

# THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

## (AKA RESURRECTION SLAB)

TOPO BY CHRIS SMALL



### Location and History:

The Garden of Gethsemane (GoG) is located on the east side of Highway 99, approximately 1km north of Britannia Beach adjacent to the "Welcome to Squamish". Park either at sign pullout (room for 3 cars max) or at the viewpoint on the west side of Highway 99 (about 150m south) and cross the highway to reach. The GoG is the 30 m high NWW facing slab in a hollow directly beside the Highway. It's location in this hollow insulates it somewhat from highway noise. The climbs are much larger than they appear from the highway.

The GoG was originally developed by Sydney St Louis who established the middle 3 climbs here in 1987. McLane 's Guide (2005) lists these climbs under the geographical moniker Dynamite Alley (p73), which ignored the first ascensionist's crag name. This author thinks the somewhat bold and sustained nature of the climbing and gear placements in a time prior to access to micro- cams, may have spawned the original GoG crag name, as there may have been some praying for Biblical intervention. This reputation, the limited number of climbs, and slight northward aspect led to the GoG's return to a vegetated state. In 2016, Tim Mathias retroscrubbed Sydney's routes as part of his retro-cleaning initiative "Squamish Obscurities", which aims to uncover literally some of the quality routes lost to the Squamish jungle. During this initiative Tim contacted Chris Small of the Squamish Access Society about replacing the 30 year old hardware at GoG. During this rebolting, significant potential for more routes at GoG was noted. Development of these additional routes will hopefully help maintain more traffic and prevent revegetation again.



1. The Last Supper – \* 5.5. Gear to 2". Chris Small, 2016. Start behind massive Cedar. Jam the hand crack to right traversing ramp to finish on the anchor of Thirty Pieces of Silver. Too bad the hand crack wasn't longer.
2. Thirty Pieces of Silver –\*\*\* 5.8 . Gear to 1", Chris Small, 2016. Follow left trending twin cracks to right trending ramp and short finishing slab to anchor right of large stump. Fun and thoughtful. Besides being the price Judas received for betraying Jesus, I think this many pieces of silver (bolts) are in this cliff now.
3. The Ear of Malchus- \*\*\*\* 10d. Sport. 9 bolts. FA Tim Mathias. Prep C Small, 2016. Stellar and sustained technical slab climbing through shallow scoops and along thin dykes. This line initially was to follow a large ear like flake to right of the line. But alas, this flake was removed by a simple swipe of steel, just like Malchus' ear. And unfortunately Jesus isn't around to reattach the "ear" like he was with Malchus.
4. The Resurrection Factor \*\*\*\*. 10d. Gear to 1". FA Wes Dyck, 1987. Rescrubbed – Tim Mathias, 2016. Also interesting and sustained. Climb over initial flake and trend left into a thin crack – seam feature.
5. Enoch Walked. \*\*\* 10c. Gear to 1 "FA Sydney St.Louis, 1987. Rescrubbed – Tim Mathias, 2016. Climb over initial flake then climb straight up slab on delicate features.
6. The First Commandment \*\*\*\*. 10d. FA Sydney St.Louis, 1987. Rescrubbed – Tim Mathias, 2016. Follows left facing shallow corner to slab climbing into a beautiful fingers to thin hand crack. Quality stuff.
7. A Judas kiss. \*\*\* 10d. FA FA Tim Mathias. Prep C Small, 2016. Follows a slight right leaning thin flaring crack which is thinner and more difficult than it appears from the ground. The name refers to a "betrayal" of my gear on a first ascent attempt where three pieces of gear failed (rock blew out) resulting in a ground fall. Bolts arrived after that.
8. Philistines at the Gate. \*\*\* 5.9. gear to 0.75". FA Chris Small, 2016. Trickier than it looks from the ground also. Climb right leaning crack through small roof and continue to rap anchors. The first climb you hit on the trail down