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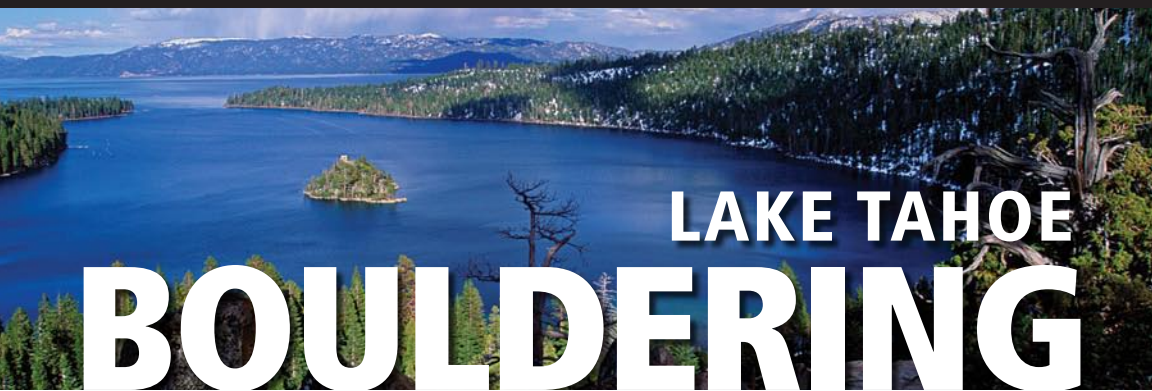
Lake Tahoe Bouldering



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LAKE TAHOE BOULDERING



Kevin Swift





Lake Tahoe Bouldering

by Kevin Swift
and Chris McNamara



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Warning!

Climbing is an inherently dangerous sport in which severe injuries or death may occur. Relying on the information in this book may increase the danger.

When climbing you can only rely on your skill, training, experience, and conditioning. **If you have any doubts as to your ability to safely climb any route in this guide, do not try it.**

This book is neither a professional climbing instructor nor a substitute for one. **It is not an instructional book. Do not use it as one.** It contains information that is nothing more than a compilation of opinions about bouldering in Lake Tahoe. **These opinions are neither facts nor promises.** Treat the information as opinions and nothing more. Do not substitute these opinions for your own common sense and experience.

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Preface

What sets Tahoe apart is not just the number of boulders, it is the variety. You can climb Joshua Tree style rock by the lake or climb Yosemite-esque holds in the forest or drive 30 minutes east to the desert and climb impeccable volcanic pockets. It's all here, it's yearround, and even this book, the most complete coverage yet on the subject, can only whet your appetite.

This is Lake Tahoe's first bouldering guide. Initially, author Kevin Swift and I were excited about doing the inside tour of Lake Tahoe's boulders with Tahoe's most accomplished and active boulderers. But at first it was slim pickings. We started to wonder if there were actually enough boulder problems to fill a book.

But a few months into the project everything changed...drastically. Boulders started showing up everywhere. Often when a local showed us a new concentration, there were even more boulders close by that they hadn't climbed yet. Suddenly we had a new challenge: there were just too many boulders to document! To make matters worse, we became afflicted with the first ascent bug. We wanted to put up even more problems and pump up the load of documentation even more. Would it never end? Finally we had to say, "Enough is enough!" So every area listed in this guide has even more established problems than what we list. We were just not able to document them all. That gives you a great opportunity: Take a wrong turn while driving to one of the areas and you might find a first ascent waiting for you.

We can definitely use your help with beta on new problems for the next edition. We always want feedback on our books. Because this is the first guidebook to Lake Tahoe bouldering, we especially need your help. Send me an email if you find something you think should be included next time around. Also, if you know the name of a problem in the book that we weren't been able to identify, please email the name to us.

Lastly, we know that many of the ratings may be a little off. There just wasn't time to get a consensus rating on everything.

Chris McNamara
chris@supertopo.com



Introduction

By Kevin Swift

Granite, GRANITE, GRANITE! That's Tahoe in a nutshell. Not just any granite, either. Super quality, compact, weathered Sierra granite unfolds in every conceivable shape, size, and location. On almost any given day, you can roll into Tahoe from any direction and be pulling down within half an hour. There are boulders on ridgetops with endless views, and boulders lying in shadowy creek beds. There are boulders in forest and desert settings, exposed to the sun or hiding in shade, up high and down low, right in town, and half an hour up remote hillsides.

Everything from lie-down starts under low roofs to terrifying, guaranteed-death highballs, VB to V12, knob pimping, sloper slapping, slab teetering, crack jamming, edge cranking madness abounds. You'll die before you do all the problems around Lake Tahoe—one because your forearms will explode, two because you'll never find them all, and three because there isn't a person on Earth who can muster the necessary stoke to clean and tick every one of the thousands of untouched boulders splashed all over Tahoe even if they could find them.

This place will still be going off ten years from now, when people who are actually willing to hike for an hour finally come to town and start pillaging all the more remote potential. You simply can't go wrong here, and if you do manage to send everything in the guidebook, you will have lived here long enough to become a local and get a free pass to all the developing stuff we couldn't include without getting killed.

A word of caution is in order here, for all of you who still have jobs, significant others, and homes elsewhere. I've met a

startling number of people who visited Tahoe for a week's vacation and are still here—two, five, or ten years later. I'm one of them. I came here just to check it out and after two years can't see living anywhere else for the moment. Maybe when I've worn the place out I'll want to leave, but that will take a while.

SuperTopo.com

All the Tahoe information below is available at www.supertopo.com with links directly to the sources for easier trip planning.

When to climb

The general Tahoe bouldering season is May–November. October and (a dry) November usually have the best conditions. In the summer, you generally want to seek the shade. The areas that are climbable all winter long are listed in the sidebar on page 13. During a lean snow year, boulder the areas in this book that are near a plowed road.

Getting There

Car Travel

A car is essential in Tahoe because public transportation is scarce. From San Francisco, drive Interstate 80 to Sacramento. For North Lake areas, continue on Interstate 80. For South Lake Areas, take Highway 50 east. Access all climbing areas in this guide off Highway 50, Highway 89, or Interstate 80.

Air Travel

Reno/Tahoe Airport is about an hour and fifteen minutes drive to South Lake Tahoe and Sacramento International Airport is about two hours away. You can also fly into Oakland or San Francisco, rent a car and drive about three hours.

Camping

There are hundreds of campsites in Tahoe. View the overview maps on pages 18–19 to locate these campsites. A great web site that lists many South and North Lake Tahoe camping areas is: www.explorer1.com/tahoe/camping.htm Fire permits are required for fires at many areas. For a list of ranger

Chris Ewing at the Momma Cat Boulder.

stations from which to get a fire permit:
visit: www.fs.fed.us/r5/tahoe/

South Lake Free Camping

Phantom Spires

Camping is conveniently located at the Phantom Spires parking lot, along the logging road, and along Wright's Lake Road. It's all Forest Service land so you can camp just about anywhere. There are three large pullouts along the logging road that each accommodate four to eight cars. The first two have nice views but are often windy. The last pullout, the Phantom Spires parking area, is the largest and most wind-sheltered. There is also a great camping spot at the end of a 4WD road that leads to just below Lizard Head. There are no facilities so bring your own water. Bury your poop at least six inches underground. Be careful when building a fire. Build a tall fire ring and keep fires small.

Lover's Leap

Seconds from the boulders, the campground has all the necessities: picnic tables, pit toilets, privacy, drinking water, and a bar within a five minute walk. The 30 campsites have two to four tents sites each and come with one parking spot. Park additional cars on Highway 50. Each site also has a plastic storage bin for food storage (bring a padlock if storing valuables). Rangers enforce the 14 total days per year limit with fines. Carry out all your trash and dump it at the Strawberry Lodge for a fee or hunt in South Lake Tahoe for a dumpster. The Strawberry Lodge offers

showers or baths for \$5. Each site has a campfire ring, and you should bring your own wood as the Forest Service discourages collecting locally.

Strawberry Tract Road/ The Secrets

Drive to 42 Mile Tract Road, the first left west of Strawberry Lodge. After you pass over the bridge over Strawberry Creek you can camp just about anywhere.

South Lake Tahoe Pay Camping

D.L. Bliss California State Park

Highway 89, South Lake Tahoe, CA (530) 525-7277. www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=505

Fallen Leaf Lake

Highway 89, South Lake Tahoe, CA (530) 544-5994. www.fs.fed.us/r5/lbtmu/recreation/camping/flcamp.shtml

Campground by the Lake

1150 Rufus Allen Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA (530) 542-6096. <http://www.recreationintahoe.com/campground.htm>

South Lake Restaurants

Thai: Orchid Thai, 2180 Lake Tahoe Blvd., (530) 544-5541

Burgers: Izzie's Burger Spa, 2591 Lake Tahoe Blvd., (530) 544-5030

Pizza: Bob Dog's Pizza, 3141 US Highway 50, (530) 577-2364

Mexican: The Cantina, Highway 89 and 10th St., (530) 544-1233

Chinese: Hunan Garden, 900 Emerald Bay Rd., (530) 544-5868

Seafood: The Chart House, 392 Kingsbury Grade, (775) 588-6276

Breakfast: Ernie's, 1146 Emerald Bay Rd., (530) 541-2161

Bar/Music: Divided Sky, 3200 US Highway 50, (530) 577-0775

Lunch: Sprouts, 3123 Harrison Avenue, (530) 541-6969.

Coffee: Alpina Café (free wireless), 822 Emerald Bay Rd., (530) 541-7449 or Alpen Sierra (free wireless), 3940 Lake Tahoe Blvd., Suite 1 (530) 544-7740

Introductory Areas

These areas all have problems in the VB-V1 range:

- The Secrets
- Lovers Leap
- Old County
- Grouse Slab
- Echo View
- Washoe Boulders

North Lake Restaurants

If you're brave and ready for the ultimate greasy spoon experience, hit **Coffee And** (530-587-3123) in old Truckee. I once counted 17 coffee refills or warm-ups during a single breakfast a couple of years ago. Of course I tottered out into the sun twitching and scratching like a meth addict, so cracked-out I could feel my hair growing. While abundant, the coffee's horrendous, so **Wild Cherries** (530-582-5602) is the only way to go for a snoot full of caffeine, baked goods and decent lunches too. Anyplace with a parking lot full of beat up trucks and a steady stream of Carhartt-wearing construction workers has to be serving high-test café two thumbs up. For Mexican food, my vote goes to **El Toro Bravo** (530-587-3557) and their outdoor patio in the summer. If you like high volume mariachi music, you're golden.

The best vibe in town award (and incredible food too) goes to **Earthly Delights** (530-587-7793) right next door to the secondhand gear shop, which stocks a good selection of used gear, and can be the ticket for a half hour mission, browsing for stuff you didn't know you needed until you saw it. If you've got a little money rattling around (uh huh, right) check out **Dragonfly** (530-587-0557), upstairs in Old Truckee. A couple of the guys that work there are super stoked on bouldering, so tip big! For a cooling libation after a hot day in the sun, my vote goes to **Bar of America** (530-587-3110) a classic dive that won't cost an arm and a leg.

North Lake Tahoe Pay Camping

Donner Memorial California State Park
Intersate 80, Truckee, CA (530) 582-7894
www.parks.ca.gov/default.asp?page_id=503

For many other pay campsites, visit: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/tahoe/recreation/tkrd/summer.shtml> or call (530) 478-6118

Winter Bouldering Areas

Bouldering in winter!? Well, if you don't mind hiking through a little snow, winter bouldering is great. The snow takes the bite off many of the highballs and is not a big deal if you bring a tarp. The following areas are climbable after 3-5 days of sun and above freezing temperatures.

North of Reno Areas
Purgatory
Washoe boulders
Hangman's Cave
Momma Cat Boulder
Sugarloaf
Echo View Estates
Pie Shop
Memorial Boulder
Rainbow
Sun Wall

Clair Tappan Lodge

This Sierra Club lodge is about 1.5 miles west of summit on Old 40 and offers inexpensive bunks and meals with a great history. Ansel Adams used to stay there and many of the old Sierra Clubbers who stared climbing in the West. The Sierra Club also owns the Hutchinson Lodge right next door. It is rented to groups at reasonable rates and is great for climbers.

Groceries

There are major supermarkets in all larger Tahoe towns. If you're staying at Lover's Leap, **Strawberry Market**, located across from Strawberry Lodge, has a selection of good essential items. You can also buy extra copies of this guide there.

South Lake Climbing Gear

The best selection of gear and climbing beta in South Lake is at **Sports Ltd.** (530) 544-2284) in South Lake Tahoe at the South Y Shopping Center next to Raley's.

North Lake Climbing Gear and Gym

There are four stores in North Lake Tahoe: **Alpenglow** (530) 583-6917 in Tahoe City, **The Backcountry** (888) 625-8444 in Tahoe City and Truckee, **Granite Chief** (530) 587-2809 in Truckee, and **The Sports Exchange** (530) 582-4510 in Truckee. The Sports Exchange also offers shoe rental (\$3) and has a cool bouldering gym (\$8 day pass).

South Lake Rest Days

If you need a rest day or just want to mix things up, consider riding two world-class mountain bike trails: **The Flume Trail** and **Mister Toad's Wild Ride**. In summer, buy a lift ticket to ride at a ski resort. Hike one of the many trails or head for the water of Lake Tahoe to kayak, water ski, or just sit on the beach.

For gear and recommendations from knowledgeable locals, visit **Sports Ltd.** in South Lake Tahoe at the South Y Shopping Center next to Raley's; (530) 544-2284.

Most of the nightlife is at the Harrah's or Harvey's casinos. We prefer chilling at **Divided Sky**. In the winter, take the rare opportunity to spend half the day bouldering and a half day getting powder turns at a nearby ski resort.

North Lake Rest Days

There really isn't that much to do here in the urban sense. Days off can be a bit dull if you're into city life. If not, there's a ton of good mountain biking and hiking available, plus boating and swimming at Donner Lake. Early season you can still get tracks on north facing slopes, and have a mini-adventure race: hike and then ski or board one of the peaks park at Donner Ski Ranch and bike to the Saddle Boulders, then bomb the downhill into Truckee, eat lunch and hitch or car-shuttle back up the pass. A decent rest-day excursion is driving Highway 50 to Highway 49 over to Nevada City and just hanging out. This town has a sweet, laid-back feel and makes it easy to spend a day doing nothing at all without getting bored. On the way there, take a side trip north to the town of Washington for a trip back in time. It's tiny, almost at the end of the road,

and blessed with a couple of amazing swimming holes just up the river from the town. That, plus no people equals a perfect rest day.

Bouldering Ratings Compared

Vermin	Y.D.S	Fontainbleau	Peak
V0-	5.9	4	B0
V0	5.10a/b	4+	B1
V0+	5.10c/d	5	B2
V1	5.11a/b	5+	B3
V2	5.11b/c	6a	B4
V3	5.11c/d	6a+	B5
V4	5.12a/b	6b	B6
V5	5.12b/c	6b+	B7
V6	5.12c/d	6c	B8
V7	5.12b/c	6c+	B9
V8	5.13a/b	7a	B10
V9	5.13b/c	7a+	B11
V10	5.13c/d	7b	B12
V11	5.14a	7b+	B13
V12	5.14b	7c	B14
V13	5.14c	7c+	
V14	5.14d	8a	
	5.15a	8a+	
		8b	
		8b+	
		8c	

Minimizing Impacts

Most Tahoe bouldering areas are on National Forest land and are subject to few restrictions. Let's keep it that way. Fewer environmental impacts and fewer confrontations with rangers and private landowners mean fewer restrictions on our climbing.

The Leave No Trace principles are a good place to start:

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

If we all abide by these principles, we will be in good shape. But, to really preserve our climbing freedoms, we need to go beyond. The following is a list of things to do and how to get involved:

Be conscious of where you walk, where you park, and where your bouldering pad is

Most bouldering impacts come not from actually climbing, but from cutting trails to the rock and crushing vegetation with your crash pad. Always look for established trails and avoid making new shortcuts. Park in designated areas on the maps in this book. Try to carpool to areas that are accessed from residential neighborhoods. Would you want eight cars constantly parked in front of your house? If you are bouldering in the winter, make sure you are not in a snow removal zone.



Organize trail projects to reduce erosion

Trail projects come up every few years at Lover's Leap and can generally use your help. Talk to locals and find out if there is an upcoming project. You can make a difference.

Join the Access Fund

This is a terrific organization that keeps climbing areas open. In the past the Access Fund has invested its resources in preserving the Tahoe climbing experience and we should invest in them: www.accessfund.org

Don't Chip or Glue

Please don't manufacture holds (i.e. drilling and chipping). Gluing is questionable at best. There plenty of problems that go without chipping and we need to leave stuff for the future V20 climbers.

SuperTopo Mission

- Provide the resources and inspiration for an incredible outdoor adventure.
- Help climbers ascend and descend routes efficiently and safely by creating the most accurate and informative climbing topos ever published.
- Capture the mystery, adventure, and humor of climbing by publishing the histories, anecdotes, and outrageous stories of each route.
- Stress the importance of low impact climbing and promote stewardship of the environment.
- Pay close attention to your feedback to continually improve the topos and beta.

Visit www.SuperTopo.com Before Each Climb

There is much more beta available for free on the SuperTopo web site:
www.supertopo.com. This information is more current than the beta available here.

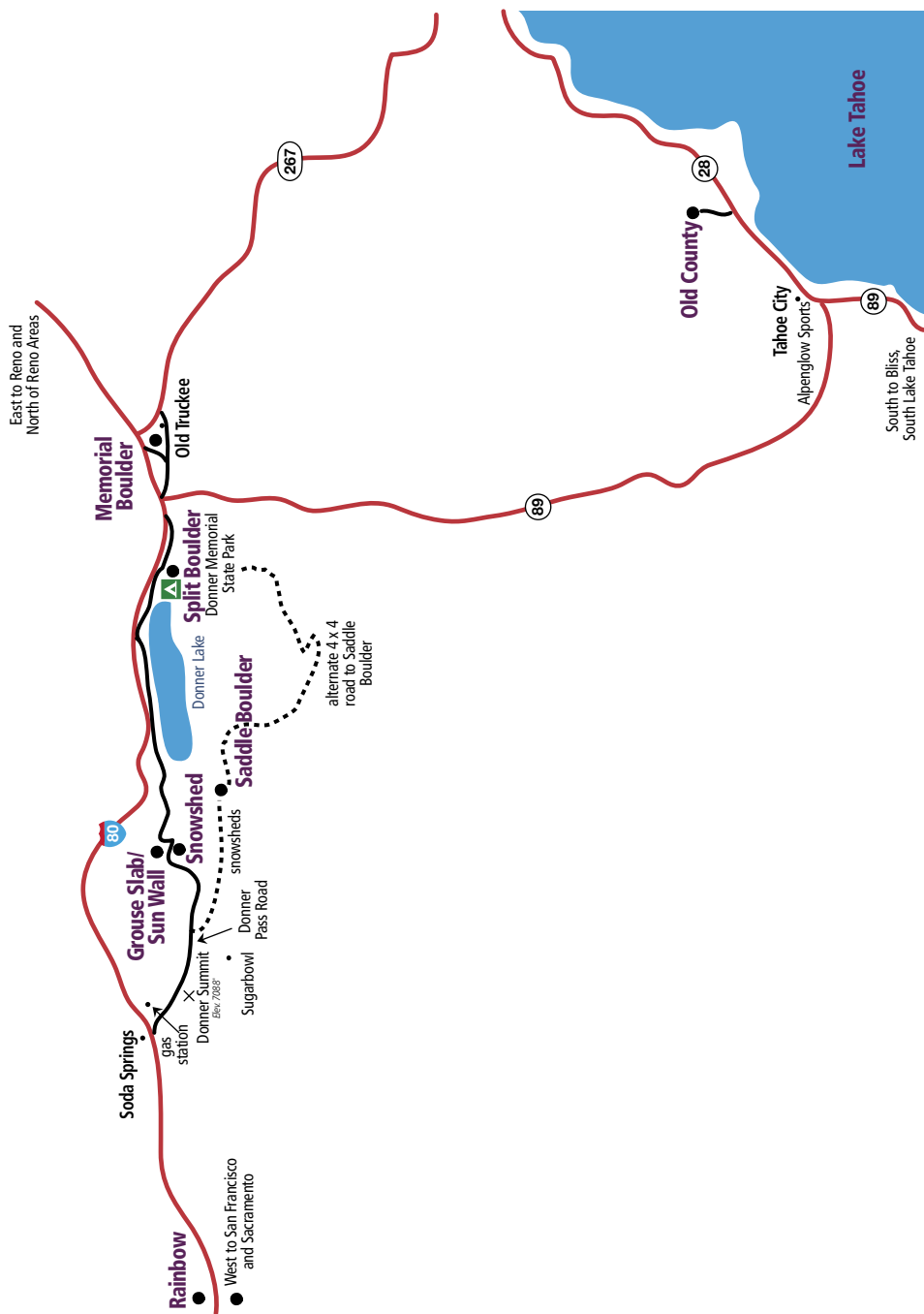
SuperTopo offers additional free beta for each climb:

- photo galleries
- trip reports
- route condition updates
- closures and rockfall warnings
- route beta email alerts

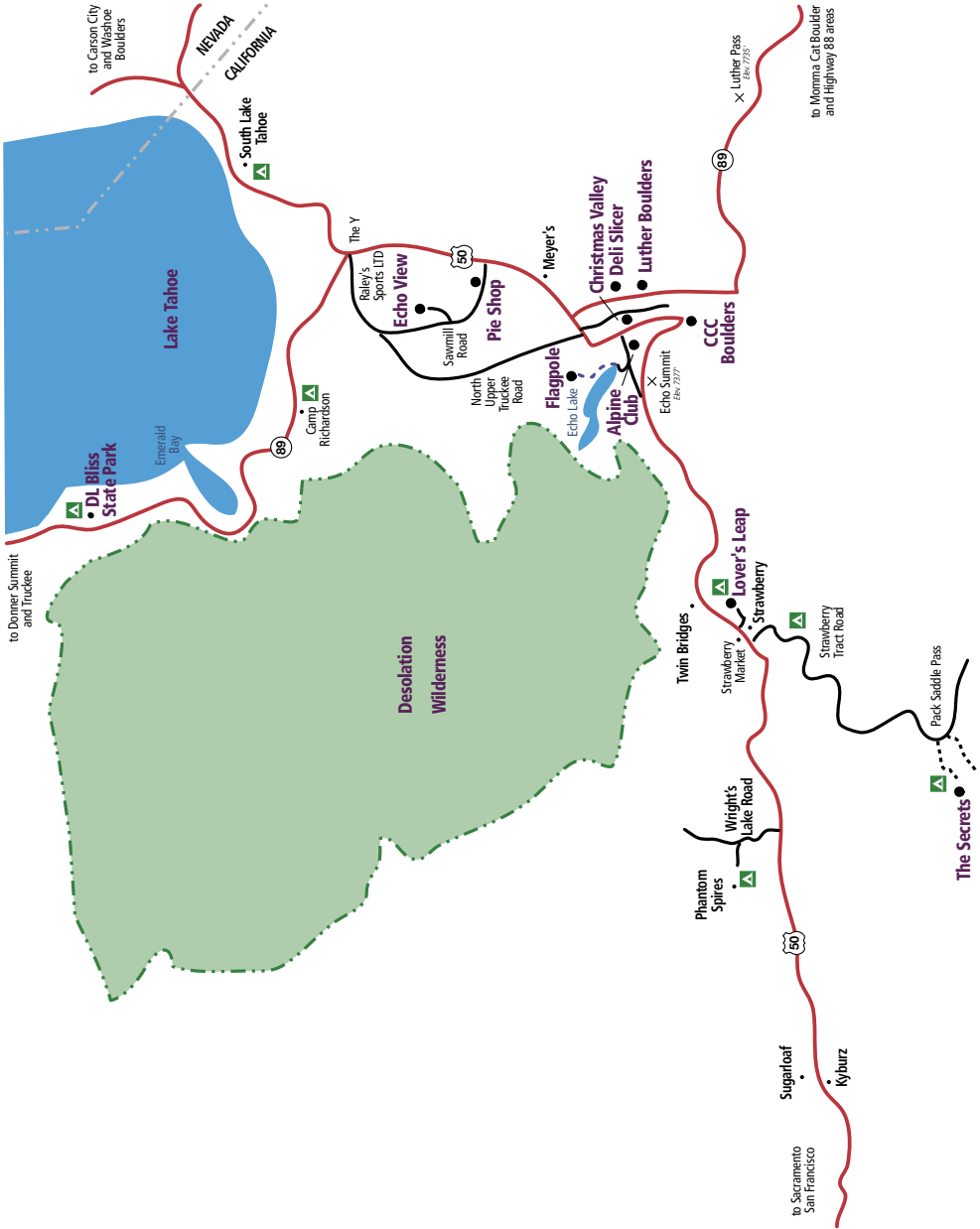
The web site is packed with general Lake Tahoe info:

- free downloadable color topos
- road and weather conditions
- everything you need to know about staying in Tahoe
- good routes for first-time Tahoe climbers
- general trip planning info





South Lake Tahoe Overview Map



The Secrets

Approach time: 1-5 minutes

Season: June-November

Number of Problems: 200+

There's a little slice of nirvana just three hours from the Bay Area, and 20 minutes out of Tahoe. Wherever you're coming from, be prepared for life to slow down a little when you get here. It's just far enough out to feel the pressure of normal life ease, but close enough to everything that there's no hassle involved in heading into Tahoe for whatever you need. It's even worth coming here for a couple days if you're from Tahoe, just to take a break from all the tourists. There won't be any at The Secrets.

Can you say "Motherlode?"

This is one of the most extensive bouldering areas in Tahoe. Of the approximately 1,000 boulders, less than 100 have ever been climbed. This guidebook covers a tiny bit of the total problems. The rock is very similar to Phantom Spires with good quality granite with knobs. There is a boulder within 200 feet no matter what direction you walk.

With so many boulders, it's hard to know where to start. Focus on the concentrations, which are listed on the map on the facing page. For your first trip, spend the morning at The Mystics and the afternoon at The Sticks. All other areas listed on the map will have 20-40 quality problems. Because this area is so new, it was impossible to create a complete guide for every boulder in the area. By the time you read this, hundreds more boulders will have been found.

The Secrets was once Tahoe's most mysterious bouldering area. Rumors of the areas endless potential circulated wildly for a quarter century. Many people came, missed the main concentrations, and left disappointed. Until 2004, Mark Nicholas alone saw the areas potential. For 20 years he more or less had the area to himself, establishing over 100 problems, including



Mark Nicholas topping out Dunk and Dangle.

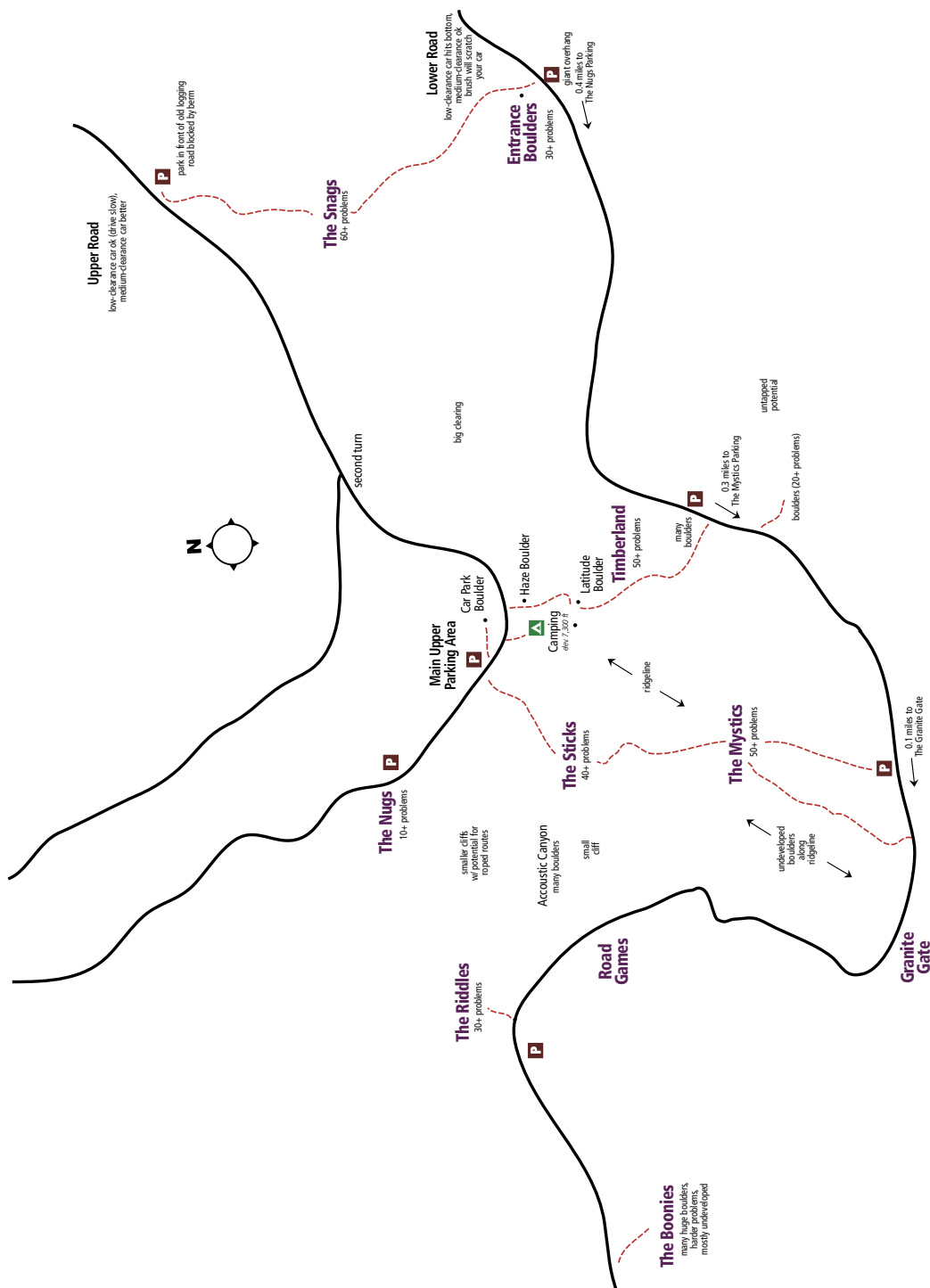
some V10 test pieces. In 2004, word spread and over 100 additional problems were established.

Boulder here as soon as the snow is clear from Strawberry Tract Road. There are a few north-facing turns that hold snow into June. The first major snowstorm usually covers the road in late November. October and November offer crisp temperatures, great fall colors on the trees, and ferns.

Driving to Pack Saddle Pass

On Highway 50, 0.5 miles west of Strawberry, turn south onto 42 Mile Track Road. Reset your odometer. After crossing a bridge, the road comes to a T intersection and you turn right onto Strawberry Tract Road. At 5.5 miles from Highway 50, you reach Pack Saddle Pass. The pass is unmarked but obvious because after the pass the road descends. At Pack Saddle Pass there are two dirt roads on your right (west). There may be a sign that says "Forest Service 71" between the two roads.

Both the Upper Road and Lower Road lead to much bouldering. But the Upper



(north-most) dirt road leads to the highest concentration of established problems and is the easiest for low-clearance cars.

Driving Directions for Upper Road

From Pack Saddle Pass, take the first (north-most) dirt road. Reset your odometer. Drive about 0.7 miles and make a left on a dirt road marked by a subtle wooden post that says "10N03Y." After 0.4 miles, you reach The Snags parking (dirt pullout on left in front of a berm). Drive another 0.2 miles and stay left when the road forks. Drive 0.2 miles and park in the big pullout on the right for the Main Upper Parking Area. From here you can access The Mystics, The Sticks, and The Nugs.

GPS Coordinates for Upper Road

38 45.615 120 10.663 - Pack Saddle Pass:
Upper Road turnoff
38 45.916 120 11.320 - 1st turn
38 45.803 120 11.886 - Snags Parking
38 45.547 120 11.814 - 2nd turn
38 45.453 120 11.991 - Main Upper Parking

Driving Direction for Lower Road

From Pack Saddle Pass take the second (south-most) dirt road. Reset your odometer. Drive about 0.6 miles until the road forks. Stay right. Drive about another 0.4 miles and you get to the Entrance Boulders. Keep driving and there will be boulders everywhere along the road (but the main areas require a short hike uphill). Refer to the map.

GPS Coordinates for Lower Road

38 45.616 120 10.706 - Pack Saddle Pass:
Lower Road turnoff
38 45.558 120 11.298 - First right turn
38 45.417 120 11.471 - Entrance Boulders
parking
38 45.309 120 11.827 - Timberland parking
38 45.174 120 12.065 - Mystics parking
38 45.156 120 12.185 - Granite Gate
38 45.422 120 12.287 - Road Games
38 45.401 120 12.403 - The Boonies

Approach

For most areas, just use the map on page 27. Some areas have specific directions.

Camping

There is great undeveloped camping on the ridgeline just a few hundred feet from the Main Upper Parking Area. You get great views south as well as morning and evening sun. You have to walk a few hundred feet for the best spots. Bring your own water, pack out your trash, and bury your waste.

But wait... There's more!

Remember, we have only shown a tiny bit of the total bouldering in this area. There is a lot more in nearby areas. How do you find new problems? Drive until something catches your eye. Walk toward it. Even if it doesn't amount to much, just walk 300 feet in any other direction and you will probably find a boulder worth climbing.

If you get seriously off track you can wander for hours and leave your oil pan and muffler behind, all to no good purpose, so stick with the mapped roads at first.



The Snags

Approach time: 3-6 minutes

Season: June- November

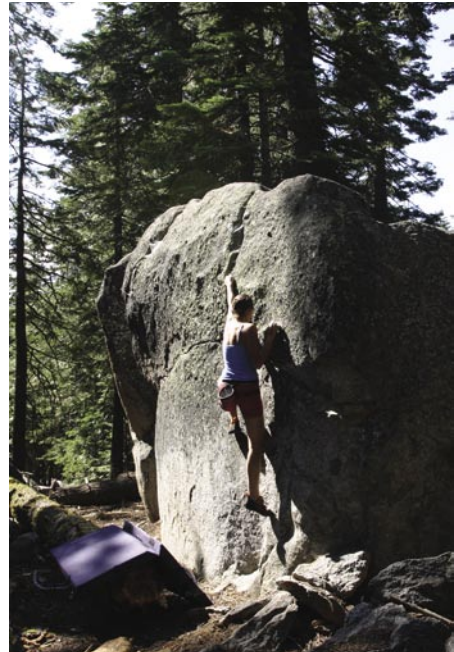
Number of problems: 50+

This is the most concentrated area at The Secrets with over 50 problems and lots more potential. It is also the closest major area from Pack Saddle Pass. The name stems from the numerous dead snags and logs in the area. GPS coordinates: 38 45.580 120 11.954

Approach

From the parking pullout on the Upper Road, walk over a berm and follow an old faint logging road southwest for 200 yards. Just past a rock outcropping, turn left (south) and walk a few hundred feet to the boulders.

- ☐ **1. Up and Down V0** Large edges and knobs gain the top.
- ☐ **2. Tortoise V1** Large holds up steep face; two topouts.
- ☐ **3. Rigor V1** Small knobs on top.
- ☐ **4. Spotless V2** SDS off large holds under prow/overhang to knobby finish.
- ☐ **5. Tailbone V0** Only obvious line.
- ☐ **6. Green Hornet V5** Balancy moves up green face.
- ☐ **7. Kato V1** Climb up to finger traverse.
- ☐ **8. Consolation Prize V8** Left of unclimbed overhanging arête.

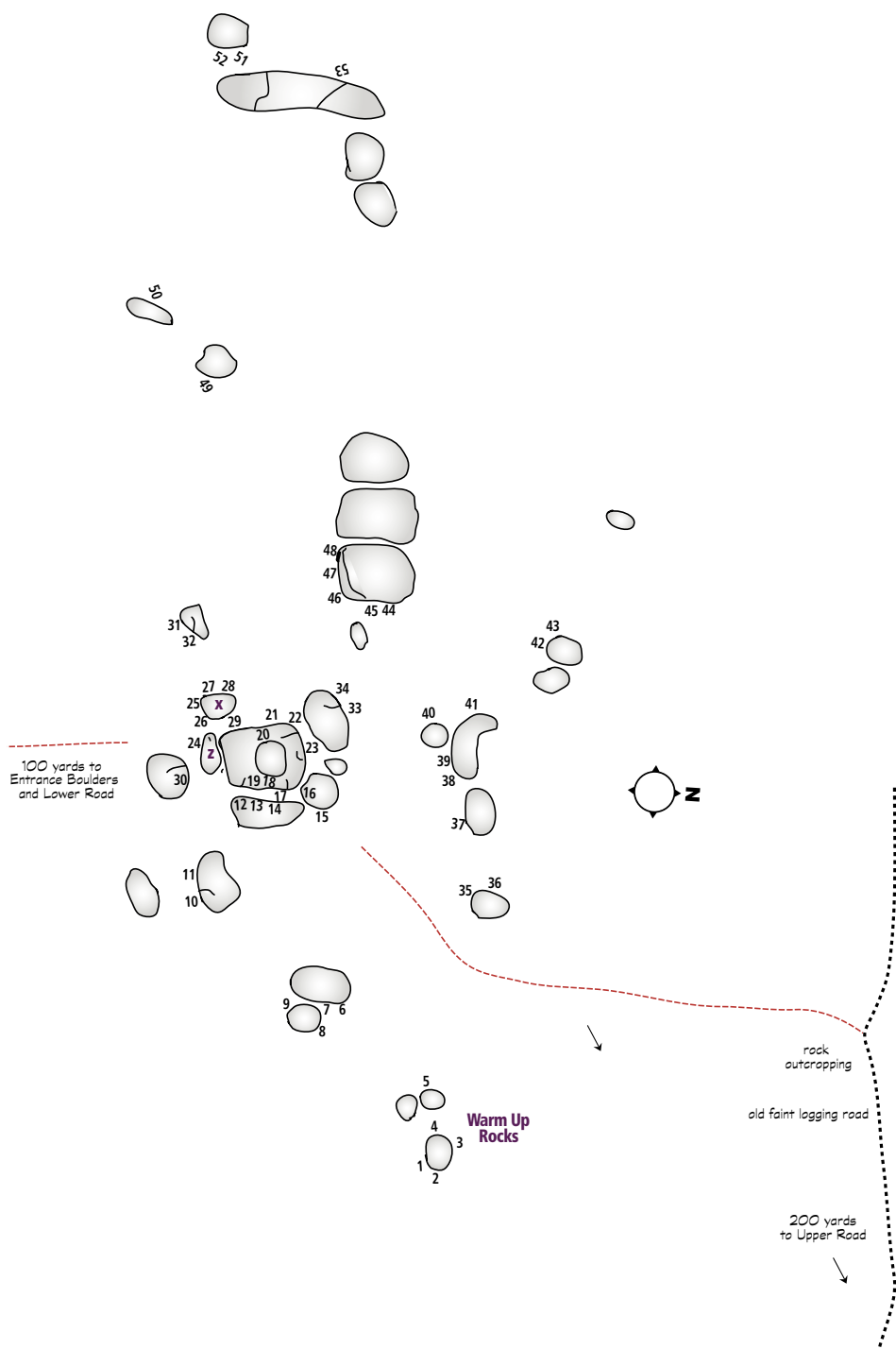


Clair Nicholas on Far Right.

- ☐ **9. Condolences V0** Flakes to top.
- ☐ **10. Adrenaline V2/3** Obvious lieback.
- ☐ **11. Stinger V4** Steep. Small holds to larger holds.
- ☐ **12. Flash V7** Small knobs past mossy face.
- ☐ **13. Finger Death V2** Follow finger crack to blocky summit.
- ☐ **14. Block Party V0** Good warmup past blocks.
- ☐ **15. Crap V0** Short lieback to top.

Number of problems by difficulty

VB	V0	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10	≥V11
1	11	16	7	5	4	2	0	3	2	0	0	0



- ☐ **16. Mark's Marble V7** Start on small crimp or knob. Dyno to marble. Left to top.
- ☐ **17. Far Right V1** Obvious seam.
- ☐ **18. Greaser V4** Traverse on sloping edges with no feet to better edges.
- ☐ **19. Gobbie V4** Arête to finger crack.
- ☐ **20. Moss Dog V1** Lieback edge.
- ☐ **21. Power Extreme V7** Pull off small edges, throw into undercling with micro edge for feet.
- ☐ **22. Head and Shoulders V0** Right-leaning lieback.
- ☐ **23. Dandruff V1** Knobs to crack then right.
- ☐ **24. Tad's Problem V?** Chossy large holds to top.
- ☐ **25. Agent Orange V4** Left side of gold face. Many variations to top.
- ☐ **26. VACA V5** Creative eliminate. Many variations to top.
- ☐ **27. First Blood V1** Large holds to knobby finish.
- ☐ **28. Second Blood V0** Easier than 27.
- ☐ **29. Crud V0** Right of steep gold face.
- ☐ **30. Forget Me Not V1** Face climb past thin crack.
- ☐ **31. Mantel Man 1 V2** Dyno from large hold to sloping mantel.
- ☐ **32. Mantel Man 2 V3** Starts off same hold as 31. Harder mantel to top.
- ☐ **33. Neither Here V1** Lieback up thin edge to face holds.
- ☐ **34. Nor There V1** Small edges to top.
- ☐ **35. Vendetta V2** Turn arête from left to right.
- ☐ **36. Make up Your Mind V3** Traverse into tough top out left to right. Many variations.
- ☐ **37. Bowling Ball V1** Up obvious large hold.
- ☐ **38. Brontosaurus V1** Angle up and left.
- ☐ **39. Dyno Borg V8** From small pinch, dyno for finger knob. Right to sloper then up.
- ☐ **40. Go Big V0** Obvious large holds to knobs to top.
- ☐ **41. Elroy's Wall V0** Many variations to top.
- ☐ **42. Lovin' Lichen V1** Large holds up steep wall.
- ☐ **43. Liken Lichen V1** Use smaller holds on left.
- ☐ **44. Friction Addiction V0** Easy friction and small edging.
- ☐ **45. Cremation Traverse V3** Traverse either direction.
- ☐ **46. Black Widow V3** Immediately left of corner up obvious face holds. Tricky topout.
- ☐ **47. Anti-venom V2** Follow large holds up. Secure topout.
- ☐ **48. Six Feet Under V2** Start at end of 42. Move up and left.
- ☐ **49. Lone Ranger V2** Arête goes from both sides.
- ☐ **50. Tonto's Traverse V3** Traverse from right to left, avoiding top of the boulder.
- ☐ **51. John Doe1 V1** Finger holds to top.
- ☐ **52. Alias Saith V?**
- ☐ **53. Short Stuff VB** Obvious lieback jam.



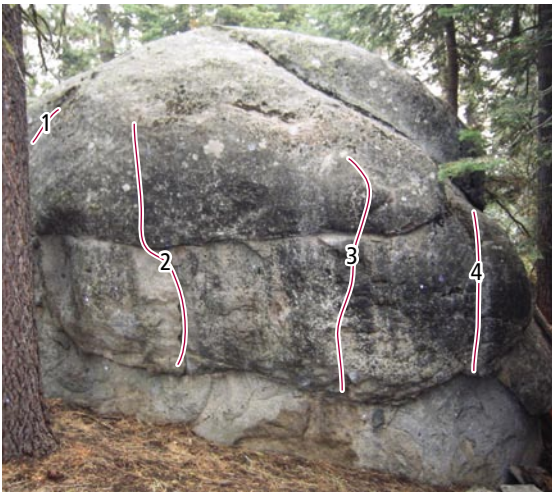
Timberland

Approach time: 1-5 minutes
Season: April- November
Number of problems: 30+

This is the most convenient bouldering to the camping area and Main Upper Parking Area. Most of the boulders are elusive—they are hidden in the trees, a few hundred feet from each other. The Car Park Boulder and Haze Boulder are great at the end of the day when your friends start complaining of sore tips but you still want to charge. There are another 30+ boulders down at the Lower Road.

Approach

This area extends from above the Upper Road all the way to below the Lower Road. These problems are scattered everywhere. Your best bet is to follow the map.



Car Park Boulder

This boulder is located 100 feet northwest of the Main Upper Parking Area. The problems face uphill.

- 1. **Driver's Test V1** Good warmup on obvious diagonal crack. Option SDS makes this problem a touch harder.
- 2. **Stunt Man V4** SDS on rail to super-sized double-windmill slaps. Brute strength thuggery.
- 3. **Parking Challenge V3** SDS then move up and right.
- 4. **High-Rev V5** Big undercling to tricky dyno.

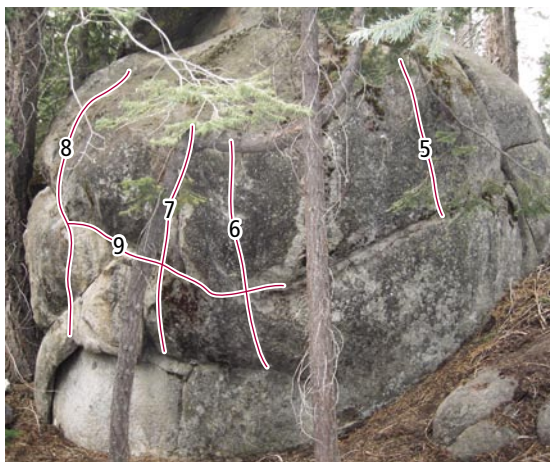
Number of problems by difficulty

VB	V0	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10	≥V11
0	0	2	1	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

Haze Boulder

This boulder is located about 200 feet down from the road. Most of the problems face downhill.

- ☐ **5. Downwind V3** Knobs to a tenuous topout.
- ☐ **6. Darkness at Noon V3** SDS then straight up.
- ☐ **7. White Ash V3** Underclings, sidepulls and edges up the middle of the face.
- ☐ **8. Air Support V2** Undercling start right of tree.
- ☐ **9. Firebreak V3** Traverse starting just right of 6 and finish on 8.



- ☐ **12. High Seas V3** Right side of the rock with slopers.

Latitudes Boulder

This boulder is near the camping area, about 100 yards from the road. There are a few futuristic problems waiting....

- ☐ **10. Twister V3** Highly aesthetic diagonal crack, tenuous top-out.
- ☐ **11. Euphoria V5** SDS. Move right, then back up and left.

Frontier Boulder (not shown)

Close to camping. There are many VB-V1 options on the west face.

- ☐ **13. 40 oz. and a Mule V3** Diagonal crack to hard knob topout.
- ☐ **14. Outlaw V1** Great warmup on the west side of the boulder. Many options around it.



The Sticks

Approach time: 5 minutes

Season: June-November

Number of problems: 27+

The Sticks offer a high concentration of quality problems under giant lichen-covered trees. Although just minutes from the road and camping area, The Sticks have a totally secluded feel. If you link this area with The Secrets, you get an incredible circuit with over 70 problems. The area sports rock knobs, edges, and rails. Almost all the landings are flat. By the time you visit this area, there will probably be twice as many problems as listed here.

Approach

Follow the driving directions to the Upper Main Parking Area. From the downhill side of the road, pick up a climbers trail. Follow this for about 100 yards to the first problems. If you continue on the climbers trail, you will eventually pass all the problems. After the last boulder shown on the map at right, continue a few hundred yards to The Mystics.

Boulder A

Good warm-up boulder.

- ❑ 1. **V2** Stem and lieback crack.
- ❑ 2. **V2** SDS then up and left on rail.

Boulder B

The first stop for most boulderers.

- ❑ 3. **V1** Face right of 4. Good warm up.



Shane Carigan on Heads Will Roll..

- ❑ 4. **Heads Will Roll V4** SDS. Fun rounded knobs on distinct arête/prow.
- ❑ 5. **V2** Gritty seamy crack with many variations.
- ❑ 6. **Freak Show V2** Highball orange and black face.

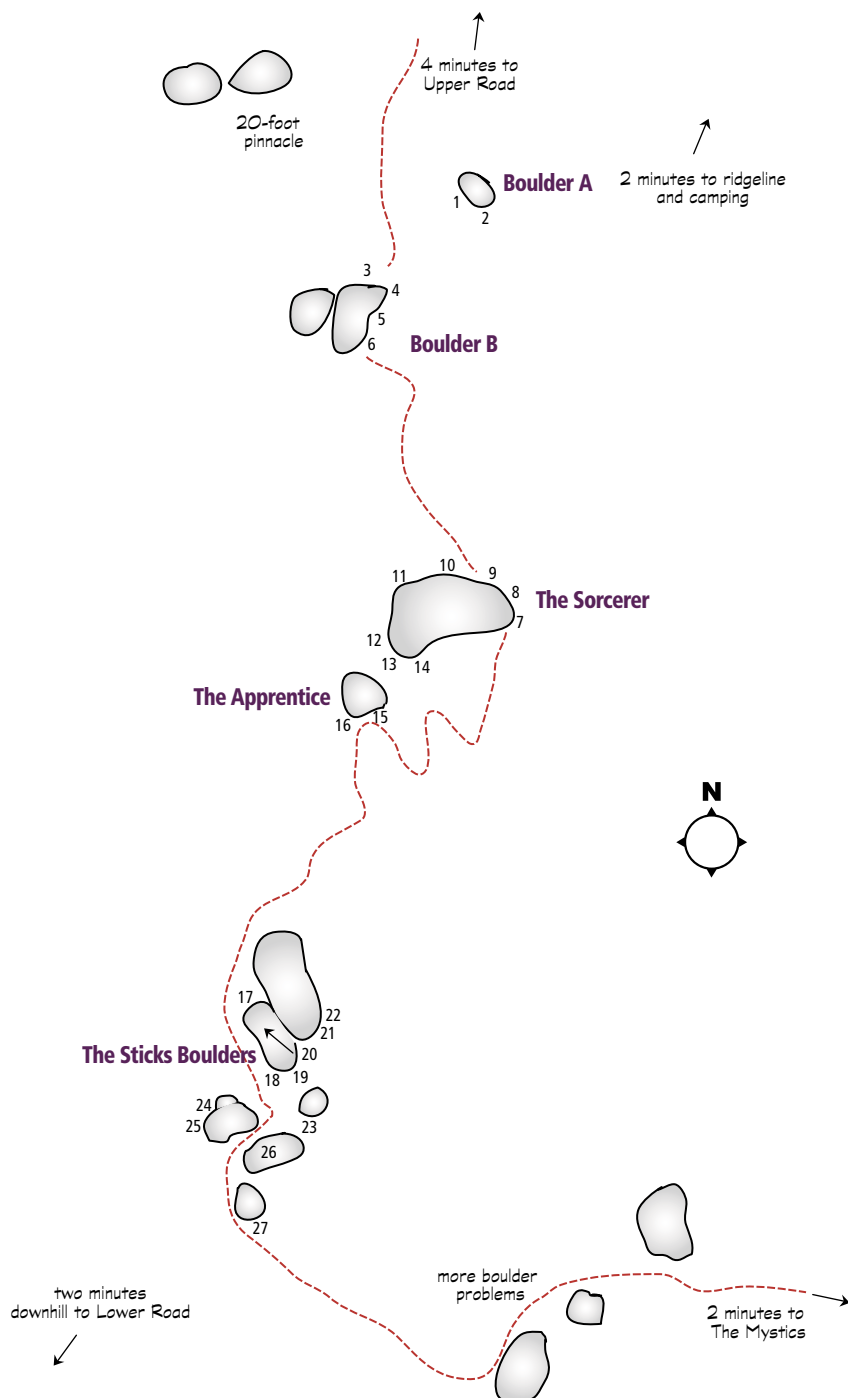
The Sorcerer

The most concentrated boulder at The Sticks. There are at least 10 more variations around the current problems.

- ❑ 7. **Casper V4** SDS to a few steep moves on knobs.

Number of problems by difficulty

VB	V0	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10	≥V11
1	0	4	9	3	6	1	2	0	0	0	0	0



❑ **8. Thumb Buster V2** SDS to big rounded holds.

❑ **9. The Ring V6** Start just right of 8 and work up and right.

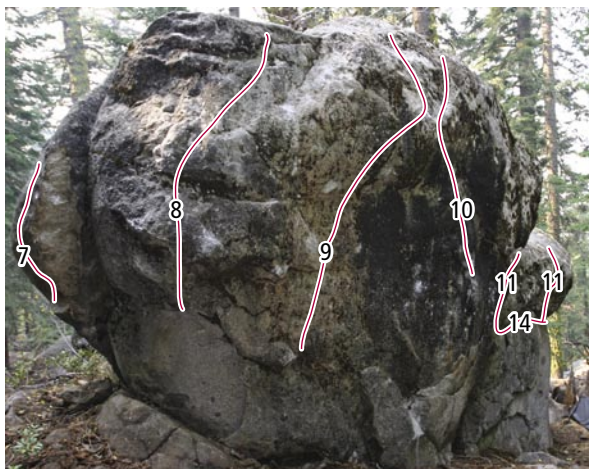
❑ **10. X Files V7** Project. Undercling start on black rock then diagonal up and left. Hard.

❑ **11. V2** Several V2ish variations straight up.

❑ **12. Middle Earth V1** Crack out of alcove.

❑ **13. Missouri Mule V3** SDS and climb just right of crack.

❑ **14. Magic Carpet Ride V4** Traverse that starts just right of 13 and finishes up the crack right of 10.



❑ **21. Hound V3** Friction feet with underclings to slopey finish.

❑ **22. Sandre the Giant V5** SDS then up right.

South of The Sticks Boulders

❑ **23. V2** SDS. Short but fun.

❑ **24. V2** Avoid boulder to the left. Go straight up.

❑ **25. V2** Up flake/seam just left of tree.

❑ **26. VB** Many easy but high problems.

❑ **27. V3** Scary high arête.

The Apprentice

Just down the hill from The Sorcerer.

❑ **15. Fantasia V4** Desperate thin face moves.

❑ **16. Fear of Flying V4** Huge windmill move. Exciting finish.

The Sticks Boulders

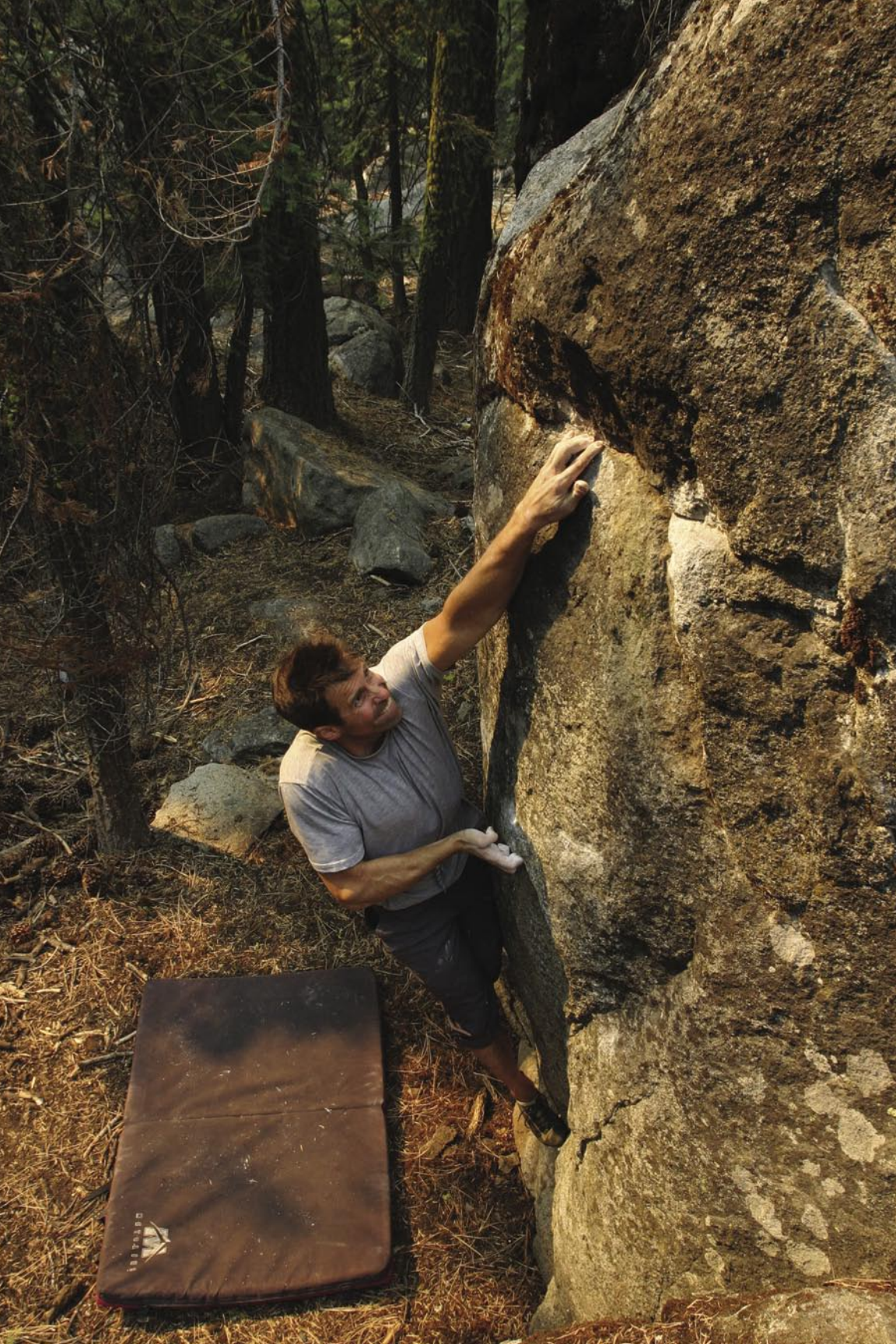
A cluster of boulders.

❑ **17. Pebble Wrestling V6** Powerful knobs to easy but high finish.

❑ **18. The Sticks V4** Pleasurable start and finish with crimpy crux in middle.

❑ **19. The Brain V1** Mantel off big brain/meteor.

❑ **20. Pinch V1** SDS and climb the holds up and left with pinch finish to a reach.



The Mystics

Approach time: 7 minutes

Season: May-November

Number of problems: 51

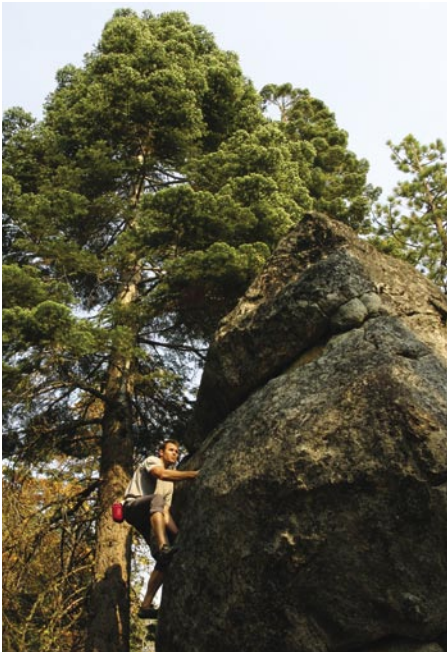
This area offers the best climbing at The Secrets. It also features the highest concentration of problems and most varied rock with arêtes, steep faces, traverses, bulges, and knobs.

My first attempts at finding this place had me convinced it was all just a vicious sandbag by some locals with a mean sense of humor. I drove all over and only found a few boulders that looked decent, and many of them needed extensive cleaning. Then Mark Nicholas took Chris Mac out for a tour, and when next I showed up everything was different. There were boulders everywhere! There's nothing like a fresh pair of eyes to render the world comprehensible.

Approach

The approach is slightly faster if you park on the Lower Road. However, we recommend parking the Upper Road and then climb at The Sticks before or after visiting The Mystics.

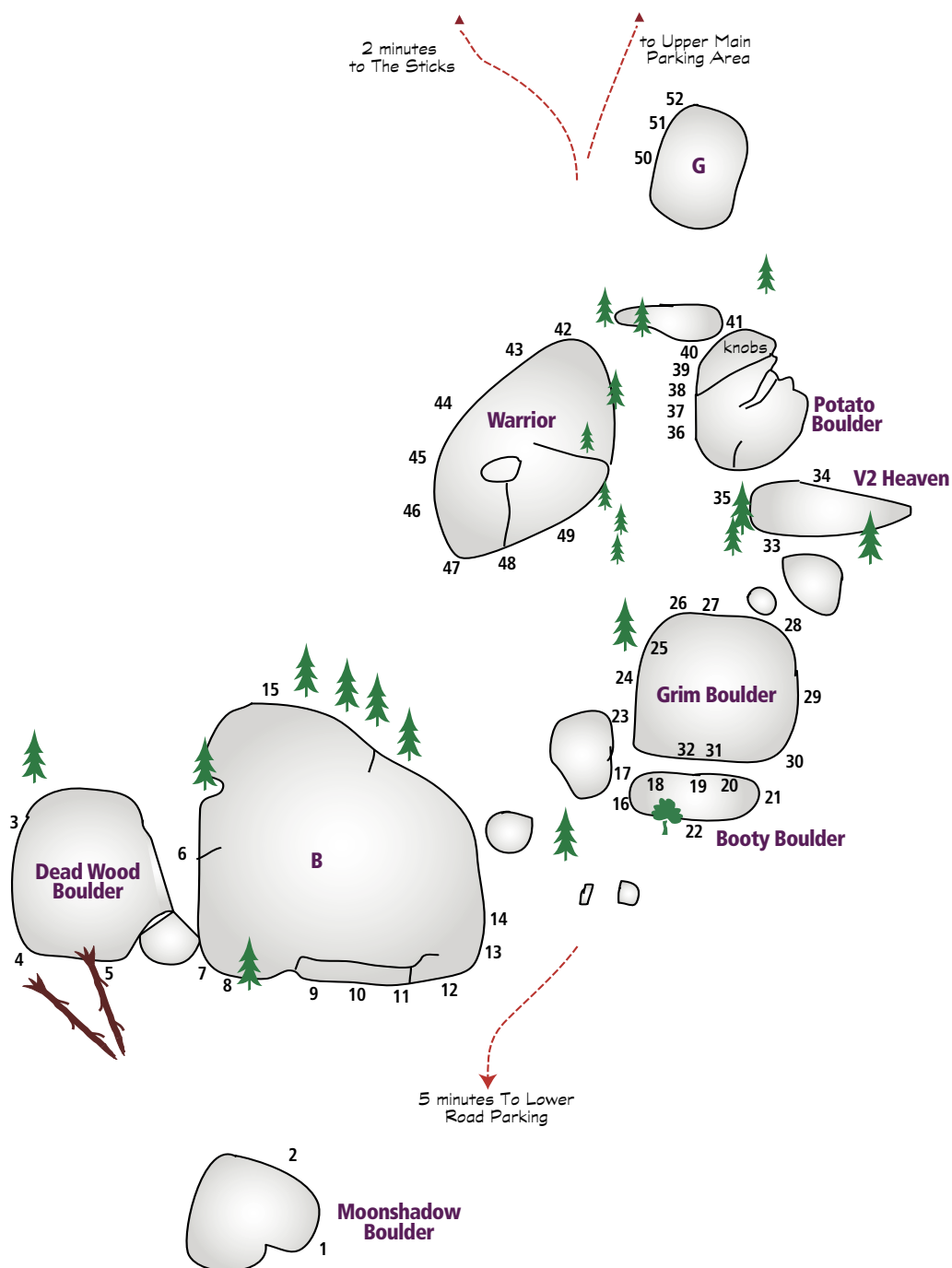
From the Lower Road, hike up an old (barely discernible) logging road. There may be a good trail. If not, just try to stay near the top of the ridgeline until you find the area.



Mark Nicholas topping out Dunk and Dangle (V10)
Photo by Chris McNamara

Number of problems by difficulty

VB	V0	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10	≥V11
3	8	7	7	7	6	5	2	2	2	0	2	0



Moonshadow Boulder

❑ **1. Moonshadow V5** Start on good hueco sidepull, climb the bulge to good edges and top out with bad holds.

❑ **2. VB** A few VB variations.

Dead Wood Boulder

❑ **3. Afterthought V3** Slopers over slightly awkward bulge.

❑ **4. Baby Bulge VB** FC.

❑ **5. Just Missed V1** Edges, undercling, and subtle footwork.

Boulder C

❑ **6. Nut Mix V4** Up and left on diagonal crack. Top out on jugs.

❑ **7. Smokin' Jacket V1** Fun problem. Two finishes.

❑ **8. That's Just Wrong V5** Black streak left of tree. Awkward face holds to sequential topout.

❑ **9. V2** Start with the left hand in top of seam and right hand on unique knob under roof. Go up.

❑ **10. V3** Hands on good edges. Up to knob.



❑ **11. V2** Start just right of right side of crack, then climb up and right.

❑ **12. V0** Start with right hand on big knob and left on diagonal crack. Go up on knobs.

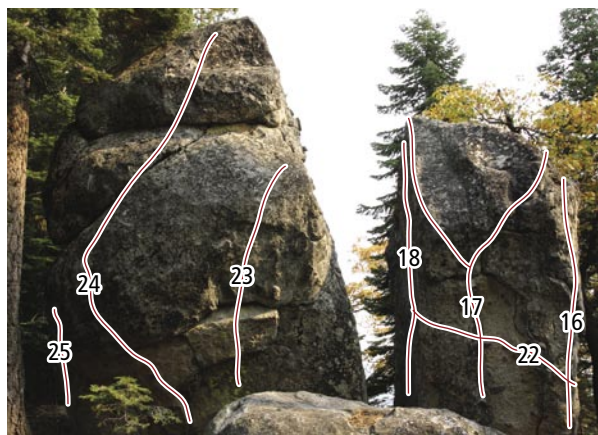
❑ **13. V4** SDS. Powerful moves on knobs over bulge.

❑ **14. Moss Dog Traverse V3** Start as far left as you can and climb to the right.

❑ **15. Flesh Wound V4** Dyno from big flake to good ledge, then topout.

Booty Boulder

This skinny boulder is on the road side of the corridor, and has many knobs. Don't miss the arête problem.



❑ **16. It's Awl Dat V5** SDS at small knobs to the right of the crack and work your way up the arête. The stand start is more like V4.

❑ **17. Inside Voices V3** Start at the large knob at head height left of the crack and pull up into a sweet rounded topout.

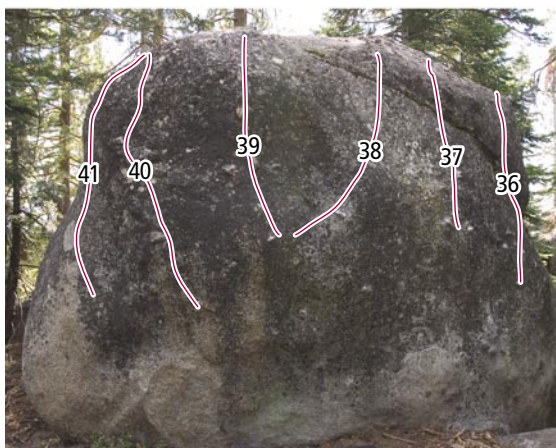
❑ **18. Kinda Freaky V1** Small face holds to diagonal rail up and left. Finish finger crack.

❑ **19. Keepin' It Real V3** Thin face moves to finger crack.

❑ **20. Take the Hit V2** Low angle arête at the end of the corridor.

❑ **21. A Good Run V0** Fun arête. Easiest way to get up and down boulder.

❑ **22. Oak Tree in My Way Traverse V8** Start on the far east side of the boulder. Traverse clockwise all the way to finish on Problem 8.



Grim Boulder

❑ **23. Grim V10** Aptly named, this brutal problem is completely ridiculous. SDS. Muscle through barn door lieback to ripper finger lock. Up and right to grim finger pocket. Dyno to the top.

❑ **24. Dunk and Dangle V10** Your regular NBA problem. SDS to painful finger lock in horizontal. Get into a big undercling and dyno for a giant hold that's just a little too far away. Better do your 8 Minute Abs. The dyno alone is V7.

❑ **25. That Crack Thang V3** Hard start behind tree to easier moves along a crack. Options to finish.

❑ **26. That Knob Thing V2** Knobs at the end of a seam just left of the small tree.

❑ **27. Avoid Me V8** Tiny knobs for your left hand, nothin' much for the right, make one move up just right of the small rock hugging the wall.

❑ **28. Ghastly V0** Big knobs below a horizontal. Good fun.

❑ **29. Grisly V0** Lowangle problem at the seam.

❑ **30. Gruesome V0** Left-trending crack.

❑ **31. Gloomy V1** Slab in the corridor.

❑ **32. Glum V1** Another slab, also in the corridor.

V2 Heaven

Many V1-V2 problems/variations.

❑ **33. Celestial V2** At least four options that are all classic V1-V2.

❑ **34. Pearly Gates V2** More classic V1-V2 problems.

❑ **35. Golden Road V3** Cool orange plates left of tree.

Potato Boulder

Many knob problems.

❑ **36. Au Gratin V0** Just right of crack. Large knobs to right of arête.

❑ **37. Spud V0** Large knobs to shelf. Knobs to top.

❑ **38. Hash Browns V4** Go up the smallest holds to small pebbles on right.

❑ **39. Potato Head V1** Use the biggest grips to gain the summit.

❑ **40. Tater Tots V6** From SDS using finger pocket. Use the smallest hold variation up and left.

❑ **41. Ketchup V6** Athletic lieback to marble-sized knob to slopers to top.

Warrior Boulder

❑ **42. Hero Pose V1-V2** Short problem. Overhanging slopers. Some variations.

❑ **43. V?** Project. SDS on small pinch to huge move.

❑ **44. V?** Stunning project. Bad landing. Big starting hold to slopers at lip. Dicey finish up seam.

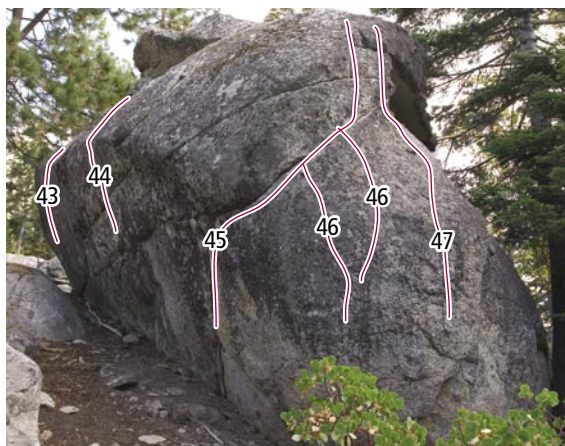
❑ **45. Grounded V5** Flake to right finger pocket. Swing up and right to slopers.

❑ **46. V2-V4** Several variations on knobs and slopers.

❑ **47. Art of War V4** Off small slopers, reach quick to gaston.

❑ **48. Crazy Horse VB** Dirty hand and lieback crack.

❑ **49. Trojan V0** Multiple ways up slab.



Boulder G

❑ **50. Hand to Hand Combat V4** SDS to handjam, to horizontal to more jams up and right.

❑ **51. Clandestino V7** SDS. Up to a good left hand sidepull, then slap the slope and finish.

❑ **52. G-Ride V7** SDS to bad slopers.

