

New Life Wall



The steep wall right of the lower North-North Gully contains a few excellent multi-pitch routes that end in the forest below the Astro Ledge approach trail.

These climbs are fine on their own, but may also be linked with climbs off Astro Ledge to create long days of physical climbing. The fastest approach is up the North-North Gully trail. Bear right at an intersection near the base of the wall and follow a trail that leads up to the start of the climbs. It's also possible to traverse over from Zodiac Wall by scrambling through the talus and picking up a faint cliff-base trail.

29 High and Dry 5.9 ★★

This striking wide crack is visible below the large roof just right of *Nanook's* first pitch. To start, climb along a left-facing corner and then traverse right to enter the 9-inch offwidth or use the direct option, *Come from Away* (5.10), that climbs a prominent right-facing flake. Either way, bring a Valley Giant #9, since a #6 BD tips out very early in the wide crack. The anchor is under the overhang. SR-10", extra 4-6" cams for CFA (30 m) FA B. Stanley, D. Ngo, 2014; FFA J. Rigg, B. Stanley, 2015; EA (CFA) N. Phillips, D. Brown, 2018.

30 Nanook 5.12a ★★★★★

This well-protected route follows steep cracks and corners that feature wild, varied climbing in an exciting position. As a bonus, all cruxes are easily aided. The route starts below a partially-bolted, left-facing offwidth about 30 m right of the prominent *Tall Skinny People* chimney. Linking *Nanook* into *Public Image* is highly recommended.

Pitch 1 (12a, 30 m) Clip a bolt and climb right to gain a partially bolted left-facing offwidth corner that leads to a ledge. Make slabby moves up and left to a thin crack in a shallow corner. At its top, step right and face climb to a bolted belay on a ledge.

Pitch 2 (11b, 35 m) Climb double corners above the belay before moving into a major left-facing corner system. Near its top, climb right under a small roof to an overhanging finger and hand crack. Burly and exposed. The bolt anchor is at a tree stump by the corner above.

Pitch 3 (11c, 25 m) Continue up the corner through a roof (bolt). Delicate face climbing and stemming past three bolts leads to a steep crack that climbs out of the huge roof that looms above. Belay at bolts.

Pitch 4 (5.9, 30 m) Shuffle up an offwidth before moving left to jam a gaping, left-leaning crack (fixed pin). Those uncomfortable with wide climbing may find a second 6-inch cam useful. Belay at bolts.

Pitch 5 (10c, 15 m) Climb a narrowing finger crack in a clean, left-facing corner to the top. Rap just left of the



Quentin Roberts, *Monoceros* (5.12a)

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route with a single 70-m rope to descend or hike off as per the *New Life* descent description.

SR to 6", 2 x 0.6-3" cams FA Danny Guestrin, Jon Rigg, Ben Stanley, Dom Ngo, Dave Brown, Chris Dinner, Will Kablert, 2013; FFA Danny Guestrin, Jon Rigg, Laurent Janssen, 2016.

31 Monoceros 5.12a ★★★★★

This wild route features a memorable traverse over the massive *Tall Skinny People* chimney and a fantastic, mostly-bolted 50-m face and arête. Good friction will help with the cruxes, which are all bolt-protected. The route is in the shade most of the day and is pretty quick to dry. "Monoceros" is a modern constellation that bridges the Milky Way and is Greek for a unicorn.

Pitch 1 (10b, 50 m) Climb *New Life* pitch one.

Pitch 2 (11d, 10 m) A difficult downward traverse to the right gains an overhanging flake and the arête. Continue delicately until it's possible to stem across the *Tall Skinny People* chimney. Entirely bolt protected. Exciting!

Pitch 3 (12a, 50 m) Climb the pillar's face and arête through many varied and difficult cruxes and a nice mid-pitch hanging corner (a possible belay). Some of the easier climbing is a bit run-out and exposed. Twelve bolts and small to medium cams protect this awesome pitch. Enjoy!

Pitch 4 (10c, 30 m) Move the belay to a rap anchor at the lowest point of the ledge. Climb straight up to gain a right-leaning ramp, which leads to a flake and a horizon-

49.68945, -123.13314 (Nanook)

tal crack. A leftward finger traverse leads to a steep, right-leaning hand crack. Clip a belay station and continue to the *Nanook* rap anchor. Descend here with a 70-m rope or hike off as for the *New Life* descent description.

SR to 2", 2 x 0.75-1.25" cams FA JM Blais, Olivier Ouellette, 2017.

32 Primitive Life Form 5.12a ★★★★★

Starting from the ground, climb the sharp, technical arête immediately right of the first pitch corner of *New Life*.

10 bolts (30 m) FA Colin Moorhead, Jamie Selda, 2019.

33 New Life 5.11b ★★★★★

This route is a good primer for *Alaska Highway* and is located just left of the gaping chimney *Tall Skinny People* (10c, not described), which creates a cooling effect in warm weather. *New Life* also links well with routes off Astro Ledge. To approach, follow the North-North Gully directions in the introduction. Once at the wall below *Tall Skinny People*, scramble up to the left and look for a fixed rope that leads to the base of the pitch one corner.

Pitch 1 (10b) Climb a white, left-facing corner. Traverse left then continue up the corner to a bolt belay.

Pitch 2 (11b) Climb a steep layback crack and wiggle through a short chimney. The crux reach is under a small roof at the top on good gear. Belay on bolts. A retreat is possible from here with two ropes, but not from above.

Pitch 3 (10c) Fire up a burly V-slot punctuated by rest stances. The anchor has a pin and a bolt.

Pitch 4 (11b) Traverse right via delicate moves then make a cruxy reach around the arête to bolts. You can link pitches three and four using long slings.

Pitch 5 (10b) Move up and left of the belay. Step right into a crack and follow it to the forest. To descend, either rap *Nanook* with a single 70-m or hike uphill to a T-junction, go left and down to a yellow fixed line. Downclimb it, then continue left and drop through a slot to a chain with a short rappel below. Another fixed line leads down and right to the base. To get to the Astro Ledge trail from the top of the route, look for a scarf trail in a tree and fixed lines that lead directly uphill.

SR to 3", 2 x 0.5-3" and 3 x 0.75-1" cams FA Jim Martinello, Trevor MacDonald, 2008.

