

### **Dixon Springs State Park \*\***

From I-24, take the exit #16 for Vienna/Golconda. Take the road 146 East to Golconda. After 12.2 miles, go left for Dixon Springs State Park. Go straight all the way to a "T" intersection then make a right. Cross a small bridge then park on your left.

Obvious boulders across the creek. Only a few lines, including some Gill's problems. Great grass landings. Some problems need cleaning.

There is a rad boulderfield 5 minutes away that has great potential but which definitely needs cleaning. From the parking, walk back across the bridge and walk along the creek (going right of the pool). Cross another bridge then fork left to stay beside the creek. You'll see many, many boulders beside the creek and up on the left side.

Camping and park information: (618) 949-3394.

### **Cedar Grove \*\*\***

This area is just beside Drapers Bluff (see page 10).

From I-57, take the exit 36 and go east on Lick Creek Rd. Drive past the parking for Drapers and shortly after, make a left on Cedar Grove Rd (for Cedar Grove Church) then park at the church. Walk up the obvious trail.

There will be a cleaned boulder on your left with 2 cool V4ish on the hidden side. After you're warmed up, walk up the trail then go right along the cliff.

There are many problems on the cliff, most of them super steep. There is also a nice traverse on slopers. A few Andy Boone problems.



and



**present**

**bouldering**

**in**

**Southern  
Illinois**

**Jackson Falls**

**Draper's Bluff**

**Opie's Kitchen**

**and direction to**

**other areas**

## Southern Illinois Bouldering

Take each area apart and you have some good bouldering for the locals. Take them together like it's the case here and you have some of the best sandstone bouldering in the East. The majority of the problems you'll find in So Ill involve pulling on rad slopers. High ball face, technical face, crazy mantles or powerful 45 degree wall, you'll find problems to suit your style (or to get your ass kicked). So come down here and escape the crowd.

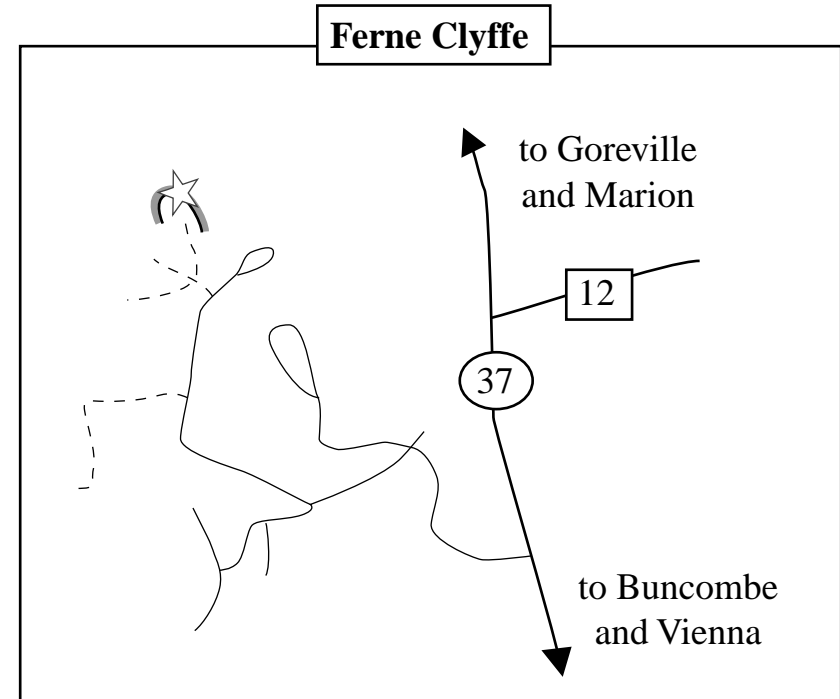
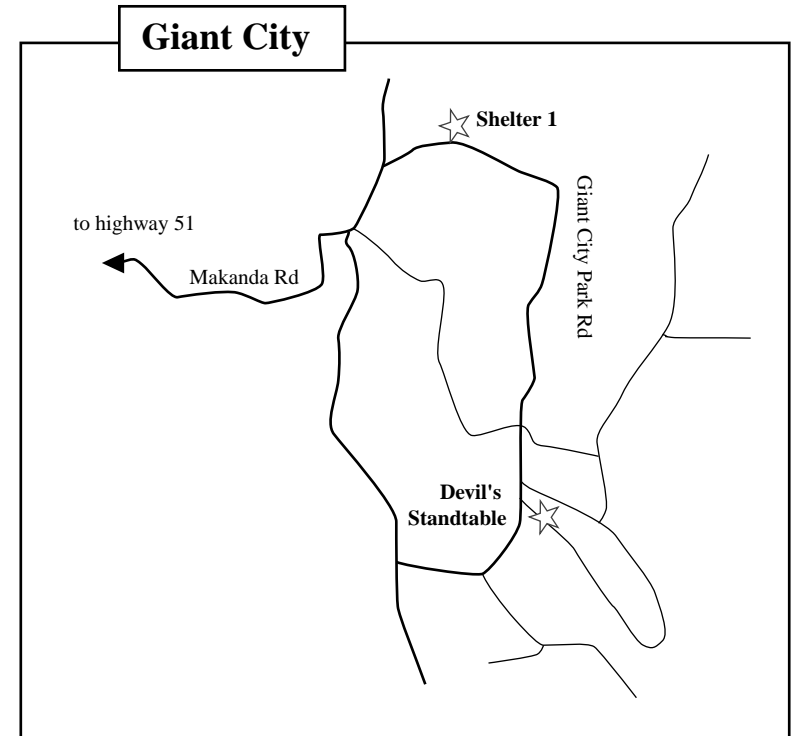
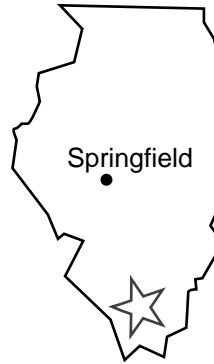
**How to get there:** Most of the bouldering areas are southeast of Carbondale, which is the headquarters of the strong bouldering crew behind most of the new problems. You will find specific directions for each area.

**When:** Early spring and late fall are good times to visit. As a lot of the problems require good friction, the best time is from the end of October to the beginning of December. Summer is warm and infested with insects. In winter you can climb on good days.

**Sleep:** There are plenty of motels in Carbondale or Marion. Free camping at Jacks Canyon or in any National Forest. Pay camping in the State Parks. Price varies from \$6-10 a night. Call for more information.

**Eat:** Most of the areas are out in the country so, if you plan to camp, bring food and water. Good \$2 sandwich at the Ozark gas station near Jackson Falls and good pizza at Dad's Pizza in Goreville. On the strip of Carbondale, there is Winston the Bagel Guy late in the evening which makes killer bagels for \$1,50 (a buck on Thursday). Quadro's Pizza on the strip of Carbondale has 99 cents pitchers on Wednesday (when you buy pizza).

**Guidebooks:** There are not any published guides yet for the bouldering in Southern Illinois. All the names and infos were provided by the Carbondale Bouldering Crew. Thanks to Matt Bliss, Dave and Dan Chancellor, Mike Stringer and Mark Polino. You guys rule! Thanks to Kipp Trummel some updates.



## General directions to other bouldering areas

### Giant City State Park \*\*\*

From Carbondale, go south on I-51 for about 12 miles, then go left on Makanda Rd to Giant City State Park. After crossing the railroad tracks, go left, then, shortly after, make a right, following the signs for the park. After a small bridge, you will see a big parking on your left with the sign "Shelter 1". This is the first bouldering area.

**Shelter 1:** Park as indicated above and hike up the slope up to the shelter then go left to the obvious wall.

Steep and wide wall filled with pockets, slopers and crimps; many nice eliminate problems; hard traverse; stays dry on rainy days. Enough for a good session.

**Devil's Standtable:** From Shelter 1, keep driving a few miles then fork right (forking left would get you to the Visitor Center). Just after the first fork, go left then park on your right for Devil's Standtable. Cross the road to the obvious trail then go left.

Wide wall with a steep roof up to 10' long at its best. Many problems. The lines are more obvious and distinct than Shelter 1.

Camping and park information: (618) 457-4836.

"This could be as casual as cragging gets." from Tim Toula's Rock'n Road.

### Ferne Clyffe State Park \*\*\*

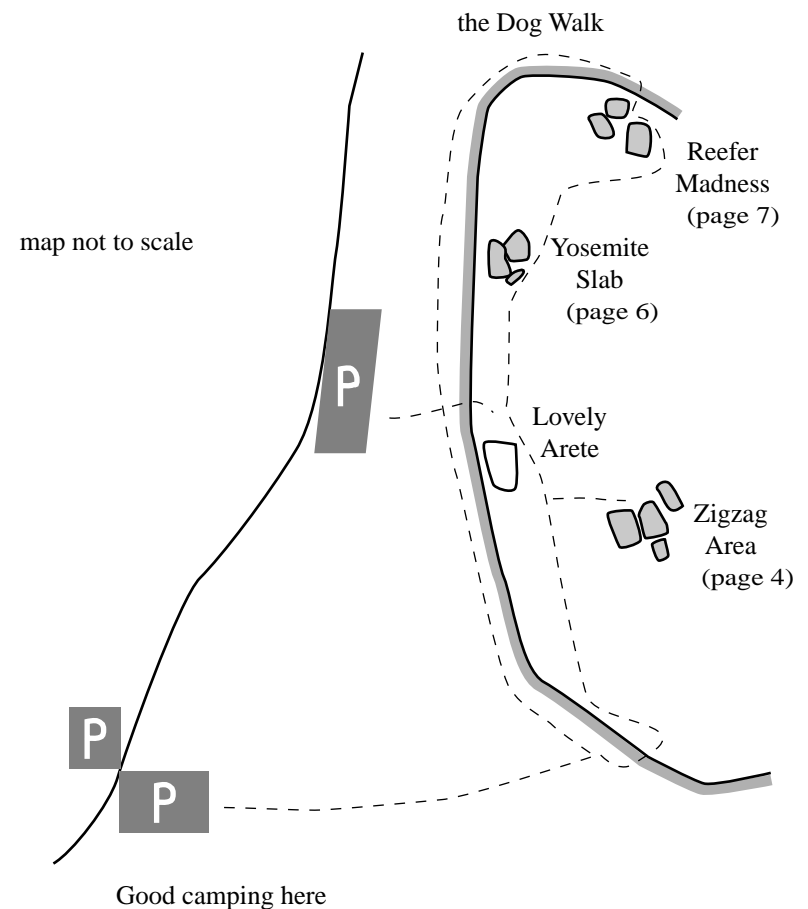
From Goreville, go south on road 37, then turn right to Ferne Clyffe State Park. Drive straight on this road then go left at the first stop sign. Fork right down the hill. Shortly after, you'll see boulders on your right. Park on either sides. Climbing on those boulders is prohibited. Take the paved trail to the left and go right at the first intersection. This will lead you to a horseshoe-shaped cliff with a few boulders.

A few steep walls with many holds and cool eliminates as well as a few distinct lines

Jackson Falls is the most popular area of Southern Illinois. It gets crowded over the weekend but is almost empty on week days.

From I-24, take the exit #14 and drive on the 45 North toward Harrisburg. Drive for 9.6 miles then, when you see the Ozark gas station on your left, make a right on Ozark road. Drive on this road for 4.6 miles then make a right on Glenn Falls Rd. This is a gravel road and it is indicated by a small wood sign. After 2.2 miles park at the bottom of the hill or drive up the road and park on the right side of the road after the hill. Most of the accesses require going down with fixed rope and if you have a dog with you, you should take the Dog Walk around the cliffs.

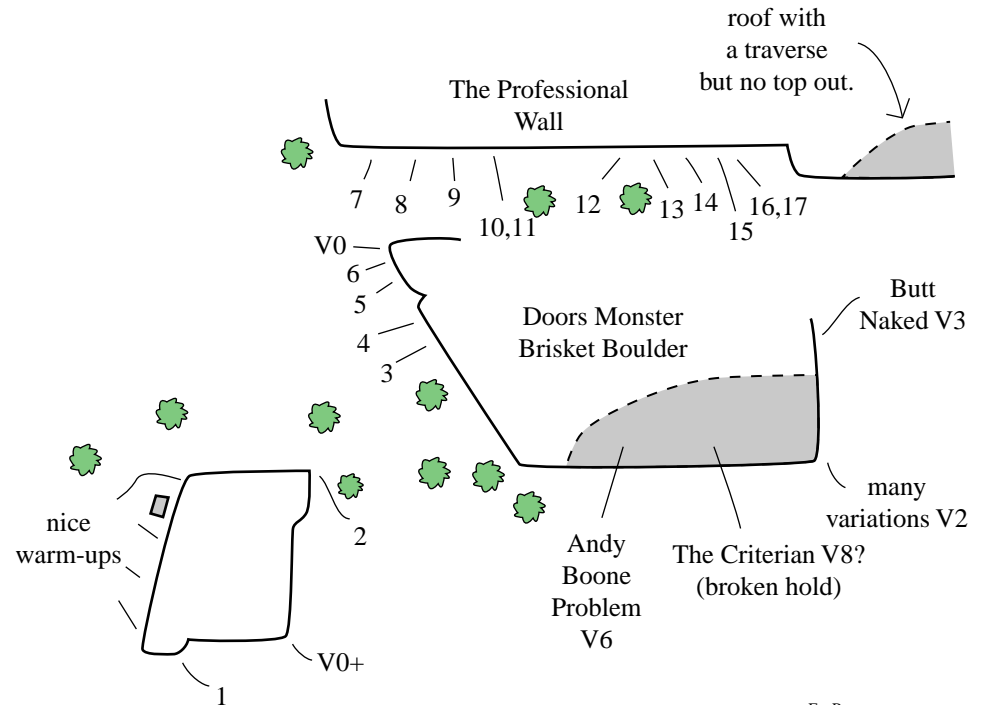
Jackson Falls has the best concentration of problems with a good variety of difficulties. Free camping around the parkings.



## ZigZag Area

1. **project** F R  
□ □ V  
Slopers to slopers to top.
2. **Zigzag** F R  
□ □ V8  
Start with 2 sidepulls at chest-level, go right hand pinch/edge then cross left hand to a pocket and go up and right.
3. **THC** F R  
□ □ V3  
Start as #2 but go straight up. SDS is V6.
4. **Space Invaders** F R  
□ □ V6  
SDS - Start as #5 but traverse right to finish in Zigzag.
5. **OBD** F R  
□ □ V6  
SDS - Start with pockets. Trend right with slopy pockets up to obvious shelf.
6. **OBD Traverse** F R  
□ □ V4  
SDS - Start as #5 but traverse left to an horizontal seam, all the way to its end then top out.
7. **Matt's Sloper Problem** F R  
□ □ V3  
Jump start to obvious slopers then small move to another, then mantle.
8. **Jennifer Anniston** F R  
□ □ V2  
Start left hand sidepull, right hand undercling and go straight up. Harder than it looks.
9. **Underclings** F R  
□ □ V0+  
Start with knob and sloper, go straight up with and undercling.
10. **Never Had A Name** F R  
□ □ V2  
SDS - Start with jugs, go up and right to a big smiley-shaped hold then straight up.
11. **Arete Syndrome** F R  
□ □ V5  
Start with sidepulls and climb straight up with slopers, right of the arete.
12. **Beanie** F R  
□ □ V0  
Climb 4 feet right of the arete.
13. **Weenie** F R  
□ □ V0  
Climb the fun slab 7 feet right of the arete.
14. **Sneaker Arete** F R  
□ □ V0  
Climb the arete by its right side.
15. **Chamber Music** F R  
□ □ V1  
Climb the arete by its left side. Watch for loose flake half way up.
16. **Travesty** F R  
□ □ V2  
Thin slab, 8 feet left of the arete.
17. **Yes, Please!** F R  
□ □ V0  
Slab with good slopers.
18. **project** F R  
□ □ V?  
Start with 2 good crimps under the roof and slap on the rounded top then mantle.
19. **Zack's Problem** F R  
□ □ V3  
Start low with 2 obvious holds, long move left hand to a bad edge then go to a good pocket.
20. **Pusher Man** F R  
□ □ V3  
Start low with right hand on good pocket, go straight up to the dish and top out left.
21. **Fuck Around** F R  
□ □ Vwhatever  
Start low with good holes, traverse left to huge hueco and go wherever.

## Opie's Kitchen



9. **Totem Pole** F R  
□ □ V8  
Start with a low undercling then jump start to knobby edge then go straight up.
10. **Hell Raiser** F R  
□ □ V9  
Start right hand low undercling and left hand double-pocket. Go right hand gaston then throw up and left. Also a possible SDS.
11. **project** F R  
□ □ V?  
Start as Hell Raiser but go up and right after the gaston.
12. **project** F R  
□ □ V?  
Climb the seam. Often wet.
13. **Unknown** F R  
□ □ V?  
Climb just right of the seam with slopy sidepulls.
14. **project** F R  
□ □ V?  
Climb straight up without good holds out right.
15. **The Opening** F R  
□ □ V5  
Climb the series of good holds by the left.
16. **Unknown** F R  
□ □ V?  
Climb the series of good holds by the right.
17. **Pocket Problem** F R  
□ □ V7  
Start as #16 but throw out right to a pocket.
1. **Shooter McGavin** F R  
□ □ V7  
Climb the right-facing corner with the slopy arete but without the right face. Also a SDS (V8).
2. **Sloper Arete** F R  
□ □ V3  
Classic! Climb slopy arete by its left side.
3. **project** F R  
□ □ V?  
Underclings then up and right to good holds.
4. **Hula Poper** F R  
□ □ V9  
Start left hand undercling above the seam and right hand undercling. Slap right hand to sloper then go to the top.
5. **project** F R  
□ □ V?  
Undercling to left hand 2-finger-pocket then straight up.
6. **project** F R  
□ □ V?  
Eliminate. SDS - Start on 2 bad slopers, 3 moves up and left to a pocket under the arete, then up to the top.
7. **Unnamed** F R  
□ □ V4  
Start with 2 high crimps, small move to the top.
8. **Knobjob** F R  
□ □ V7  
Start with high knobs. Put both feet on the wall then go to iron crimp or to the top.

# Upper Limits Rock Gym

St. Louis, MO  
314-241-ROCK

[www.upperlimits.com](http://www.upperlimits.com)



Bloomington, IL  
309-829-TALL

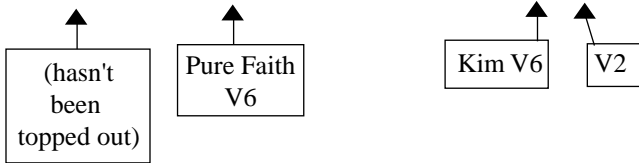
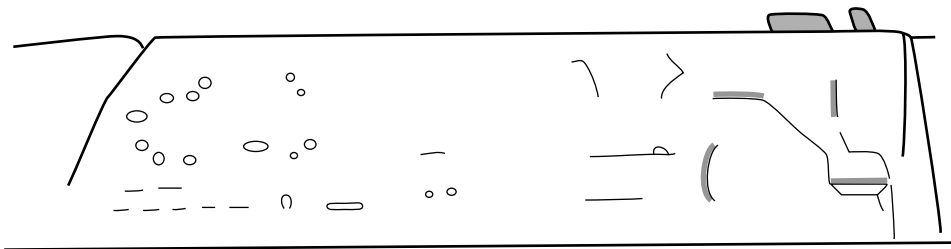
- 30-110 feet tall
- 30,000 square feet combined
- Climate controlled
- Bouldering, top rope and lead
- Superior quality holds
- Routes for all ability levels
- Friendly, knowledgeable staff

## Opie's Kitchen

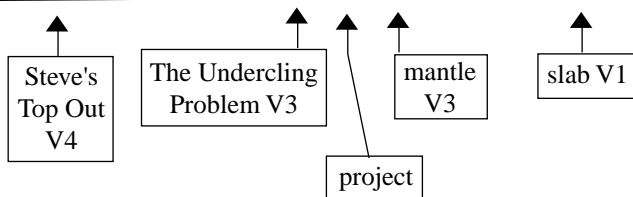
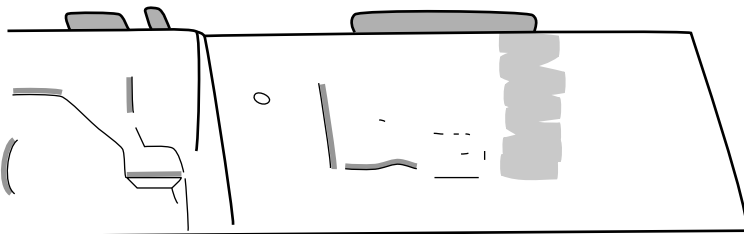
From Giant City Rd, make a left at the top of a small hill on Grassy Rd (following signs to Devil's Kitchen). After 3.6 miles on Grassy Rd, make a right on Tacoma Rd. Drive slowly on this road and after 0.75 mile, just after a small bridge, park on your left at the Rocky Bluff parking. Cross the road and take the well established trail. Walk for about 3 to 5 minutes then go right, down the small cliff, then go left along the cliff. You'll see the first wall (Main Wall) with some chalk then a few boulders.

This area has one of the highest concentration of hard problems.

### The Main Wall - left side



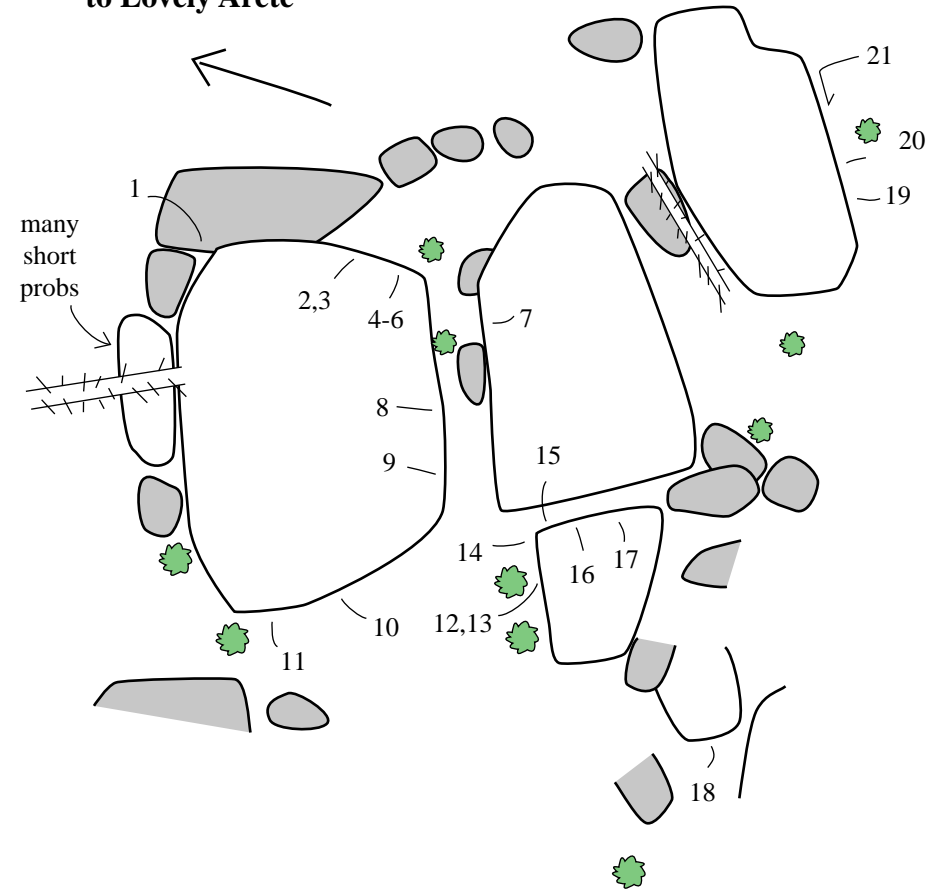
### The Main Wall - right side



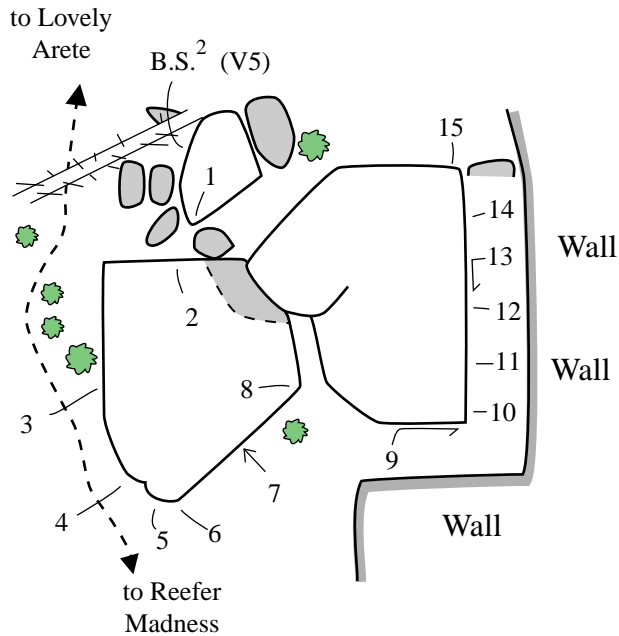
to the Professional Wall

## ZigZag Area

to Lovely Arete



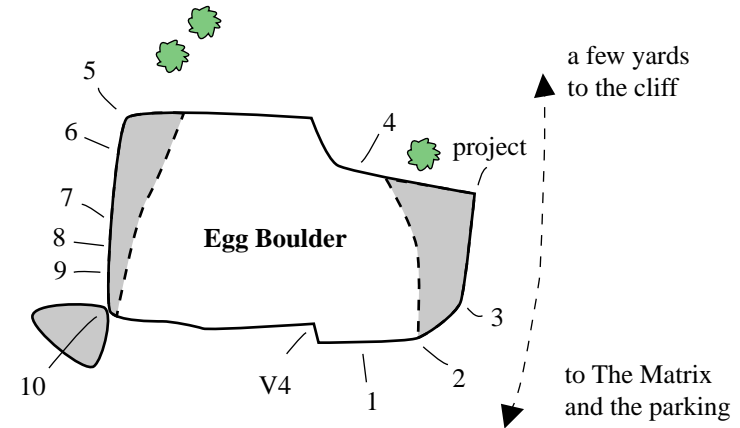
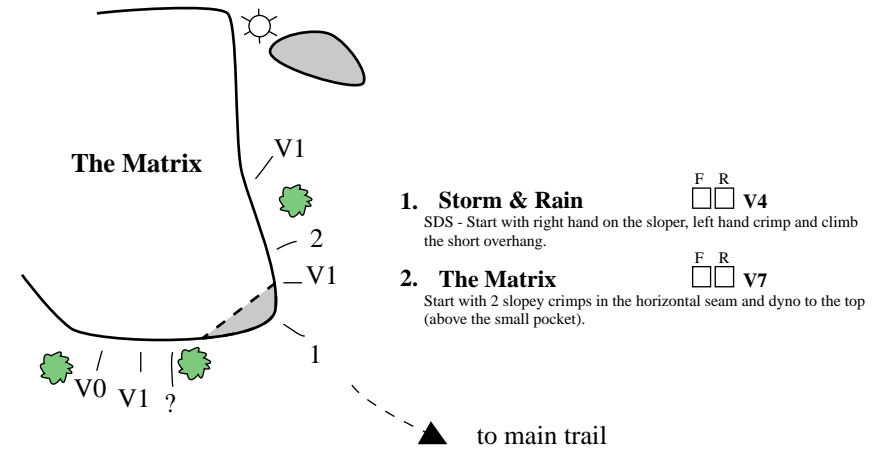
## Jackson Falls Yosemite Slab



1. **Unknown** F R  
□ □ V4  
Start low and climb a triangular arete by its right side.
2. **project** F R  
□ □ V?
3. **Snatch** F R  
□ □ V4  
Pockets up to a mantle.
4. **Wind Mill** F R  
□ □ V6  
Start with the underclings of Bag Piper, go up and left to a sidepull then dyno all the way to the ramp.
5. **Bag Piper** F R  
□ □ V5  
Start right hand with a high undercling and climb the bulge left of the arete.
6. **The Tiger** F R  
□ □ V6/7  
Start on the gaston edges, go up and right to the slab.
7. **Yosemite Slab** F R  
□ □ V0-2?  
Many friction lines up the tall slab. The easiest is along the seam.
8. **Pinball** F R  
□ □ V6  
SDS - Start on the black patch and climb the arete right by its right side.

9. **Fusion** F R  
□ □ V6  
SDS - Traverse on the lip then climb the arete.
10. **Unnamed** F R  
□ □ V7  
SDS - Start just under the roof, throw left then climb the arete.
11. **Footwiser** F R  
□ □ V8  
Start on the rock with 2 underclings. Put your feet then throw to the edge.
12. **Jackie Chancellor** F R  
□ □ V9/10  
SDS - Start with tiny crimps in the horizontal crack then go right to finish in David & Goliath. Ratings depend on finger size.
13. **David & Goliath** F R  
□ □ V8  
SDS - Start on a right-facing hold, traverse left for 6 feet then dyno to the top.
14. **Crimpmasterflash** F R  
□ □ V7  
One move wonder. Small crimps to top.
15. **Gunslinger** F R  
□ □ V3  
Start left hand undercling, right hand pocket and left hand to the ledge. Boulders underneath are off.

## Drapers Bluff



1. **Way of The Slacker** F R  
□ □ V3  
Find the easiest way up the tall face, right of the dihedral.
2. **Bar Fly** F R  
□ □ V5  
SDS - Start on an undercling, go to the ramp then top out right.
3. **Scrambled Eggs** F R  
□ □ V6  
SDS - Start on 2 pinches, go to another pinch and top out.
4. **Guns 'N Roses** F R  
□ □ V9  
Super classic. Obvious line up the highball face.
5. **Arrowhead** F R  
□ □ V7  
SDS - Climb the rounded arete by its right side to a hard mantle.
6. **Species** F R  
□ □ V8  
SDS - Climb along the seam, 4 feet right of the arete.
7. **Unknown** F R  
□ □ V7  
Start left of the Standard Route and traverse right to climb Brooke.
8. **Standard Route** F R  
□ □ V5  
Start on a high hueco and climb left of the seam.
9. **Brooke** F R  
□ □ V5  
Start on 2 pockets and climb right of the seam.
10. **Bubba In Carharts** F R  
□ □ V1  
Stand up on the rock and climb the arete.

## Drapers Bluff

From Grassy Road, go right on Tacoma Road as you would go for Opie's but drive all the way to the end of Tacoma Rd (4.25 miles) then make a right on Red Wolf. Drive for 5.1 miles then in sharp left curve, go straight. After another 2.5 miles you'll get to a stop sign, go left. Drive a last 2.1 miles then park on your left.

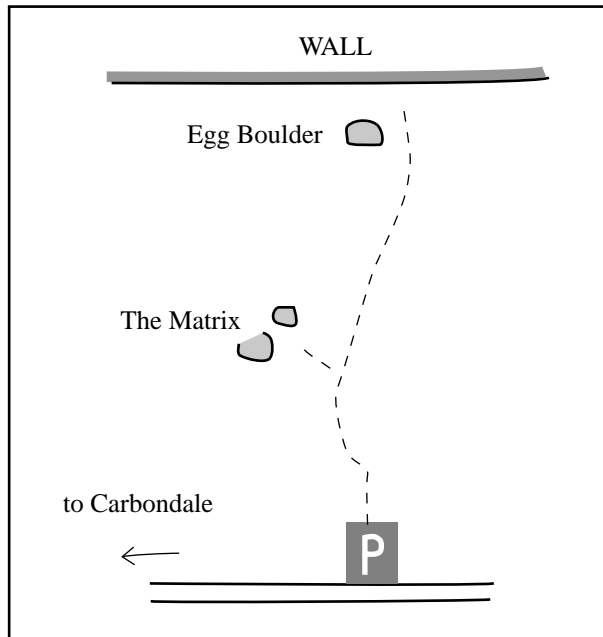
Drapers Bluffs are owned by Eric Ulner. Eric is a climber and is happy to welcome us on his property but we shouldn't take the access for granted.

- Read the board in the parking.
- Sign in and out in the guest book.
- No smoking
- No overnight parking
- Keep noise to a minimum
- Be friendly and respectful of the walkers and other climbers.
- Pack out all trash.

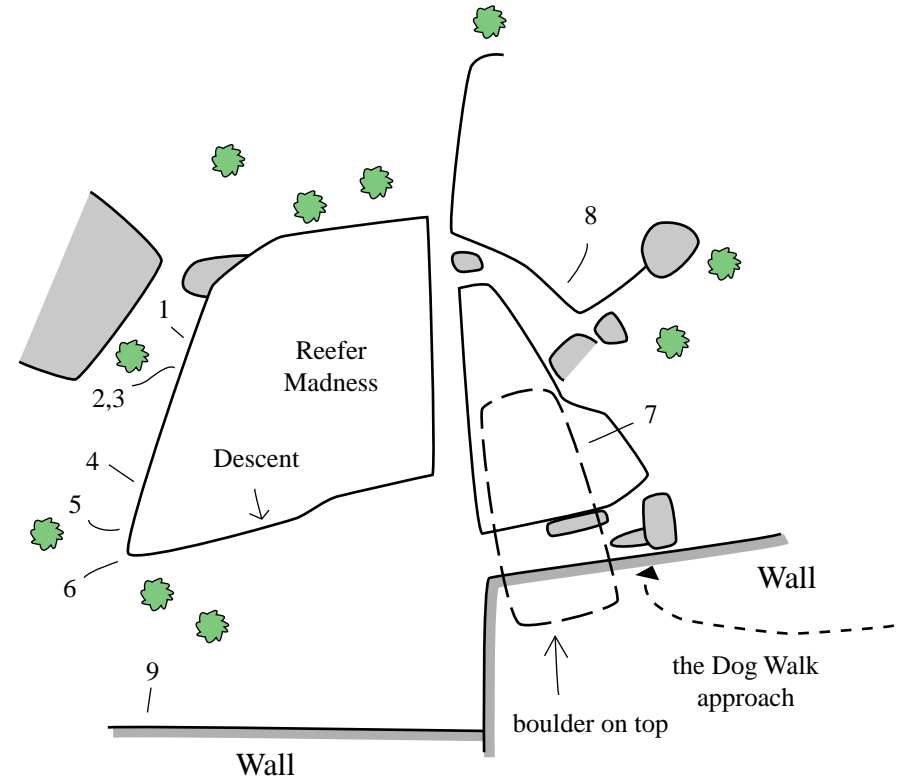
The climbing here is free, but we encourage you to donate a buck or two for the maintenance of the site.

The Drapers doesn't have a lot of boulders, but the problems are good. There is also some good sport climbing on the cliff.

For those looking for a stellar line, Matt Bliss' Guns 'N Roses is worth the visit by itself.



## Jackson Falls Reefer Madness



- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>1. Juicy Fruit</b> <span style="float: right;">F R<br/>□ □ V1</span><br/>From a good high flake, go up to a shelf then the top and mantle. Also a SDS from an undercling (V6).</p> | <p><b>5. Wolverine</b> <span style="float: right;">F R<br/>□ □ V6</span><br/>Double dyno from obvious jug to slopers at lip.</p>   |
| <p><b>2. Rein Deer Left</b> <span style="float: right;">F R<br/>□ □ V4</span><br/>Start on 2 pockets, go to a left-facing ramp then left to a crimp then top.</p>                        | <p><b>6. The Ghetto Life</b> <span style="float: right;">F R<br/>□ □ V1</span><br/>SDS - Climb the overhanging arete.</p>  |
| <p><b>3. Rein Deer Right</b> <span style="float: right;">F R<br/>□ □ V4</span><br/>Start as #2 but after the ramp, go up and right.</p>  | <p><b>7. Titleist</b> <span style="float: right;">F R<br/>□ □ V8/9</span><br/>SDS - Start on the ledge. Right hand horizontal, left hand pocket. Powerful moves up the short face.</p>       |
| <p><b>4. Unnamed</b> <span style="float: right;">F R<br/>□ □ V1-3</span><br/>Many variations from huecos to top and mantle.</p>  | <p><b>8. Skypilot</b> <span style="float: right;">F R<br/>□ □ V3</span><br/>Highball face with crux on top.</p>  |
|  | <p><b>9. Heroics</b> <span style="float: right;">F R<br/>□ □ V2</span><br/>Locate softball size hueco on main wall. Undercling this puppy all the way to the lip. Tops out on the ledge.</p> |

# So III Bouldering (Shawnee National Forest) Road Map

Many small towns were not indicated on this map in order to keep it clear.

