



1 Chris Small seconding Kicking Mule, 5.8. photo. Nick McNutt

THE SOUL ASYLUM

NEW CLIMBS IN THE VALLEY OF SHADDAI

CHRIS SMALL

2024

The Soul Asylum, within the Valley of Shaddai (VoS), pays homage to Mr. Dynamite, Soul Brother #1, and Godfather of Soul: Mr. James Brown and the music genre he created: Funk -easily the best music for scrubbing rocks. Route names in this zone are classic funk titles by Mr. Brown, Curtis Mayfield, and Charles Bradley – Rest in Peace. Located adjacent to Avalon and Donny's Wall in north VoS, this collection of primarily traditionally protected climbs can be approached 2 separate ways (details below). A standard double rack to 3.5" with one 4" cam will adequately protect most of the climbs in The Soul Asylum. Where additional equipment is needed, it is mentioned in the route description.

Conditions and Season. The Soul Asylum faces SE and gets filtered to full sun to the early afternoon, especially the routes north of Kicking Mule/Hot Pants/ Fan the Flames. Combined with the area's steepness, this exposure leads to the most of the area drying quickly after rain. However, despite this exposure, the adjacent creek acts to moderate temperatures, shade persists at the base of many climbs due to the forest canopy, and cool ocean breezes funnel through the canyon making this area an ideal hot weather crag, where temps are often considerably cooler than at nearby Murrin Park.

Acknowledgments. Route hardware was partially provided by the [Sea to Sky Route Development Fund](#) and its contributors. I personally thank those who have contributed to the fund. Thanks for your support. And to those who enjoy new routes but don't have the time, expertise, and motivation to create them themselves, a donation to the fund is the opportunity to contribute back to the community and sport you enjoy. I also thank Sean Clayton for his scaling expertise, and Nick McNutt, Todd Gerhart, Jack Fieldhouse, and Kris Wild for guest sending many routes here, providing valuable feedback, and tolerating my whining about shoulder injuries and lack of climbing ability.

Caveats: At press time, these routes have seen few ascents and thus consensus grades are not established. Consider this when climbing these routes. Grade feedback is welcomed.

Approach Info:

Crag location GPS co-ords 49 38 34.79N 123 12 3.9W

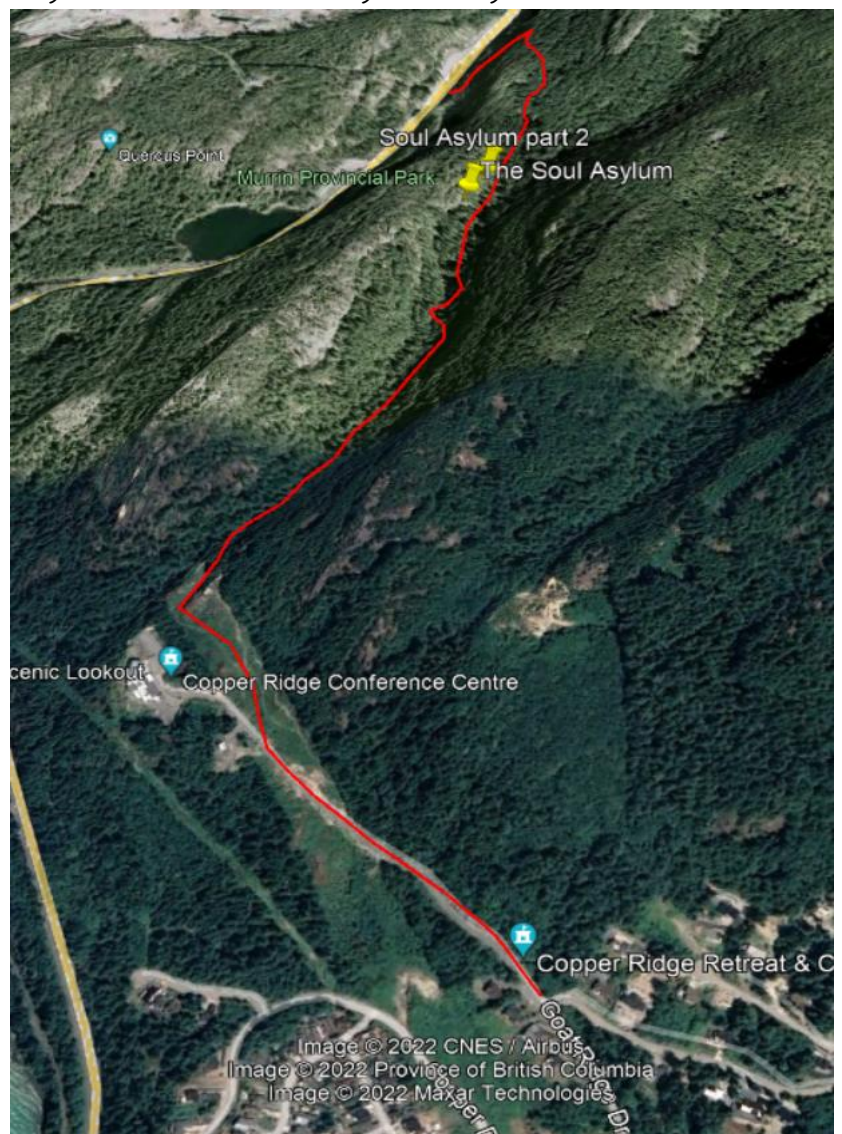
Either approach allows enjoyment of the spectacularly peaceful ambience of the canyon's magnificent forest and soaring walls.

Plan A: From Murrin Park. (25 – 30 minutes) Yeah!!!, You got up early enough to get parking. Cross Highway 99 and get on the Petgill lake Trail as you would going to Splitsville. About 100m after you enter the forest from the transmission line right of way, the Petgill lake trail takes a sharp left along a cliff. At this point, turn right along cliff (south) and follow a shallow draw where the trail becomes more defined. At the top of the draw head left, duck under a blowdown and head SE into a canyon with shorter bluffs on either side. Follow ephemeral creek south connecting the dots between trials bike trail sections until you reach the junction with another larger creek coming from east with lots of skunk cabbage alongside it. Continue on trail following creek downstream for another 50 m. Larger cliffs will be on the right side of canyon. You have arrived at the north end of the Soul Asylum

Plan B. From Britannia Beach. (~40 minutes) Park As described in Squamish Rockclimbs, Vol.1, pg. 62. (K. McLane, 2018) at first switchback on Goat Ridge Drive. There is enough parking for 3 or 4 cars parked straight in on the right side of the cul de sac. If full, park downhill on right side of Goat Ridge Drive away from driveways.

DO NOT Park anywhere near the Gate or along the gated road to the Copper Ridge Conference Center. Don't even think of parking at the Conference Center itself. This is a big access issue and your lazy parking job could cost this access point.

Walk approximately 200m up the gated road until you see a pedestrian crossing sign. Trail entrance is on right here. Follow trail, taking left fork at any junctions. You will enter canyon after about 5 minutes walking. Continue walking on trials bike trails which will cross Contact Creek several times. At any junctions stay low adjacent to the creek. Continue on trials bike trails until you reach "The Enchanted Forest" (sign). The crag is on the opposite side of creek at this point.





The 2 of these routes are a tribute to the Screaming Eagle of Soul, Charles Bradley, and all share the final V groove to the anchor finish.

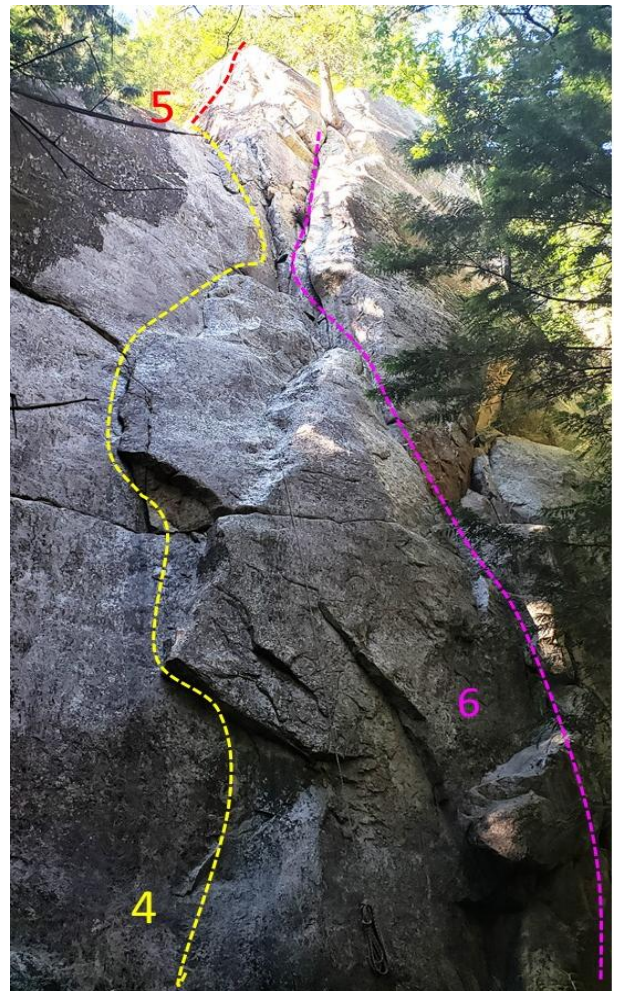
1. Open Project. Gear to 3". Probably 10 ish.. Needs a final bit of scrubbing to finish it off, Scramble up behind large cedar tree and into short twin crack system. At top of cracks hand traverse right in the top traversing crack into a V-shaped groove to anchors.

2. Why Is It So Hard? 10-. Gear to 3" - heavy on finger size gear (nuts!). One bolt. 24 m FA Chris Small 2024. The above question may enter your mind repeatedly on this route as appearances are deceiving sometimes. Follow right traversing crack to massive block in gully. Make technical moves off block to small ledge. Move left on ledge into a right diagonal crack and into V shaped groove above.

3. The World (Is Going Up In Flames) 10-. Gear to 1"-triples to 0.4, optional but highly recommended # 5 cam. 24m Chris Small 2024. Start as for Changes. Continue past massive block in gully to a shallow left trending seam. Stem into shallow left facing flakes and follow to obvious left traverse ending again with the V shaped groove.



4. Avalon. 10c. Gear to 2", 3 bolts. Glenn Payan, Jeff Thomson, 1998. 25m. Rescrubbed Chris Small 2022. Bouldery start leads to large flake and into a short left facing corner. Exit left from corner (bolt) onto large belay ledge.
5. Pyrix. 10a. Gear to 1", small cams. One bolt. Glenn Payan, Jeff Thomson, 1998. 18m. Rescrubbed Chris Small. 2022. Climb fine finger crack splitting the upper buttress
6. Time is Running Out Fast. 10c. Gear to 3". Chris Small. 2022. 25 m. Climb overhanging hand crack onto small ledge and transition from the ledge into a left facing corner using discontinuous finger pods. Move right at small ledge using wedged flakes past cedar stump to end at anchor below large cedar.

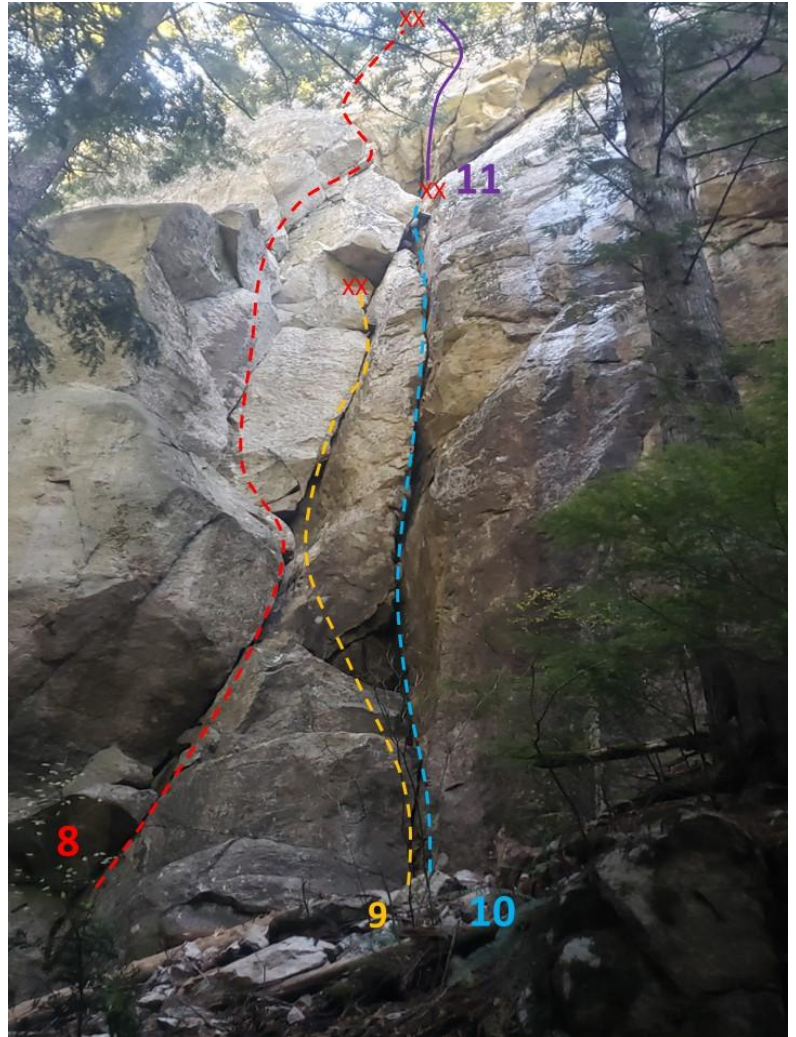


The next climb is 3 m right of Time is Running Out Fast.

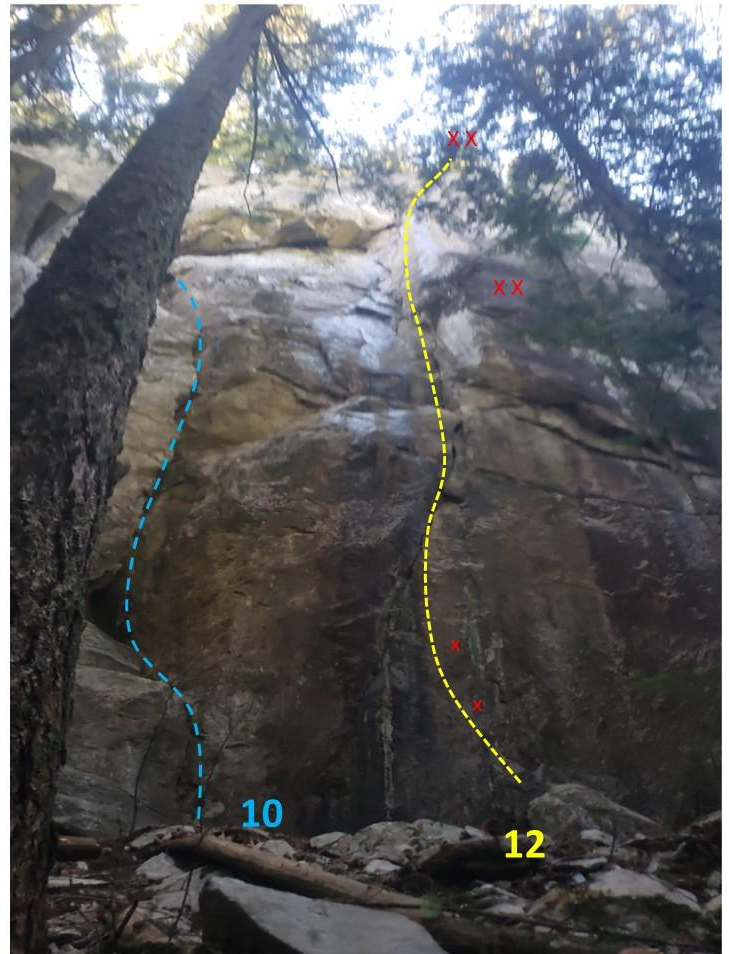
7. Take Me Higher and Groove Me. 5.9. Gear to 3". 23m. FA Nick McNutt, 2021, Prep C Small. Starts ~ 5m right of Avalon. Follow right facing corner to small ledge then traverse right on an obvious ramp. Pull through an awkward overhanging groovy left facing corner to wider exit crack to reach chain anchors. 2.5 stars.

The next series of climbs are approximately 25m north of Take me Higher in a small amphitheatre on a small talus cone with corresponding large Creekside boulders.

8. Papa Don't Take No Mess. 10. Gear to 4", 1 bolt **35m**. FA. Nick McNutt 2021. Prep C. Small. **3.5 stars** A super cool climb. Climb right traversing crack through small roof into right facing dihedral which ends on ledge. From the ledge climb the right arcing overhanging corner, being mindful of rope drag (Use alpine draws in corner + clip bolt at top of corner to prevent rope getting stuck in cracks), to a small slab and then finish straight up through several small overlaps to the chains. If it is dirty, you are off route as "Papa don't take no mess". Descent: A rope stretching lower or rap with 70m rope or alternatively 2 rappels with shorter ropes with the second rap off the anchor of Get Up.
9. Get Up. 5.8+. Gear to 4". 18m. FA. Chris Small, 2022. The left one of two parallel shallow right facing dihedrals. Jam and lieback up a beautiful hand crack to a wider top out over a large chockstone. Anchor is under large roof. 3 stars
10. Get Into It. 5.9. Gear to 4", Double 4 and a single 5 optional but useful. 23m. FA. Nick McNutt, 2021. Prep. C Small. The right parallel shallow right facing dihedral. Climb up and through awkward overhanging flare into hand/fist crack to end on large chock stone below a large roof. 3 stars
11. Get Involved. 10d. Gear to 3". Erica Fung, 2022. Prep Chris Small. 15m. This extremely cool looking extension of Get into It goes through the large cave above. Traverse through horizontal roof and then jam up a nice hand crack. **There still is a much harder potential open variation to the right by strenuously pulling over the roof edge into a series of parallel thin finger cracks (5.12??).** Same anchor as Papa Don't Take No Mess.



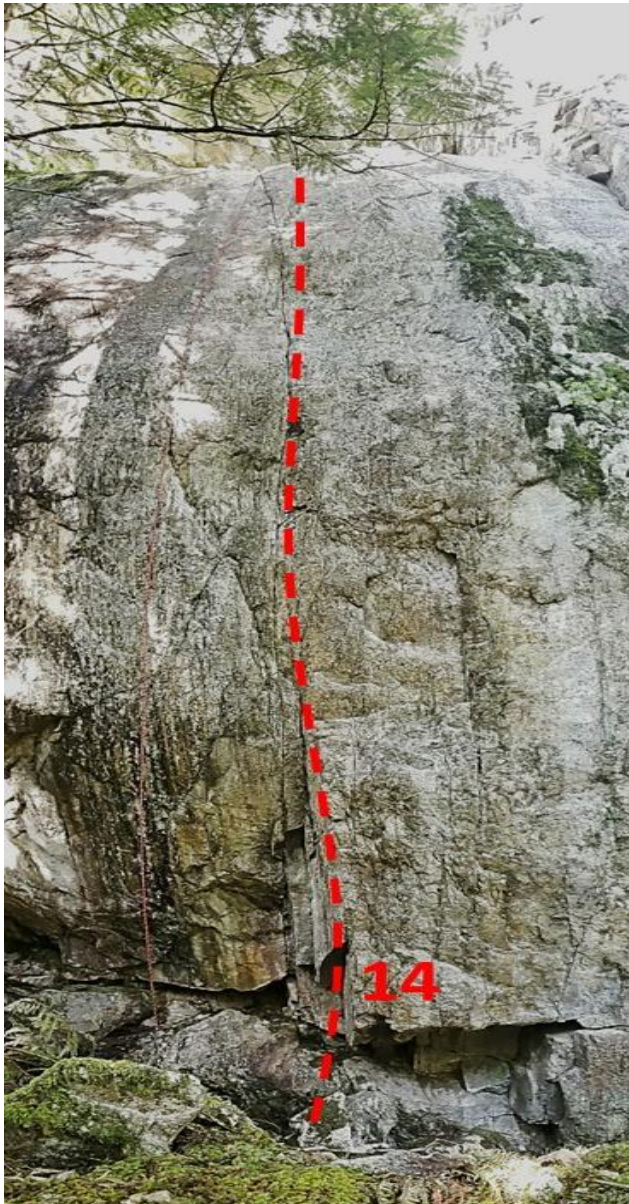
12. Get On the Good Foot. 11b. 42m Gear to 3" 2 bolts. Triples cams in 0.75 to 2" recommended. FA. Nick McNutt, 2021. Prep. C Small. 4 stars. This excellent route starts off the large boulder at the base. Face climb on thin edges, side pulls, and small pods (bolts) into a slightly right trending crack. This crack leads into a large right facing dihedral which bypasses a large roof to the left. Exit the dihedral at cool right traversing twin cracks through a bulge and continue up these to the anchor. Top Belay second for easiest gear retrieval given the traversing nature of this route. The second rap anchor is hidden from the ground but is directly below the top chains.



The next 4 climbs are located about 30m to the north on steeply overhanging wall.

13. A Blind Man Can See It. 5.8. Gear to 3". 20 m. Chris Small, 2020. Shouldn't have a problem route finding on this one as "A blind man can see it" Start up blocky corner. Hand traverse right on jugs and proceed up splitter hand crack to anchor. Great warm up. 3 stars.

14. Say it Loud. 11+. Sport, 7 bolts, 17 m. Jack Fieldhouse, 2022. Prep. C Small. A proud line. Strenuous pulling up a very steep bulge leads to thin seam and technical moves to finish. 3 stars



1Amber McMinn on "A blind man can see it"

15. Papa Bear's Got a Brand-New Bag. 2 Pitches, (10c, 10d).
Gear to 4", small cams, 2 bolts. FA Nick McNutt, Chris
Small. 2022Prep. Chris Small. 3 stars.

Pitch 1. 10c. Gear to 3.5", small cams, 2 bolts. 30m. 3stars. A bit of a sheep in wolves' clothing. Step off boulder into horizontal break. Jam your way up very intimidating overhanging hand/fist crack to reach left facing corner where the angle relents. Stem, jam, and face climb this dihedral into another beauty hand crack. Follow to anchor. *Exactly 30 m rap from anchor to ground.*

Pitch 2. 10d. Gear to 4". 23m. 3stars. A bit of a wolf in sheep's clothing. 3rd class scramble up and right past limbed Doug Fir from pitch 1 anchor to base of pitch 2. Climb over big flakes into right trending off width crack. Scoot and stem awkwardly up off-width to transition left into splitter tight hand crack. Follow crack past a ledge to anchor.



Route Story

While cleaning the upper pitch of this route I placed my pack in a location out of the trundling firing line. Upon arriving on the ground after a few hours work and starving, I went to the bag's location to find it gone, with my keys, wallet, phone and 2 sandwich delicious lunch. "Hmmm", I thought, "I didn't hear anyone else in here". Then it dawned on me; "oh shit, a bear." After an hour of frantic searching in concentric circles around the old location. I found my pack; wallet, keys and phone intact, but with a new chew hole in the top pocket and sadly missing the 2 sandwiches. Those must have been just right for Papa Bear.

16. Cold Sweat. 10c. Gear to 3". FA Nick McNutt. 2022. Prep. Chris Small. 20m. **4 stars**. This incredible burl fest starts innocuously traversing under large bulge. As you approach the lip of the bulge, the business begins to potentially break a cold sweat. Pull the bulge into a left trending series of pods and discontinuous crack splitting the glassy smooth face. Sustained and pumpy!!!



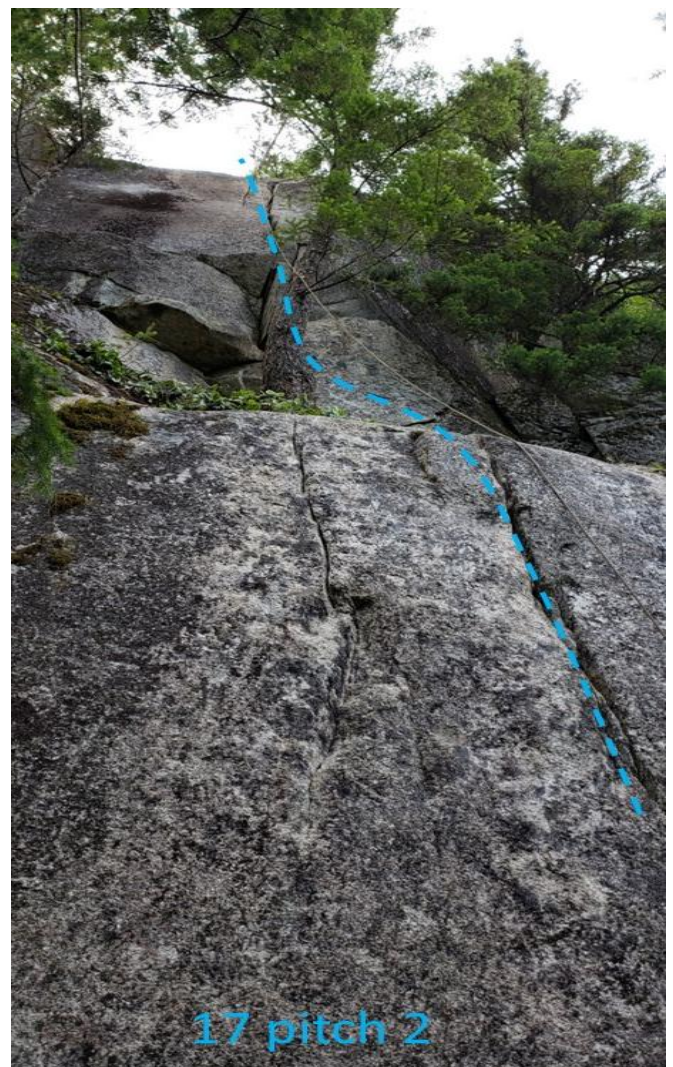
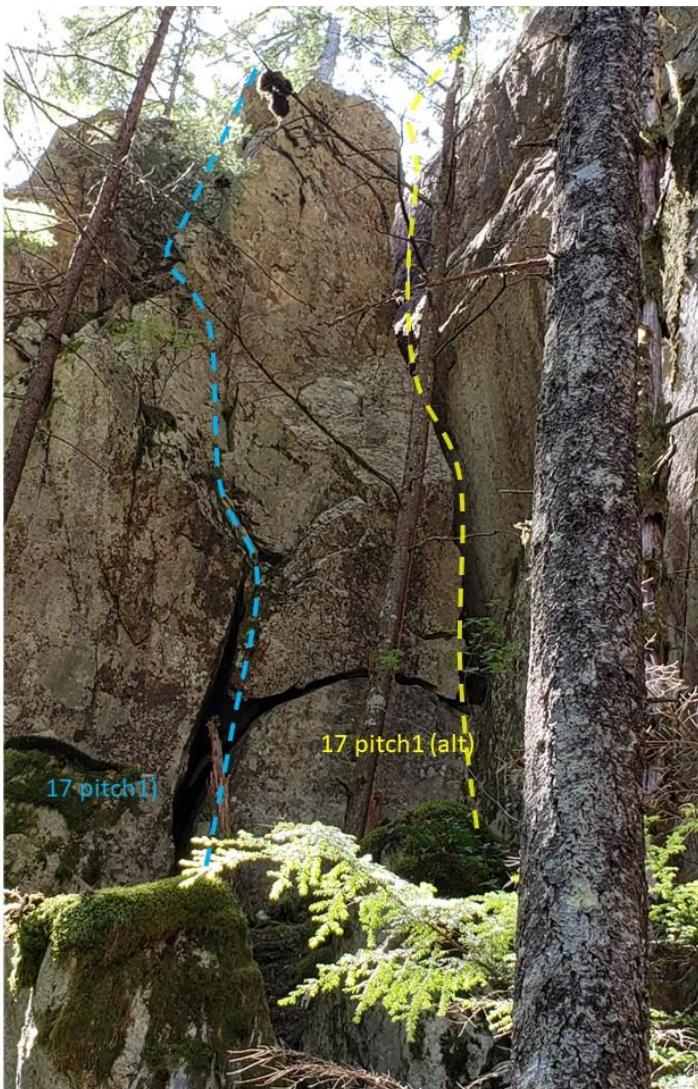
The next climb is located above and right of Cold Sweat in a large right facing corner.

17. Give it Up or Turn it Loose. 2 pitches (5.6 or 5.7, 10a) Gear to 3" Chris Small. 2022. The route's name seems to be my route building and sending philosophy of late.

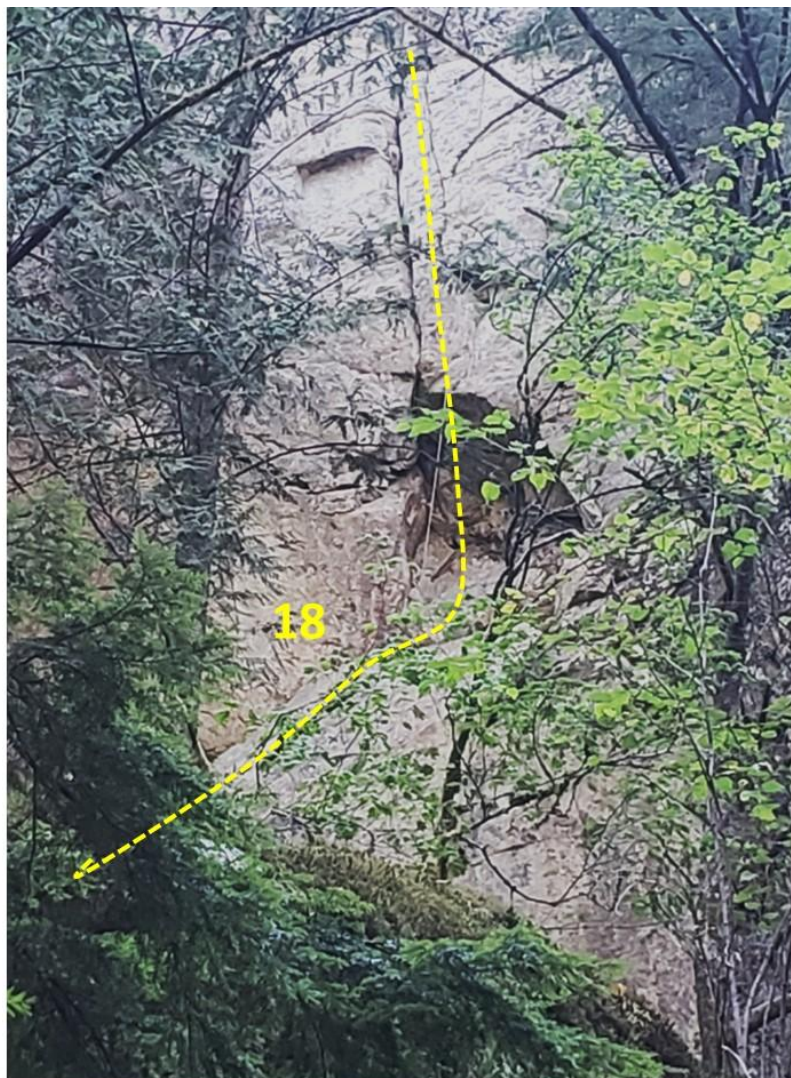
Pitch 1. Two Options A. (Blue) 5.7, 15m Start up off-width crack in middle of face into a notch. Follow thin crack out notch around a large blocky flake and into right facing corner. Very alpine in nature. 2. stars.

B. (yellow) 5.6, 15 m. Climb right facing corner and off width chimney. Insert yourself into the off-width chimney at about $\frac{3}{4}$ height via a right traversing horizontal finger crack. Belly flop over top and step over to chain anchor on ledge on right wall. 1 star. Meh. .

Pitch 2. 10a. Gear to 3", 25m. . Step left from anchor into prominent finger/ thin hand crack with flanked at arms length by discontinuous finger sized cracks. Climb for 5 m to salal covered ledge with large Doug Fir in corner. The hand crack continues above through a small roof to a small pine tree at top of the crack. Belay is left of pine tree. 3 stars..



18. The Boss. 10 -. Gear to 2 ". 20m.
FA. Chris Small, 2023. "Havin' fun,
got money to burn, 'Cause I paid
the cost to be the boss" Traverse
right under big flakes to alcove.
Climb left corner of alcove and
battle through big Boss roof into
splitter crack above. Excellent Stuff.



The next climbs are in an open talus field. These climbs get full morning sun and dry relatively quickly. The chimney pitch of Kicking Mule is an unmistakable landmark.

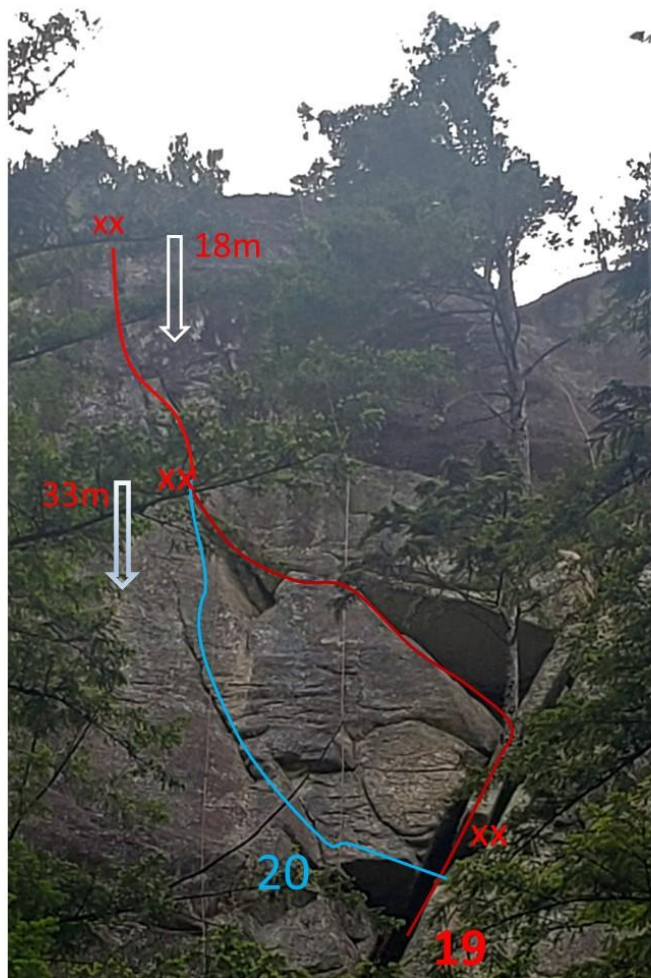
19. Kicking Mule/Hot Pants/ Fan the Flames. 10c. 3 pitches. (5.8, 5.9, 10c) Gear to 3" # 4 cam optional. **4 stars.**

This highly adventurous, multi pitch provides exposed 3-dimensional climbing involving multiple techniques which seems improbable for the grade. It links two newish pitches (Kicking Mule and Hot Pants) to Glen Payan's forgotten classic Fan the Flames.

Pitch 1. Kicking Mule, 5.8. 22m. Dave Brown, Noelle Phillips, 2019. Rescrubbed. Chris Small, 2022. The looming massive chimney. Protect using crack on left wall to midpoint- multiple options past midpoint. Moving into the depths seems to be a little easier. Belay in small alcove below hemlock tree. **This is a 4 star pitch alone.**

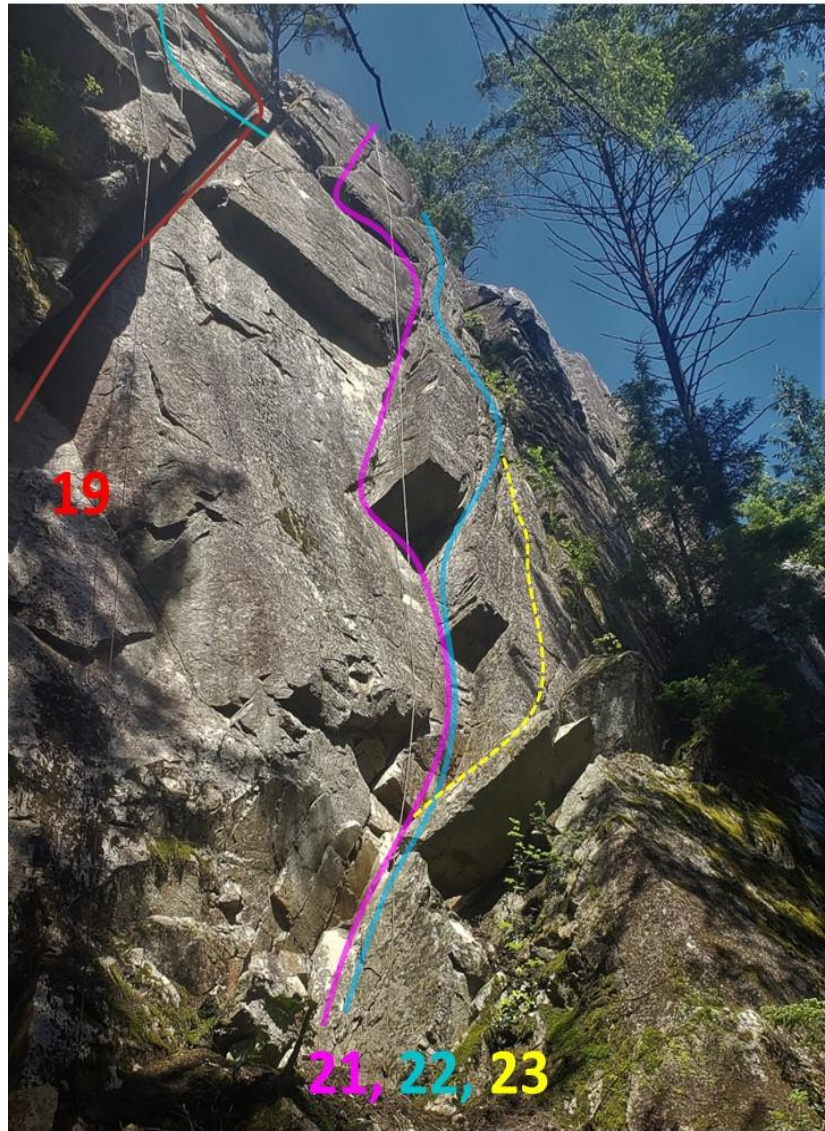
Pitch 2. Hot Pants. 5.9, 15m, Chris Small, 2022. Climb awkwardly over belay past tree toward large triangular roof. Traverse left under the roof, clip bolt and pull through to large ledge. **33m** partially free hanging rappel descent from this ledge

Pitch 3. Fan the Flames. 10c. 18m Glenn Payan, 1998, Rescrubbed, C. Small 2022. Climb series of left trending lieback finger and hand cracks. Trees' burly!



20. Short Shorts. 10b. 15 m. Nick McNutt, 2022. 3 stars. Prep C Small. An alternate second pitch to Hot Pants. Step left from Kicking Mule belay (bolt-exposed!) into series of discontinuous left trending finger cracks to merge into top of Hot Pants.

21. Mind Power. 10d. gear to 3", small cams, 2 bolts. 26m. Todd Gerhart, 2022. Prep Chris Small. 3 stars. Scramble up to flat patio sized talus and continue up right facing corner under square shaped roof. Traverse left under roof (edge of roof is VERY sharp – extend pieces!) and follow discontinuous finger crack up corner to third major roof. Traverse left (bolt) under roof to reach right leaning crack which takes you up to the bouldery finish (2nd bolt).
22. Soul Power. 10 c Gear to 3 " (lots of finger sized cams). 24m. Nick McNutt, 2022. Prep Chris Small. 3.5 stars. Start as for Mind Power. Traverse right around square roof into some Funky juggy terrain. And like any good funky soul there is even a horn section. Pro is inn discontinuous cracks and behind flakes among the jugs. Continue past third roof to zig zag (left then right) crack to end at chains on right arete. Super fun route
23. Soul Power (alt start) 10 c, Gear to 2" Nick McNutt, 2022, Prep C Small. Scramble past patio rock to ledge. Face Climb between pair of right leaning finger cracks up to square roof. Continue as per Soul Power as above.



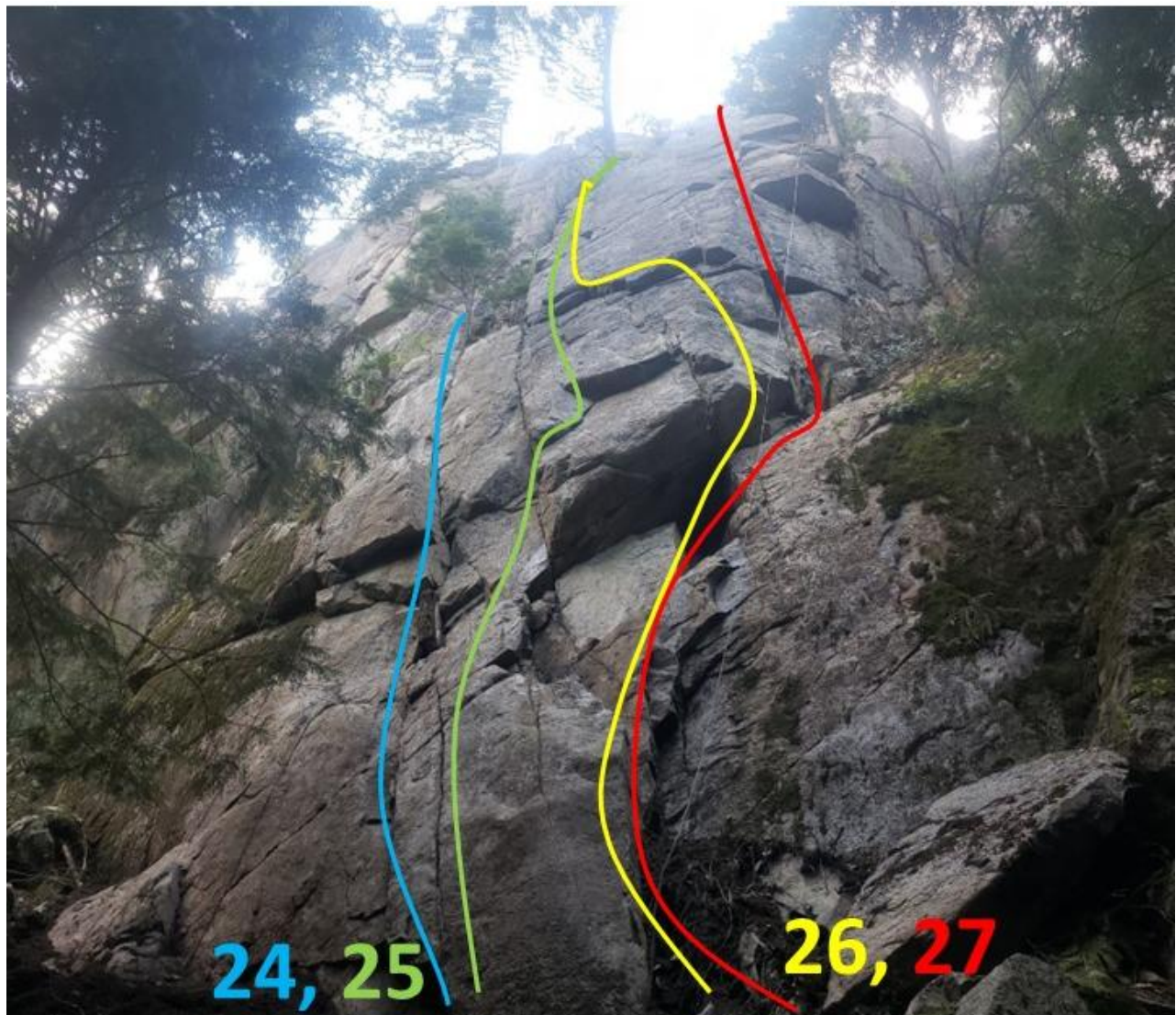
24. Super Bad. 5.7. Gear to 4". 17m. Chris Small 2022. 2.5 stars. 'Watch me! Watch me! Cuz I got Soul and I'm Super Bad!' Well, it isn't super bad... but context is everything. Climb the twin left trending finger cracks to ledge (stump) then continue up the right facing corner of the two parallel corners. Rap from chains on ledge below small tree.

The next three climbs provide access to The Sex Machine Ledge where an additional 4 pitches are.

25. It's a New Day. 10c. Gear to 3" 4 bolts. 24m. FA. Kris Wild. 2022. Prep. Chris Small. 3 stars. Start as per Super Bad. At ledge continue up left facing corner to small roof. At roof traverse right onto large under cling flake and continue straight up face to a large eye like pocket utilizing flakes and crack to left. At pocket climb over small overlap via discontinuous cracks to head up face (2 bolts) toward a large Doug Fir on ledge next to the anchor.

26. Take Some, Leave Some 10c. Gear to 3" 2 bolts. 24m. Nick McNutt. 2022. Prep. Chris Small. 2.5 stars. Climb easy ramp to large roof. Skirt right of roof to parallel hand cracks above roof. Follow cracks to large horizontal break and overlap. Traverse left on break and finish on It's a New Day.

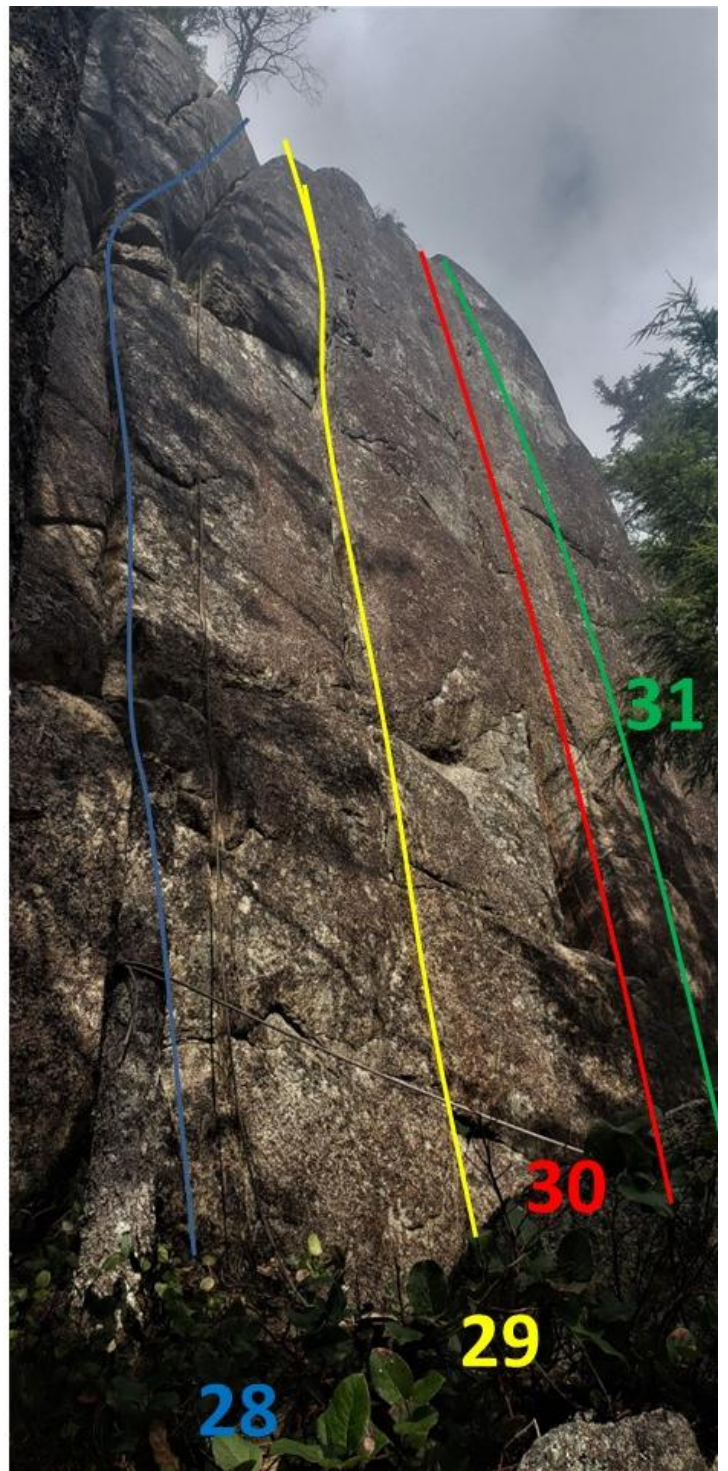
27. Move on Up. 5.9. Gear to 4" 24m. Todd Gerhart. 2022. Prep Chris Small. 3 stars. Zigzag up easy ramp and skirt right of large roof to large block. Mantle block to get into a gradually ever widening hand to off width crack. "Just move on up Towards your destination Though you may find, from time to time Complication" Curtis Mayfield, 1970.



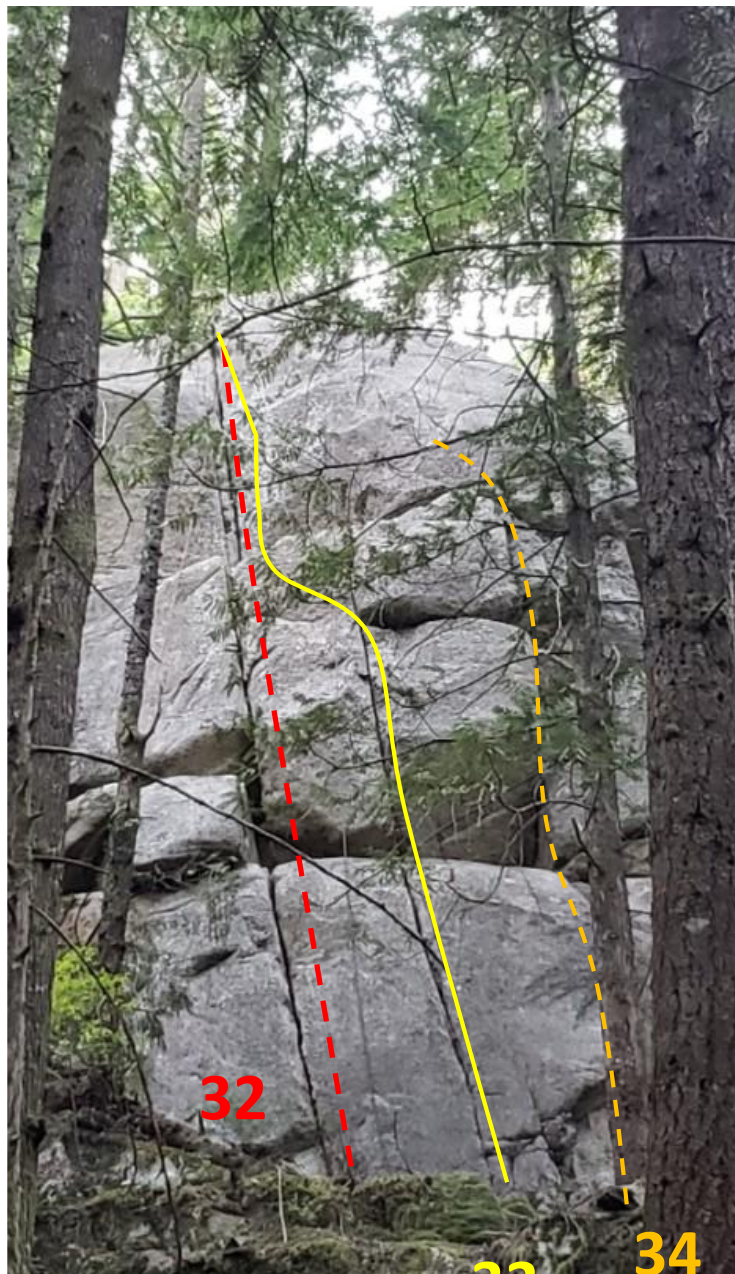
The Sex Machine Ledge

28. People Get Up and Grab That Funky Soul. 5.9. Gear to 3" Todd Gerhart 2022. Prep Chris Small. 3 stars Climb Splitter hand crack. Traverse right at intersection with twin right trending hand crack ramp. 18 m 3 stars
29. If You Don't Give A Doggone About It... 10. Gear to 2 "18m. FA; Tom Heslam, 2022. Prep Chris Small. "Then give it to one who does" Discontinuous splitter hand and finger cracks. 2.5 stars
30. Make it Funky. 10a. Gear to 4", 5 and 6 cams optional but very useful. Todd Gerhart, 2022. Prep Chris Small, 18m. 3 stars. The obvious off width crack. Converges with 28 at top. 3 stars
31. Get up Offa That Thing. 10+. Gear to 3". 18m FA Tom Heslam, 2022. Prep Chris Small. The tapering Hand to finger crack. Converges with Make it Funky at top. 3.5 stars.

The next 3 climbs are about 40 m north from the base of Move on Up



32. That Ain't A Groove, 5,8, Gear to 2". 15m Chris Small, 2022. The left leaning hand crack, 2.5 stars. Would be more if it was longer
33. This is A Groove, 9. Gear to 2. Chris Small, 2024. The left lean thin finger crack/ groove. At the second horizontal break move left on to Ain't That A Groove Pretty contrived climbing and not my best work TBH.
34. In the Pocket, 9+. Gear to 3". Chris Small, 2024. Surprisingly interesting and strenuous climbing up a another left leaning crack.



The last climb in this mini guide is formally outside the Valley of Shaddai. It about 100m north of the Valley in the short canyon on the approach from Murrin Park. Climb Coordinates. 49 38 43.60N, 123 11 57.28W.

35. Dem Dirty Bits, 10c, Gear 0.3 to 4". 18m. Adrienne Wheaton, 2022. Prep C Small. A lovely ever widening splitter with a sting in the tail. 3 stars



*Adrienne Wheaton on
FA of Dem Dirty Bits, 10c.*

