

# CHIMNEY ROCKS

## SEKIclimbing.com

### Intro

The Chimney Rocks area is comprised of roughly six granite formations with routes from 1 pitch to 700 feet. There are dozens of beautiful climbs with everything from clean cracks to thin slab, and even some knobs. Many routes are trad, but close to 20 of the routes on Crystal Wall are bolted so there is something for everyone.

Chimney Spire, the most popular formation, has at least thirteen routes of it's own, with Duet (5.8++) being the most popular. The other formations include Chimney Rock, Crystal Wall, Dinner Wall, The Monk, Moccasin Ridge, and Sasquatch Spire. The area has a sporadic first ascent record as attention grew and waned over the years. Many of the routes were pioneered by employees at a nearby Christian Camp that is now closed.

Although the area has some of the best, and most easily accessed, climbing in SEKI, it only has a short window when it is open. The dirt road accessing the formations closes with the first snow and the entire area is closed during peregrine nesting season from April 1<sup>st</sup> to August 15<sup>th</sup> (or until nesting has ended). It is still possible to ski the road when the gates are closed but please do not enter the area during the falcon closure. Crystal Wall used to remain open year-round but climbers abused the privilege and went into closed areas, resulting in a complete seasonal shutdown of the area. Work is being done to regain the trust of the forest service so please do not jeopardize access for everyone. For closure updates and information you can reach Sequoia National Forest wildlife biologist Jeff Cordes at (559) 338-2251 x380.

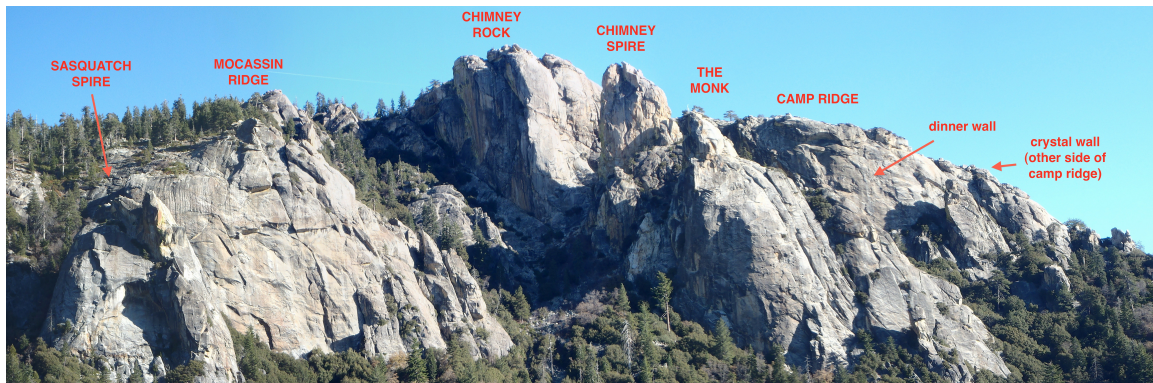
### Directions

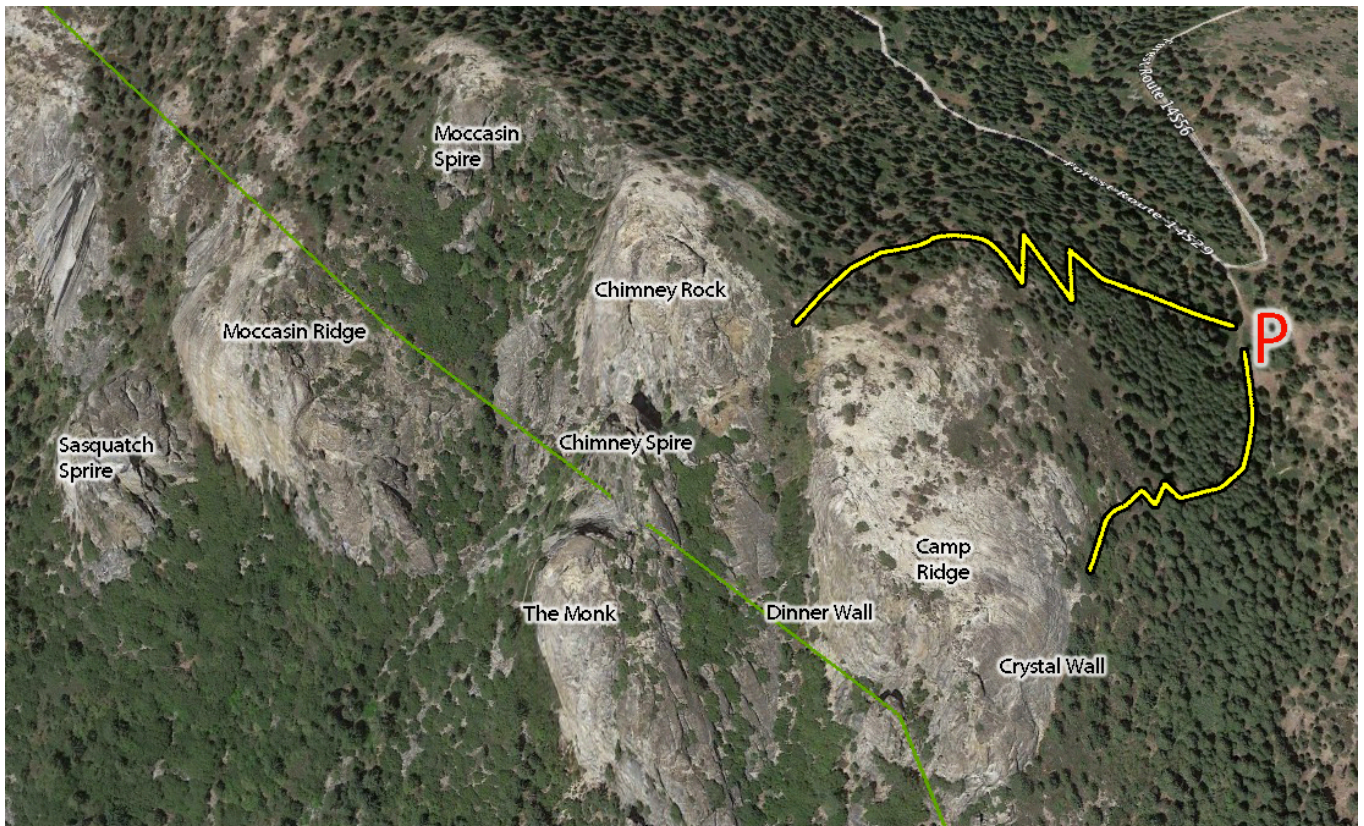
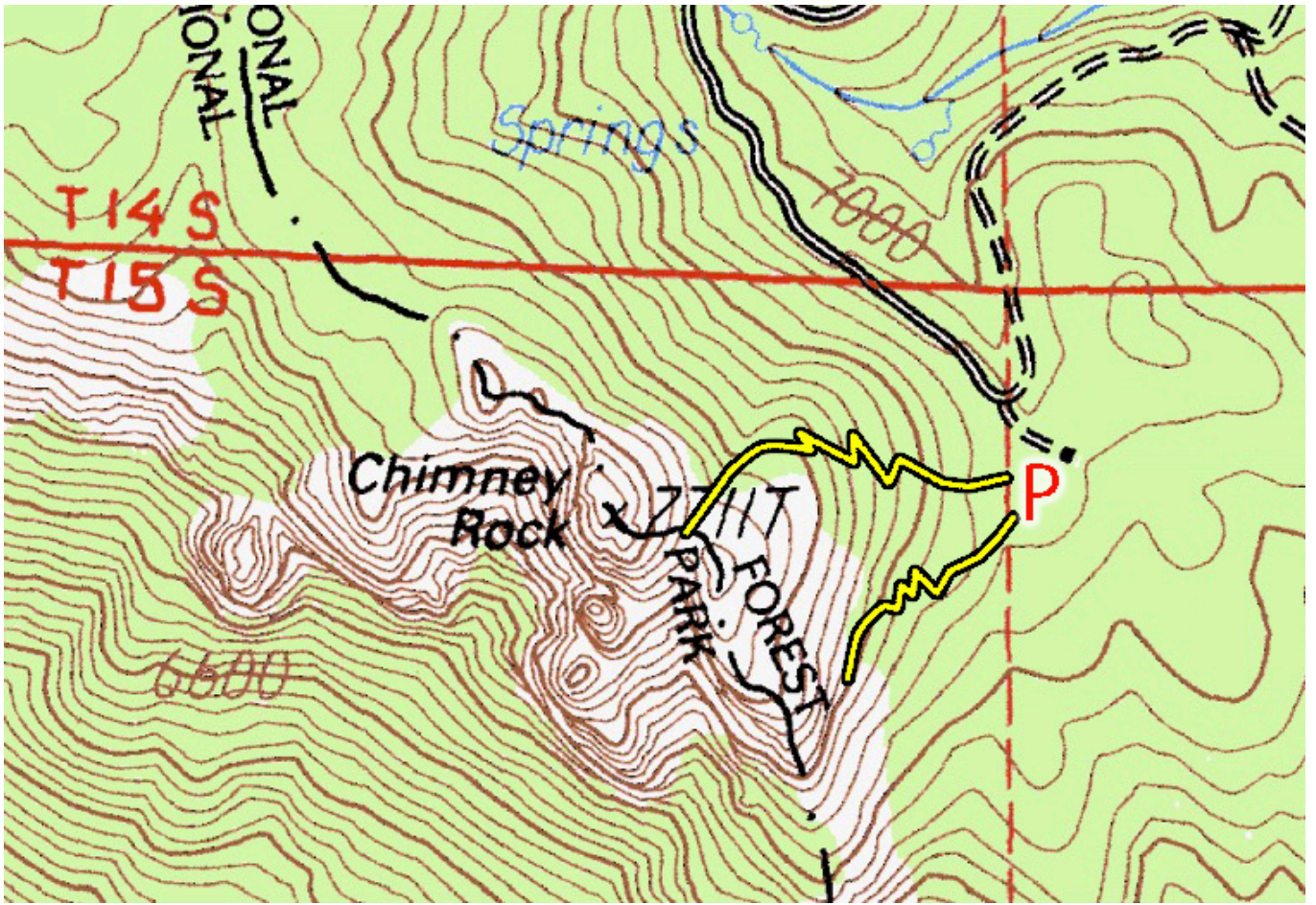
From Fresno take highway 180 east into Kings Canyon National Park. From Visalia take highway 198 east into Sequoia National Park. The two highways are connected and called the Generals Highway within the parks,

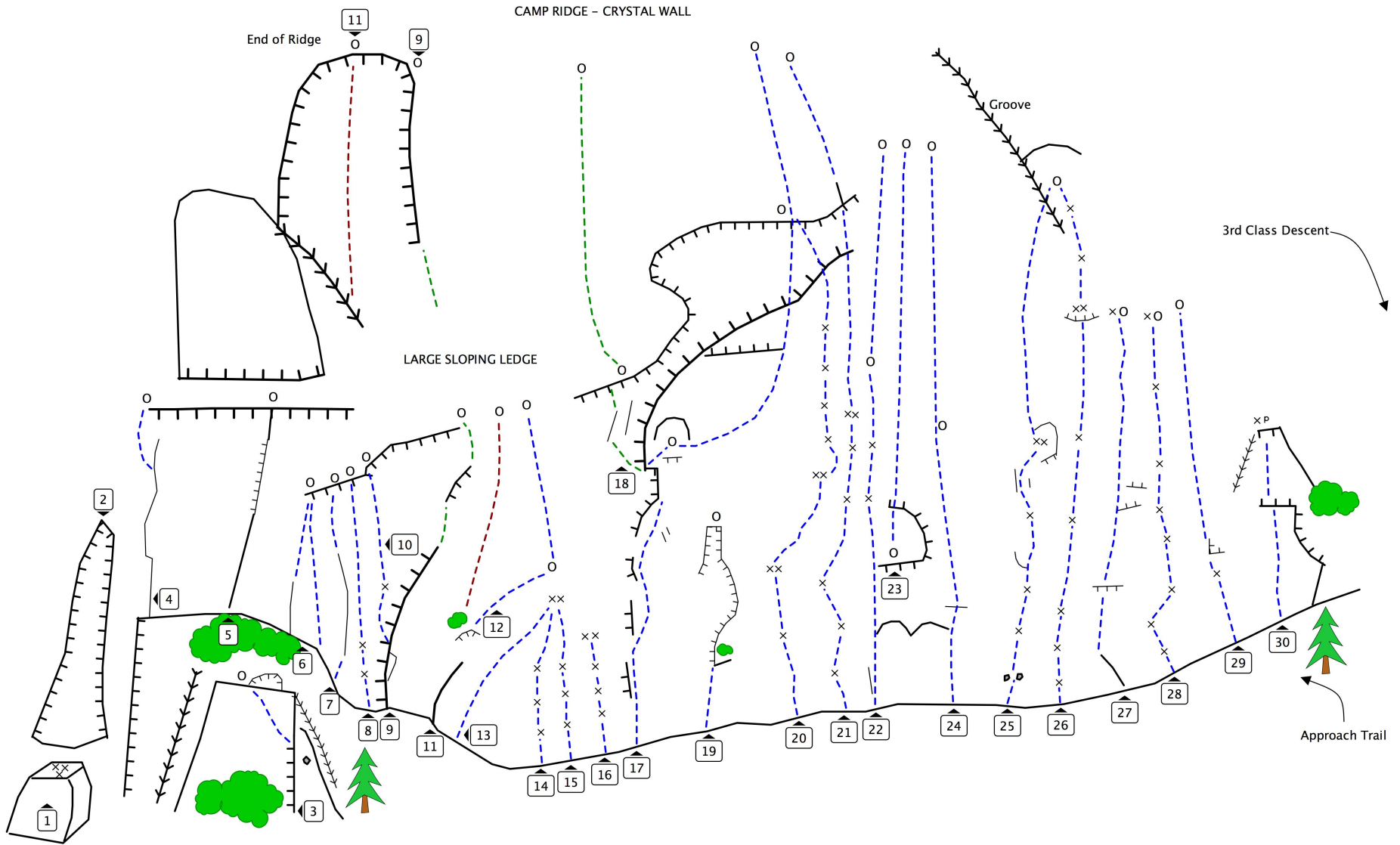
From the Generals Highway between the Big Baldy trailhead and the Stony Creek Lodge, take Road 14S29 West. There is a sign that reads "National Forest Organizational Camps, San Joaquin Far Horizons." Follow the main road and signs for about four miles until the road makes a hard left down the hill and begins to worsen. Just before this turn a spur continues off the right side of the road to the parking area.

At this point you can take a trail (by the old sign post) south to approach via Crystal Wall (10 min), or West to approach via Camp Ridge to the notch above Chimney Rock Spire (20 min). The trail West leaves from the north side of a downed tree that blocks part of the loop at the end of the road. The two trails can be connected by scrambling along the north side of Crystal Wall. Follow the path of least resistance to other formations, which are usually accessed from the top.

See the maps for more detail and be sure to pay attention on the approach. Although it's short and looks easy, several people have gotten lost on the way back to the car and been benighted.







Made with BearSketch

## CHIMNEY ROCKS – CRYSTAL WALL

1. **5.4-4.11** 1 pitch **Practice Climbs** *Top ropes*. . Not drawn to scale or location. A small jagged rock at the end of Crystal Wall has a few bolts on top to practice several styles of climbing.  
FA: Paul Corwin, Menzo Baird, 1972-1980
2. **5.5-5.10+** 1-2 pitches **Low E's Baby** *Standard rack, some aid gear for the NW face*. At the end of the wall is a small, leaning pinnacle that doesn't really look like the topo. SE Face: 5.10+ cracks. Corner: 5.5. NW Face: Dirty crack to difficult free climbing and some aid, then one easy pitch to the summit.  
FA: Willis, Willis, 1974
3. **5.7** 1 pitch **Snakehole** *Singles*.  
Short, right facing corner with a pocket on a little buttress at the end of the wall.  
FA: Corwin, 1972
4. **5.5** 2 pitches **Dry Run** *Small to 3"*. Start on the right side of a flake at the end of the wall. Go up for a couple pitches.  
FA: Sea and Summit Expeditions as a practice multipitch climb, 1974
5. **5.5** 1 pitch **Deep Jam** *Gear from small to 3"*. Scramble through a brushy ledge to reach a low angle crack.  
FA: Unknown
6. **5.8** 1 pitch **Maxwell Must Go Free** *small gear*.  
A short, vague crack at the far left side of the main wall. Alternate toprope to the right of the crack.  
FA: Joel Despain, Tim Slover, Dale Haskamp, 7/88
7. **5.8** 1 pitch **Sapped** *Small gear, possibly two old bolts*. Climb up the face to a flaring crack that may have a couple old bolts but aren't drawn on the topo. First crack left of the large dihedral.  
FA: Tim Slover, Joel Despain, 7/88
8. **5.8+** 1 pitch **Maxwell's Broken Hammer** *Small gear and two bolts*.  
Climb up past the right side of the two bolts that are left of the large dihedral. End at the ledge.  
FA: Tim Slover, 1988
9. **5.9** 2 pitches **Magic Carpet Ride** *Nuts and singles to 4"*.  
P1 Find the obvious right facing dihedral on the far left. Stay in it, enter the black hole, then continue in the dihedral until it ends and scramble on the large ledge.  
P2 Easy climbing up to and along the large right facing corner.  
FA: Chuck Finch, Steve Finch, Brian Smith
10. **5.10b/c** 1 pitch **No Pest Strip** *Small gear, on 2" piece and draw for a bolt*. Start in the large dihedral of Magic Carpet ride but exit left before the chimney, pass a pocket, and clip the bolt on the ledge. Can continue up unprotected terrain if you want but the bolt is really the end.  
FA: Tim Slover 1988
11. **5.7** 2 pitches **Black Irish** *OW gear if your uncomfortable with wide, slings for knobs, singles*.  
P1 Start up the wide crack and face climb above the bush to the large ledge.  
P2 Face climb up the end of the ridge, to the left of the big right facing dihedral.  
FA: Mike Miller, Jane O'Scainlon 9/88
12. **5.7** 2-3 pitches **Hoop Snake** *Slings for knobs, small gear and wide gear if you're uncomfortable with the easy OW at the start*.  
P1 Climb the wide crack up to the shrub and traverse right on knobs to belay about 20 feet above a two bolt anchor.  
P2 Follow knobs up to the large ledge and climb another easy pitch straight up to the summit if desired.  
FA: Amos Clifford, Glen Cambron 1974
13. **5.?** 1 pitch **Unknown** *Toprope*. Toprope the face to the right of the wide crack using the anchors for routes 14 and 15. Very easy, sometimes used as the approach to set up a toprope for other routes.  
FA: Unknown
14. **5.10b** 1 pitch **Rick's Trick** *3 bolts* Start at the lowest point in the trail along the base. The top is about 60 feet up.  
FA: Rick Mosher 1980s

15. **5.11** 1 pitch **Tucson Shuffle** *3 bolts* 15 feet right of the low point and Rick's Trick, climb steep face for 60 feet to two bolt anchor.  
FA: Eric Rhicard, Chuck Chapman 6/89
16. **5.12** 1 pitch **Lovestruck** *3 bolts* First route to the left of the dihedral, 3 bolts to a 2 bolts belay.  
FA: Louie Anderson (not the comedian), Carla James 7/89
17. **5.9R** 3 pitches **The Mistake** *Standard rack and slings for knobs*  
P1 Climb the obvious dihedral and belay when the dihedral curves right.  
P2 Difficult, unprotected traverse right and go over the roof near its end.  
P3 Easy knobs and face up.  
FA: Unknown
18. **5.9** 3 pitches **Romeo Escapes** *Standard Rack and slings for knobs*  
P1 Same as The Mistake  
P2 Go left past the dihedral and then up knobs to the ledge.  
P3 Up easy terrain to the summit  
FA: Mike Miller, Amos Clifford 9/88
19. **5.7** 1 pitch **Give Them Cairo** *Small to medium gear* Climb up either side of the small pinnacle to the right of the obvious dihedral. Rap or continue up 5.9R to the summit.  
FA: Unknown
20. **5.8** 3 pitches **Crystal** *Bolts and a few cams or nuts*  
P1 Start on the prominent bulge to the right of the small pillar. 3 bolts and the second two are closely spaced.  
P2 (can be combined with P1) Another bolted pitch to a ledge.  
P3 Continue up or follow the ledge to the summit.  
FA: Mosher, Joe Roland. The crystal is now in someone's living room in Exeter.
21. **5.8+** 2 pitches **Harmonic Balance** *Bolts and some small gear*  
P1 To the right of the bulge that marks the start of Crystal, and just down and left of the alcove. The 1<sup>st</sup> bolt is 15 feet up from the left edge of a small ledge. 5 bolts to the anchor.  
P2 Easy but difficult to protect terrain past one bolt to the large ledge.  
FA: Dave Hickey, Art Degoede, Rene Ardesch 7/89
22. **5.8+** 2 pitches **First Need** *Singles, slings for knobs, a couple draws.*  
P1 Find the downward facing horizontal crack below the alcove, climb up the left side of it, past the alcove, then up past two bolts and belay anywhere.  
P2 Continue up knobs to the top.  
FA: Dave Hickey, EC Joe 1984
23. **5.8** 2 pitches **Without** *Singles and slings for knobs.*  
P1 Start the first pitch of First Need and belay in the alcove instead of climbing past it.  
P2 Climb directly up the steep face and knob to the top.  
FA: Dave Hickey, EC Joe 1984
24. **5.7** 2 pitches **Batteries Not Included** *Small gear, one 3.5" piece and slings for knobs.*  
P1 Start below the right end of the horizontal crack under the alcove, climb past it and go up and right to another horizontal crack and then go straight up and belay where convenient.  
P2 Continue up knobs.  
FA: Tim Slover 5/88
25. **5.7** 2 pitches **Pop-A-Top** *Draws, small to medium gear.*  
P1 Start at the two basketball-sized holes about 8 feet off the ground. Climbs past a few bolts and some gear to a bolted anchor with rap rings.  
P2 Easy knob climbing to the top.  
FA: Mosher, Amos Clifford 1980s
26. **5.10a** 2 pitches **He's Got Marty Feldman Eyes** *Draws, Singles from 0.5-2".*  
P1 In between a left arching crack and the holes on Pop-A-Top. Climb past 3 tightly spaced bolts and continue up using a few bolts and some gear. Belay at a bolted anchor with rap rings.  
P2 Rap off with two ropes or continue up easy climbing to the right of a groove past a couple old bolts to the summit.  
FA: EC Joe, Veronica Hawke, Vaughn Schultz 7/89
27. **5.8 PG13** 1 pitch **Placebo** *Small gear.* Start in the 8 foot left leaning crack and go through an alcove and up the face. Possible to climb P2 of He's Got Marty Feldman Eyes to the top.

FA: EC Joe, Dave Hickey 1984

28. **5.10** 1 pitch **Ask Mr. Lizard** *Small gear and 7 bolts.* Start to the right of the left leaning crack, a few feet down past the oak on the approach. Bolts, knobs and a steep headwall to the anchor.

FA: Herb Laegar, Eric Rhicard 6/89

29. **5.7** 1 pitch **Unknown** *One bolt and small to medium gear.* One of the furthest right routes. Pass a bolt and go through a small roof.

FA: Dave Kelley, Hendricks

30. **5.4** 1 pitch **Rehearsal** *Standard rack.* Many variations up the far right of the wall to a small ledge with a bolt and pin.

FA: Corwin 1973