

WELCOME TO PURGATORY

A guide by Todd Paige, Tom Herbert and Evan Smith

Several great bouldering areas have recently been developed near Reno. This guide introduces the Purgatory Boulders, Family Boulders, several Pyramid Highway areas and the Fort Sage Boulders. Please treat these areas with great respect and keep a low profile in order to help preserve access. Also, be aware that in Nevada, activities such as small animal trapping, hunting, shooting, mining and motorcycle riding are legal and popular. Please try and get along with other users of these areas.

Route information

The V-grades in this guide represent our best guess. Star ratings indicate our favorite problems. Red print means we think the problem will become an area classic. Many problems have only seen a few ascents and there is a lot of untouched stone left to be explored. Routes are named, graded and rated when appropriate. The initials of the first ascensionist appear and any specific directions we thought would be helpful.

Abbreviations used are:

sds = sit down start

uc = undercling

TH = Tom Herbert

SH = Sondra Herbert

TP = Todd Paige

ES = Evan Smith

JA = Jim Arnold

NM = Noah Markoff

CM = Craig McClenahan

AM = Andreas Muller

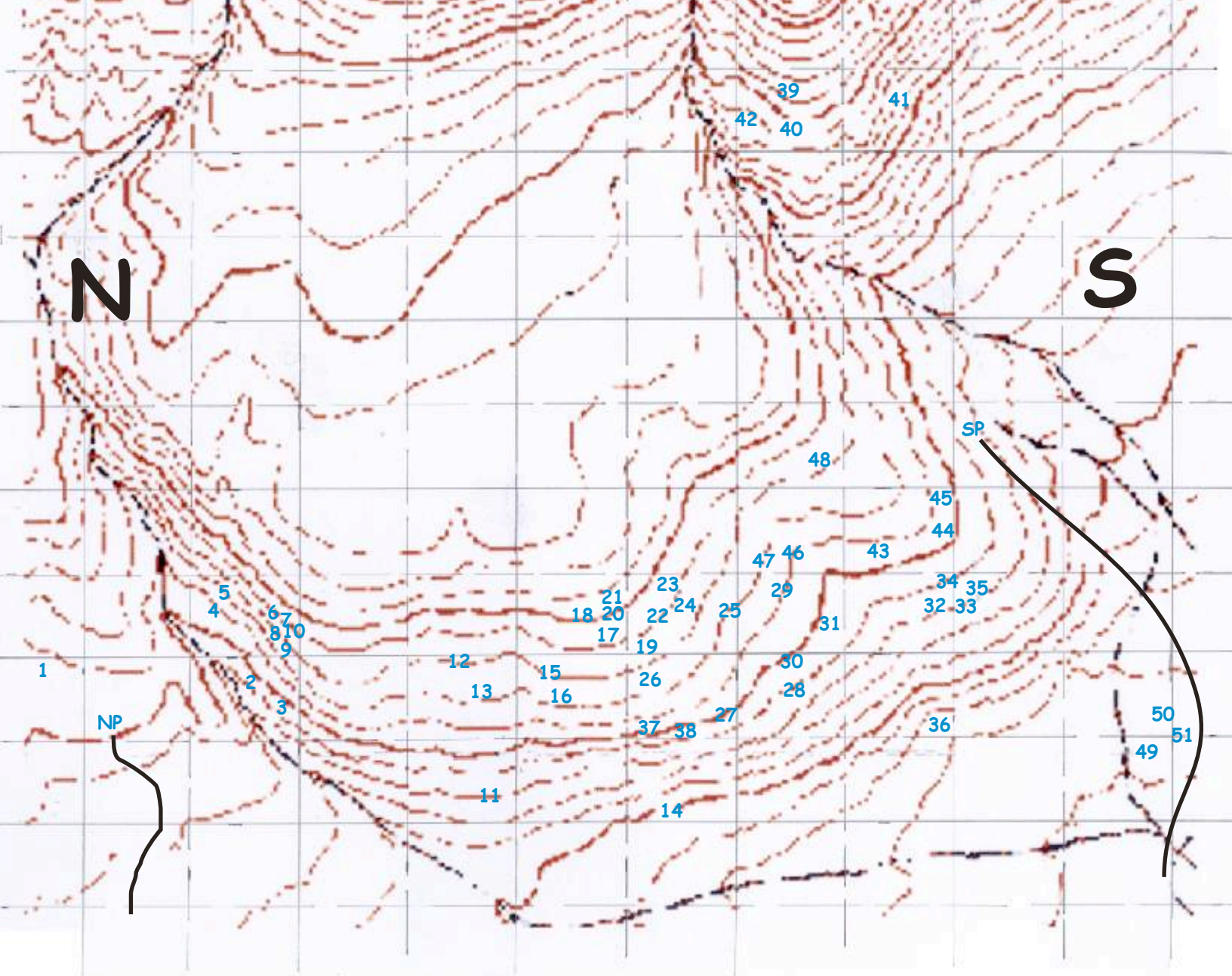
JH = Jackie Hueftle

DB = Don Bland

Directions to Purgatory

Before heading out of town, top off your gas tank, there is no reliable source of gas once you are in the desert. Then, find the Nixon Store at the junction of Hwy. 446 and Hwy. 447. (From Reno, follow highway 80 to Pyramid Way, Hwy 445 and follow to Pyramid Lake. Turn right on Hwy 446 and follow to Nixon. From the east, take Hwy 80 to Wadsworth exit 43 to Hwy 447 and follow to Nixon.) (Do Not speed in Wadsworth or Nixon)

Once you have found the Nixon store (recently closed) follow Hwy. 447 north for 41 miles. Once you pass the north shore of the dry Winnemucca Lake, find (at 41 miles from Nixon Store) the obvious large dirt road following the large power line. Turn right and follow the road east toward the prominent craggy peaks for one mile. Turn left onto a small dirt road and find your way to the boulder field, which is now easily seen below the peaks. There are north and south parking areas at the dead ends of small spur roads.



1 Breakfast Club
 NP north parking lot
 2 Parking Lot Boulder
 3 Beastie Boulder

4 Mud Pie
 5 Knuckle Buster

6 Parallel Universe
 7 Game Warden Rock
 8 Burro Boulder
 9 Aircraft Carrier
 10 Pure Fire

11 Devil Boulder
 12 The Whale
 13 Dry Sea Fishing
 14 Phallus Rock

15 Flounder
 16 Fun Factor
 17 Hang Ten
 18 Split Rock

19 Spirit Rock
 20 The Clam
 21 The Snout
 22 New Geometry
 23 Birth Stone
 24 Paradox
 25 Women's Warm-up
 26 Top Hat

27 Two Faced Boulder
 28 X-Boulder
 29 Shin Dig
 30 Hidden Boulders
 31 A-Rock

32 Basking Boulder
 33 Close to Heaven
 34 Gold Standard
 35 Chimps Arete

36 Bad Love
 37 Dog Rock
 38 Sage Brush Boulder

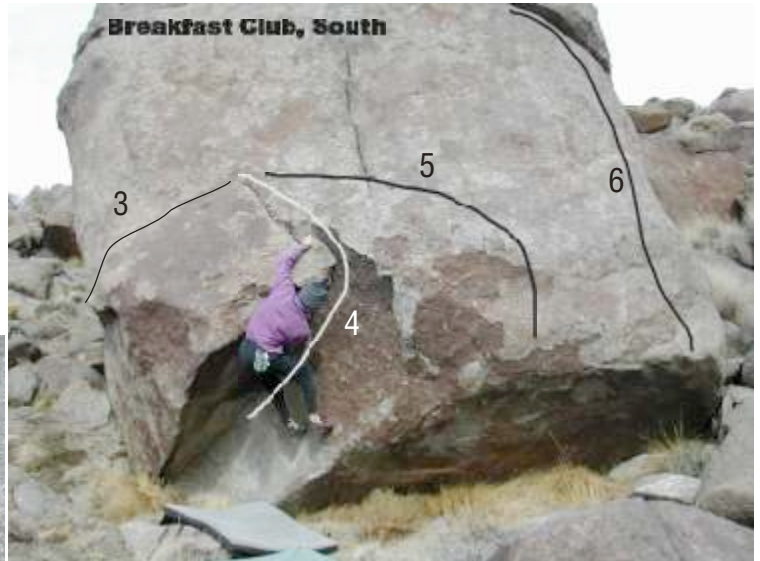
39 Respect
 40 Exacto Blade
 41 Underbelly
 42 No Respect

43 Big Crack Rock
 44 Cracknup
 45 Fortitude
 46 Fret Arete
 47 Sleeping Buddha
 48 Pilot Boulder

49 Welcome to Purgatory
 50 Tombstone
 51 Prime Time

SP south parking lot and areas

South of the main purgatory area are many scattered boulders. The boulders below are located south of the map.
 52 South Park (1/4 mile south of SP)
 53 Burning Man (1/4 mile south of 52)
 54 Zebra Cave (on hill above 53)
 55 Lonely Boulder (1/4 mile south of 53)



1 BREAKFAST CLUB West:

- 1 Early Bird v3 ******(sd)TH
- 2 Project(sd)
- 3 Project(sd)

BREAKFAST CLUB South:

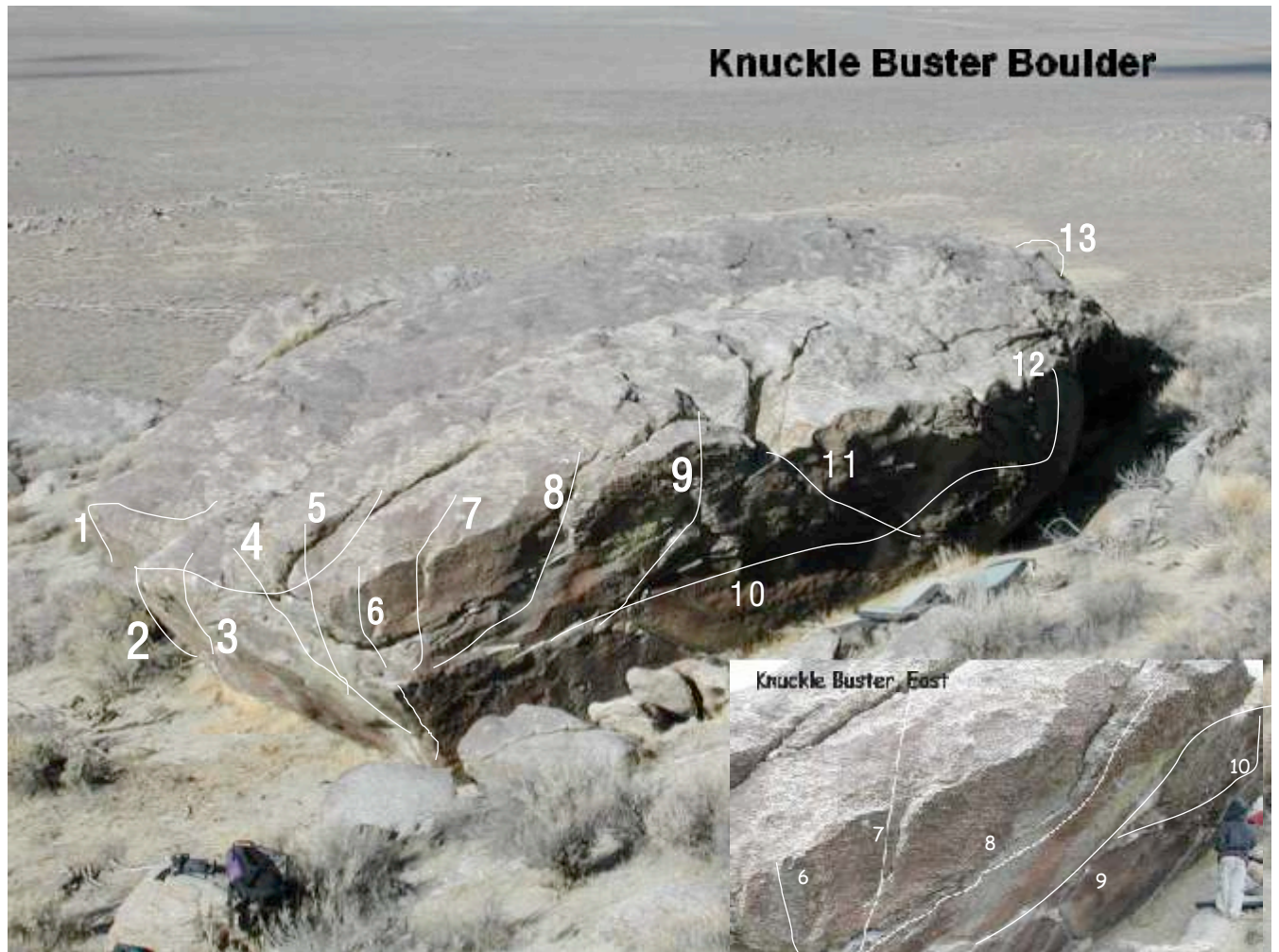
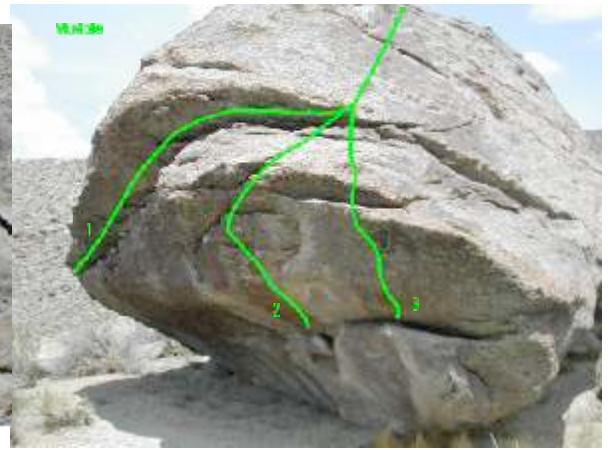
- 4 Breakfast Club v2******(sd) ES (jump off)
- 5 Eye Opener v5* TH
- 6 V4 (sd)

2 PARKING LOT BOULDER:

- 1 V5****** TH
- 2 unknown
- 3 unknown
- 4 project
- 5 V2*******ES (arete)

3 BEASTIE BOULDER:

- 1 Brooklyn V7*******ES
- 2 Fly Juice V8****** TH(sds)
- 3 V4 ES (sds)



5 KUNCKLE BUSTER

BOULDER:

0 Trash Compactor V1* TH

1 Tin Man Traverse V4** TH (low sds)

2 Knuckle Traverse V3***TH (sds)

3 Knuckle Up V4** TH (arete off)

4 Slot Machine V8* TH (slots only)

5 V4 TH (start in slot)

6 V1** ES (stand up start)

7 V3* CM (V4 with sds)

8 Knuckle bone V5*** ES (sds V6)

9 Knuckle buster V6*** TH

10 Fat Daddy V9/10** TH

11 Battle Born V7* TH (left diagonal crack low start)

12 V4* TH (sit down start last moves of Fat daddy)

13 unknown JH

14 Purgatory Pump V4*** TH (start 2 and continue lip traverse to 12)

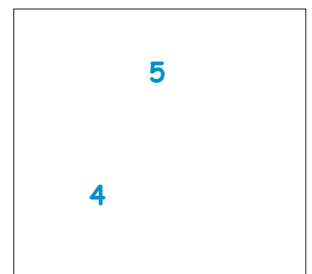
A common sds for 6,7,8

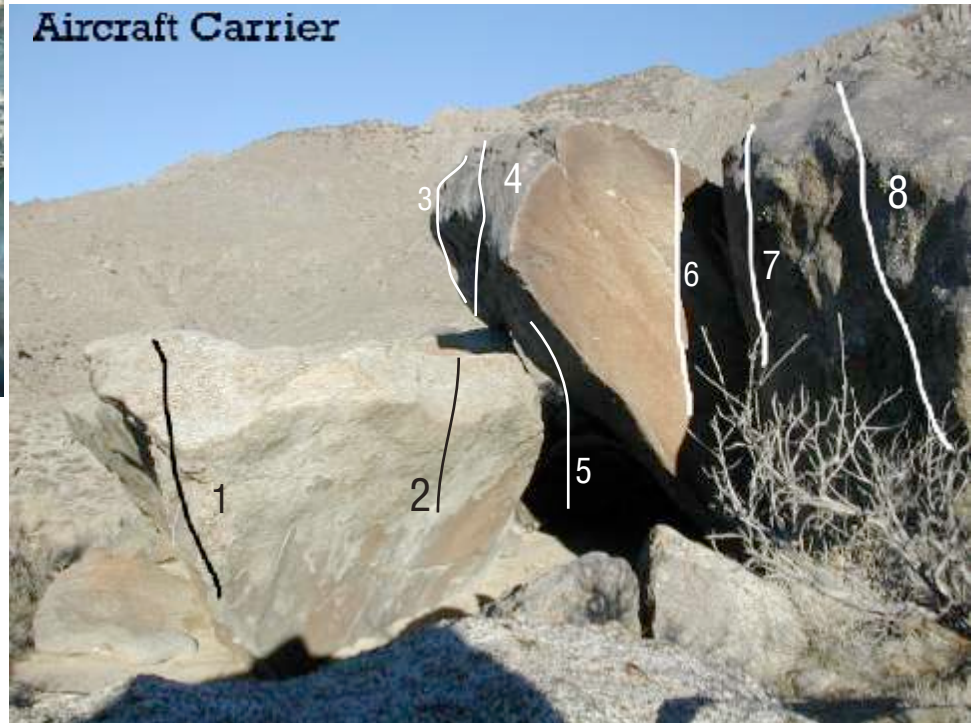
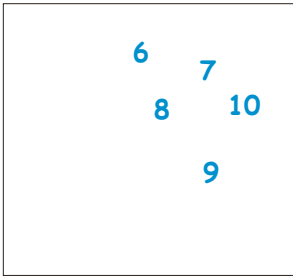
4 MUD PIE:

1 Mud Pie Traverse V3+ SH (sds out of photo to left)

2 Muddy waters V2* SH

3 Mud puddle V2* SH



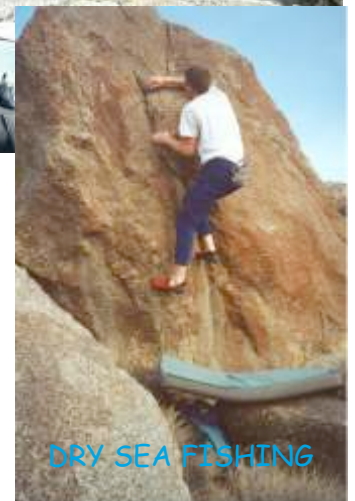
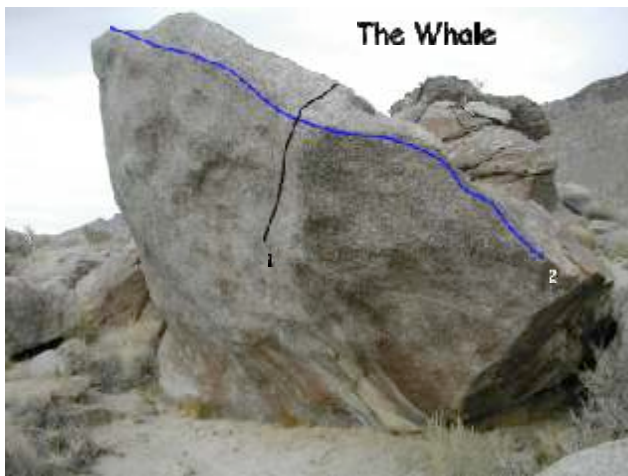
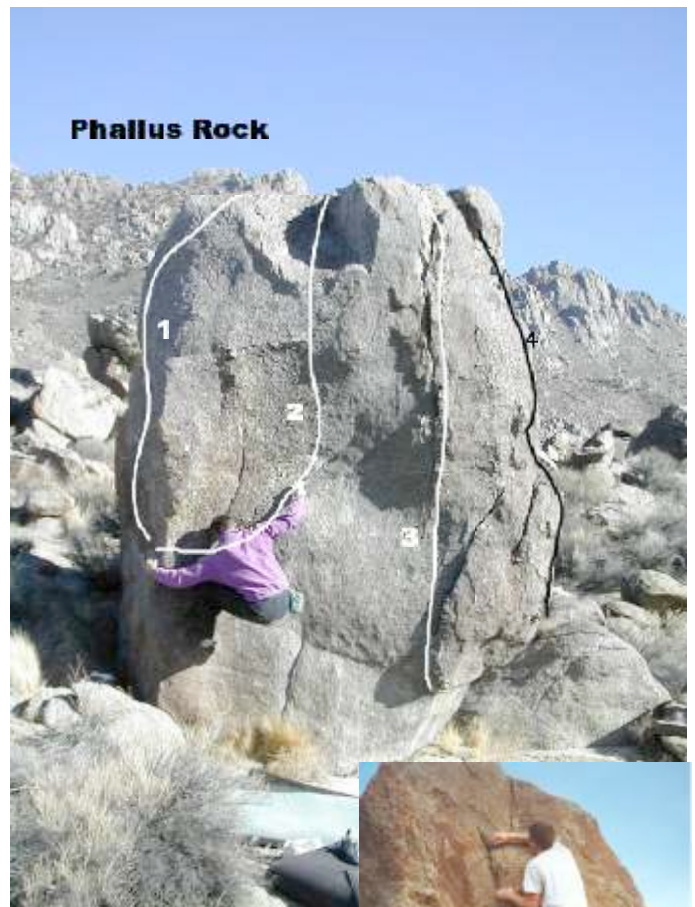
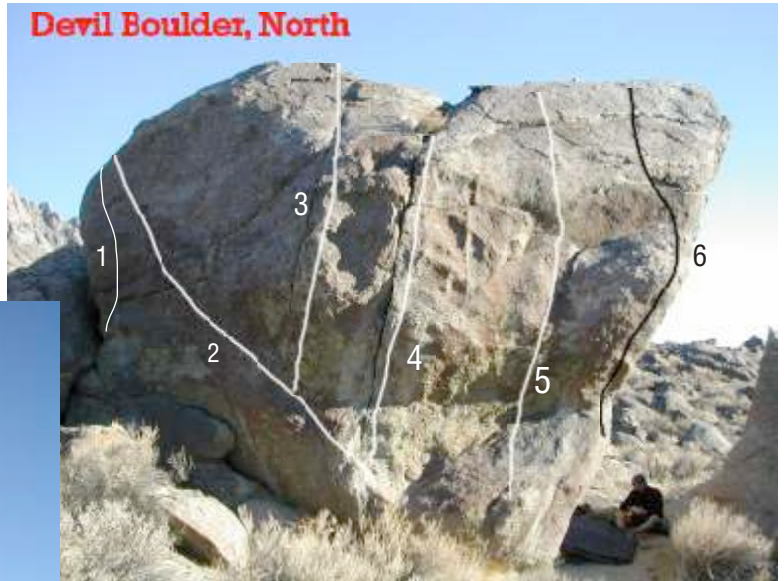
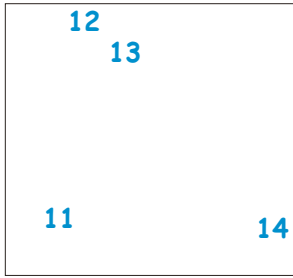


- 6 PARALLEL UNIVERSE:**
 1 V3
 2 V2
 3 V1
 4 Pinched Rib V1**
 out of photo far R V3*ES

- 7 Game Warden Rock**
 1 Beat the Rap, V5***
 2 Misdemeanor Blues, V4**
 3 Interrogation, V2**
 4 V0

- 8 Burro Boulder:**
 1 Dance of the Desert Burro
 V3(sds) ES
10 Pure Fire Boulder:
 1 Pure Fire V3**JA

- 9 Aircraft Carrier:**
 1 V4(low sds)
 2 Porthole V1 TP
 3 Flight Deck V0 TP
 4 Control Tower V1 ES
 5 Cave**V3 JA (sds)
 6 V3 TH
 7 V3 NM*
 8 V3*TH



11 DEVIL BOULDER, North:

- 1 V0 TH
- 2 V3** (sds) TH
- 3 Devils Radio V3* (sds) TH
- 4 Devil's got your tongue V3* TH
- 5 Devils Horn V3*ES
- 6 Dust Devil V2*** ES

DEVIL BOULDER, West:

7 Sympathy for the Devil V4*** TH

8 Escape (to right), V3

12 THE WHALE:

- 1 Monstro V5* TH (project sds)
- 2 V3**DB

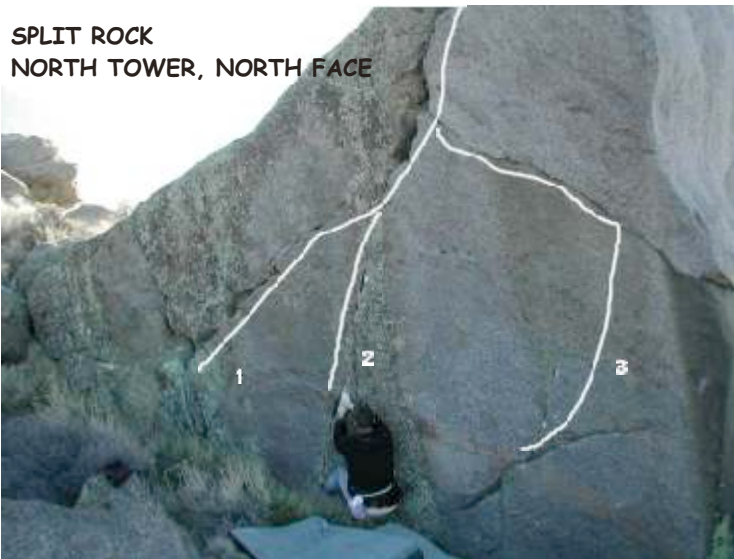
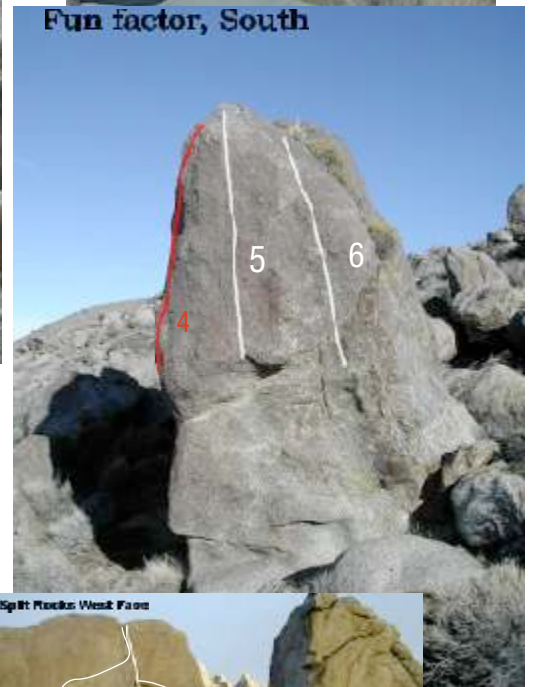
13 DRY SEA:

Below THE WHALE several scattered problems such as:
Dry Sea Fishing V0 TP

14 PHALLUS ROCK:

- 1 V2 (sds) TH
- 2 Hard On V4*** TH
- 3 V2** (sds) TH
- 4 Phallus V1** TP

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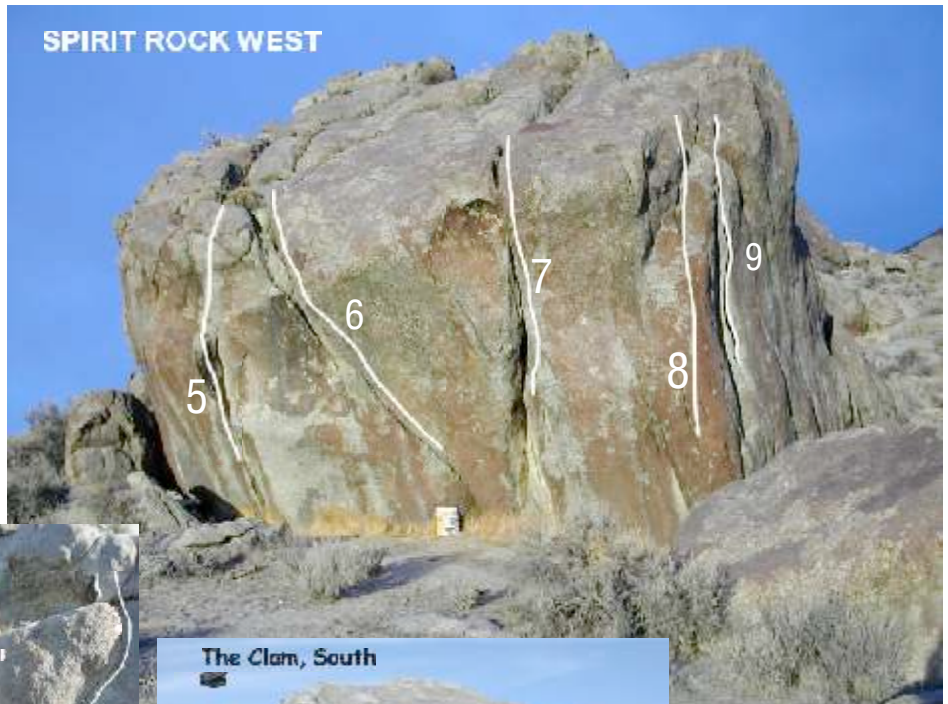
- 15 FLOUNDER:**
 1 Flounder V4 ES
 2 Sea Urchin V2 ES
 3 Codfish V3 SH
16 FUN FACTOR, West:
 1 Fun Arete V2** ES
 2 Fun Factor V3*** ES
 3 Funk Factor V5* TH
 4 Girl V5*** JH

- FUN FACTOR, South:**
 5 Slap Happy V3** ES
 6 V2 TH
17 HANG TEN:
 1 V1 TH
 2 V2 TH
 3 Hang Ten V3** TH
 4 West Shore V3** ES
 5 traverse into 4 V3* SH
 6 Beach Party V0 TP

- 18 SPLIT ROCK, NORTH TOWER, North:**
 1 Black Market V1*** TH
 2 Prescription for Pleasure V2*** TH
 3 Prescription for Pain V7* TH
SPLIT ROCK, WestFace:
 4 unknown
 5 5.6 JA
 6 Tarantula V4** DB
 7 V4(sds) TH

between HANG TEN and SPLIT TOWER find THE FIN with a few V0's and THE EVAN SMITH MEMORIAL a low V4 sds ES

21
20
19



19 SPIRIT ROCK, North:

- 1 V0 *ES
- 2 V2* ES
- 3 project
- 4 V4 TH

SPIRIT ROCK, West:

- 5 Medicine Man V4* TH
- 6 Ghost Walker V3***JA
- 7 Pandemonium V5**JA
- 8 Skin Walker V5**(sds) TH
- 9 Peace Pipe V3***JA

20 THE CLAM, West:

- 1 Chlamydia V7*** TH
- 2 Bearded Clam V5* TH
- 3 Clam Digger V3* TP(low left hand mantle start)
- 4 Clam Up V8** TH
- 5 The Clam V8** TH
- 6 Pearl Necklace V3** SH

THE CLAM, South

- 6 Pearl Necklace V3** SH

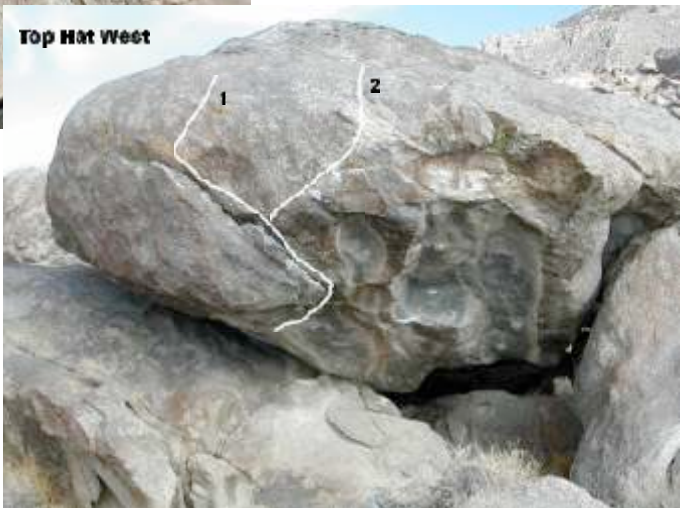
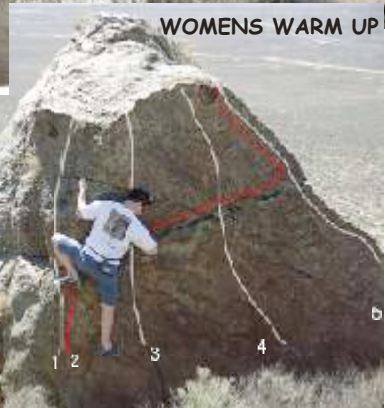
THE CLAM, East

- 7 Clam Sandwich V6* TH
- 8 In hole 10 ft right of 7 find V3(sds) SH (no pic)

21 THE SNOOT:

- 1 Snot Hard Arete V2 TH
- 2 Snot Easy V4 ES
- 3 Snot Traverse V3 TH

23
 19 22 24 25
 26

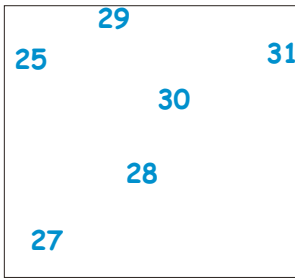


23 BIRTHSTONE:
 1 Birth V3** ES
 2 Labor V4 TH
 3 Conception V1 TP
22 NEW GEOMETRY:
 1 **New Geometry V1*** ES**
 2 Right Angle V6***TH
 3 Break a Leg V4 TH
24 PARADOX NORTH:
 4 Tattle Tale V7* TH (uc sds arete off)

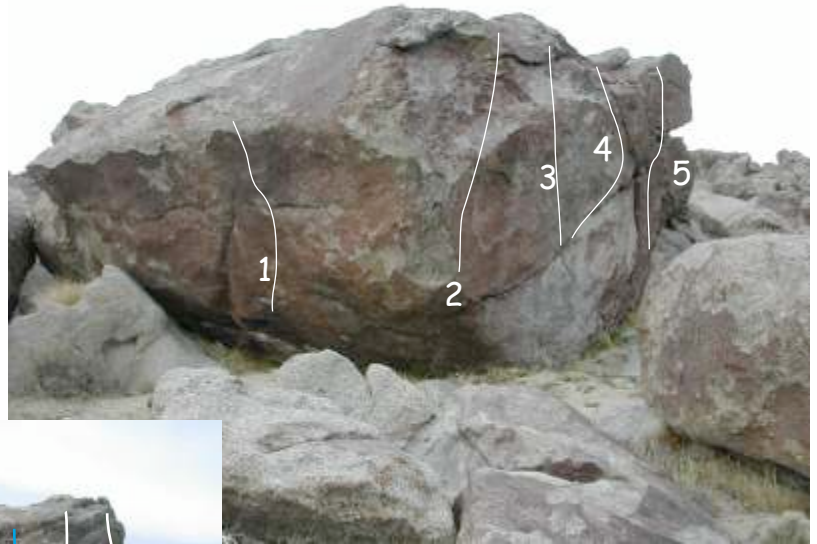
PARADOX, West:
 1 Paradox V3*** (uc sds) TH
 2 V2***(uc sds) TH
 3 V0 TH
PARADOX, North
 4 Tattle Tale V7 (sds) TH
PARADOX, South:
 5 project
 6 Pair of Docs V4(sds), V2(standup)

25 WOMENS WARM UP BOULDER:
 1 thru 5 V0-V1
BACK SIDE: (not pictured)
 6 O-Factor V1 JH
 7 Beached Whale V3 JH

26 TOP HAT, West:
 1 Top Hat V4*** ES
 2 Top Cat V4*** TH
TOP HAT, East:
 several low problems (no picture)
SHALLOW HAL:(no picture)
 triangular face with concave base found just north of Paradox boulder
 1 Shallow Hal V3*TP



TWO FACED BOULDER



27 TWO-FACED BOULDER:

- 1 project (sds)
- 2 project (sds)
- 3 V4 TH
- 4 V3 ES
- 5 V1 SH

28 BOULDER X:

- 1 V3(sds) TH
- 2 V2*(sds) SH
- 3 V3**(sds) ES

4 V3(sds) avoid jug at 6ft

5 V2*

29 SHIN DIG:

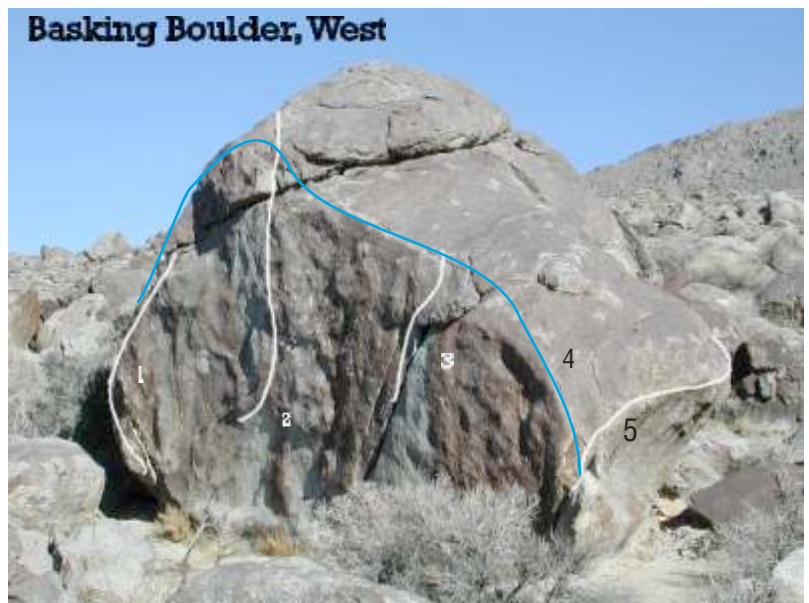
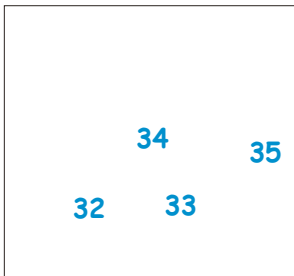
- 1 Shin Dig V5* TH (sds)
- 2 V3** TH (sds)

30 HIDDEN BOULDERS:

- 1 V3 TH
- 2 project
- 3 project
- 4 V3 TH
- 5 V2*** TH
- 6 Bone Trouble V5 TH
(located on short blank wall behind 5)

31 A ROCK:

- 1 Left of Perfection V3*** TH
- 2 Left A V2*
- 3 Right A V1*
- 50 ft west of A-Rock find several V0-V1 routes on Red Face

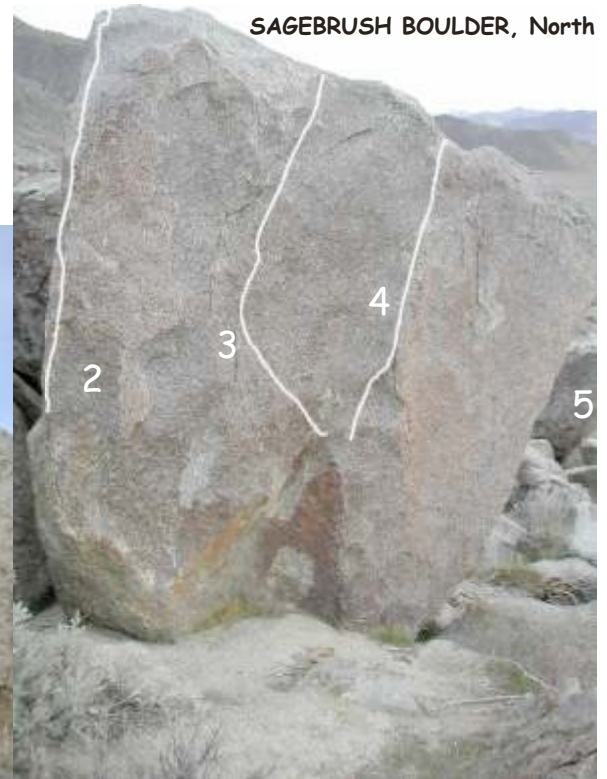
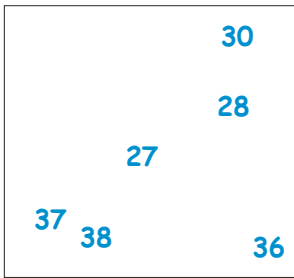


32 BASKING BOULDER, West:
 1 V3(sds)TH
 2 Basking V7** TH
 3 Thumbs up V0 TP
 4 Basking Traverse V1*** SH
 5 Tan Line V1** TP
BASKING BOULDER, South:
 5 Tan Line V1** TP
 Several V0-V1 problems on east face

50 ft west of basking boulder find **Low Rider** V4(sds) ES
33 CLOSE TO HEAVEN:
 1 thru 5 V0-V2
 6 thru 8 out of photo on right V0-V1

CRACK OF JUSTICE, gritty crack 100 yards down hill from **CLOSE TO HEAVEN** V3 JA
35 CHIMPS ARETE:
 1 Chimps Arete V2** JA
 2 Chimps Arete V4* TH

34 GOLD STANDARD:
 1 Gold Member V5*(sds) ES. Out of picture left(step off once established on slab) continuation to top is Gold Member Extender V5*
 2 Gold Standard V5*** TH
 3 Substandard V2* SH

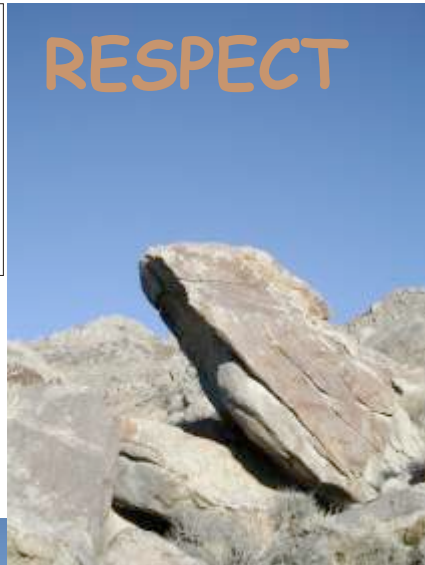


- 36 BAD LOVE:**
 1 unknown
 2 V3 JA
 3 Bad Love V3 JA
37 DOG ROCK:
 1 Puppy Love V3 SH

- 38 SAGEBRUSH BOULDER, North:**
 1 V1 (sds) TH (left of 2, not seen in pic)
 2 V1* (sds) ES
 3 Silver State V7** TH
 4 Sagebrush V4** ES
 5 V3 (sds) TH (west face, no picture)

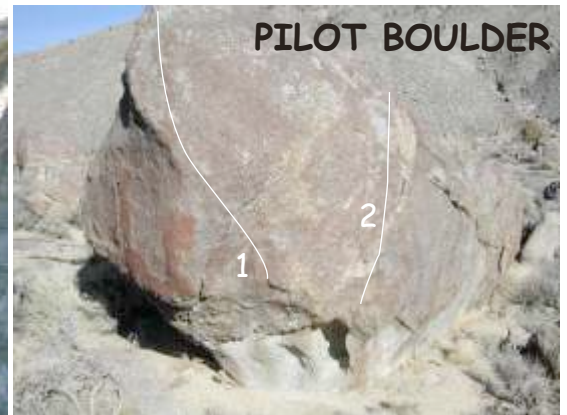
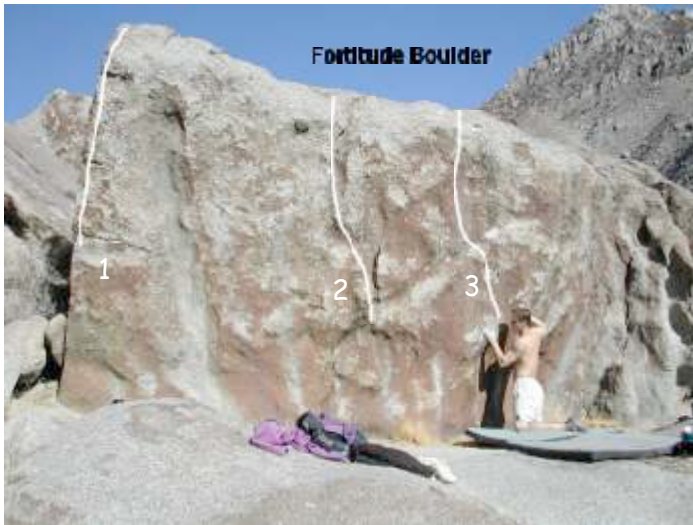
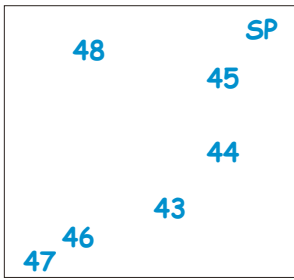
- SAGEBRUSH BOULDER, South:**
 6 V3 TH
 7 unknown
 8 Sage Fright V3
 9 unknown

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42		41
	40	



- 40 EXACTO BLADE:**
- 1 Exacto Blade V7** AM (sds)
- 42 NO RESPECT:**
- 1 project
- 2 No Respect V3(sds) TH
- 39 RESPECT:**
- 1 American Dream V5*** TH
- 2 Respect V5*** TH
- 3 arete left of Respect V3 NM

- 41 UNDERBELLY:**
- project right and West of Respect



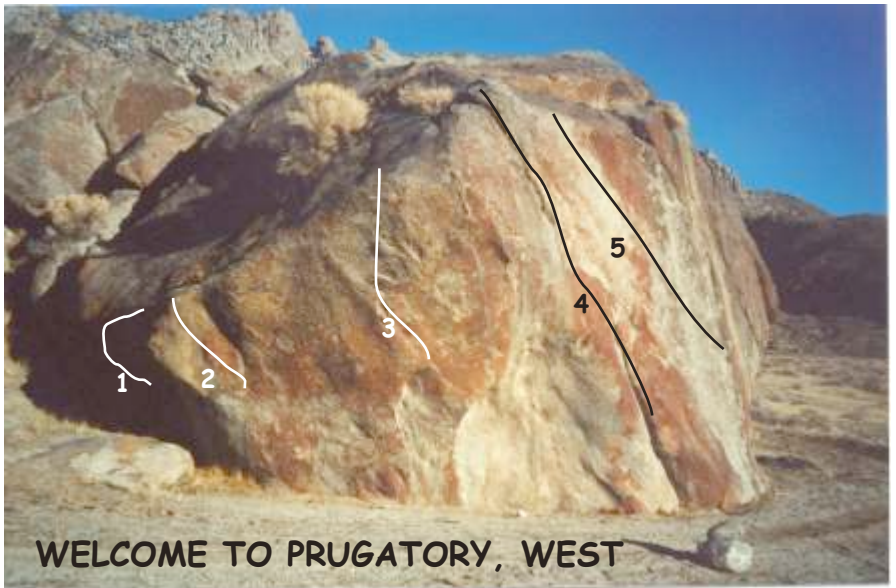
43 BIG CRACK ROCK:
 1 Big Crack 5.6
 2 Little Crack 5.10a

44 CRACKNUP:
 1 V2 SH
 2 The Albatross V3**(sds) ES
 3 Cracknup V4*** (sds) ES
 4 project
 5 Roof Route V2 TH
 several V0 problems in the Cracknup Corridor under 5

45 FORTITUDE BOULDER:
 1 No Star Arete V2 TH
 2 Fortified V3 TH
 3 Fortitude V8** TH (start as shown on low crimps)
46 FRET ARETE:
 1 5.7
 2 Fret Arete V4*** ES

47 SLEEPING BUDDHA:
 1 Transcendental Traverse V3*** ES
 2 V5*** TH
 3 project
 multiple V1-V2 straight up problems
48 PILOT BOULDER:
 due east of Sleeping Buddha on ridge
 1 Angle Pilot V5 JA
 2 Sloper Pilot JA

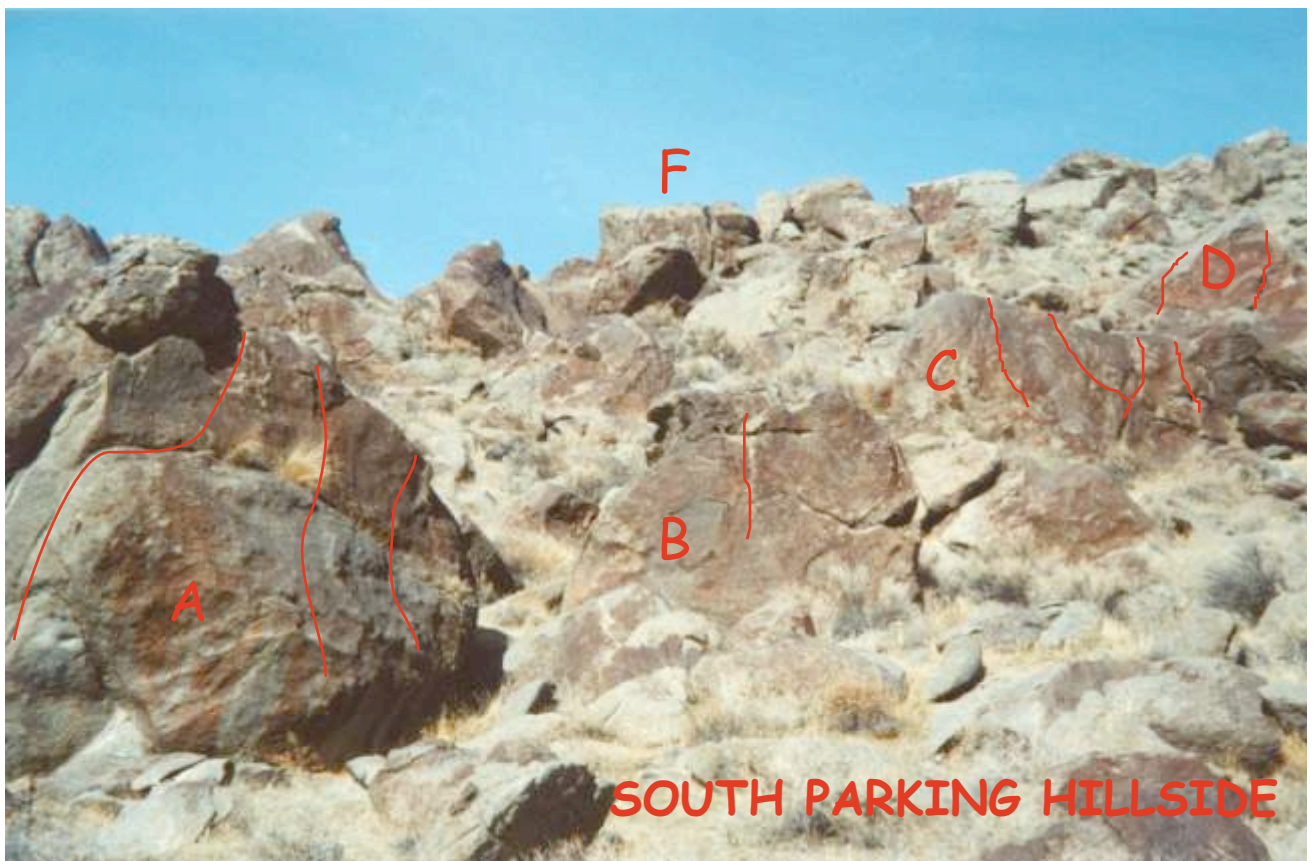
50
49 51



49 WELCOME TO PURGATORY, West:
 1 V1
 2 V3
 3 Welcome to Purgatory V5** ES (sds project)
 4 project
 5 Purgatory Crack V3** TH

WELCOME TO PURGATORY, South:
 6 V4
 7 Unforgiven V4**
 8 V3
 In corridor behind Welcome to Purgatory find two, VO traverses
50 TOMBSTONE:
 1 Tombstone V3*** TH

2 Making the Grave V4* TH**
3 North Tomb V4 * TH (cave out of photo to right)
51 PRIME TIME BOULDER:
 1 V4 TH
 2 Prime Time V2**
 3 V1*
 4 V1
 5 V1
 6 V2* TP

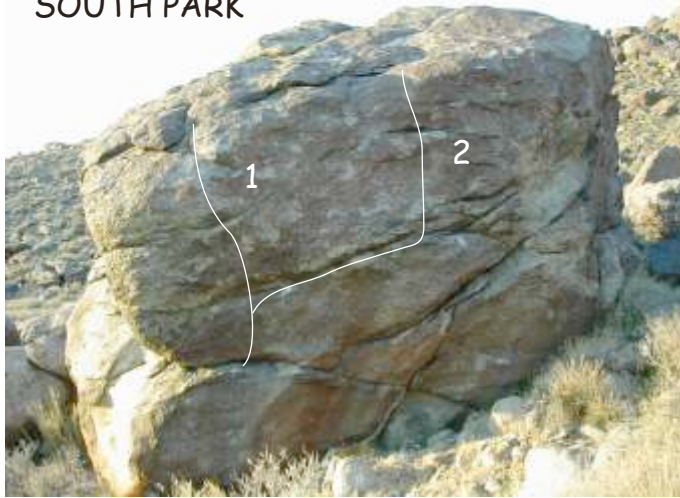


SOUTH PARKING WARM UPS AND SOUTH PARKING HILLSIDE:

Many V0-V2 problems scattered along the hillside between the south parking area and the Fortitude Boulder found at the top of the hill

F= Fortitude Boulder

SOUTH PARK



BURNING MAN, West



Burning Man, East



ZEBRA CAVE



LONELY BOULDER

SOUTH PARK:

- 1 Urban Culture V3 ES
- 2 Bad Cartoon V3 ES

BURNING MAN, East:

- 1 Let's Burn Man V8** AM
- BURNING MAN, West:**
 Burning Man, V_*** TH

ZEBRA CAVE:

- 1 V3**
 - 2 V4**
 - 3 V5*** TH
 - 4 unknown AM
 - 5 unknown AM
- SP = south parking area, main purgatory area seen in background

LONELY BOULDER:

- 1 Lonely V5**ES
- 2 Homely V3** ES
- 3 V4 TH

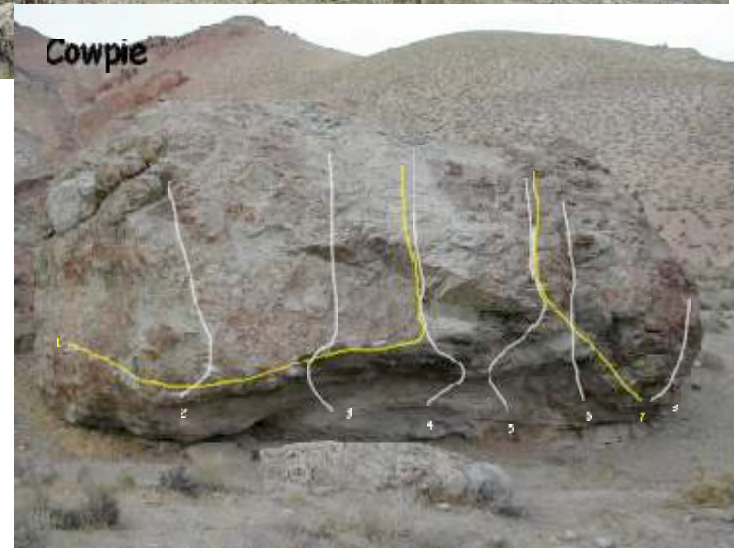
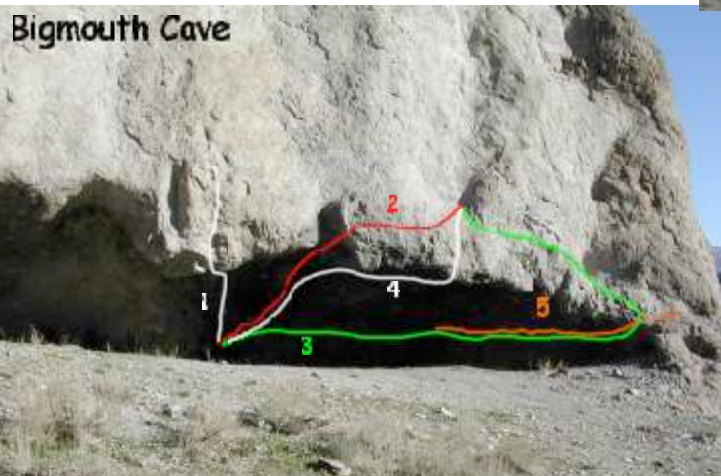
PYRAMID HIGHWAY AREAS

DIRECTIONS

From Hwy 80 in Reno take Pyramid Way (Hwy 445) north. From the Albertson's grocery store go 17.3 miles to a dirt road. Turn left and travel straight up road to a metal gate and fenced in Bomb Squad detonation area. Walk around the perimeter of the area and find a large white boulder in the wash. Take Motrin and get ready to crimp. This is the Cow Pie Boulder. Beware of gunfire.

To find the other Pyramid Hwy areas follow the dirt roads heading over the hill to the north. Bigmouth Cave is in the second canyon north. Neoplastic is in the third canyon just beyond Pig Rock (bolted sport crag) on the left side of the dirt road.

BIGMOUTH CAVE



BIGMOUTH CAVE:

- 1 project
- 2 Overbite V8* TH
- 3 Hard Palate V6 TH
- 4 project
- 5 Soft Palate V3

Cowpie:

- 1 Priapism V9*** TH (V3 to first bucket)
- 2 V3 TH
- 3 project
- 4 Bomb Squad V8*** TH (stand up start V3)
- 5 Mad Dog V8** TH
- 6 V2* TH
- 7 Cowpie V3*** TH

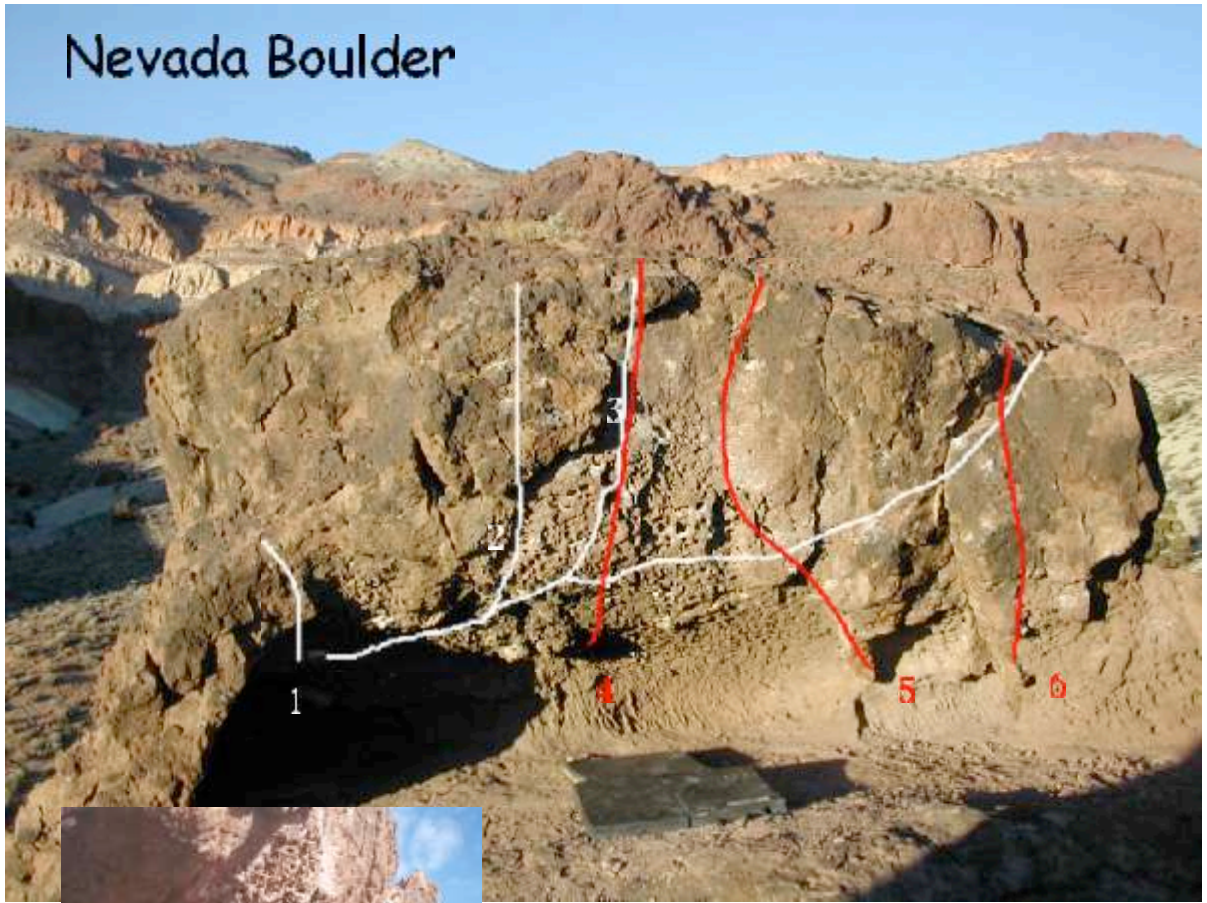
8 V2**TH

out of photo to right find a V1 and V0

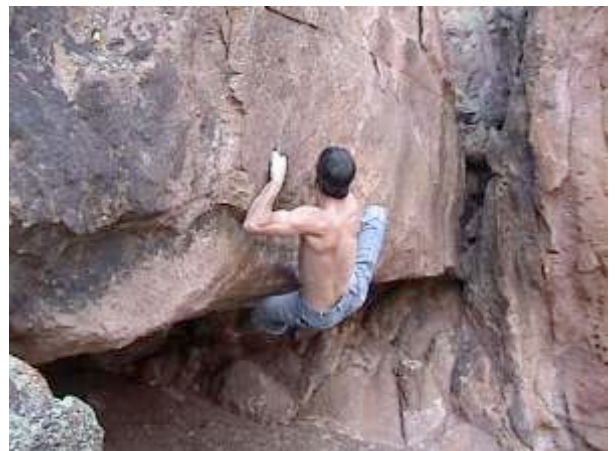
Cowpie, North:

- 1 V1* TH
- 2 Snake Charmer V3* TH

Nevada Boulder



neoplastic



NEVADA BOULDER:

- 1 V1 ES
- 2 V4 TH
- 3 V3 TH
- 4 V5 TH
- 5 V4 ES
- 6 V4 ES
- Traverse V5 TH

NEOPLASTIC V10*** TH (2 repeats so far...)

FAMILY BOULDERS



DEADMANS BOULDER:

- 1 V3
- 2 Dead Man V3***
- 3 V3**
- 4 V3
- 5 V2 ES
- 6 V2 ES

RATED GEE:

multiple variations V0-V1

DIRECTIONS

Take Hwy 80 to Wadsworth exit 43. At the first stop sign turn left onto Hwy 447 and travel north on Hwy 447 about 2.4 miles to a gigantic dirt road, which cuts through the desert on your left. Follow this 3 miles to a corral on the right. Turn right and make a hairpin turn onto a faint dirt road. Backtrack down this road and you will find these volcanic boulders.



Miles of exploratory bouldering in the Fort Sage Mountains OHV area just outside of Doyle, CA. about 45 miles north of Reno on Hwy 395

