

TOKOPAH DOMES (updated 7/13/2018)

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Intro

Tokopah Domes are the orphaned offspring of a dome from Tuolumne and a mischievous peak from Shuteye Ridge. They are covered in knobs, chicken heads, and runnels with a few cracks and slabs for good measure. Although the climbing is excellent, they have stayed under the radar until recent years. One route was reported on the upper dome, also known as Santa Cruz Dome, back in 1980 and the first documented route on the lower dome was in 1992. They have been climbed over the years, mostly by seasonal employees, but there are few records and only an occasional rusty bolt or piece of weathered webbing to show for it. Recent development has yielded some classic routes in a picturesque setting.

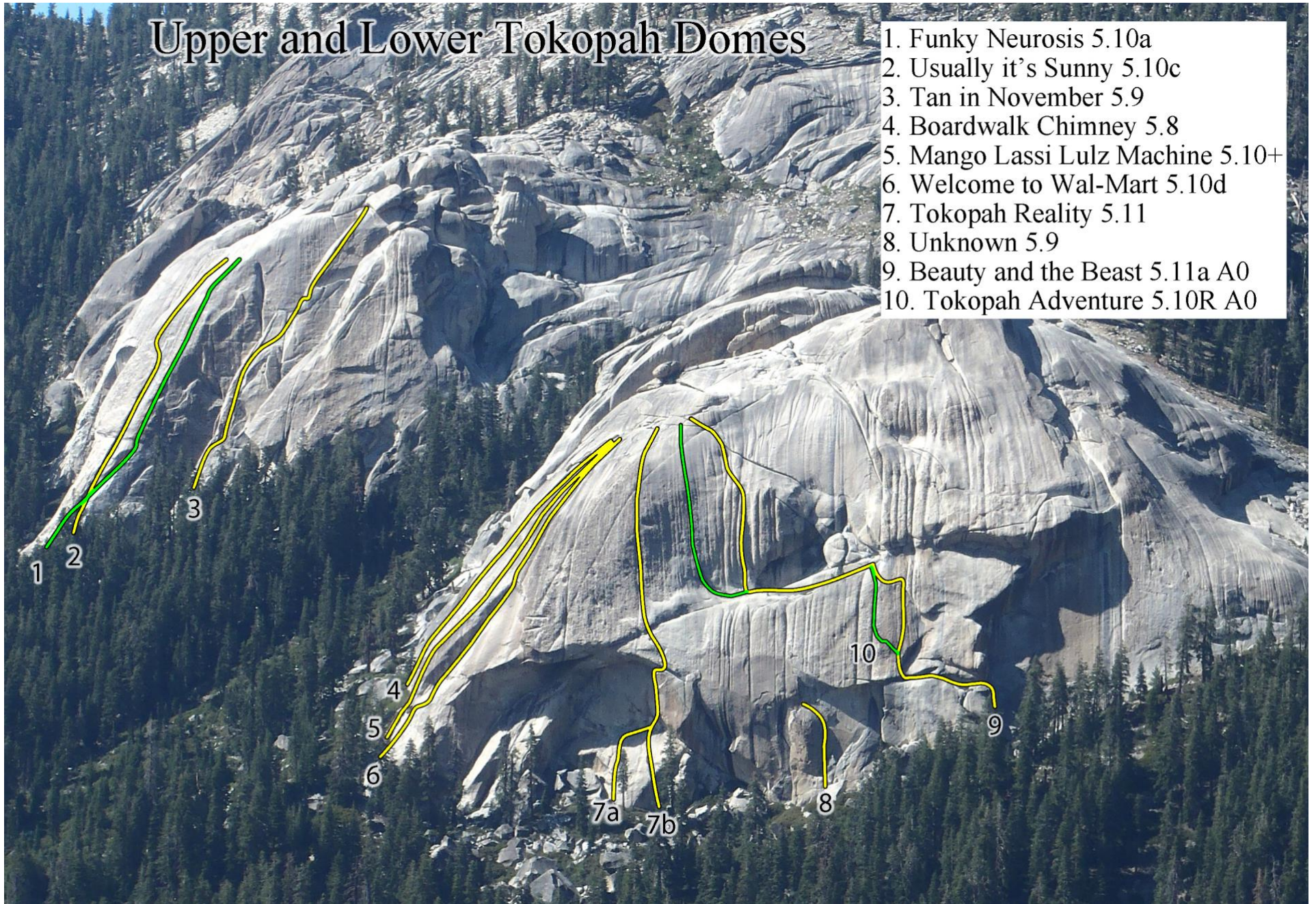
Directions

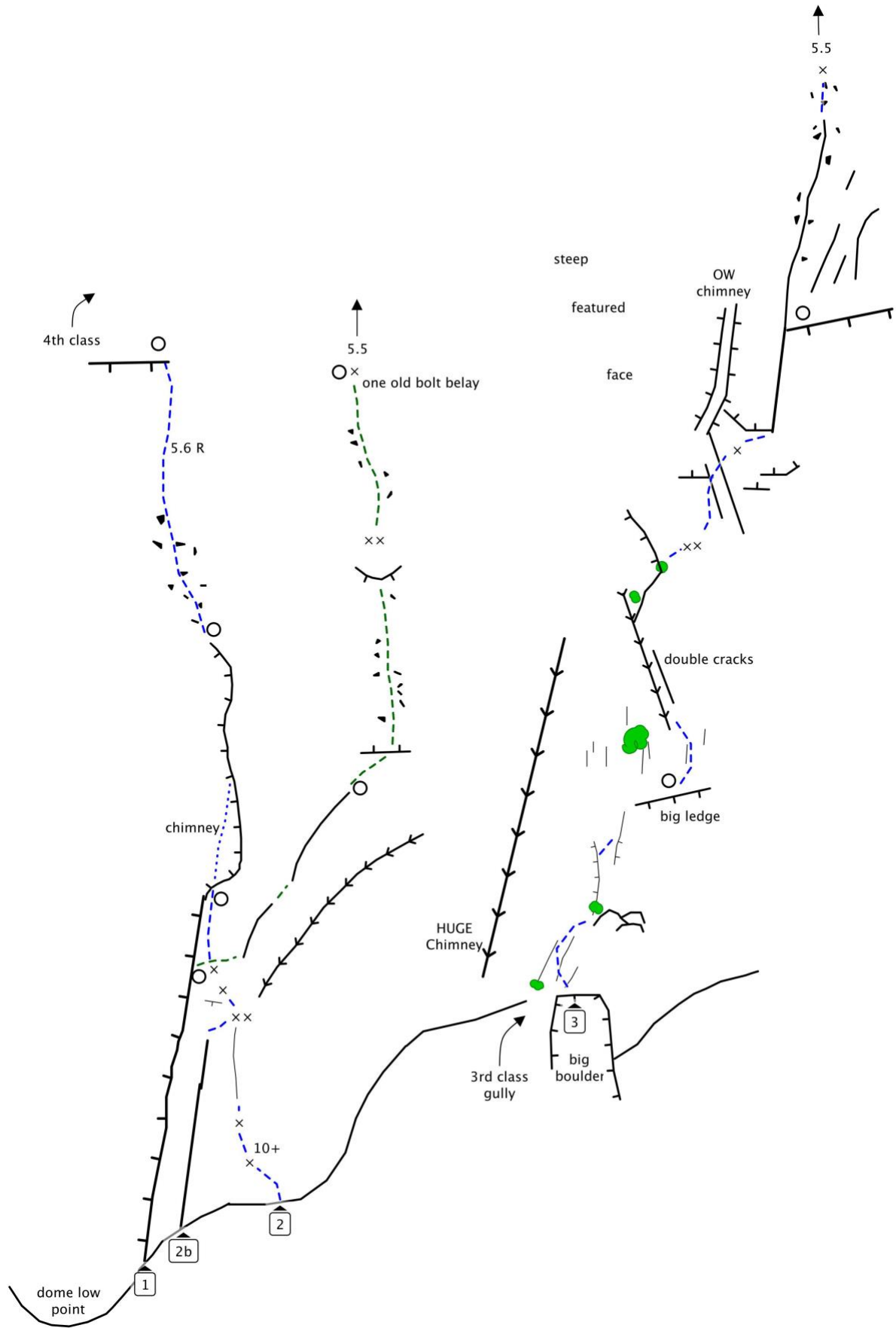
From Lodgepole, take the trail towards Twin Lakes and Silliman Meadow. After about a mile you crest the ridge and leave the trail, heading east and staying roughly on the ridge. Eventually you start to head up and left, northeast, towards the domes and follow the path of least resistance. If you get lucky you won't have any bushwhacking and end up at a small creek that flows down from the west side of the upper dome. This makes a good campsite. The domes have been done both as day hikes and multi-day excursions. Average approach time is 2.5-3 hours. Despite what the maps look like you do not want to try to travel directly up or down from the domes to Tokopah Valley.

From the creek and small meadow head straight east to the lower dome or uphill and a bit west to the upper dome. Descend off the east side of the upper dome and the north side of the lower dome.

Upper and Lower Tokopah Domes

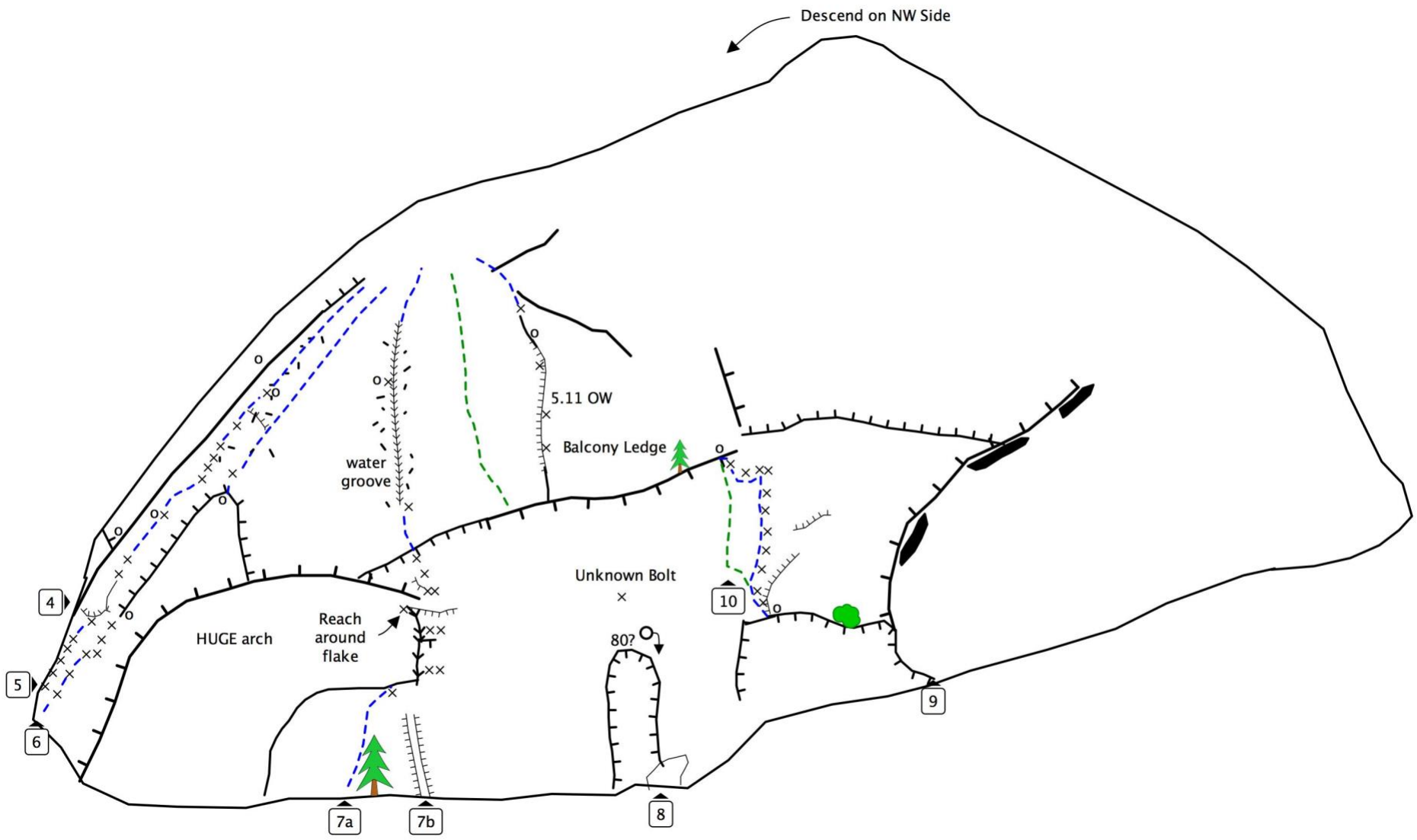
1. Funky Neurosis 5.10a
2. Usually it's Sunny 5.10c
3. Tan in November 5.9
4. Boardwalk Chimney 5.8
5. Mango Lassi Lulz Machine 5.10+
6. Welcome to Wal-Mart 5.10d
7. Tokopah Reality 5.11
8. Unknown 5.9
9. Beauty and the Beast 5.11a A0
10. Tokopah Adventure 5.10R A0





UPPER TOKOPAH DOME (SANTA CRUZ DOME)

1. **5.10a** 5 pitches **Funky Neurosis** *Standard rack and slings for knobs.* Estimated position of route.
P1 Start in the large right facing corner or one of the systems near it at the base of the dome.
P2 Ramps and cracks up and right towards knobby roof, belay below roof.
P3 Knobs over the roof into runout easy climbing and a two bolt belay.
P4 More easy runout to an old one bolt belay. Continue up from here.
FA: Val LiCon, Alan Swanson, Nick Badyrka 11/80
2. **5.10c or 5.9** 4 pitches **Usually It's Sunny** *Doubles to 1" singles 2-6".*
P1 Start at the sloping dikes just up and right from the base of the dome. Pass two bolts into a finger crack and a two bolt belay. To bypass this crux, climb a 5.6 offwidth to the left of the dikes near the giant right facing corner.
P2 Pass two bolts into the main chimney/corner system to the left. Belay below the chimney section.
P3 Chimney and continue until the corner peters out.
P4 Knobs up and slightly left to a large ledge. 4th class from there.
FA: Vitaliy Musiyenko, Daniel Jeffcoach. Original Start- Tom Ruddy, Vitaliy Musiyenko. Alternate Start- Hunter Bonilla, Daniel Jeffcoach 4/14
3. **5.9** 4 pitches **Tan in November** *Doubles from small to 3" and one 4" to sew it up.*
P1 Start on the large block near the bottom of the hugh obvious chimney in the middle of the dome. Up and right to blocks, short chimney, then right again to a big ledge with crumbly cracks.
P2 Up towards the roof, then left into some awesome double cracks. Take the crack that splits right to a sloping ledge and two bolt belay.
P3 Up and right, past a bolt, traverse under a small roof and follow an easy wide corner to a nice ledge.
P4 Climb the crack covered in chicken heads and run it out on easier ground above until you reach a roof. Third class off from there.
FA: Matthew Schutz, Daniel Jeffcoach 11/13



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LOWER TOKOPAH DOME

4. **5.8** 3 pitches **Boardwalk Chimney** *Doubles from small to 2", one 3" and one 6"*.
P1 Obvious wide crack up the west side of the lower dome. Starts with a squeeze and then a pass a roof on the right and belay on knobs on the left side of the crack.
P2 Follow the crack as far as you want.
P3 Continue up the crack into the corner or runout easy face climbing to the right of the corner.
FA: Vitaliy Musiyenko, Daniel Jeffcoach 7/14
5. **5.10+** 4 pitches **Mango Lassi Lulz Machine** *Single 0.5" and 0.75" cam, 0.5" offset helpful, sling for knobs*
P1 Start on the west face to the right of the obvious Boardwalk Chimey system. Follow bolts to roof, over roof on right side and pass a few more bolts before belaying at a single bolt with chicken head backup.
P2 Lots of chicken heads up and slightly right, belay at next bolt with chicken head backup.
P3 3 bolts through the friction slab, pull the roof and continue up. Belay at chicken heads.
P4 One more bolt to a yellow dike, follow the dike to easier terrain.
FA: Vitaliy Musiyenko, Adam Burch 4/17/15
6. **5.10d** 3 pitches **Welcome to Wal-Mart** *Singles from small to 5" and slings for knobs.*
P1 Traverse into the first bolt where the west face rounds into the base of the dome. Follow the wondering line of bolts past a few overlaps for gear. Belay at the start of the large arching roof above.
P2 Follow the corner under the roof until the apex.
P3 Climb knobs over the roof and follow them all the way up.
FA: Tom Ruddy, Hunter Bonilla 7/14
7. **5.11a** 6 pitches **Tokopah Reality** *Doubles from small to 2" and single 3, 4 and 5 inch pieces.*
P1a Start up a small corner below the huge arching roof. Pass some small roofs and obstacles, pass a bolt and traverse right along the arching crack to belay at the base of an OW.
P1b Alternate start up and offwidth to the right of the big pine tree. Follow to the two bolt anchor at the base of P2.
P2 Climb the OW to a two bolt anchor.
P3 Climb the overhanging crack, over the reach-around flake and onto a small ledge with a two bolt belay.
P4 Get on top of the clake, sling knobs and clip a few bolts up and past a bulge to a one bolt anchor with knobs to back it up at the base of the steep knobby headwall.
P5 Climb knobs about 50 feet, then cross to the left of the water groove and belay from a single bolt and a chicken head.
P6 Easy 5th class until you're comfortable walking.
FA: Tom Ruddy, Vitaliy Musiyenko, Brian Prince. First two pitches- Tom Ruddy, Hunter Bonilla 7/14
8. **5.9** 1 pitch **Unknown** *Looks like medium to large gear.* Climb the right side of the big detached pillar in the middle of the dome. Bring webbing to rap off. One bolt was noticed high above this point in a blank area.
FA: Unkown, before 2005
9. **5.11a A0** 5 pitches **Beauty and the Beast** *Doubles to 3" and one 6"*.
P1 Go below the chinquapin and walk up the to base of the dome below the giant black holes. Follow a short ramp and corner on to a long ledge with a bush, belay from the left end of the ledge.
P2 Clip a low bolt and pull on the draw to get off the ledge, then head left onto the face and follow the bolts up to a two bolt anchor.
P3 Head left and slightly down into a corner and slab climb up to the huge ledge.
P4 Walk to the left end of the ledge until you see the vertical offwidth with a thin crack at the base. Climb the whole thing and belay once it's hand sized and about to disappear.
P5 Finish the crack, clip one bolt, then follow the easiest path to the summit.
FA: Vitaliy Musiyenko, Daniel Jeffcoach 4/14
10. **5.10 R A0** 5 pitches **Tokopah Adventure** *Small to medium gear, many slings for horns.*
P1 Same as Beauty and the Beast (Tokopah Adventure was the first route on the formation)
P2 Clip the first bolt and pull on it to get off the ledge. From this point the rest of the bolts are part of Beauty and the Beast, this route traverses up and left to a water chute and ascends it with a few slung horns for gear.
P3 A few more moves onto the big ledge, then walk way left to find the cracks that look like a tilted "X."
P4 Climb through the X cracks and up the featured face above, belay where you find gear or horns to sling.
P5 Make your way to the top.
FA: Hans Kegler 8/1992