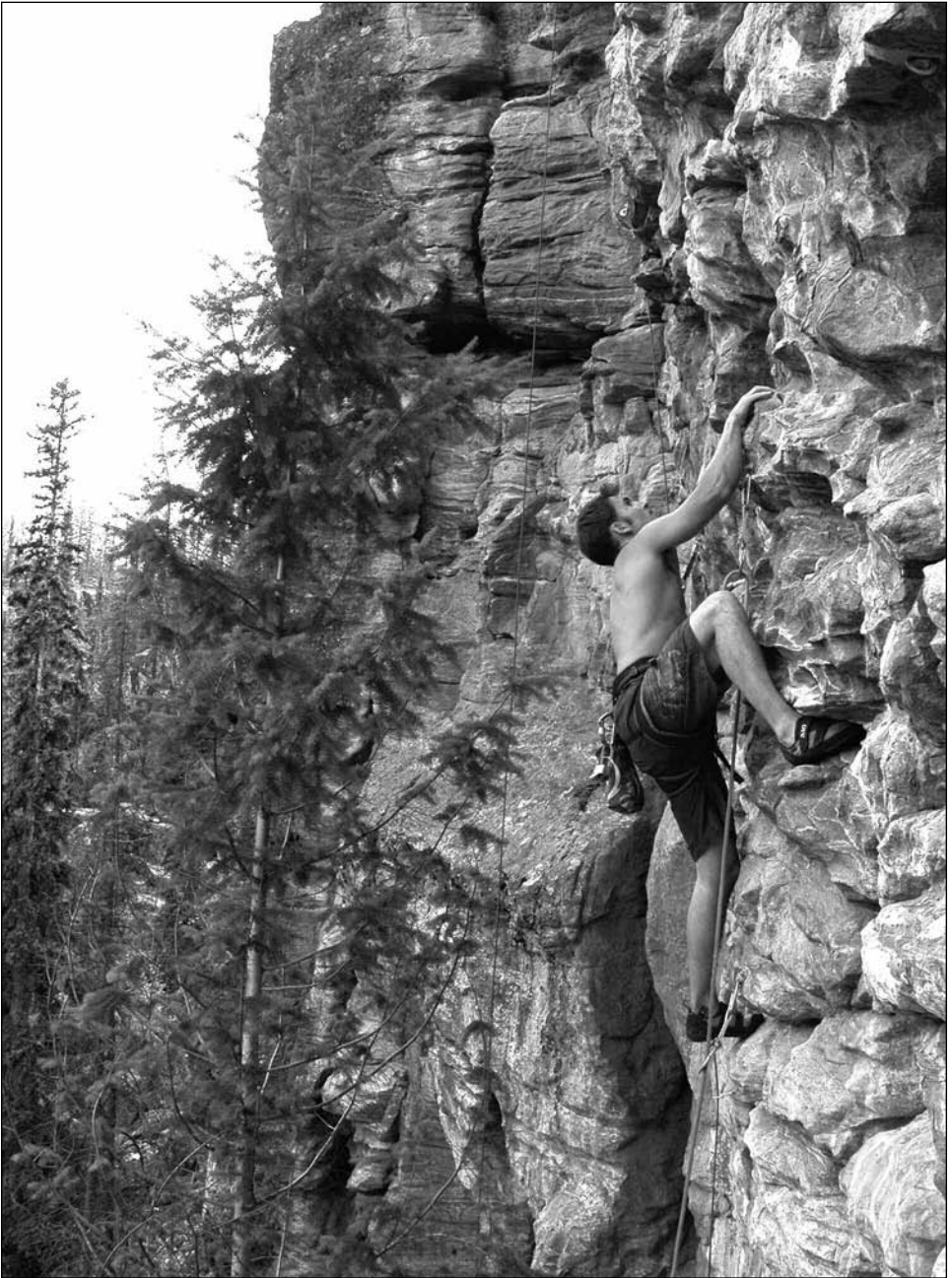
Welcome to the ethereal experience of the Boulderfields, where there is more to the rock than nice Gneiss. It would appear that eons ago everything was good, everything was good, and then suddenly, bam, this area just caved like a sinkhole, creating a rim of climbing walls and a basin full of human-size to giant-size boulders.

Living hazards are few. There is no poison ivy or poison snakes to worry about. This is rugged terrain, however, particularly on the Southeast Trail, or in the Centre Field area, so pay attention to your feet. Phone reception is a bit spotty but it is there. If you get hurt or lost, call 911. Bring lots of water and a hat for the hot summer months.

While this is a sport climbing region, it is home to Natural Gas, arguably the best trad route in Kelowna. Nearby Devil's Elbow and Wrinkly Face are being developed into trad / sport climbing regions, and will be included in the next edition of Kelowna Rock.

In fact, with the current explosion of development in the Boulderfields, all one can say is it is a work in progress. At press time, the Boulderfields had 32 developed walls, more than 140 climbs and numerous projects and problems on the go. As such many locals have stashes of 'gear' for quick access. This includes but is not limited to: pry bars, ladders, pole brushes, ropes, stations and wire brushes. If you come across anything, it has not been left or forgotten. Make no mistake: if you remove anything, you are stealing! The karma police will catch up with you and there will be a fine imposed. Enough said. Enjoy yourself. Send!





*Rob Bannatyne, Passing Grade, Grad Wall*

## BOULDERFIELDS

### High Road Squall Wall

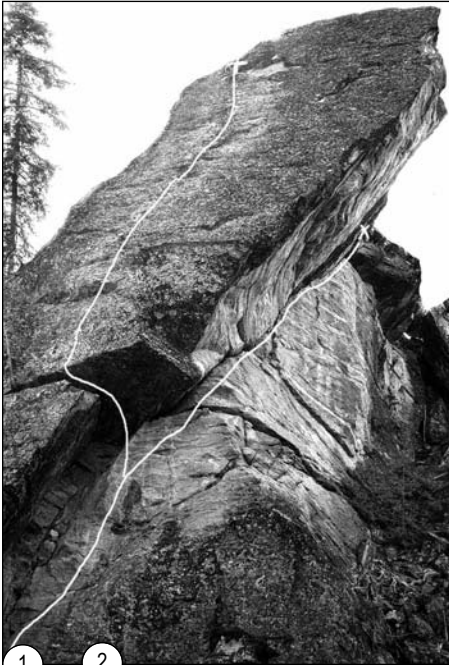


### Squall Wall

Squall Wall is at the northern end of the Fields. From the parking lot, follow the fence and turn left through the gate. Walk along the High Road for 5 minutes and hop over a chasm (or take an easy left detour along solid ground). The path heads down the Escalator, along a narrow trail that hugs the wall.

Squall Wall is generally not as solid as the rest of the big walls, but does have a few exceptions. The wall is divided into three sectors separated with distinct corners. The first sector is still on the sloping ramp and has one route (Find a Way – good luck). At the bottom of the ramp is an arete, and the beginning of the second sector which hosts 5 climbs. Another corner appears, followed by the last 3 routes. After Buddha Bulge, the crag disappears into a forested gully. The trail to the Playground begins here, crossing the gully and heading along the top of the ridge.

*Squall Wall saw most of its development in the summer of 1998. On one particularly busy day, veteran climber Leon Blumer hiked in for a visit with the route setters. While not unusual to see the septuagenarian in the Fields, that day was a bit surprising as Leon was sporting a full leg cast.*



## Slab Tower

Exposure: north Routes: left to right

Two routes; same start in the depression at the bottom of the slab, left to right.

1. The Slab\* 5.10a B (9) 24m  
Start in the depression and make slippery lichen moves up the slab for three bolts. Traverse left under the roof and pull up and over to finish on the low angle slab. Hangers only. *Unknown*

2. Ramp Traverse\* 5.9 B (7) 24m  
This is the obvious 'up and right' trending ramp which crosses under the Slab Tower. Same start as last climb. Get under the roof, then swing up and right over a bulge and follow an awesome finger crack to a station above the end of the ramp. Interesting climb to say the least. Might be fun to try as a mixed route. *James Cruickshank*



## Monkey Bars

Bottom North

Exposure: south Routes: left to right

3. Unknown 5.10 a B (3) 10m  
Starts just right of the cave in the middle of the crag. You need to use a combination of the ever-widening crack and face to reach the ledge at mid-height. Quick links to rap.

4. Project 5.12? B (6) 20m  
Start just right of the big flake and climb to mid-height ledge. Desperate looking finish. Bolting could be an issue! Dangerous climb. Chain and link to lower. *James Cruickshank* (note: this project is open – any takers?)

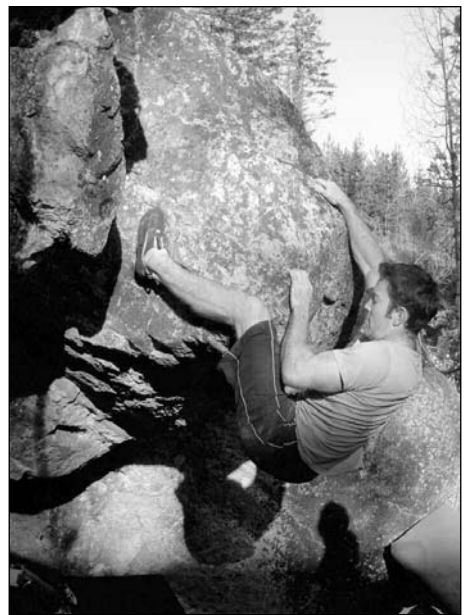
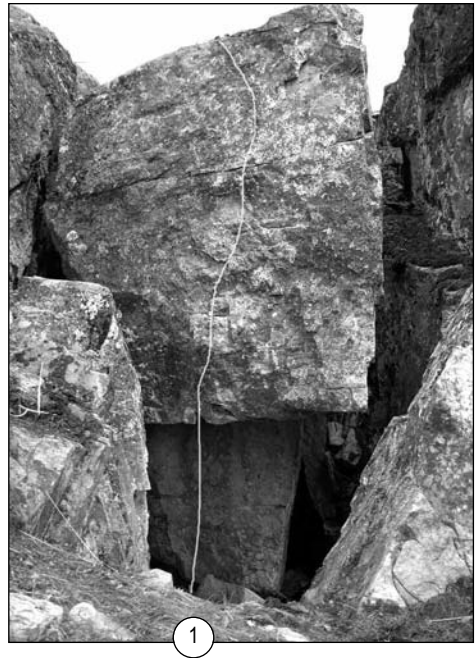


### Bouldering at the Fields

The potential for exciting, new, futuristic boulder problems at the Fields is vast; all it's going to take is some good old-fashioned work. This inaugural guide is really just to open people's eyes to the area and get the spirit of exploration started. Please keep us posted on blocks you have scrubbed and developed via Mike Shannon at Beyond the Crux Climbing Gym in Kelowna, so we can print it up for the next book. And leave stashed equipment and gear, so problem setters can carry on their good work.

One more thing, pretty much all of the bouldering photos were done by April Shannon, co-owner of Beyond the Crux, so we are just gonna say they are all hers. Thanks so much, April!

*above: Mike Shannon on Bigglesworth with Chris de Vries spotting.*



above left: Chris de Vries cranking on Bigglesworth  
bottom right: Mike Doyle on Shark Boulder



## BOULDERFIELDS

### Bouldering, Ridge Trail

#### Bigglesworth, Shark

### Ridge Trail

#### Bigglesworth Boulder

One minute past the gate and down the Ridge Trail on your left.

1. (V4) Fat Shannon's Drop

Low start under the overhand. Crux to some small holds on the lip. Follow crimps to an easy top out. *Mike Shannon*

#### Shark Boulder

Near Wonderbar. Exposure: north Routes: left to right.

1. (V6) Meat Works

Left side of the Shark's Nose, feet planted on the steep face. Up and right to a slopey top out. *Chris de Vries*

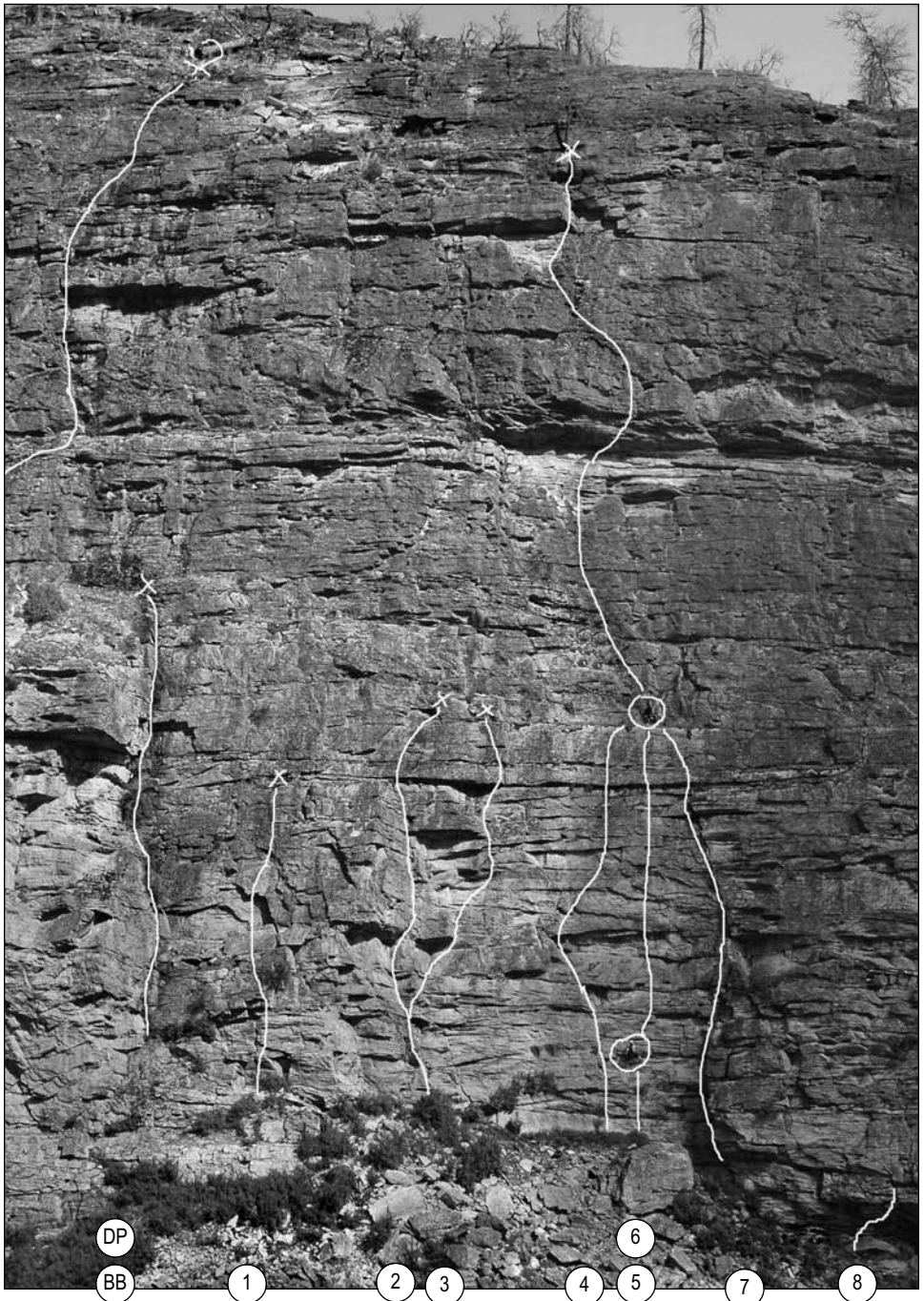
2. (V1) Frasier Island

Right side of Shark's Nose, up and over the 'nose' for a slopey top out. Close but not yet. *Chris de Vries*

#### Bouldering

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## Macho Crap Wall

This area is for trad climbers, and is located right of the plethora of overhead ropes (at press time). Mountaineer Dave Jones spent two years working on a couple of multi-pitch routes to the top, between Oyster Shell and Macho Crap. As of print time the routes are not finished. Do not climb on these ropes.

Exposure: south routes: left to right

- |   |   |       |      |      |
|---|---|-------|------|------|
| 1. Fornicator   |   | 5.7   | Trad | 30 m |
| An unappealing trad line 4m right of Bull N Bush. The line ends at a ledge with no station. <i>Ron Collins / Barry Jones '92</i>  |   |       |      |      |
| 2. Ticked Off**   |   | 5.8   | Trad | 25 m |
| This is the beautiful right-facing crack feature 14m from the Bull N Bush corner. Really fun climbing with bomber gear placements and great stances, followed by an airy crux halfway up. Chain station. Rack: Nuts, CDs to 1.5". <i>Ron Collins / Peter Mair '92</i>                                 |   |       |      |      |
| 3. Out There  | R | 5.9   | Trad | 25 m |
| This is a dangerous, runout route. Same start as Ticked Off, but step out and right 8 metres to access a right-facing crack feature which leads to a short roof. The rock is dirty and suspect when facing crux right of the roof. Same station as last climb. <i>Andrew Sauter / Ron Collins '93</i> |   |       |      |      |
| 4. Solstice   | R | 5.9   | Trad | 25 m |
| Starts 3m left of the bolted Macho Crap. A weaving line with run-out pro. Probably best avoided. Use Macho Crap station. <i>Ron Collins/Roger Pickering '92</i>   |   |       |      |      |
| 5. Macho Crap*  |   | 5.10b | B(6) | 25 m |
| The nicely spaced line of bolts that travels through a series of bulges and slabs to a chain belay, located on a narrow ledge.  |   |       |      |      |

		P2	Mixed	30 m
6. Pitch 2 heads up to a roof with a bolt. There is a tree with a sling for a station. Walk off right. <i>Gary MacCallum / John Warren '94</i>				

*Macho Crap Wall.  
Circles indicate  
climbers, and if  
you look closely  
at the top of  
Dolly Parton  
Overhand, you will  
see the tree we  
used as an anchor  
for the station.*

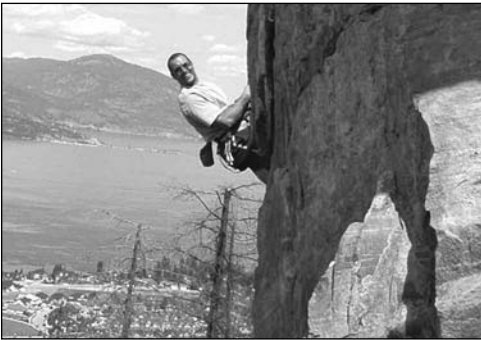
- |  |  |      |      |      |
|--|--|------|------|------|
| 7. Bowling Ball**  |  | 5.8  | Trad | 25 m |
| The left-facing crack/corner feature. Interesting, fun climbing with bomber pro lead you up this menacing-looking line. Macho Crap station. Nuts and CDs to 2". <i>L. Blumer / E.Rayson '60s</i> |  |      |      |      |
| 8. Project   |  | B(3) | 8 m  |      |
| A line of studs up a steep roof, with very hard-looking moves. This is 20m right of Bowling Ball, and an open project. Anyone setters interested? <i>Todd Guy</i>                                |  |      |      |      |



## LONELY CRAGS

### Lonely Boy

#### Lonely Boy



above: Jeff Giebelhaus relaxing on Tendonitis.

Lonely Boy and its panoramic views of Kelowna and Lake Okanagan make it an easy choice for cover art. The crag hosts 12 routes, most of which are high in quality. The rock is solid, and all of the climbs are challenging for the grade. Lonely Boy is best visited before noon during the summer months, while in the shoulder seasons it is a great afternoon crag. If you are in Kelowna and only have a few hours to crag, this is the place. It is a 20-minute drive from downtown and a 3-minute hike to the base of the crag.

Exposure: west Routes: left to right

The first three routes share the same start.

#### 1. Superfusion

5.12a B (5) 10 m

This route starts 1m up and left from the main ledge. Climb up and trend left along the flaring crack feature. Face moves to exit. This sport climb features a bomber hand jam and a one-move-wonder crux. Rusty hook to lower from. *Todd Guy '96*

#### 2. Mass Fusion\*

5.11d B (4) 10 m

Same start as last climb, but take the line of bolts which heads up the blank, steep wall. Great technical footwork and barely usable crimps make up this super stout 11d. The exit move is quite a charm as well. The name makes sense as you try to fuse your right hand to a crimp at the crux. Rusty hook to lower. *Todd Guy '96*

#### 3. State Of Love And Trust\*\*\*

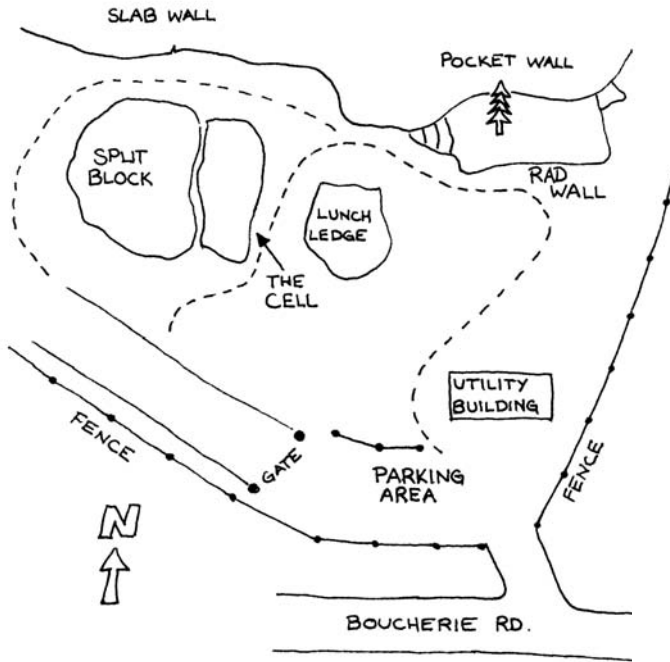
5.12a B (4) 12 m

An absolute must-do Kelowna classic! Same start as Mass Fusion, but take the right hand line of bolts up the crimpy face. A cool deadpoint gets you through the first crux and an all-out-throw caps off this sustained boulder problem. Hooks to lower. *Todd Guy '94*

#### 4. The Main Principle\*\*

5.11c B (6) 15 m

The red hangers which lead up to the bulge feature. Technical, sustained and cruxy. This route does not let up until the final mantle. Really good! Glue-ins to lower. *Todd Guy '94*



Mount Boucherie	
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Split Block / Cell	128

## Mt. Boucherie

Mount Boucherie had a couple of trad routes/top-rope problems set up in the 60's by Leon Blumer, but all of its bolting occurred in the late 90's.

This unique outcrop of conglomerate rock is located close to town (Westbank is 8 minutes / Kelowna 15 minutes) and directly below Mission Hill winery (visible tower). Climbing consists of easy to difficult technical slabs with pockets and crimps thrown in. There is one steep wall of 5.12 sport climbs (The Cell) and 3 beginner climbs for top rope and rappelling. With its easy approach, southern exposure and lake level altitude, it is possible to climb Mount Boucherie every month of the year.

Nubbins come and go, but not so much during the long, dry summer. It is more of an issue after frost gets behind the rock, and then the sun warms things up. Pop! Keeps the routes interesting. For those people allergic to wasp bites, there are lots of them hanging out in the huecos pre-winter, when the males are being tossed from the swarm. However, they are sluggish, not aggressive, and fly off when a climber's hand enters their domain.

*facing page: John Lang on Life's A Shopping Cart.*

MOUNT BOUCHERIE

