

KANGA CRAG

This is a steep, relatively featureless cliff situated to the right of Whiteman Crag at the head of the shallow valley that leads up to the base of EEOR. In the centre of the main wall, which is almost 150 m high, a prominent, slender flake extends about to one-third height. This is the line of California Dreaming that was climbed in 1983 and was the first route done on the face. The crag saw little further development until the early '90s when Mark Whalen began exploring the lower and outer regions of the crag and established a number of sport routes. Many of these are of good quality, but the crag is seldom visited compared to the nearby Grassi Lakes area that is very popular. Recently some short aid routes have been added at the base of the lower walls. These are a result of the somewhat eccentric explorations of Greg Cornell, the most notable being Chief Chiniki Burgers with its associated challenge for a first free ascent.

There are few natural lines on Kanga Crag and the rock is quite compact and friable. Future development is likely to be limited to sport climbs and there are large sections of rock, notably on the main wall, where interesting, multi-pitch routes may be done. Some of the existing routes have dubious glue-in bolt placements with loose hangers and inadequate top anchors. Hopefully, these will be retrofitted to meet higher standards. Overall, the crag has a lot to offer and with a few more routes and some additional work, Kanga Crag could become a fine climbing area.

Approach

The approach is the same as for EEOR. From the parking area at the wide pullout on the west side of Whiteman Pond, follow a trail that begins slightly to the north and goes up a sparsely treed, shallow depression directly toward the cliff. The main trail leads to the right end of the main wall near the route Rocky and Me. The left side of the crag may be reached by following a side trail that branches off left after climbing a gap between two large boulders. It goes up past the right side of a huge boulder set in the scree and then diagonals up left to reach the base of the Lower Left Wall near the large overhung bay of Chief Chiniki Burgers.

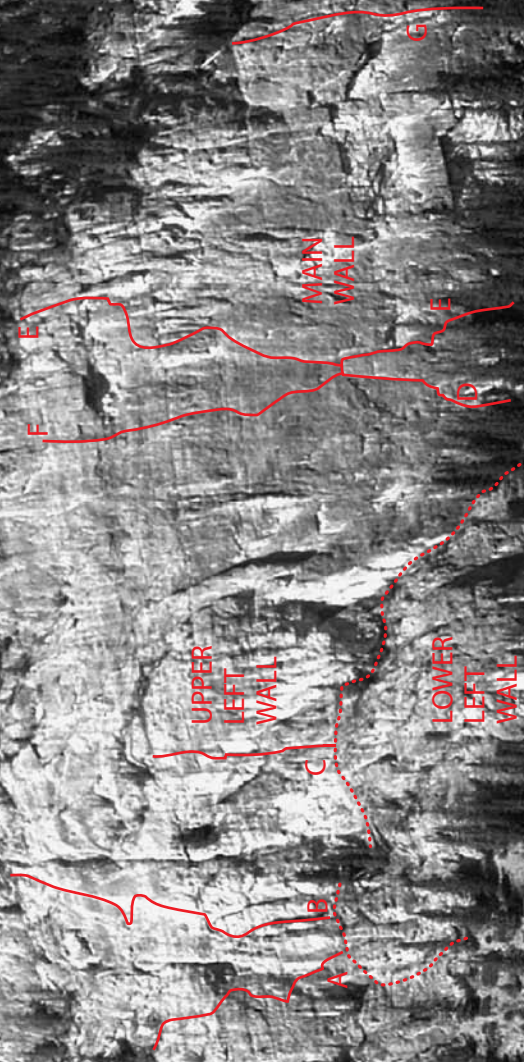
Descent

At present, only two climbs, Silver Surfer and California Dreaming, go to the top of the cliff and the descent for each is given with the corresponding route description. The remaining climbs have fixed anchors and descent is made by rappel.

The cliff can be divided into three sections, the Main Wall with the obvious flake of California Dreaming at its centre, and the Upper and Lower Left Walls that are separated by a long, treed ledge. The accompanying photograph shows the three areas and two topos show the climbs. Most of the routes are sport climbs and the topos indicate the number of quick draws required. For gear and aid routes, details are given in the text.

Kanga Crag

- | | | | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|---------------------|---|--------------|
| A | Damien's Island | C | Mysterioso | E | California Dreaming | G | Rocky and Me |
| B | Silver Surfer | D | Canadian Cookie | F | Rockies Reality | | |



Lower Left Wall

An interesting feature of the Lower Left Wall is an overhung bay capped by a huge roof and sealed off from the elements by a wall of large trees. It is situated at the lowest point of the crag where the left-hand trail reaches the base. The bay has two short climbs, the most striking of which is the aid route Chief Chiniki Burgers. This follows a wildly overhanging corner up to the left side of the roof and because of its sheltered nature, it could probably be climbed in any conditions at any time of the year!

Chief Chiniki Burgers 23 m, A2+

G. Cornell & G. Macrae, July 1996

This aid route climbs an impressive, arching corner that leads up to a two-bolt belay immediately left of the roof. Both sides of the corner overhang drastically and the right one is blank. The climb features tied-off knife blades, rurps and top-step moves off bat hooks. The first ascensionists offered free burgers to anyone who could free-climb the route, and the authors feel quite safe in adding free pints at The Drake.

- 1) 23 m, A2+ Climb over the lower bulge to a bolt on the left and then make tricky rurp and hook moves up and right to reach the first bolt on the blank wall. Move up into the corner and continue up with increasing difficulty past two more bolts. Above the top bolt, tied-off knife blades and a short tension traverse right lead to a bat hook placement in a small black streak. A wild, top-step move off this allows the two-bolt hanging belay to be reached. For anyone trying to free climb the route, it is worth noting the bolts are hand drilled and relatively short!

Note A new aid climb goes up the arete on the right to the same anchor. Pitons and two bolts are in place. (Rez Dogs, A2+, G. Fletcher, February 2000.)

The Brik Shiite Shak 18 m, 5.10d

G. Cornell & C. Abbott, September 1996

F.F.A.: G. Cornell & D. Marra, August 1997

This was originally a companion aid route to Chief Chiniki Burgers, but it has now been climbed free. It goes up a short, open-book corner that begins about 10 m up the cliff below the right-hand side of the huge roof. Begin about 6 m right of Chief Chiniki Burgers, below and slightly left of the open book, at a thin, vertical crack.

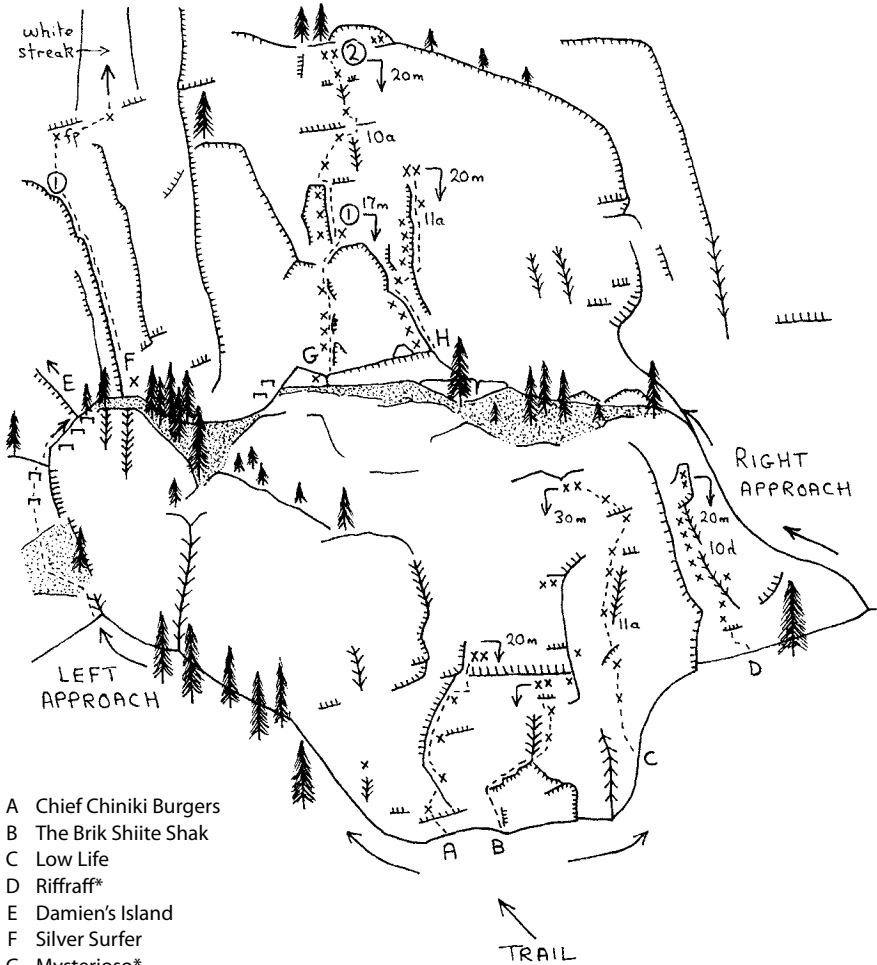
- 1) 18 m, 5.10d Climb the crack exiting left over a bulge (5.10a), and then move up right to the base of the smooth open-book corner. Climb this with difficulty to a two-bolt belay below the roof. The base of the open-book corner can also be reached from the right via a short, right-facing finger crack (5.6) about 5 m right of the normal start.

Above the right side of the huge roof, a shallow overhanging groove arches up and right through steep yellow rock. The line extends down to the right-facing finger crack noted as an alternative start for Brik Shiite Shak. Three bolts are in place (see topo), but the route is incomplete.

Low Life 30 m, 11a

M. Whalen, 1995

KANGA LEFT SIDE



- A Chief Chiniki Burgers
- B The Brik Shiite Shak
- C Low Life
- D Riffraff*
- E Damien's Island
- F Silver Surfer
- G Mysterioso*
- H Cruela

Located on the right edge of the overhung bay is a small grey rib. Low Life starts a few metres up the slope to the right of this, moves out left and continues up a shallow groove set in a band of yellow rock. At present, the first bolt has not been installed and the lower section is run-out.

- 1) 30 m, 5.11a Climb out left to the rib and go up blocky grey rock (5.8) to a bolt high up. Move up into the groove and go up this past a bulge at the top. Continue up and left past the left side of a small roof and then go across left to a fixed station.

Riffraff* 20 m, 5.10d

M. Whalen & W. Rockafellow, June 1992

A short distance up the slope from Low Life is a prominent, shallow gully, and to the right again, a small wing of rock extends rightward to the base of the main cliff. Riffraff begins about 5 m right of the gully and climbs a shallow, stepped groove system that slants up leftward. Above this it goes over a bulge to chains below a small pinnacle. The climb is well worth doing but is exposed to rockfall from parties traversing along the break above to the upper wall.

The Upper Left Wall

The Upper Left Wall can be reached by scrambling around either side of the Lower Wall to gain a long ledge system that separates the two. The ledge system is quite exposed and care is necessary, not only for your safety but also to avoid dislodging loose rock onto the lower climbs. For the latter reason, the left-hand approach is preferred as the right-hand option traverses above the climbs Low Life and Riffraff.

To access via the left-hand approach, follow the path up and left from the bay of Chief Chiniki Burgers staying below the cliff for 60-70 m to an easy, left-facing gully near the high point of the trail. Go up this and follow a short, and unnecessary, via ferrata (or iron way) up and then right onto the main ledge system. The right-hand approach is convenient to use from the base of the main wall and is exposed but similarly quite straightforward.

Damien's Island 60 m, 5.7

G. Cornell, G. Macrae & G. Fletcher, 1997

This short gear route goes up a wall on the left side of a shallow gully above the left-hand approach chimney. It begins at a tree a few metres above the last rung of the via ferrata.

- 1) 25 m, 5.6 Move up left into the gully and go up to a piton below a small overhang. Hand traverse left below the overhang and make a difficult mantleshelf move onto a ledge. Move up and right to a two-bolt belay at a ledge.
- 2) 35 m, 5.7 Climb up to a flake and then go right and up across a steep wall to a bolt. Traverse left past an overhang to reach slabs and go up to a bay of trees on the left.

Rappel the route to descend.

Silver Surfer 100 m, 5.7

352 **Mount Rundle** June 1996

This interesting route climbs the obvious white waterstreak on the upper slabs. The slab pitches are not well protected and additional fixed protection would make the climb more enjoyable for its grade.

The climb is best reached via the left-hand approach. From the top of the via ferrata, continue up and right for about 15 m to a prominent right-facing corner with a wide crack at the back. Belay from a Petzl ring bolt, low down on the right.

- 1) 20 m, 5.7 Climb to the top of the crack (gear to two inches) and belay about 5 m below a small overhang beneath the upper slab.
- 2) 45 m, 5.6 Move up to the overhang (old piton) and then traverse right to a bolt at the base of the white streak. Go up left to a bay and then climb the right side of the white streak until a small overhang and good grassy ledge are visible to the left of the streak. Move across and belay here (fixed piton and good gear).
- 3) 35 m, 5.6 Traverse back right onto the streak and run the rope out for 18 m to a bolt below the lip or climb the left side of the streak (tricky placements) to reach the same point. Continue up to trees.

Descent Climb the fourth class gully above for about 60 m and then traverse off left to reach easy ground that leads back down to the base of the cliff.

Two sport routes climb the steep upper wall above a high point in the centre of the ledge system. To reach them using the left-hand approach, continue right past the corner of Silver Surfer for about 45 m, dropping down at first and then climbing back up again, to the beginning of a level section just beyond two steel rungs.

Mysterioso* 40 m, 5.10a/b

M. Whalen, 1994

Mysterioso begins about 5 m right of the steel rungs, below a small pillar and short left-facing corner with a row of bolts on its left side. The climb is well worth doing despite its somewhat involved approach. The second pitch has an intricate and sustained crux sequence on excellent rock and the lower pitch makes an interesting 5.8 climb in its own right. Belay from a Petzl ring bolt in a lower slab below and left of the pillar.

- 1) 20 m, 5.8 Climb the corner on good holds moving slightly right at the top to below a steep section. Make a tricky move up left into a short, continuation corner and continue up easy ground above to a Petzl ring bolt below a steep flake-crack.
- 2) 20 m, 5.10a/b Climb the crack to the top of the flake. Step onto the wall above, and then make a steep sequence of moves up and right and then back left to reach good holds. Move up to the fixed rappel station.

Cruela 20 m, 5.11a

M. Whalen, 1994

Not much is known about this route and the grade given is approximate. From the start of Mysterioso, follow a higher ledge system rightward for 10 m to the base of a prominent, left-slanting corner. Follow bolts up the left side of the corner to a grassy area below a short chimney. Make a difficult move out right across a steep wall and continue up a rib into a shallow groove above.

Go up this with difficulty near the top and continue up over a bulge to a fixed station.

The Main Wall

The most obvious line on the Main Wall, after California Dreaming, is a shallow, right-facing corner that begins about one pitch up the cliff, on the left side, and extends up to easy ground near the top. Two difficult sport routes climb the steep wall below the corner, one of which goes up to the base of the corner itself and the other to a prominent ear-shaped flake out to the right. Both climbs start at the same point, about 5 m right of the break between the Upper and Lower Left Walls, behind some large trees.

Canadian Air* 50 m, 5.12a

M. Whalen, 1992

- 1) 25 m, 5.10d Follow a shallow, leaning groove for a short distance and then go up and right into a second groove that slants over left and forms a short corner higher up. Belay at the top of the corner at a good ledge on the left. The difficult moves are at the bottom where a convenient tree can be used for clipping bolts and resting—the grade of the climb depends on how much arbour-aid is used!
- 2) 25 m, 5.12a Climb the steep wall above, moving right slightly at first and passing two small roofs higher up, to reach a two-bolt belay near the base of the upper corner.

Leave Your Hat On* 50 m, 5.12a

M. Whalen, 1992

This interesting route offers good face climbing although glue has obviously been used in some areas owing to the friable nature of the rock.

- 1) 25 m, 5.11b Climb to the third bolt on Canadian Air, traverse a few metres right and go up past a small roof to a short groove that leads up to a ledge and bolt belay.
- 2) 25 m, 5.12a Move right and go up over a small roof and then trend left to a bolt belay on top of the ear-shaped flake.

Canadian Cookie 45 m, 5.9+

B. Spear & J. Josephson, June 1996

This climbs the wide crack on the left side of the California Dreaming pinnacle and starts about 12 m right of the previous routes. It is one of the more unique climbs in the Bow Valley and seems more at home in Yosemite than the Canadian Rockies. The left side of the pinnacle offers an unmistakable wafer thin flake requiring layback, chimney, jamming and off-width skills all in one pitch. It is a bit loose by sport climbing standards, but there is nothing too outrageous unless you're worried about the entire flake collapsing (just kidding). A couple of bolts help protect the wider section. A set of Camalots to #5 with an extra #4 or equivalent is required. Try not to look through the flake too often.

California Dreaming* 125 m, 5.10b/c

D. Morgan & C. Perry, August 1983

This classic gear route has had a number of complete ascents, but most parties climb only the first pitch to the top of the flake. The remainder of the climb is loose in places and still has some big blocks on the final pitch. Until recently it was the only climb going to the top of the Main Wall and deserves further cleaning and perhaps more fixed gear. Presently, a small selection of pitons is useful.

Start about 10 m right of the flake, below a shattered, left-facing crack that slants up left to a small overlap with a bolt immediately above.

- 1) 45 m, 5.10b/c Climb the crack for about 12 m and then go left to the bolt. Step down left and make a hard move over the overlap to reach a hand traverse leading left to the crack on the right side of the flake. Climb the crack to a bolt belay at the top of the flake.
- 2) 30 m, 5.8 Move up and right to a rotten groove and climb this (piton) to easier ground. Follow a series of good holds diagonally right across the wall to an overhang below a short, left-facing corner. Climb the corner and continue up shattered rock on the left until it is possible to move right round an arete to ledges and a bolt belay.
- 3) 50 m, 5.9 Climb the groove above the belay and move up left with difficulty to ledges. Continue up the wall, trending back right slightly, to a bolt. Make a long traverse right to a second bolt below and left of an overhang that caps a prominent chimney on the right. Move up and hand traverse right into the chimney. Climb the overhang and continue up and left to trees.

Descent Scramble up through trees to join the alternative descent route from EEOR that leads steeply down right to reach the main approach trail to EEOR at the start of Spud Wall.

Alberta Reality** 130 m, 5.11b

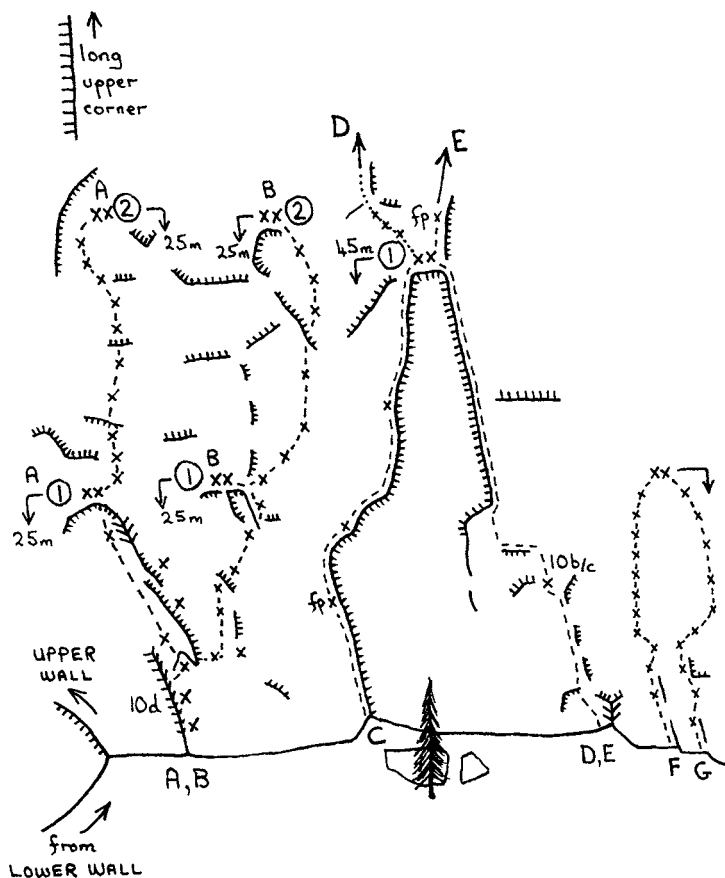
G. Powter, B. Wyvill & S. Wyvill, July 2000

This bolted line moves out left from the top of the California Dreaming flake and continues up to ledges near the top of the crag. Gear is required for the first pitch only. Descent can be made by rappel using 55 m ropes.

- 1) 45 m, 5.10b/c Climb the first pitch of California Dreaming to the top of the flake.
- 2) 30 m, 5.11b Move out left and up from the flake following the bolts. Higher up sustained, difficult climbing leads diagonally left to a shallow groove and fixed anchor (eight bolts).
- 3) 55 m, 5.10a Follow the bolts (16 in all) left slightly at first and then straight up the wall to fixed anchors at a ledge near the top.

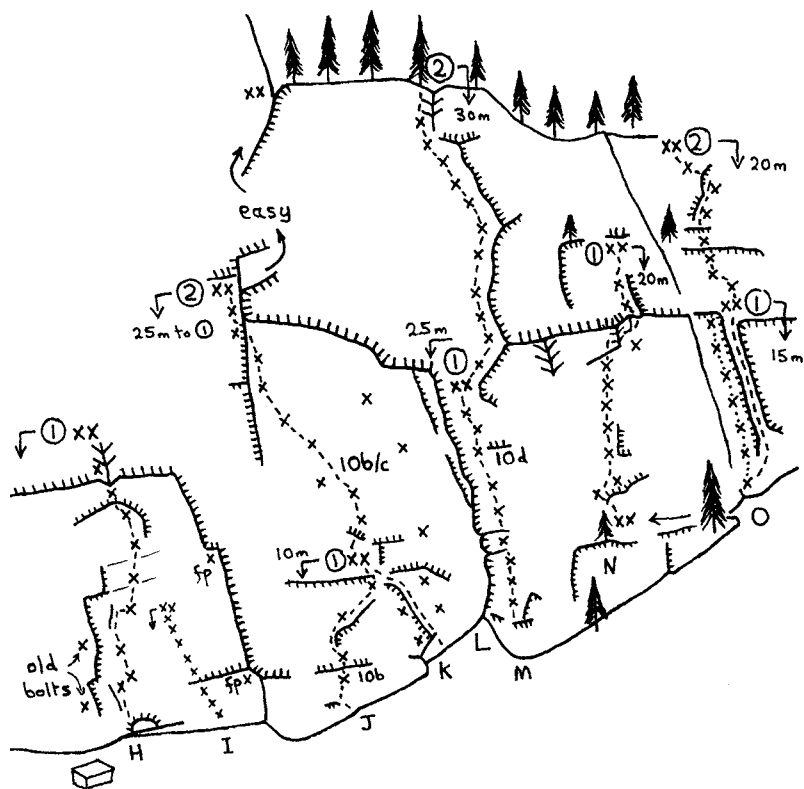
A few metres right of the start of California Dreaming are two sport routes that go up to the same fixed anchor. The one on the left is Roo'd Awakening (G. Powter & B. Wyvill, 5.11b, 11 bolts, July 2000). The one on the right is Turette's Syndrome (B. Wyvill & G. Powter, 5.11a, 10 bolts, July 2000).

Beginning about 20 m right of California Dreaming is a large, overhung bay of yellow rock with a prominent boulder at the base of the cliff, roughly in the centre. On the right, the bay is bounded by an overhanging, left-facing corner that has some fixed gear and has probably



THE MAIN WALL

A Canadian Air*	5.12a 50 m	
B Leave Your Hat On*	5.12a 50 m	
C Canadian Cookie	5.9+ 45 m	gear to 5 in.
D California Dreaming*	5.10b/c 125 m	gear to 3 in.
E Alberta Reality**	5.11b 130m	gear to 3 in.
F Roo'd Awakening	5.11b 30 m	
G Turette's Syndrome	5.11a 30 m	



H	The Final Battle	A3+
I	Silent Partner	A0
J	Fowl Play	5.10b 10m
K	Superior Cackling Chickens*	5.10b/c 35m
L	Project	
M	Rocky and Me**	5.11a 55m
N	Rub Me Right**	5.10b 20m
O	Toucha Toucha Me	5.8 or 5.10a 35m

small pitons and hooks
bolt ladder

been climbed using aid. In the centre, the line of overhangs that caps the bay is cut by a very distinctive V-notch. Two old, self-drill bolts, just left of a series of left-facing flakes, mark an early on-sight attempt by Dave Morgan to climb up to the notch. It was finally reached by an aid route called The Final Battle that, perhaps significantly, has no associated prize for a free ascent. There may be just enough gear in place to launch up the wall using Dave Morgan's start and the aid route's finish—or maybe not?

The Final Battle 35 m, A3+

G. Cornell & J. Milburne, November 1996

The climb begins at a small cave, directly below the notch in the overhangs. It features a wide range of aid techniques, but principally bat hooking, and looks like great entertainment for a cold/rainy day. From the left edge of the cave, bat hook up to a thin, left-slanting crack and follow this to a short bolt ladder. From the third bolt, use "various body weight placements" to gain a thin vertical crack up on the left and then move horizontally right to a bolt. Bat hook up and right on very steep rock to a bolt, and then go back left slightly past two more bolts to a square block directly beneath the V-notch. Make awkward moves up past the block (bolt) to reach a second bolt on the left side of the notch. Continue up the short crack in the notch to the fixed station and register.

Note A practice bolt ladder has recently been installed between Final Battle and the left-facing corner at the right-hand side of the bay (Silent Partner, A0, 9 bolts, G. Cornell, February 2000).

Located to the right of the overhung bay, around the edge of a small buttress, is an area of steep, slabby rock with a large, left-facing V-corner at its right-hand side. The slab is closed off by a large band of overhangs with a prominent break at its left end.

Superior Cackling Chickens/Fowl Play* 35 m, 5.10b

M. Whalen & W. Rockafellow, 1992

C. Perry, I. Perry & T. Freisen, August 1998

The original climb, Superior Cackling Chickens, follows an obvious diagonal line across the slab. It starts on the right at an easy, left-slanting corner, goes up to a small ledge system at about one-third height and ends in a shallow groove a short distance below the left-hand break in the roofs. A variation called Fowl Play goes directly up the steep wall to the ledge and extends the second pitch to a fixed station above the break. The second pitch offers some thin slab climbing on good rock and the climb is well worth doing, particularly with the Fowl Play variations.

- 1) 10 m, 5.5 Follow the easy corner past three bolts to a bolt belay at the ledge.
 - 1 alt.) 10 m, 5.10b Climb the steep wall directly below the belay, moving right higher up and then left to the belay.
- 2) 25 m, 5.10b Follow the bolts up and left across the slab to join the shallow groove higher up. The crux is just above the third bolt that is out to the left and is awkward to clip. Either

finish at a large ring bolt in the groove or make awkward moves up and left around the roofs to a chained station above.

Easy ground leads up to a large, treed ledge on the side of the cliff, but it has not been cleaned or fixed and is not worth the bother.

Project

An incomplete aid route moves right from part way up the first pitch of Superior Cackling Chickens and climbs the slabby wall just left of the big corner to a station below the roofs. It may be possible to free climb the line, but at present only a few widely spaced bolts are in place.

Rocky and Me** 55 m, 5.11a

M. Whalen & W. Rockafellow, 1992/95

This interesting climb goes up the prominent, low-angle rib at the right side of the slabby wall and continues up, via a short chimney and wall above, to the large treed ledge. The first pitch has one short, difficult section over a bulge but the second pitch is more sustained.

- 1) 25 m, 5.10d Climb the right side of the rib, making a difficult move over a bulge at about two-thirds height. The crux requires a steady leader as the protection bolt is low down and a fall would end on the low-angle slab below.
- 2) 30 m, 5.11a Move up right and climb an awkward left-facing chimney. Step left and make a difficult series of moves up and left following a shallow groove. Move left again around an overhang and climb a short groove to the large, treed ledge.

Descent Instead of rappelling the route, it is possible to traverse right to the back of the large, treed ledge and make a short rappel from a tree to easy ground above and right of the first belay of Toucha Toucha Me. A ledge system and easy down-climbing lead across to the scree slope below Pit Bull Terr-EEOR.

To the right of Rocky and Me the crag curves up the slope and becomes smaller and more broken. Located about 60 m from the rib is a small, inset corner with a row of bolts up the wall immediately to its left. The corner is climbed by the route Toucha Toucha Me.

Rub Me Right** 20 m, 5.10b

M. Whalen & W. Rockafellow, 1992

This enjoyable route climbs the slabby wall, down and left of Toucha Toucha Me. It follows a series of layaway edges up a shallow rib and then moves right and climbs a short corner that breaks through the upper band of overhangs. The start is reached by traversing out left on ledges, beginning a few metres below Toucha Toucha Me, behind a tree.

- 1) 20 m, 5.10b Delicate climbing up the rib leads to a shallow bay below the overhangs.

Traverse steeply right and make a committing move up to the base of the corner. Climb the corner, which is difficult at first, to chained anchors.

Toucha Toucha Me* 35 m, 5.8

M. Whalen, 1992

This makes a good beginner's route and can be used to practice gear placement. The bolted wall on the left is described as an alternative first pitch.

- 1) 15 m, 5.7 Climb the corner using either gear for protection or by clipping the row of bolts on the left wall.
- 1 alt.) 5.10a Climb the wall following the bolts using the edge of the corner.
- 2) 20 m, 5.8 From the chained station, make a difficult move up onto lower-angled rock (5.8) and then follow a shallow corner, moving up and left at the top (5.7) to chained anchors.

Pit Bull Terr-EEOR 25 m, 5.9

G. Macrae & G. Cornell, August 1996

This route, which is not shown on the crag topo, climbs a slanting, clean-cut groove on the right-hand side of a large, yellow overhang, about 25 m up the slope from the corner of Toucha Toucha Me.

Climb easy rock to a bolt in a shallow scoop below the point of the overhang and then make awkward moves up and right to gain a thin finger-crack in the groove. Continue up the groove past two pitons (small gear required) to a fixed station at the top.