

## THE WATCHTOWER

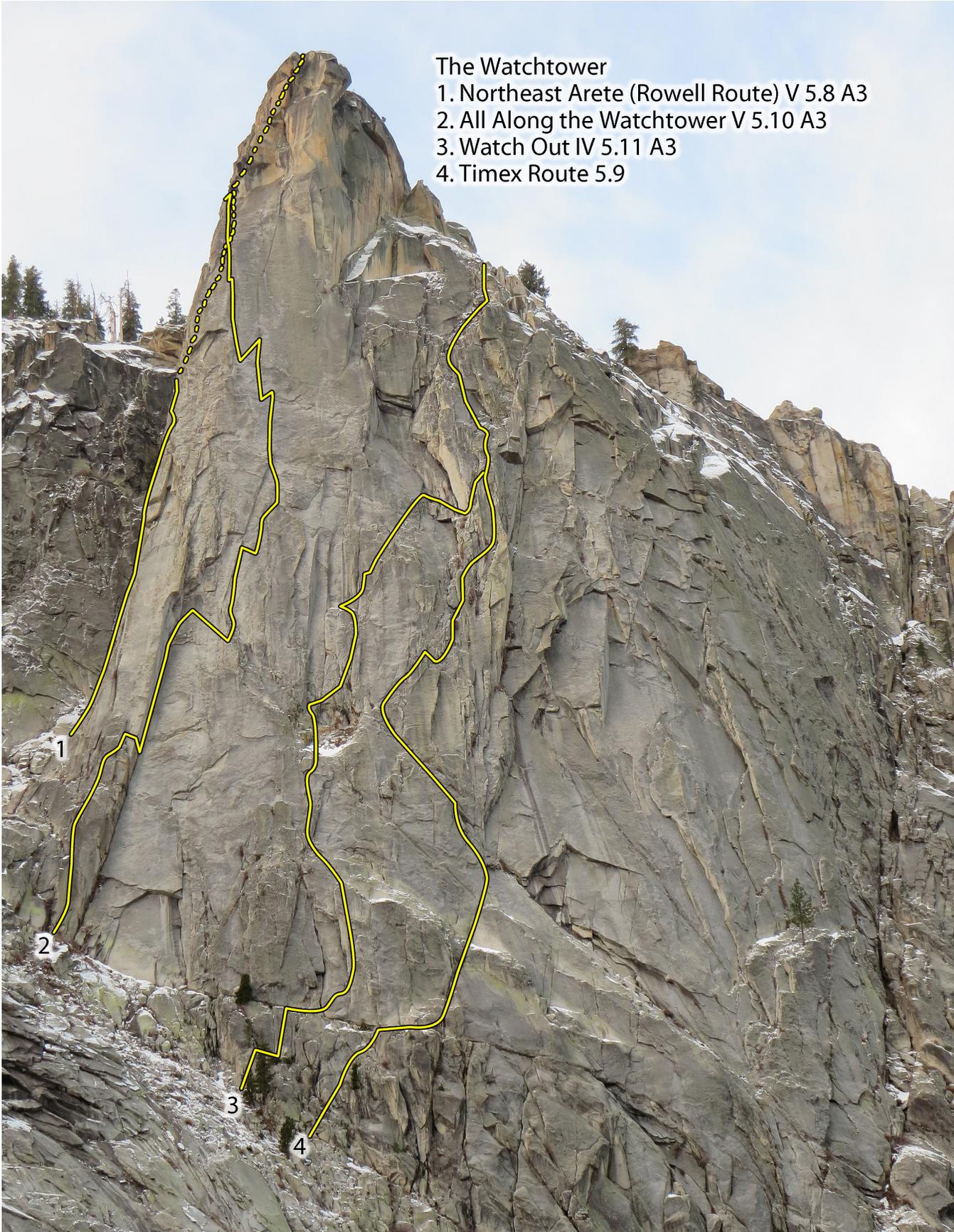
### **Intro**

The Watchtower in Tokopah Valley adds a new dimension to the local climbing. The north side of the valley has featured domes, long slabs and some crack climbing, but The Watchtower is closer to the alpine realm. Some pitches can be vegetated or loose but the formation is predominately solid granite and begs to be climbed when you first see it. Only four routes have been recorded up the main face. However, there are cracks and a few scattered bolts along the slabs at the base. Any information on these climbs would be appreciated.

### **Directions**

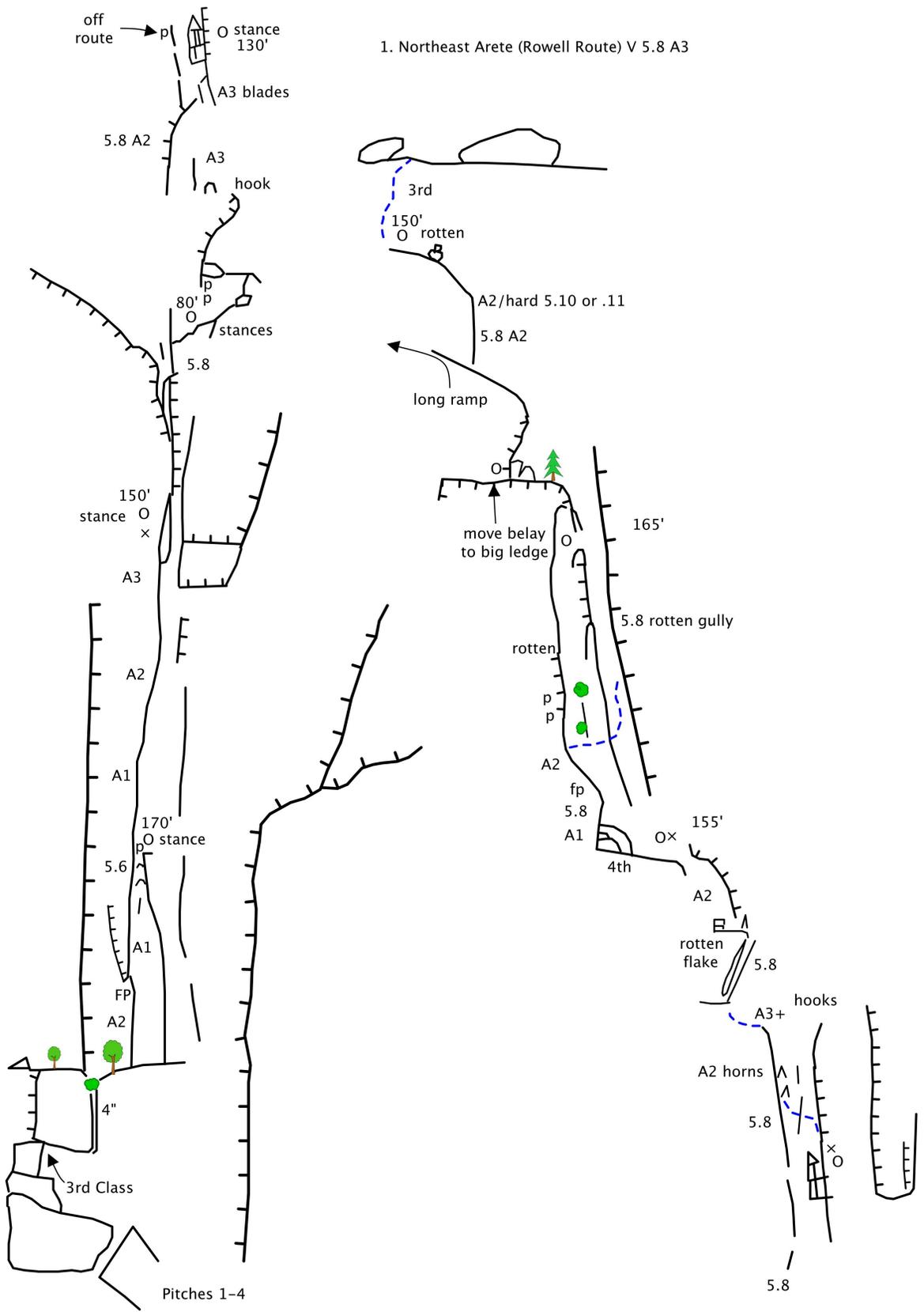
From Lodgepole take the Tokopah Falls trail east for 1.7 miles. At or near the end of the trail cross the river to its south side and scramble up to the base. If the river is too high to cross it is possible, but not enjoyable, to go cross country from the parking lot to The Watchtower along the southern bank of the river.

Once on top the best way to descend is to take the Pear Lake trail west for two miles towards Wolverton and then a spur of this trail will take you another mile down to Lodgepole.

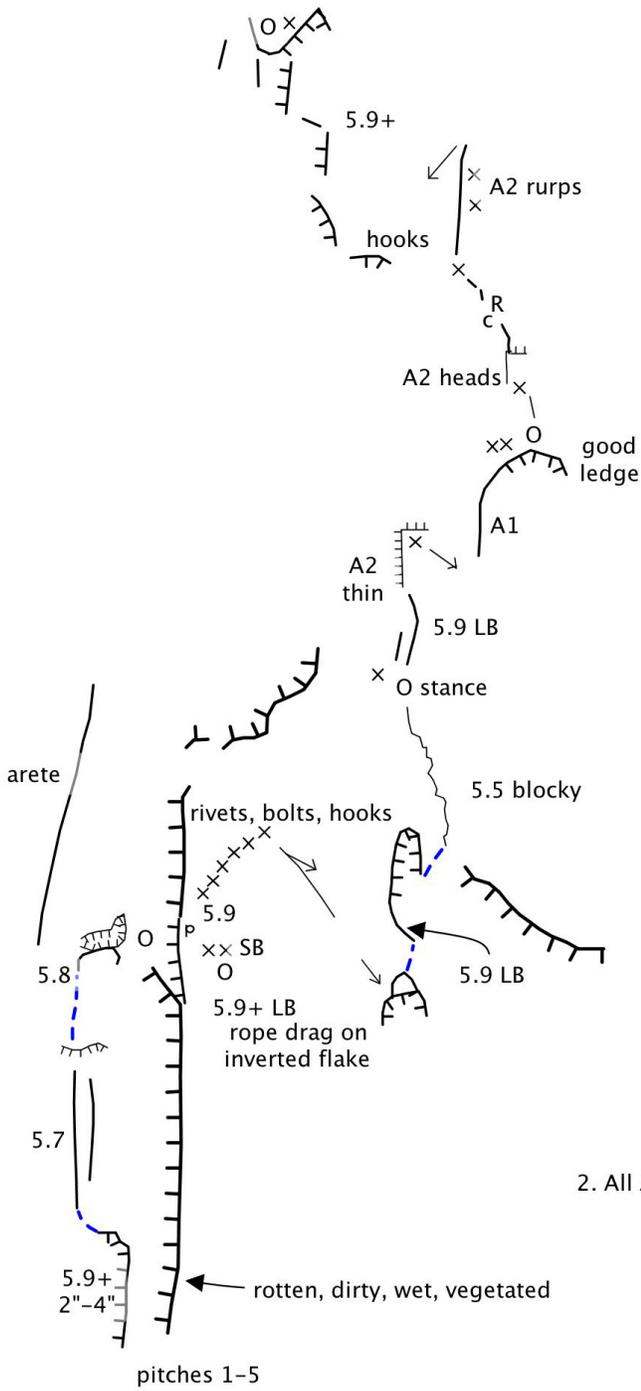


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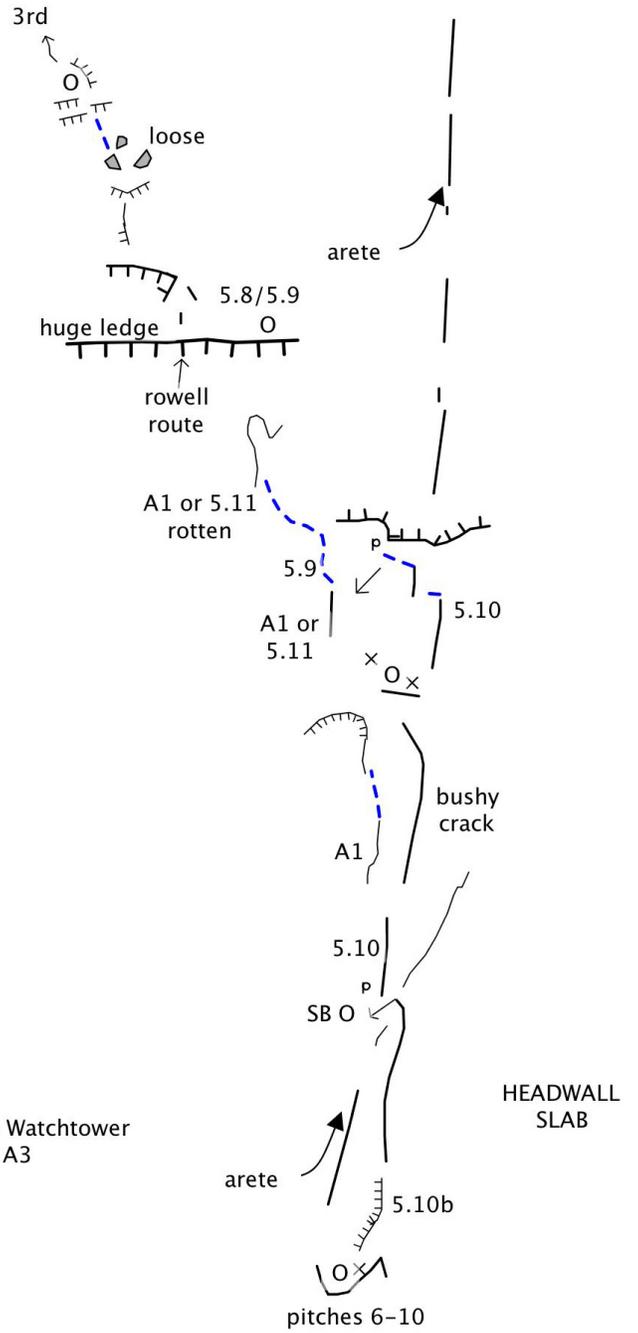
- 1. Northeast Arete (Rowell Route) V 5.8 A3
- 2. All Along the Watchtower V 5.10 A3
- 3. Watch Out IV 5.11 A3
- 4. Timex Route 5.9

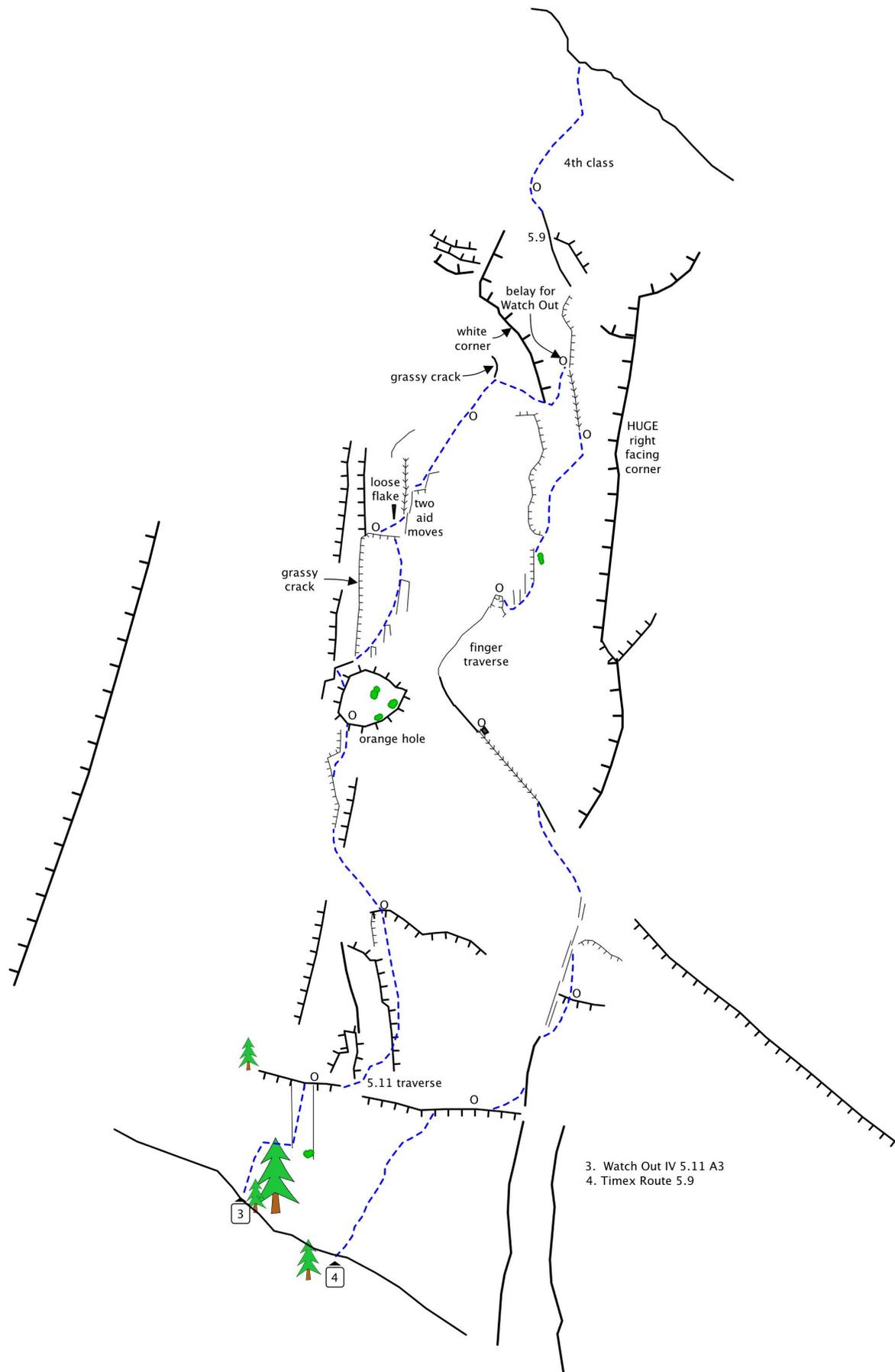


1. Northeast Arete (Rowell Route) V 5.8 A3



2. All Along The Watchtower  
V 5.10 A3





4th class

5.9

belay for Watch Out

white corner

grassy crack

HUGE right facing corner

loose flake

two aid moves

grassy crack

finger traverse

orange hole

5.11 traverse

3. Watch Out IV 5.11 A3  
4. Timex Route 5.9

3

4

## THE WATCHTOWER

1. **5.8 A3 V** 7 pitches **Northeast Arete (Rowell Route)** *1-2 KBs, 8 Las, 1/2-5.8" angles (2 each), 3/4-1" angles (2 each), skyhook, L.D. hook, nuts and double set of cams to 3"*.  
P1 Starting left of the large right facing open book, head up 3rd class until difficulties begin. A 165' pitch of easy aid ( A2 ) and free ( 5.6 ) lead up a crack past a fixed pin and a flake to a stance.  
P2 Continue aid climbing up the crack ( some A3 ) to a sling belay at a bolt.  
P3 A short mixed free and aid pitch leads to ledges.  
P4 A wandering mixed aid and free pitch ( 5.8, A3 ) follows flakes, cracks and face to a stance 130' higher.  
P5 Another difficult pitch ( 5.8, A3+ ) follows face, aid from tiny horns and finally free climbing to a ledge.  
P6 4th class followed by an aid move leads to free climbing up a gully ( loose - use care ) - 195'+. If using 165' ropes, move the belay up 25' to a big ledge.  
P7 A couple of aid moves in a corner leads to a ramp and 3rd class near the top of the Watchtower ( 150' ).  
FA: Galen Rowell 1970
2. **5.10 A3 V** 10 pitches **All Along the Watchtower** *Small copperheads, rurps, 2 Chouinard hooks, KBs, Las and angles to 3/4", 1" angle, 1 1/4" angle, double cams and nuts to 4" and lots of slings.*  
P1 Start just left of the huge, right facing corner to the right of the arête. Climb a smaller corner to cracks and belay on a ledge.  
P2 Face climb up and go right to the edge of the big corner, then climb down and out to two bolts on the face.  
P3 Follow the bolt and rivet ladder up to the right and pendulum over to a small pedestal.  
P4 Face climb up to a blocky ramp and belay at a stance.  
P5 Lieback to a corner and pendulum off a bolt to an A1 crack and belay from a good ledge.  
P6 Aid up, pendulum left and belay in a small alcove.  
P7 Climb a crack next to the arête and pendulum to a stance belay with a fixed piton.  
P8 Aid next to the bushy crack and belay at bolts.  
P9 5.10 cracks to the roof, pendulum left and aid up to the big ledge where you join the Rowell Route.  
P10 Up the ramp, through loose block and 3<sup>rd</sup> class to the summit.  
FA: John Long, Richard Harrison 6/1985
3. **5.11 PG-13 A3 IV** 9 pitches **Watch Out** *Doubles to 3" and one 4". Triples of small gear is helpful.*  
P1 Start by large pine tree to the right of the huge right facing corner of All Along the Watchtower. Climb up to ledge with small tree.  
P2 5.11 traverse to the right and climb the outside of the chimney.  
P3 Continue up to the large orange hole.  
P4 Start left, then go right up the blocks and traverse left to the top of the grassy crack.  
P5 Go right, past the loose flake (push off to increase free climbing) to two moves of aid and face climb up and right to belay.  
P6 Go right through large white corner and join Timex Route.  
P7 Climb up and through the roof.  
P8 Face climb up.  
P9 4<sup>th</sup> class to summit.  
FA: Herb Laeger, Eve Laeger, Ron Carson 7/1984
4. **5.9** 7 pitches **Timex Route** *Doubles to 3" and stoppers.*  
P1 Start 20 feet right of the biggest tree. Climb up and right past a short bit of harder climbing and continue up and right for an entire rope length ending on a small ledge.  
P2 Continue up and right until near the top of the giant, triangular crack system. About 20 feet from the actual apex cut up and left via a series of shallow dihedrals. This is the crux and it feels somewhat insecure in places. Climb until out of rope.  
P3 Make a few moves up and left to reach a crack that cuts back right up and across the face above. Hand traverse out this crack and continue up and right until the climbing above you looks like 5.10. You're standing on some broken ledges here. Traverse right and slightly downward at one point to another crack system 20 feet away. Climb this crack a short distance until you run out of rope. Watch for rope drag here.  
P4 Climb past a couple bushes and a layback and chart a course aiming for the right side of the giant, light colored pillar that is looming above. Look for a good belay when you are near the end of your rope.  
P5 Climb over a small 5.9 roof with good gear and continue to a large, loose ledge area and build a belay. This pitch is not a full rope length.

P6 Climb up and left via several cracks to a ledge. From the ledge, make a few harder moves and then run out the rope heading up at first and then up and right. Belay on a large flat ledge with a gash on the back side.

P7 Down climb into the gash and out the other side to easy scrambling. We ran the rope out on this pitch going up and right and belaying at the top of the large notch.

FA: Dick Saum, Steve Tucker, Herb Laeger 8/1984