

## Bumper's Buttress

*Bumper's Buttress* lies on a long uplift of quality rock that extends in a northwesterly direction from *Guides Rock* and *Mount Cory* in the south to *Mount Finger* and beyond. It is situated low down in the drainage immediately north of *Mount Finger* and is visible from the Trans-Canada Highway just east of the *Red Earth Creek* turn-off and from 1A Highway near the *Sawback* picnic area. The photograph below is taken from the Trans-Canada Highway and shows the whole cliff with the three climbs done to date. The lower part of the cliff is obscured by the treed ridge in the foreground. A deep canyon called *Spasm Chasm* runs between the ridge and the face and allows access to the start of the climbs.



The cliff may be divided into two parts, the lower wall where the two early climbs are located, and the upper wall where the route *Megabump* was recently completed up a large right-facing corner system. The lower wall is about 200 m high and consists of a series of left-facing corners formed by steeply inclined bedding planes which overlap. The rock quality is excellent and climbing involves long corner/crack systems with intermediate sections of open face climbing. There are a few protection bolts in place but a good selection of gear to 4 inches is required with extras in the 2 inch range. TCU's are particularly useful.

The climbs are accessed via *Spasm Chasm*, a narrow, steep-sided canyon which is impassable during snow-melt season. The lower climbs are easier to reach but access to *Megabump* requires dry conditions. The cliff is named after the long-established *Bumper's Restaurant* in Banff and according to an adaptation of their slogan by the first ascent party: "If you haven't climbed on Bumper's, you haven't climbed at Banff." That may be the case, and the relatively long approach is rewarded by excellent climbing on great rock in a wild and remote setting.

**Approach:** Start from the *Sawback* picnic area on the 1A highway (Bow Valley Parkway) about 11 km west of its junction with the Trans-Canada Highway, 5.5 km west of Banff. From the parking area, angle up and **right** through the trees to intersect with gravel beds that in turn connect with the creek bed draining the north side of *Mount Finger*. (Note that there is a much larger drainage (*Ranger Creek*) on the **left** of the picnic area). Follow the creek bed until it swings around to the right towards the north face of *Mount Finger*. The narrow gully of *Spasm Chasm* cuts off left at this point below the obvious steep bedding planes of *Bumper's Buttress*. Time – 1 hr 15 mins, elevation gain 625 m.

There is a short, narrow section at the start of the canyon which opens up again above a large chockstone. A ledge with a few small trees, is located a short way up the cliff on the right-hand side and this is the start of *Defibrillatio* and *Short, Jerky Movements*. The deep cleft of *Spasm Chasm* proper lies just ahead and allows access to the climb *Megabump*.

**Defibrillatio 205 m, 5.10b**

*Murray Toft, Allan Derbyshire and Jim Preston, June 1990*

Topo: route "DF"

**Descent:** The route is fixed for rappel using double ropes. The first rappel is from a tree at the top and the sling may need replacing.

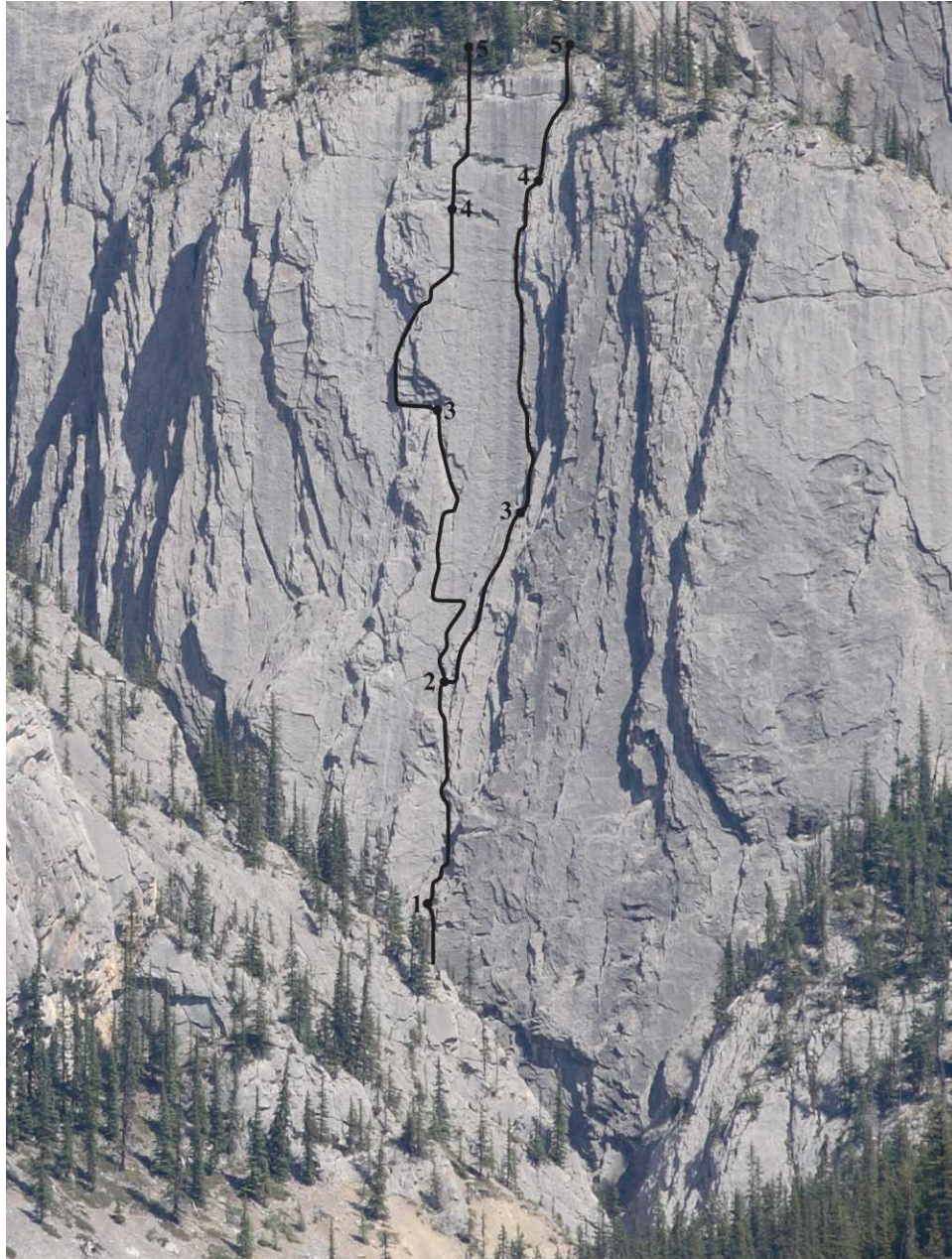
**Short, Jerky Movements 195 m, 5.10b**

*Allan Derbyshire and Choc Quinn, July 1990*

Topo: route "SJM"

**Descent:** Use the *Defibrillatio* rappel route.

**The Lower Wall of Bumper's Buttress**





## **Megabump 265 m, 5.11a**

*Allan Derbyshire, Choc Quinn and Kevin Embacher, September 2008*

**Start:** The climb begins about 100 m up *Spasm Chasm*, on the right, after scrambling over several areas of jammed boulders.

- 1. 55 m, 5.6.** Climb a short gully to a bolt (used on the rappel descent), and traverse left across slabby terrain to a single bolt belay.
- 2. 25 m, 5.8.** Angle up and right to a 2-bolt belay.
- 3. 55 m, 5.10a.** Traverse slightly left and follow the obvious corner system to a 2-bolt belay. The pitch may be split at an old bolt and piton belay about halfway up, below a short overhanging section.
- 4. 40 m, 5.10c.** Above are three corners. The climb takes the middle corner to a small overhang and continues slightly right following a crack until a short traverse left leads to a ledge and a 2-bolt belay.
- 5. 40 m, 5.11a.** Climb the main corner on the left with crux moves near the top to a 2-bolt belay.
- 6. 25 m, 5.9.** Avoid the loose area to the left by angling slightly right up a slab to a ledge and a 2-bolt belay.
- 7. 25 m, 5.7.** Follow the corner system above to the top of the buttress and a tree belay some distance back.

**Descent:** It is possible to walk off the top of the buttress to the east (right) by a circuitous route which involves some loose but easy down-climbing. A more convenient descent is to rappel the route although two ropes are required.