

SQUIRREL CREEK  
MINERAL KING

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FOR YOURSELF  
THANKS**



ROCK CLIMBING

## **SQUIRREL CREEK**

### **MINERAL KING ROAD**

**2017 TO 2018**

**Dan Dellinges – Larry Zulim – Bryan Lang**

From the people that brought you the climbs of Danland, welcome to the Squirrel Creek climbing site. Visible only from the Valhalla Area of Danland, these climbs are on private property of the Mitchell Ranch. As the area around Squirrel Creek is already used by the public for many recreational activities, John Mitchell is allowing climbers to also use the area. However, fires of any kind and camping are not permitted.

Parking is at the Squirrel Creek, mile 9.15, a very short distance below the two Danland parking sites. Less than four minutes hiking up the left side of the creek, will bring you to the climbs. There are two groups of cliffs with more than 24 climbs. The climbs are just under a half-pitch, so top roping is fairly straight forward. The left side climbs can be led directly from the base and accessed from the top via a trail leading left and up. There is one fixed rappel point, (note the stainless steel chain and ring), along with several bolted sport type belay anchors to service the climbs below. The right side climbs can be accessed from the trail below. These climbs are set up with top-rope sport anchors and should only be accessed from the base via the climbs. This is because the water line for the Mitchell Ranch is directly above and top use may cause erosion to the soil supporting the water line trail. Also, there is a lot of poison oak above the anchors. You really do not want to go up there.

And of course the disclaimer- Climbing is a dangerous activity. It is a chosen activity, subject to so many variables that it falls to an individuals' decision to participate, and although equipment can fail, the failure point can often be attributed to an individuals' error in judgement. You control that single most important variable. Climbing can be safe, you decide.

### **THE ROUTES**

#### **LEFT SIDE:**

- A. 5.7** This route is behind the left end of this cliff. - Follow cracks up a short ramp and over a short roof to the large ledge of the Rocky climb. Follow Rocky corner to the sport belay.
- B. 5.7** Just left of Rocky is a short flake narrowing to a thin crack which ends quickly. Face climbing to the arete on the left also leads to the large ledge and the upper portion of Rocky.

**C. Rocky** - 5.7, jam crack. An obvious jam crack with a difficult start, that splits right at a large flake. You can use both cracks to climb up and left to a ledge. Move left to a corner and climb the slab to the sport anchor. Can be top-roped with a 60 meter rope.

**D. Mitchell Crack** - 5.8, jam crack/face. This crack is just left of the rappel gully and right of Rocky. The route is an obvious crack leading up to a traversing ledge, following up and right to another crack leading to two bolts on an arête. Climb up this arête to the belay/rappel on the right. Use the last bolt as a directional for top roping. Climbing the arête straight up is the most difficult however, just off the left are large "chicken" holds that will also work. Although short, all these climbs along the left side are much steeper than they appear.

**E. The Grinder** - 5.7, Cracks lead up the gully just right of Mitchell Crack. You can use the first upper bolt of the Mitchell Crack as it is within reach. Also bring a 4" or 5" cam for the upper section. The climb is steeper than it looks. You can also exit the climb via the upper headwall of Morgana on the right.

**F. Morgana** - 5.9, A-1. This route follows the cracks on the right side of the Grinder gully. The cracks lead to a small corner and shallow alcove. Using bolts placed close together, aid or pull through to a traversing crack on the left. Climb the very steep headwall to the summit. It appears possible that this route could go free so the bolts are placed to protect such an effort.

**G. Secret Squirrel** - 5.11, a flared, slightly overhung finger crack. The crux over the roof is best climbed as a lie-back. This climb is the first climb you see as you get to the base. Although small pro is used on the lower part of the climb, save a couple of #1 red C-4s for above. There is a hidden, painful, and still difficult flared section above. The belay is on the flat above and can be used to top rope. Be aware that the rope is easily jammed in the cracks formed by the large roof block. It is not recommended to pull the rope down from below as the rope will get stuck.

**H. Bullwinkle** - 5.7, a well protected 5 bolt chimney leads to a two bolt belay only. Links are on the hangers to identify the anchor but there is no rappel rig, as the rope will get jammed. No cams, just bolts on the outside, left side. Keep to the outside just enough to reach the bolts. Avoid the large blocks at the top by climbing left, then right to the belay. It is not recommended to pull the rope down from the belay as it may get stuck. The anchor can be used to top rope.

**I. Silent Squirrel** - 5.11, bolts protect this difficult fingertip under cling, to a thinning crack which leads over a small roof, to face climbing. Follow knobs up and left to the steep arête. Climb that arête to the top rope anchor and lower. We had to use this type of anchor here because the quality of the rock above was unsuitable and unsafe. You can use a few cams in the crack, in addition to the bolts if you wish, but they will not add much.

**J. Treeson** - (5.11) – in progress. (spelling is intentional). This climb uses the crack/seam just right of Silent Squirrel. So far, attempts to climb this route have involved using the adjacent tree to chimney to the mantel at the top of the roof. The seam is then followed up to a small roof. Face climbing leads over the roof to a corner and probable top rope anchor. We have not yet decided. The route can currently be

top roped from Silent Squirrel. The miss-spelling is intentional. Still needs to be bolted for leading. The misspelling is intentional.

As the trail approaches the main left side, another trail splits right and leads to the climbs on the right side. A very short trail. There are climbs between the two main cliffs, but they are very short and have not been developed. There is one nice looking but short chimney/off-width.

#### **RIGHT SIDE:**

As the trail intersects the main cliff the first climb is encountered, known as Brian's Song. The trail leading left goes to several climbs under development, a 5.8, and two 5.6s or 7s. They are short and have top rope/sport anchors. This is the beginning of the cliff section we expect climbers to not walk off. We would like to avoid any erosion that could interfere with the private water line above. Also, again there is a lot of poison oak up there. So, all the anchors are top rope and sport combinations. Most are at least two 3/8"x3 1/2" stainless steel wedge bolts, minimum. (a few are plated steel)

- A. Paul's Crack – (5.8+) - A very nice crack beginning in the far left corner of the right side. There is a sport anchor. No ledge.
- B. On the Edge – (5.7) - The climb follows the large corner, left of the large flake with a "trap door" feature at the top. Staying left climb up and follow the arcing crack left to the belay at Paul's Crack.
- C. The Trap Door – (5.7) – Left side and Right side 5.7. The left side follows a crack that may or may not have a very old and dead tree blocking it. Follow that crack to the "trap door" and keeping left to the bolt belay. The right side goes up a nice ramp then over a small roof into a very wide crack, a bolt protects this section. Climb up and onto the "trap door" feature. The "trap door" is a very solid block broken from the top of the large slab creating a small bridge like structure. Follow the cracks on the right to the shared belay with the left side. The left side has the large and very dead tree trunk solidly imbedded into the lower cracks at the base. The anchor has sport clips with a nice ledge.
- D. Bryan's song - 5.10+. Mostly face climbing but begins in a left facing corner to a slopping ledge. Mantle over the hump and face climb to a short crack. After the crack ends, climb up and right, then traverse to the Hawk Man anchor.
- E. Dream on - 5.10 a or b plus two A-1 bolts. There is some nice crack climbing in the middle of this climb, which is just to the right of Brian's song. Two bolts on the face lead up a very blank, and so far unclimbable, face to a nice corner. Simply pull through these two bolts to a finger lie-back. Follow this corner to its end and face climb up and right, then left to the Hawk Man anchor.
- F. Hawk man - 5.11. Follow the very prominent left-leaning and flared corner, left of the very large Scorpion roof. Begin off a short ramp and a nice diagonal right arching crack, to cracks leading straight

up the left side of the roof. There will be some difficulty entering the left side of the flared section due to a lack of foot holds and rock polish. The jams are very good but fatiguing. Use Cams from ½" to 2". The Hawk Man anchor is both a top rope and sport rig. There is a fixed directional for top-roping.

**G. Scorpion roof - 5.11.** The climbing to the roof is about 5.7 or 5.8. Don't step on the moss or it gets harder. There is a top rope/sport anchor on top above the roof. The bolt on the wall to the right of the roof is a directional for top roping and sport use. It is necessary to keep the ropes from cutting or jamming on lead and top roping. Also, when pulling the rope down, pull from the directional side, without knots, to avoid sticking the rope. We will have a fixed sport clip there for that purpose. So far, climbers are climbing off the roof to the right using the upper portion of Batman.

**H. Batman - 5.11.** Overhanging off-width or lie-back, after the difficult flared chimney. This climb begins just right of the Scorpion roof, in the obvious flared chimney. Take care of several loose blocks that may or may not still be in place above. The route goes up to the large 4" crack/flake just right of the Scorpion roof. It is solid, not expanding. Cams can be used in the lower part of this climb to a bolt that protects the hardest part of the chimney. Left of the large overhanging crack is a bolt to protect from falling into the chimney. Cam placement will be required for the rest of the climb. Be sure to clip the directional as you climb to the belay bolts to avoid sticking your rope.

**I. The nose – A-1 –** This route was developed as training route for Aid techniques and hanging belays. The route is all bolts placed closely, and is very steep, (overhanging). There is a hanging belay, no ledge. Here you can climb the "nose" in a day.

**J. Wasp - 5.8, off-width.** Very wide and difficult to protect. Take several large cams, at least one each of #6, and #5. A higher crack above can be used to climb but is not strong enough for pro. There are at least five bolts to protect the more difficult sections. Some of these bolts are not easy to see. Falls without the bolts would cause significant injury. A very nice sport/top rope anchor awaits. This is a very good route with minimal off-width exposure. You are going to be surprised at how steep this route and many of the others are.

**K. Beyond - 5.10 so far.** It is in progress. The route follows cracks over the roof just right of Wasp. The difficulty is in the mid region of the wall. The top rope/sport anchor is already in, just to the right of the Wasp anchor, and requires the use of a lead/directional bolt already placed below the anchor. Two lower bolts have started the route.

**L. Jam Crack - 5.8, jam crack.** This is the next major crack to the right of Wasp. The route begins with a combination of jamming and stemming to get over a large but solid block. Look for the edges. The start is difficult so use a cam at the start to avoid ankle and belayer damage. Follow the crack to the sport/top rope belay anchors. H, I, and J route share this same anchor. Cams from ½" to 2" will protect this classic jam crack climb.

**M. Toe-in Toe-out - 5.10, crack, face, seam, face.** This route begins just right of the Jam Crack and follows thin cracks over a roof. Above the roof follow the crack up and right to a nice ledge. This is

where the route joins Butter Fingers and face climbing to the belay. Cams can be used on the bottom section below the roof. Bolts will protect the upper section.

**N. Butter Fingers - 5.11,** Begin at the crack/ramp on the right, just below The newt mantle route. Follow the ramp then up the crack/seam to where it joins Toe-in and Toe-out. Follow the bolts to the belay.

**O. The Newt Mantel - 5.10+.** A difficult climb involving a tricky mantel near the top. Begin on the large ramp/crack from its right side to a thin crack/seam. Following this seam to a left traversing crack that provide a bit of a rest. Stem upwards to a bulging mantel. Using tricky holds, climb over the mantel, which is the crux, to the belay above. All bolts, five.

**P. The Far Side - 5.9+,** face. This route follows the far right side of the cliff, just right of the Newt mantle. Large holds seem easy until reaching the upper steep section. Climb via top-rope from the Newt mantle

There is a gully further right of the Far Side that gives access to a short crack and mantel allowing for easy, but roped access to the Far Side belay. From that belay there is easy swing access to the Butter Fingers belay. This is just another way to acquire the top rope/sport anchors for practicing those harder routes.

There is also a small dome to the right that has several short routes that we have not yet explored. There are also steep and overhanging short cliffs, at the creek, across from the "Right Side" cliff area.

These folks had a part in the development of Squirrel Creek: Thanks to; Caroline Lilly, Paul Weber, Christina Davis, Kevin and Heather Berkholt, and Bryan Lang.

We still have not seen a Squirrel here. We could have named it Pterodactyl Creek as we have seen just as many of those.

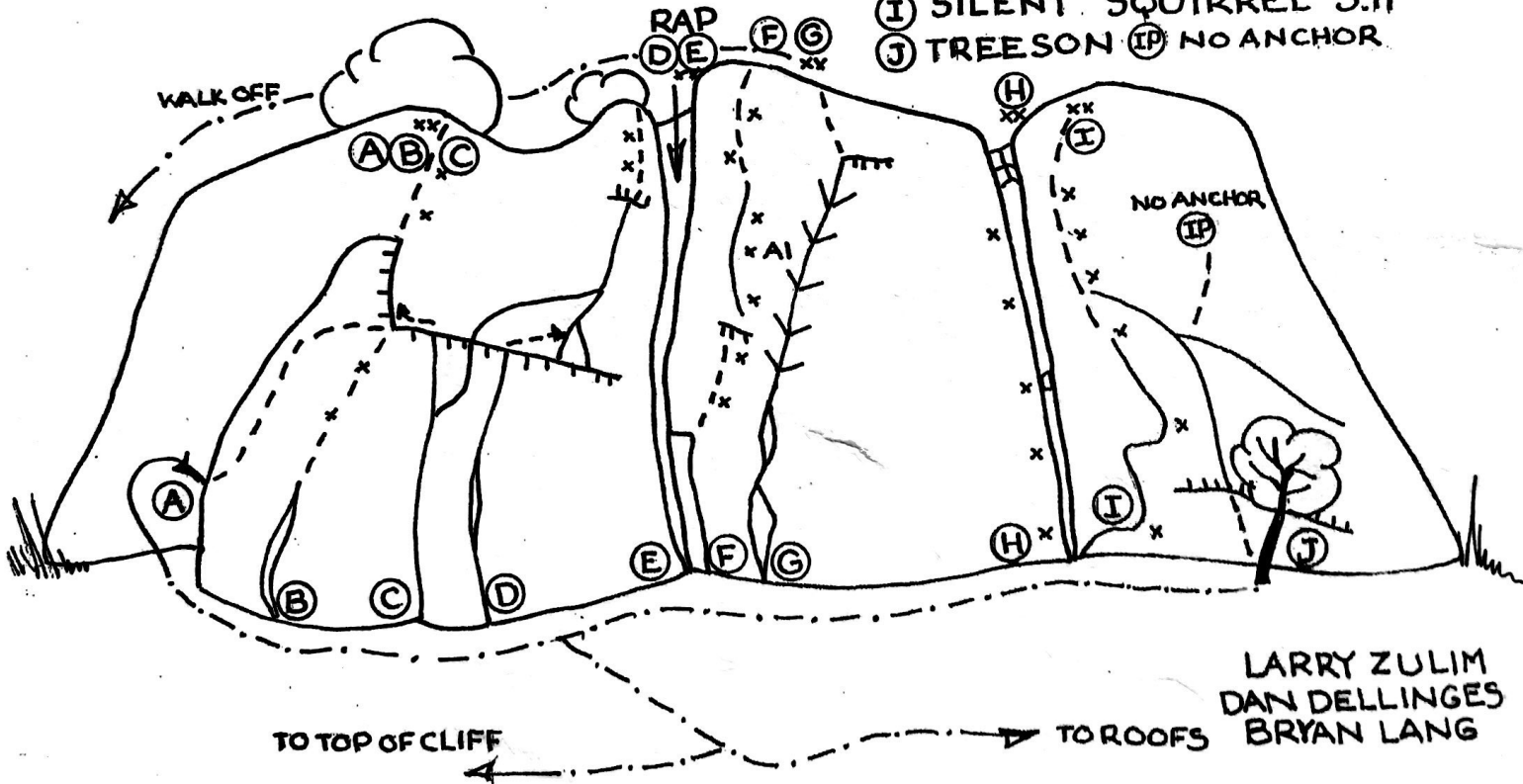
We found car keys on a carabiner at the climbs. If yours, describe and I'll ship.

Dan

# SQUIRREL CREEK MINERAL KING

MITCHELL RANCH  
PRIVATE PROPERTY  
NO FIRES NO CAMPING  
THANKS

- (A) A-5.7
- (B) B-5.7
- (C) ROCKY 5.7
- (D) MITCHELL CRACK 5.7
- (E) GRINDER 5.7
- (F) MORGANA 5.9 AI
- (G) SECRET SQUIRREL 5.11
- (H) BULLWINKEL 5.7
- (I) SILENT SQUIRREL 5.11
- (J) TREESON (IP) NO ANCHOR

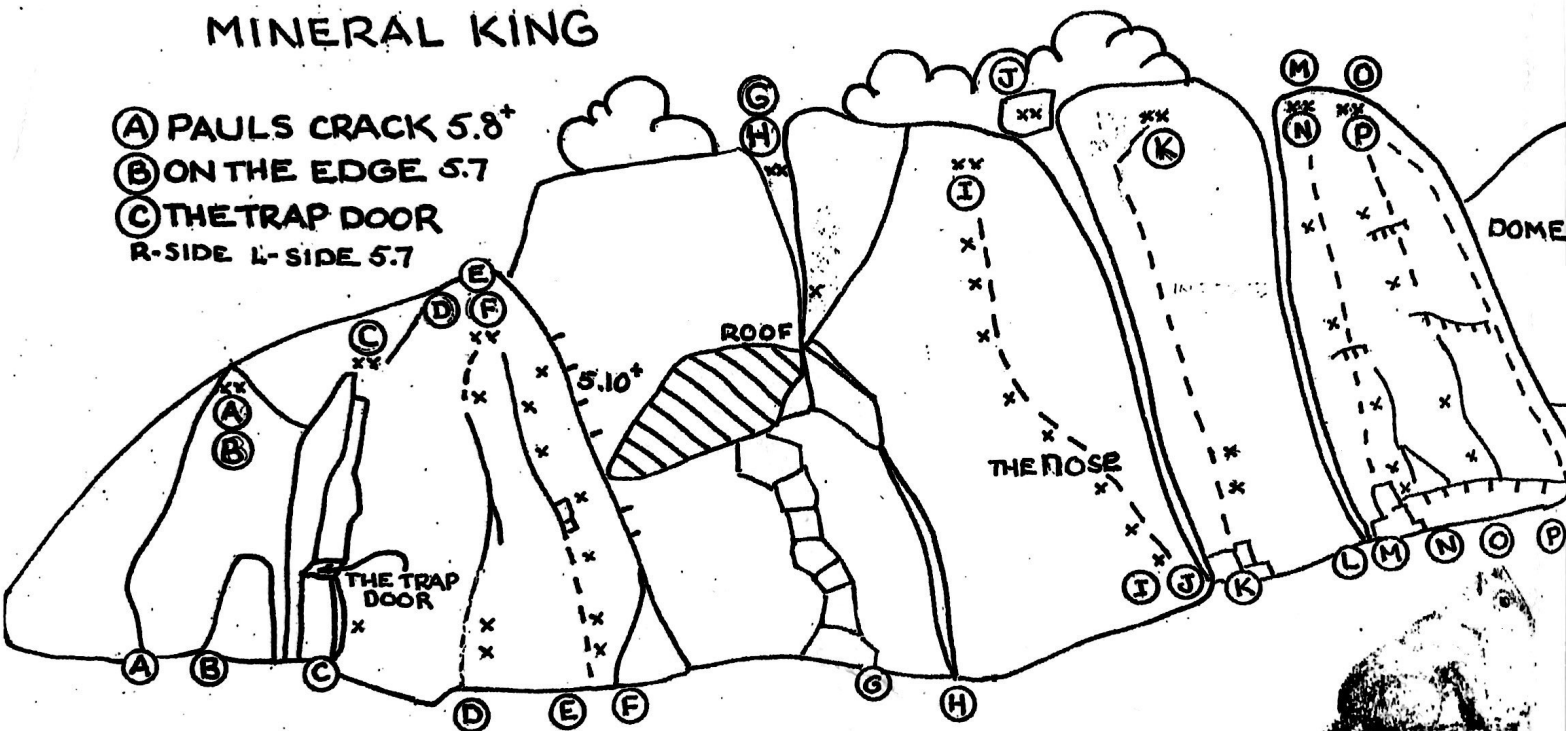


LARRY ZULIM  
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# SQUIRREL CREEK

## MINERAL KING

- (A) PAULS CRACK 5.8+
- (B) ON THE EDGE 5.7
- (C) THE TRAP DOOR  
R-SIDE L-SIDE 5.7



- (D) BRYANS SONG 5.10+
- (E) DREAM ON 5.10A1
- (F) HAWK MAN 5.10+
- (G) SCORPION ROOF 5.11
- (H) BATMAN 5.11
- (I) THE NOSE - PRACTICE AID CLIMB A1
- (J) WASP 5.8

- (K) BEYOND (I)
- (L) JAM CRACK 5.8
- (M) TOE IN TOE OUT 5.10
- (N) BUTTER FINGERS 5.10+
- (O) NEWT MANTEL 5.11
- (P) THE FAR SIDE 5.9+TR