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[Oklahoma Climbing /](#)
1 [Wichita Mountains /](#) on: September 18, 2006, 12:55:31 PM
[Re: The day after....](#)

I'd like to echo supreme kudos to all the organizers of the comp... I won't even mention names, since I'd be leaving out too many... and there were many volunteers behind the scenes.

With 65 teams gunning for the first event, what started out as a casual brain fart among a few Oklahoman HCR regulars will probably turn out to be one of the most popular climbing competitions in the region, if not the country. The 24-hour format was what made the event special, and odds are good that it will be a format that will be copied by other comps in the future. Kudos once again to the original... 24 Hours of Horseshoe Hell!

I imagine that there's a measure of tired climbers this morning, with very sore finger creases, already thinking about next year, and improving their personal strategies... count me as one.

Good memories:

Before the comp started, I asked Russell if he wanted a banana... I was actively quaffing a stalk of them... thinking potassium for cramp-prevention and all... and his response was something to the effect of "yeah, for the lycra".

It didn't take long before both of those "old guys in lycra" were sporting nice manhood enhancements beneath the 1980's flashback sheen (these were very large bananas mind you). Ryan has photographic evidence, so stayed tuned... just don't be drinking liquids when you see it, or at least have paper towels on hand.

Speaking personally, one of the best times of the comp was bumping into Terry & Russ at the Titanic Boulder after the sun went down... feeding off each other's energy (something you really didn't realize until you were all alone in the dark again)... and one can't help but wonder what those two would have done if the comp took place on the home stone. Terry has climbed everything (good, bad, ugly, known & unknown), and Russ owns Lost Dome.

It was cool to put faces to online names that we've gotten to know on the board, etc.

I was pretty impressed with Adam and Andrew's combined 106

routes, with 6 5.12's in the mix... who are these guys? You certainly don't get that kind of impression from online names... just didn't seem too "broke back" to me? It was fun knocking out routes with you guys in the Corridor.

Another impressive aspect was all the on-sighting going on... For example, Ryan had never been to HCR before the comp and was relegated to on-sighting all day and all night for his points... a personal 44 routes.

His better half, Trish drove us zombies home... bless her the most: we owe you!

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
2 [Wichita Mountains](#) / on: September 12, 2006, 09:35:10 PM
Re: Old guys in Lycra

Actually, Bronco was right... it was originally Viagra, but he stood them up... and Berkley was right as well, next it was Exlax, but he dumped them too... and in other news, anyone with Brokeback Mountain references in their signature must have a firm grip on their masculinity?

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
3 [Wichita Mountains](#) / on: September 08, 2006, 11:31:58 AM
Re: Name That
"Obscure" Route

No & nope... You might see this 50ft freestanding formation in the same area as the above slab...



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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
4 [Wichita Mountains](#) / on: September 07, 2006, 07:17:24 PM
Re: Name That
"Obscure" Route

Interesting that the "boat action" in the preceding photo didn't tickle anyone's curiosity bone? Mr. Wichita (Terry) guessed it right without fully divulging anyway...

Okay, what about this one... look close boys & girls... what formation is this?



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5 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / Re: fall gathering t-shirt idea](#)

on: September 06, 2006, 10:14:34 AM

Speaking personally, I'd like a fitted shirt too... er' what I mean is I like to see fitted shirts too! Please get em' to the girls.

Regarding the design, I'll purchase and proudly wear any shirt that you guys slap one on... but for nostalgia's-sake, my vote goes to Tony's design... And speaking of, or message to TM: enough time has passed... please rescind your boycott of the forum... we'd like to hear from you from time to time. For example, a note on some of your awesome linkups with Mike & Russell would be cool!

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6 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / Name That "Obscure" Route](#)

on: September 01, 2006, 12:06:54 PM

Okay same old "name that" game... different spin... instead of just any picture, try to come up with candidates that are truly obscure... ones that will test the old school regulars... and if not stump them, will at least show some different angles of our home stone. I've got a host of these, of which this is the first...



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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
7 [Wichita Mountains](#) / Re: [Posting Pics](#) on: August 31, 2006, 10:33:58 PM

Okay... thanks for the beta Lefty... still when I add the URL in between the code that's dropped with the "Insert Image", and then preview... I'm still getting a red "X" for the graphic... I can take that same URL, open a browser, and it comes up with no problems... so the Photobucket link is working fine outside of the forum... Is the idiot programmer still missing something?

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
8 [Wichita Mountains](#) / Re: [fall gathering t-shirt idea](#) on: August 31, 2006, 10:02:47 PM

I agree about the Elk Slab thingy... As far as the other one... no doubt... the only way run outs at Quartz would truly be sensationalized is if you could do them with one hand behind your back... so to speak...

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
9 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [Posting Pics](#) on: August 31, 2006, 03:01:05 PM

Okay, I'm supposed to be a computer guy, but can someone enlighten me on how to post pictures to the new forum? I see the "Insert Image" button, but I'm looking to browse to select the picture... what gives?

Thanks in advance...

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
10 [Wichita Mountains](#) / Re: [bouldering at quartz](#) on: August 28, 2006, 09:31:34 AM

Hey Rob,
Give me a call, and I'll set you up with all the beta you'll ever need... I promise to do a better job than I did in getting the Sam's guide to you! Coming from E-Rock ways, you guys are going to freak at Quartz!

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
11 [Wichita Mountains](#) / Re: [question about rack at wichita mountains](#) on: August 27, 2006, 09:58:46 PM

climberman15, refreshing adventurous attitude you got there... kudos on hiking in from the gate... you added about 4 miles round trip to your adventure... not many locals, much less first time visitors "play" quite so hard... in the summer even less.

Other first timers have fared a lot worse coming in from the

standard trailhead, about 2 miles down that road, so by virtue of the fact that you even found the Narrows the way you did, then I'd say that your so-called "guidebook skills" are just fine.

With that said, you might want to consider the easy way out the next time, you may find that the time and level of energy savings is worth waiting a little while longer for the gate to open... a lot of times, the Refuge Ranger will show up early to boot. Either way, good climbing...

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Oklahoma Climbing /
Wichita Mountains / Is
12 anyone else signed up for the Horseshoe comp
Sept. 16th? on: August 17, 2006, 11:21:03 AM

You think you don't find it appealing... I've open bivied with the guy... eeewwww!

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Oklahoma Climbing /
Wichita Mountains / Is
13 anyone else signed up for the Horseshoe comp
Sept. 16th? on: August 17, 2006, 09:20:49 AM

Team Dallas-Ft. Worth (i.e., DFW) will represent.

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Oklahoma Climbing /
Wichita Mountains / Rulz
14 and scoring for Horseshoe
comp. on: August 15, 2006, 02:28:32 PM

Quick question regarding the following:

The rules state: "2. To gain points, members MUST LEAD every route chosen for scoring. Both members do not need to climb the same routes, but if so, leaving draws up for the second member to climb is okay."

Does this same rule apply if climber #1 is doing the same route twice for points, but climber #2 elects not to climb that specific route... can climber #1 leave the draws in place for his second attempt, or does he have to pull the draws he placed on ascent #1 for ascent #2 on the same route for points.

Thanks in advance...

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Oklahoma Climbing /

15 [Wichita Mountains / girls weekend](#) on: July 18, 2006, 02:26:45 PM

Count me in!

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
16 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [100+](#) [Challenge!](#) on: July 05, 2006, 06:17:54 PM

Good going Chris & Rob... what I admire the most is getting out to Quartz in July... means you're not fair-weather climbers!

Also, there's no shame in backing off of BS Direct... you're doing it the old fashion way (i.e., earning it), and it will be very rewarding when you finally put it together!

Non-fair weather climbers "earning it"... how refreshing!

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
17 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [Graffiti](#) on: May 04, 2006, 04:11:07 PM
at Quartz!!!

My word for today: abatement (yep I had to look that one up).

I spent a little time surfing the web on "graffiti removal", and there's quite a bit of information out there... although, some of it... you'd need to be an Environmental Consultant to understand... we're very fortunate to have one of those around.

Unfortunately, I can't make it up this weekend, but good luck playing with the chemicals... and no huffing... or no telling what that bat will do?

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
18 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [Graffiti](#) on: May 04, 2006, 12:45:28 PM
at Quartz!!!

I'm a nature-based climber to the core (OoooRah), and it really "pushes my buttons" to hear about, and see those pictures of graffiti at Quartz.

However, the call for a Management Response to a "first time" occurrence is probably overreacting?

It's wise to get the word out... to Regulators and end users alike... so that all "shareholders" can keep a watchful eye, and monitor

the situation closely, etc.

Likewise, the WMCC, and the climbing community should organize, and act on cleaning up the mess.

Still, under the context of a "first time" occurrence, I think that it would only amount to speculation (i.e., bad science) at what the drivers were that led to said transgression... can we seriously blame it on signs, lights, and such? The truth is... we don't know?

What we do know for sure is that we now have precedent... but until that precedent becomes repeated, or a pattern emerges... then I vote that we just escalate the "Neighborhood Watch Program"... and take a "wait & see" approach.

Now, at some point in the future, under the context of a legitimate problem (i.e., not an isolated incident, but repeated violations, etc.), then perhaps a Management Response would then be justified and appropriate... otherwise, let's not "burden" our regulating entity with schemes to remove this or that, or put up this or that, etc.

Lastly, we all need to be aware and sensitive of the fact that due to staff/budget limitations, the Park Rangers at Quartz are generally required to "wear a lot of hats" these days. The WMCC, by design, prides itself on not making their jobs any harder than they already are. We have a community of users, dedicated to Quartz, who are willing to help out in any way that we can... be it trail building, or graffiti removal, etc.

So who's an "expert" on the subject? Does it involve a high-pressure washer? What other tools are required? What's the expense involved? Who wants to volunteer?

While we certainly need to run it by Park staff, and keep them in the loop, let's work out a plan, and handle this (work & expense)... to date, an isolated incident, at the climber-level.

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
19 [Wichita Mountains / roadside](#) on: May 03, 2006, 10:20:52 AM
[distraction on Scott...](#)

Joking aside, the Lefty in question doesn't talk much about his exploits... even if you inquire about them... a chest beater he is not.

On the record, the most he will generally offer is that he's "never soloed anything of note"... (Insert yeah-right here.)

As he'll tell you, he's "not interested in claiming first ascents"... that includes disputing false claims as well.

One of my personal missions as a local climber is to "out" his exploits on the home stone, and abroad, but ultimately a lot of his stuff may go undocumented... a historian he is not.

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
20 [Wichita Mountains](#) / on: April 13, 2006, 12:58:11 PM

Ultralight Climbing

Hey Arne,
Don't sweat the small stuff... these type of questions will answer themselves the more routes you do.

Within the context of a crag, here's a couple of tricks that transcend decisions of "what gear to take, and what gear to leave behind"

First off, novice, or out of practice (i.e., rusty) leaders should probably take too much gear, rather than too little. The consequence of taking too much gear may be inconvenience, extra weight, etc., but the consequence of taking too little gear can be more "painful".

If your half way up something, and figured out that you've taken way too much gear, then dump some of the redundant stuff off (i.e., clip it) on the next piece that you place, or even place multiple pieces of viable protection just to dump weight.

Take a small millimeter tag line and go light on the gear. If you get in a situation where you need something (granted that you have a stance to facilitate it, or if you've already lost the redpoint, etc., then hang on a piece, etc.), then zip up whatever gear you need from your partner. You basically have an umbilical to all the gear on the ground.

A word to your partners: Within the context of a crag, it's bad karma to criticize or poke fun of how much gear someone takes along, or places, on their lead. At the end of the day, you'd rather them be safe, than you be sorry.

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
21 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [my quest has begun](#) on: April 10, 2006, 02:39:46 PM

Hey kw... nice "pyramidic" strategy... good luck, and expect to take your "lumps"... I should know... I've got a 16 year head start on you.

But it's all good... along the way you'll probably discover what a lot of locals have... if you can climb good in the Wichitas, then you'll be able to climb good in most places.

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
22 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [Locomotive Breath](#) on: April 07, 2006, 05:33:48 PM

I've gotten a lot of positive feedback on the Lost Dome stuff...

It comes with a couple of disclaimers: 1.) Some of the stuff may be fuzzy (i.e., inaccurate)... I guess one of the reasons why I've decided to "float" some of the pieces "out there"... and the other being that 2.) it's not as polished as the finished product ultimately will be.

With that said... some more:

Mixed Tactics Accepted

In 1991, the South Face of Lost Dome sported a trio of pure sport routes. In September of that year, Climbing Magazine (No. 127) printed a small profile on new route activity in Oklahoma. The article featured three amusing observations.

The first, and most obvious, was an action shot of Wilson crimping down, rather expressively, on Whipping Post (originally rated 5.12b). Facial contortions aside, the photo revealed aesthetic rock, rich colors, and the chalked holds of other, adjoining routes. Lost Dome's South Face was officially on the radar, and with it, the precedent of top-down tactics in the Refuge... indeed the Wichita Mountains.

The second was the tone of the author, a Chandler local, who seemed to express contempt for "hot granite canyons", "long approaches", "tick infestations", and other variables that make Wichita Mountains climbing more like Real Climbing... than say urban limestone.

The third, and least obvious, at least initially, was ultimately the most musing observation of all. The article suggested that the new routes "unearthed" on Lost Dome, the very ones seen in the enticing action shot, were proving to be the "area's finest climbs".

Included with the description was a small topo of the South Face, and it was hard not to notice that, in both places, the route name for one route in particular, the route that had started it all, had been edited... censored was more like it.

"Rap Bolters..." was now "Rap Dancers From Hell". Admittedly, it was just a small play on words, but the more one thought about it, the more it tended to speak volumes.

It seemed a clear indicator of, or a comment on, the Great Debate, and how sensitive the greater climbing community was to the issue of bolts, and the proper manner in which to place bolts, which was still being heatedly debated at the national level, and in many climbing areas.

Apparently, some editor-in-the-process (could it be Raleigh?) seemed to be acutely aware/sensitive of this controversy, and decided to proactively tone it down a bit.

While the wit in Andrews' route naming convention may undoubtedly be lost on some, everyone that knows him knows that the coining of the route name was more anti-political correctness, than pro-political statement. It was a parody name, meant to be tongue in cheek, perhaps abrasively so. It was a suggestion that sport climbing was here to stay, that it had its place. While the "... in Hell" part certainly accented the offensive prefix of "rap bolters", it had a double meaning in a way, perhaps playing devil's advocate to local route names, such as Jesus Lives, Sweet Jesus, Extended Alter Call, Resurrection Factor, etc. Again, it was for tongue in cheek merits only, and not intended to be blasphemous, or sacrilegious. No offense to the Granite Christians either.

Like a rumor told in a circle, the route name published in Climbing Magazine would continue to be bastardized in other guides, such as Rock & Road, where it would morph into "Tap Dancers from Hell".

While Andrews had kicked off "rap bolting", so to speak, it would be two other locals from Oklahoma that would catch the top-down ethics ball, and run hard left with it. In the process, they would establish a host of time tested classics, expand the scope of acceptable ethics in the Wichita Mountains, and form one of the Great Partnerships of the Wichita Mountains (GPWM).

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
23 [Wichita Mountains](#) /
[Locomotive Breath](#)

on: April 06, 2006, 03:50:17 PM

LOL Lefty!

Although the following stuff isn't about Egan, and bros... I thought I'd continue a little with the "unpolished" Lost Dome Stuff... just to see if any of the old guard has any comments:

Now that the "snacks " had been served, it was time for the main course. The left side of the formation, which, like the main face was super intimidating-looking, but unlike the main face, at least had some cracks for pro. Within the year, the left side reflected some of the proudest ground-up efforts the Refuge ever saw, in Drop Dead (5.11b / 1986), Steep Show (5.11b / 1986), and the edge-fest, make that scare-fest at the time, Slime of the Century (5.11c / R / 1986). While the former routes had cracks, and certain-prospects for pro, the latter's middle section was as thin, and sketchy, as it was dangerous. The first ascent ended up being an aid-like affair, but the smattering of in-situ gear left behind, such as a fixed RURP up high, enabled the first free ascent soon after... not the kind of logistics that would invite repeat ascents.

To further complicate matters, unlike Steep Show, the Drop Dead crack terminated below the rim, in the middle of a pretty blank face. Remarkably, Raleigh, on the first ascent, ended up having to down climb/aid the route to get back to terra firma... not the kind of logistics that would invite repeat ascents either... which is a shame because the terrain on all three routes was super worthy.

While route development on the "side panels" had assailed the South Face peripherally, the main face, in light of the protection factor, was still too intimidating. Out there, the climbing looked even thinner, harder, and more dangerous than Slime did, and Slime was no doubt the most intimidating established lead in Oklahoma at the time (in a vintage state, it probably still is). This intimidation factor was expressed in some of the attempts to follow. Raleigh, attempting a repeat ascent, had taken a bad fall, and hurt his foot, and others, such as Mike Hankins, and Steve Gillam, vying for the second ascent, had taken near grounders from around the arch. It's doubtful that Slime ever received a second ascent in its original condition?

A couple of years later (1988), the main face was still open, but the ground-up tactics used on Slime were still being pushed, and put to good use, albeit it on somewhat less intimidating terrain.

On Lost Dome's Southeast Face, Steve, and Mike would carry the ground-up torch, establishing Baptist on a Rampage (5.11a), and Blades of Steel (5.10d). Like Slime, in-situ gear left over from the first ascent, enabled eventual first free ascents. In the case of Baptists, while the first ascent was a proud lead that perpetuated the ground-up ethic, it followed the reasonable features, and the result often wandered, and didn't necessarily take the most direct,

aesthetic line. Ultimately, it was re-bolted, and straightened out into the classic line enjoyed today. Ironically, at the end of the day, the "finished product", namely the better line, seemed to be at the least, a combination of top-down, and ground-up shenanigans. It was observations such as these that were being discussed, and debated by climbers around the country, and here, home on the range, it was no exception.

Locally, if the lumps learned on the aforementioned ground-up leads, especially Slime, were any indication, developing the main face on the South Face proper (e.g. the terrain right of Slime) was going to require bolts, and basically a hook bolted, aid-like first ascent to get them in... in other words, ground-up shenanigans... but the 1980s were waning, and the times and mind-sets were a changing.

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24 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / Duane's Quartz](#) on: April 03, 2006, 10:47:51 AM

I don't see a date on Duane's topos, but they are basically the ones that would ultimately appear in OK on the Rocks (1989).

So this suggests that they were drawn after Southern Exposure (1980) was printed... which unlike OK on the Rocks, gave verbal descriptions, and crude picture-topos.

It's interesting to compare all the legacy guide "sources", and note the "fluctuations" and discrepancies, etc. in regards to lines, bolt counts, ratings, and stuff.

Take Cream (5.8 / Raleigh, Thomas / 1980) for instance.

This past weekend, Berkly and I did the Cling Free (5.11a) starting variation to Cream, which is listed on Duane's topos, as reflected in Terry's attachment, but for some reason didn't make it into OK on the Rocks?

The attached topo also didn't show Cream's bolt, and rates it 5.7, while Southern Exposure lists the bolt, and rates it 5.8 which is consistent with OK on the Rocks.

Anyway, just wanted to bring "Cling Free" back from the "lost".

FYI: Berkly upgraded the 26 year old button head/Leeper hanger on Cream, hole-for-hole, in the same location... it came out very easily.

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25 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / Locomotive Breath](#) on: April 03, 2006, 09:59:12 AM

This historical stuff is awesome... keep it coming guys... I had known, per Terry and others, that Fuson's Folly wasn't completed by those guys, but give them credit for trying... it was definitely a step up from the routes that they had previously established... Anyway, I'm working on getting some of their stories in print... so if anyone out there can "add" to this discussion, let's hear it.

Thanks Mark for getting the ball rolling...

I'm sure Berkly won't mind the thread "drift"...

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
26 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [more](#) on: March 30, 2006, 12:17:39 PM
[historical topos](#)

No worries... that happens to all that "get out" and "get on" the terrain less traveled in the WMWR... Lefty alone has dropped my FA count more than a time or two... and he doesn't really claim FA's... nor dispute yours... you just have to listen very carefully, and read between the lines... etc.

It's the same thing with Alaska King Crag, or Chris' new route on Hidden Wall... we never really know for sure if someone has been there first? Particularly if the feature, formation, or line is basically in, and among all the "known" stuff, etc.

But like I said... no worries... rediscovery is cool too... and regardless, personal reward, and growth is more often found on the roads less traveled... the suspicion that a few footsteps have been there before is of little consequence.

In BetaBase, I often note many recent FA claims with "Might have had an earlier ascent?"...

Still, if you're out there exploring, and wondering about the probable history of this potential line or that... Mr. Longevity... Terry is the first hurdle in figuring out "what's up"... If he doesn't know... then take it from there...

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
27 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [Locomotive Breath](#) on: March 30, 2006, 10:26:42 AM

Here's a "sniplet" from BetaBase on those characters...

... The story of Rap Bolters from Hell, or more generically, the story of Lost Dome's route development history, particularly the South Face, between the years of 1981 (Fuson's Folly / 5.8+), and 1994 (Crack-a-LoLo / 5.10b), is a case study that illustrates some of the classic arguments, from both sides of the Aisle, in the Great Debate on the role of bolts in climbing, and the proper manner in which to place those bolts. In interesting ways, the introduction, and local acceptance of top-down ethics in the Wichita Mountains during this time, is a reflection on what was going on at many crags across America. The story goes something like this...

Lost Dome Chronology

Today, Lost Dome isn't quite so lost anymore. Way back when... when it was just a rumor in the Garden... it was first referred to as Johnson's Rock. The Johnson in question (Mark) was president of the O.U. Mountaineers, and he, along with a few of his constitutes, such as Keith Egan, Ramsey Telley, and Larry Fuson, set about establishing the first routes, up to 5.9, on the West, Southeast, and South faces of "his" rock respectively. Routes such as O.U. Mountaineers (5.9 / 1981), and Last Rights (5.9 / 1981) ascended

the lines of least resistance on the walls of least resistance, but of note, with Fuson's Folly (5.8+ / 1981), they also succeeded in scratching the surface of the super intimidating South Face.

God bless the geological forces that conspired to create the South Face of Lost Dome... unfortunately, they were obviously the exception, and not the rule, because despite the abundance of rock in the region, there are very few walls that resemble it, much less rival it. The result is one of the prime climbing structures in the Wichita Mountains. The face is taller than most, festooned with interesting holds, accumulating into classic lines, and the terrain is as steep as vertical gets, sometimes past in spots, with hard routes, one right after the other. You can't touch the main wall for cheaper than 5.11b. Apart from its climbing attributes, the rock is aesthetic, awash in colorful water streaks, and lichen. Indeed, many a local has thought, or even said aloud, "Wish there was more of this stuff around..."

Despite being a looker, it was clear that the terrain promised challenges of a higher order, namely in the form of hard, thin face climbing, coupled with little in the way of natural protection.

In light of the protection factor, coupled with the stylistic (e.g., ground-up), and ethical (e.g., no bolts) precedent of the day, it's no wonder why the sidewalls, bookends to the center, were the first to "go". Starting with the lower-angled right side, and the only really ground-to-summit weakness, a long, albeit discontinuous crack/chimney system, the aforementioned Fuson's Folly (5.8+ / 1981). The "folly" in question was an epic ground-fall, which ultimately launched, and retired a climbing career, all in the same day, but that's another story.

As the 1980's waned, the main South Face, primarily in light of the protection factor, was just too intimidating to lead, and while Andrews and others were doing some top-down recons, new route development languished for another five years before a rash of activity became a harbinger of changes to come. Once again, on the right side, the flaring-looking crack that forms the extreme right edge of the face (southeast corner) was established, with the lyrics of a Jackson Brown song playing over and over, redundantly in the head... the result, For a Rocker (5.9 / 1986)...

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
28 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [on: February 28, 2006, 04:50:10 PM](#)
[bored?](#)

... in her prime?

Speaking as a "seasoned" individual... I can't help but wonder what exactly constitutes the "prime" range?

At what point does one enter, and leave their prime? Is the prime range the same for everyone?

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
29 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [on: February 28, 2006, 10:47:19 AM](#)
[Devil's canyon](#)

Devils Canyon proper is actually an open, wooded/vegetated valley per se, rather than a rocky place (note all the green on the USGS).

The name conjures up all these visions, and relative to rock climbing, one's first impression probably fails the imagination?

The State Park boundary is more "liberal" toward the southeast, encompassing Boulder Peak, and only skirts the northwestern ramparts of the canyon, those fronting Flat Top Mountain, where all the rocks are. In general, most forays into the rocks will soon cross over onto private lands.

Regarding the rocks closest to the park boundary, there are at least a couple of "Elk Slabs" in there... big, really nice faces, but angles so low it's hard to get overtly excited about them. The main, most obvious face reminded me a lot of a granite-4th Flat Iron (lots of easy 5th Class to 5.6). High quality, but a scramble for most...

The northeast entrance contains a couple of Crab Eyes wannabe pinnacles... very enticing from a distance, but considerably less so when you get up on them (the typical Wichita Mountain optical illusion syndrome) Being stand-alone features, they are hard to miss... I've contemplated going back to pick a couple of lines on these? There's also some strange geology in a subsidiary canyon in this area, really strange, weathered (read extremely bad rock), vegetated, teetering, pinnacle-like formations, unlike anything I've seen in the Wichita Mountains. Cool on the eyes, but not as climbing objectives. While perhaps close to the State Park boundary, all of the aforementioned stuff technically lies on private property.

As you hike down the canyon, you'll see a lot of rock, and canyons fronting the Flat Top Mountain side, but it's a lot like hiking down the Boulder Field in the Charons... lots of rock, but in general, it really doesn't add up to something that will "knock your socks off", etc. As I was looking for Quartz Headwalls, and South American Walls in there, dreaming of getting my opportunity to score ground-up 1979-Quartz-style first ascents, I came away generally disappointed.

Also, to my knowledge, all public land in Devils Canyon is totally encapsulated by private property. One needs to work through a local to gain access.

I did have BetaBase write-ups on Devils Canyon, but a hard drive crash ate the Quartz section of the guide... when I get them re-written, I'll post some pictures, etc.

Hope this helps.

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
30 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [something different](#) on: February 20, 2006, 08:19:22 PM

Nice read... can relate... thanks for sharing.

BTW: If you've got anything Wichita Mountains-specific... always looking for contributions/material to/for BetaBase.

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[31](#) [Oklahoma Climbing /](#)
[Wichita Mountains /](#) on: February 19, 2006, 12:35:05 AM
[WMCC Membership](#)

You got to hand it to Matt... at least he doesn't rant-post as an "anonymous coward"... and he can admit it when he's "off the mark"... er' make that "off the matt"... a troll he is not.

This thread has brought-out a few distinctions worth noting...

NEW ROUTE REGULATIONS

Do all new routes require bolts? Does it not merit "honorable mention" that there is zero bureaucratic process involved on new routing that doesn't require fixed gear? Under this caveat, one can still be "damn near uncontrollable", or express their freedom however they desire? If an objective is too sturdy to tackle ground-up, free, and on-sight... then they can fall back on a range of ground-up "regression" tactics, such as yo-yoing, top rope rehearsal (i.e., headpointing), aiding it first, and leaving in-situ gear in for a free ascent to follow, or even porta-pro (the method of stringing up a static fixed line with inline-eights that can be clipped as protection). If the aforementioned tactics don't register on your experience-meter, or your style-meter, or your whatever-meter... or if gym-style safety is one's preeminent value... top roping is a legitimate form of ascent... not only does it remedy risky falls, but it also saves the rock from frivolous bolts.

Admittedly, the shenanigans can border on the ridiculous... but the "ridiculousness" can also be strangely rewarding... personal growth is often found in the methods less traveled. The bottom line: if you're motivated, bureaucratic-free new routing is out there lurking... and it's there for the taking.

So let's narrow the focus, and criticism for future discussions to new routes that REQUIRE fixed gear... more about this later.

ABC BOLTING TRANSACTIONS

Question: How many bolts has the ABC (or the WMCC for that matter) placed, upgraded, and removed in the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge?

Answer: Zilch.

No need to be curious... or find out anything... so for the misinformed, or the skeptic, here's the reality of our policy (in dry,

generic terms):

1.) Sole Entity: It should be made clear, both through public education, and coalition documentation, that the land manager partner is the sole entity that approves and disapproves fixed anchor protection.

- If it's anyone's job to regulate safety, it's the land manager. They must balance an individual's or user group's rights or freedoms to engage in any recreational activity, with public safety, protecting wildlife/environment, preserving cultural resources, and any other charter missions. In terms of regulating public safety, they tend to have legal resources, insurance policies, and standard protocols mandated by said insurance policies in place (e.g., signage, waivers, etc.), and at their disposal in the event of a worst-case liability scenario.
- With that said, the land manager is not a climbing expert (nor should they be burdened as such), and indeed one of the common/biggest initial challenges facing CC's is to edify land managers who either don't understand climbing, or have false/preconceived notions, etc. Thus, the land manager will rely heavily on the recommendations of their CC partner (and rightfully so; they're the experts), ultimately perhaps exclusively, but they are not bound by it.
- In providing guidance and assistance on rock climbing issues related to fixed anchors, land managers should be made aware of a number of issues, including:
 - As a general rule, the placement and maintenance of fixed anchors should be undertaken by climbers and climber stewardship groups, and not by the land management agency.
 - The above approach will keep land managers as far removed from potential legal liability issues as possible, and is therefore a crucial risk management consideration.
 - The fundamental issue is that the more you regulate, the more likely you are to create legal obligations and duties. Therefore, the less an agency regulates fixed anchors, the less potential liability they'll be exposed to.
 - In regards to climbing stewardship groups that are not detached from the land manager. The same logic that applies to the land managing agency can be applied to them, namely the more regulation they assume, the more likely they are to create legal obligations and duties, and conversely, the less they regulate fixed anchors, the less potential liability they will be exposed to. Ideally, they should be "far removed" too, and this is the position we take.
 - In general, recognize that fixed anchors' actual impacts are insignificant by any objective measurement, and that the minimal resource damage associated with responsible bolting is justified by the traditional/historic recreational opportunities it provides. Key words: responsible bolting.

2.) Advisory Role Only: It should be made clear, both through public education, and coalition documentation, that the CC partner acts in an advisory role only.

- It's not their job to regulate safety, and they shouldn't dabble with it. They often don't have legal resources, insurance policies, and the standard protocols mandated by said insurance policies in place, etc., and at their disposal in the event of a worst-case liability scenario.
- In providing guidance and assistance on rock climbing issues related to fixed anchors, CC's should understand that:
 - By assuming a role in regulating safety that they are actually

putting their land manager partner at more risk, not to mention themselves. That as a "sponsored" organization, they complicate the Assumption of Risk Doctrine.

3.) Guiding: CC's should not be in the business of, or creating the illusion of being in the business of mentoring, instructing, guiding, etc.

- Likewise, there should be no language, or wording hard coded into any coalition document (MOU, fixed gear application, etc.) that can be interpreted as the organization, or a member of the organization (in their capacity as a land manager partner), is assuming some type of mentoring, instructing, or guiding role.
- In addition, fixed anchor application requests should never be rubber stamped, or approved under conditions reminiscent of the organization performing some type of supervisory role, etc.
- Understand, that as private individuals, or climbers, that a CC member can certainly mentor, instruct, or guide, just like any other climber/end user, as long as it's outside their capacity as a land manager partner.

4.) Creating Infrastructure: CC's should not be in the business of, or creating the illusion of being in the business of creating infrastructure, namely fixed gear protection. As an organization, or a member of the organization (in their capacity as a land manager partner) they shouldn't be installing, upgrading, or removing bolts.

- Likewise, there should be no language, or wording hard coded into any coalition document (MOU, fixed gear application, etc.) that can be interpreted as the organization, or a member of the organization (in their capacity as a land manager partner) otherwise maintaining fixed gear protection. The Assumption of Risk Doctrine suggests that those functions should be left to the climbers unattached to the regulatory process, namely the end user.
- Neither land managers nor their CC partners should furnish, or supply the bolts, and hardware... that responsibility goes exclusively to the individual climber requesting to install, upgrade, or remove bolts, granted that their application request is approved. Of course, the end user is free to solicit bolts through climbing advocacy groups as they see fit.
- Understand, that as private individuals, or climbers, that a CC member can certainly go through the bureaucratic process, just like any other climber/end user, and with an approved application, install, upgrade, or replace bolts, as long as it's outside their capacity as a land manager partner.

SUMMARY (for now):

This is not the first time Lefty has played the "conflict of interest" card... PLEASE REVISIT an earlier post, which attempted to address his concerns, but instead of delving into the "legalese" stuff as depicted above, it spoke of the evaluation process, review criteria, etc.

<http://wichitamountains.org/phpBB2/viewtopic.php?p=558&highlight=#558>

The referenced post talks about two hats... speaking personally, it seems like some folks may be confused about which hat I wear when I upgrade bolts in the Refuge (hint see bullet item #4 above).

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32 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / Somebody owes me some donuts](#) on: February 06, 2006, 12:08:18 PM

Nice on-sight Berkly.

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33 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / I know, I know](#) on: January 30, 2006, 04:59:39 PM

Very cool on Band of Bros, but for full credit, stay direct for a few more moves...

Totally finishing direct would be a new variation that I think would call for a full-on lunge past the blank section?

Sean, if you did Band of Bros, try 7 Pioneers, it's really good, and if you can overcome the mental on Bros, you should be ready for it too!

Cool pic.

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34 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / Name that CLimb](#) on: January 09, 2006, 03:03:39 PM

Lefty universally takes the opposite approach to "ego stroke", namely the path of self depreciation... even when it sounds totally ridiculous (considering his climbing record, longevity, talents, etc... and that's not even factoring in the "lefty" nuance).

For example: I've never seen an antelope climb, but watching Lefty climb Jet Stream, or something of like ilk... that's exactly what he looks like... hop... skip... hop... skip... anchor.

True to form, he calls it "faking it", and "cheating".

I guess at either end of the "spectrum" the same question can apply:

Why is that?

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35 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / Name that Climber!](#) on: December 21, 2005, 05:42:52 PM

Please indulge the preceding long-winded announcement... it's completely necessary.

WRM is no big secret. It's also no big secret that it's on private

property, and that access (granted that access subsists on some level or that an access-solution is possible) is a sensitive issue.

It's a sensitive issue that local shareholders, who value climbing opportunities at WRM, and stand a lot to lose, take very seriously.

It's an issue that you, the prospective shareholder, must take very seriously too.

WRM is on private property. WRM is not a public climbing destination.

With that said, we contacted the landowner in 2001, both via phone, and mail, and received personal permission to climb there.

He was neither hospitable, nor hostile, and was basically indifferent, but did explicitly state that he didn't want "armies of people" on his land.

There are multiple "political" boundaries involved, both in regards to access, and cliff front... which means there are multiple opportunities to cause access problems.

As publicity, in places such as RC.com, and others come to bare... please keep in mind that the opportunity to climb at WRM is a privilege. We should consider ourselves humble visitors.

Represent nothing but thankfulness, appreciation, indebtedness. Respect the land and everything on it, as if it were your own.

We all know the following stuff, but perhaps a refresher is in order:

- **Respect the Political Bottom Line:** Recognize the "private" in private property. Understand that we have no public-domain rights on private property, and that in general, climbing areas with restricted or marginal access require a heightened sense of accountability. Bolster our chances for access (assuming that access subsists at some level, or granted that an access-solution is possible) by your words, and actions.
 - **Never-Never Land:** Grasp the reality that some private lands will never be open to recreational access in any form, shape, or fashion. Don't climb where you're not wanted.

- **I'm With Stupid:** The "playing dumb" strategy of "it's better to ask forgiveness than permission" seems misplaced when looking down a barrel... both of them! In the words of one local landowner, "Not even God comes on my land without permission". Don't play dumb: only the landholder or an agent of the landholder can give you permission to access their property. The guy in the gear shop can't, the crew in the gym can't, the post in the forum can't, and this guide certainly can't, and certainly doesn't

- **Respect "No Trespassing" Signs:** Understand that the synonyms for trespass include: intrude, infringe, encroach, and that that's likely the derived connotation of the "good ole boy" turned "pissed-off redneck" (who's probably hunting buds with the local sheriff) that finds you on their property without consent. Respect no trespassing signs. Trespassing is against the law. Violators can be arrested, fined, prosecuted... or otherwise "strung up". Climb the routes, not the fences: All sectors at WRM can be approached

without needing to climb over, under, or through a single fence.

- **Take It Serious:** Some would say: "Trespassing is against the law, but so is jaywalking, and speeding..." Regardless of how serious you take it, and we suggest that you do, trespassing is not a viable long-term solution to climbing access.

- **Designated Roads:** WRM is private property; there are no designated roads, or parking areas. Park unobtrusively.

- **Liability Concerns:** Whereas public landholders most often point to climbers' environmental impacts as justification for restrictions, etc., private landowners most often cite safety and liability concerns for barring access to their property.

- **Personal Responsibility:** Acceptance of personal responsibility is the cornerstone of climbing. We are responsible (both at the individual and user group levels) for understanding and accepting the risks inherent in our sport. Climb at your own risk. Duh!

- **Guiding:** Commercial climbing (guiding, instructing classes, etc.), and organized climbing (club events, competitions, etc.) are improper uses at many access-sensitive lands. Commercial and organized "operations" complicate liability issues/statutes, such as the Assumption of Risk Doctrine, not to mention it's contrary to maintaining a low profile.

- **Self Regulation:** Climbing on private property is totally dependent on the good graces of the landowner. Adapt behavior patterns that will safeguard the environment, and promote access. Simply put: the less climbers are seen and heard, the better.

Climbers are urged to operate with a "soft touch", such as practicing "Leave No Trace" principals, and being an overall "low" person... as in low key, low profile, low visibility, low impact... let nature be your jam box... let pumped forearms and lactic acid by your anarchy... you get the idea. Good stewardship, and outdoor ethics, both at the individual and user group level is imperative.

- **Rotten Apples:** There's usually a degree of truth in clichés, and the one about how it takes just "one rotten apple to spoil the barrel" is certainly true when it comes to climbing on private property, especially access-sensitive areas. If climbers are unwilling or unable to restrict and police themselves, then make no mistake, the landowner will step in and do it for us... often with unpleasant consequences. What does climbing access have to do with you? Everything! Sometimes, this includes "speaking up" or otherwise applying peer pressure when "rotten apples" fall too far from the tree.

- **Seeking Beta:** Seeking info? Initially, seek out locals in the know. It's simple logic: locals are in the best position to be aware of landowner/resource issues, area climbing ethics, etc.

- **Unwanted Solicitation:** Given their druthers, some landowners would prefer not to be solicited, disturbed... in other words... bugged. In some areas, locals, per the landholder's wishes, act as intermediaries, in effect buffering the landowner from being solicited, disturbed, and bugged. In general, as an initial step, it's usually a good idea, before unilaterally contacting landholders, to seek out locals in the know.

- **Hand-Shake Agreements:** Just because an access-sensitive crag isn't open to the general public doesn't mean that it's closed without exception. Some private landowners may be indifferent... they may not be hospitable, but they aren't exactly hostile either, and may be quasi-receptive to a low profile contingent, but less so

to climbers coming out of the woodwork. Regarding WRM, it's recommended that a local accompany "first time" visits/visitors (as is standard operating procedure at a number of access-sensitive crags across the country). The driver for such a safeguard is intuitive, as many of these areas are not promoted as public climbing destinations. Under the circumstances, "going through proven channels" is an obligatory if not necessary, directive to support.

- Vague by Design: Location maps or street directions to access-closed/sensitive crags are not included in this guide for obvious reasons.
 - Heard it on the Grapevine: It may seem at odds to publish a guide to the routes, but omit street directions, or location maps on how to get to the crag proper. The driver for such a safeguard is intuitive, as many of these areas are not public climbing destinations. Under the circumstances, relying on word-of-mouth or the "local grapevine" is an obligatory, if not necessary, directive to support.
 - Public Forums: Climbing areas with restricted or marginal access require a heightened sense of accountability. This accountability includes the better part of valor: discretion. Please resist exposing street directions, or location maps to access-closed/sensitive crags in public formats, such as internet forums, bulletin boards, etc. The driver for such a safeguard is intuitive: gratuitous publicity may inherently lead to negative exposure, or overexposure.

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36 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / Cowboys & Cossacks' neighbors?](#) on: December 06, 2005, 10:49:42 AM

I did have full, polished write-ups on all the routes in this area, but due to a hard drive crash, I lost a lot of stuff from the Quartz section of BetaBase... but Terry is right... Jane knows Quartz... as a matter of fact she was in on the FA of Cowboys, along with Rich, and named it.

The route left of Cowboys is called One-Bolt, currently a misnomer due to the addition of a retro bolt. There is a mix of options/variations, using the face, and the crack left of it. One can force a line, through the bolts, directly up the face (5.10- / R), until nearing the top where the crack juts right, and there's some blocky talus, etc. One can climb directly up the crack (5.9+), which is pretty good, to the same point, etc. Or one can mix and match relative to their inklings.

Also, there is a 2nd pitch to One-Bolt that goes up the arching left-leaning corner (5.9) above the talus blocks. It's pretty good, and protects reasonably well... the exit, through a small hang, offers excellent exposure. There's also a goat skull lodged in the rocks at the top of this pitch. I stretched both pitches into one (probably not recommended).

In addition, the wide crack right of Cowboys, and immediately to the left of Mayes' bolted route, (can't think of the name of that one right now) has been climbed by scooting along a large cam (5.6).

I thought the Mayes route was a good friction route, with a choice of exits (left-right), and per the one I took (right)... reminiscent of the friction on Big Bite... faith and palm paddling.

Lastly, there's a one-bolt route (5.10b / R) right of the Mayes route, on a steep badge of rock, that while appearing pretty intimidating, in the vein of Charlie Manson, actually has a lot of positive, albeit crunchy features (read take care). You shouldn't get too puzzled by the moves, and that aids any serious run out.

Hope this helps.

A chick basically stole my Lohn guide, and is keeping it hostage in New York... somebody tell me what the name of that Mayes route is?

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
37 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [Name that CLimb](#) on: December 06, 2005, 10:15:44 AM

Here's an excerpt from BetaBase regarding Duane & Dr. Kildare.

Another "True" Account of
ANECDOTES
IN
OKLAHOMAN
MOUNTAINEERING
Tales of Fame & Infamy in the Wichita Mountains
FALL ON ROCK, IGNORING DOCTOR'S ORDERS
Leaning Tower, Dr. Kildare (5.9+)

On the first ascent of Dr. Kildare, or rather the "first attempt" at the first ascent, Raleigh, "two feet from the top of the climb", took a grounder, breaking his leg. While the resulting downtime forced him to slow down enough to produce/co-author the original Wichita Mountains climbing guide, "Southern Exposure" (1980), it didn't slow him down for long...

It seems that the guidebook was completed well before the leg, and with a number of weeks left before the cast was due to come off, he "took a hacksaw to" the cast. His gimpy "foot was still so swollen that he had to borrow a larger climbing shoe, but the next day he limped into the Narrows", and completed the first ascent.

Odds are good that wasn't per Doctor's orders?

Lest you're not impressed... you'll want too good legs for this one... it gets our vote for most demanding sub-5.10 in the Narrows... perhaps the Refuge.

"The final push for this guide would not have been but without the unwanted assistance from Dr. Kildare."
Duane Raleigh, in the introduction of "Southern Exposure" (1980)

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
38 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [Name that CLimb](#) on: November 11, 2005, 12:04:08 PM

I was in on the FA of Tranquility Base (along with Mr. Steve Hunt)

... being a noob at the time, that meant that I belayed Chuck, and seconded. Chuck along with Mike Ritchie was one of my original climbing mentors... each with their different styles of "schooling".

For a period of time Chuck mainly climbed with guys where he was the all-time quarterback... in climbing that equates to ropegun... so when I came along... probably with more balls than brains (or talent for that matter)... he decided to teach me right.

Chuck was one of those types of mentors that tended to hand you... for your own good of course... the "necky pitches"... usually implying dirty rock, ugly fall potential, etc... the same for nabbing the best bivy spots on ledges, etc. I guess his "instructional" methods did make me a better climber?

Anyway, in my opinion, Tranquility Base was Chuck's finest WMWR lead... he basically free climbed the route, and used hooks only to bolt. The wall still has a lot of crunchies... so you can imagine the potential mine field status in was in its original state. At every bolt, he was looking at decking, or taking a HELL of a fall... While transitioning from free stances to hooks to bolt, he would generally back up his main hook with another one before requesting the drill to be hauled up. I remember being very impressed, and don't remember him sketching at all... he basically did it very matter of factly. For years I'd tell him that he really sowed his oats that day... he'd usually shrug, and intimate that it was no different than a lot of stuff he'd done. I wasn't so sure... I'd climbed with him a bunch, and I'd never seen anything quite like it.

I seconded that day with no falls. About a year later, I tried leading Tranquility Base, and got stuck somewhere way up there, and looking at a long fall... started quivering like a leaf, and had Jane Bull (who was descending Moonraker) drop me a rope and rescue me... I tipped my hat to Chuck that day. Not long after, I led it uneventfully, and have done it about four times since.

I concur with a previous post: Tranquility Base is very Dr. Coolhead-ish, and without doubt the best route in the Treasure Cove.

When you get on it, as you near that next bolt, and feel the hard ground calling your name... odds are good that you'll be tipping your hat to Chuck too!

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
39 [Wichita Mountains](#) / on: November 01, 2005, 01:11:47 PM
[echo dome question](#)

FYI: There's no fixed belay on top of Window Rock... notes from BetaBase:

... Window Rock's blocky, freestanding, peninsula-like summit is arguably the most classic summit in the Wichita Mountains. Skeptical? Perhaps you should check it out for yourself?

Tuberculosis

(5.8 / R / 160ft / 2 pitches)

Climb the original route on Window Rock, circa 1974... Refuge climbing doesn't get too much more vintage than that. The first part, from the slab to the base of the upper corner is high quality,

the second part, from the corner up, is the opposite of high quality. As mentioned, the freestanding summit of Window Rock may be the best perch in the Refuge. Originally done in 3 pitches.
 1 (5.8 / R / 100ft / lead gear .5in to ?in, natural belay gear ?in to ?in)
 Climb the awesome wave-like slab, capped in roofline.

2 (5.8 / 60ft / lead gear ?in to ?in, natural belay gear ?in to ?in)
 Climb the upper corner to the "window" in the rock to the freestanding summit.

Descent: Traverse the peninsula-like summit back to the notch, and downclimb to the north.

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Oklahoma Climbing /
 40 Wichita Mountains / dr cool head on: August 08, 2005, 05:04:43 PM

Hey Jimmy,

Wow, all the guide books had listed Resurrection Factor as a TR... I also mentioned something about that bolt in one of our previous emails... and I'm pretty sure that you said you didn't know about it? Since then, my hard drive has crashed, and I lost all my emails... so I can't go back and look... but, it doesn't matter... I'm psyched to know the origins of the bolt, and the fact that RF was led!!!

I took credit for the lead-FA because after discussing it with you, I thought it was a converted TR... thus the 2003 comment. I'll revise the descriptions accordingly. And no! No retro-bolts have been added... I upgraded the old bolt, hole for hole, in the same location, and didn't even consider lowering it... even though I'm just 5' 10" in cowboy boots... far from 6' 7"... but that explains the reach... which I tell you is super scary if you can't reach it, thus the way I articulated it in my description.

So tell me, did you place that bolt on lead? Did you TR the line first? I noticed that that was one of the "latter" routes you did (i.e. 1984). Any details would be greatly appreciated... I really dig the historical tidbits. Following in the footsteps of those that came before me is what makes climbing so special.

No one ever does that route, lead or TR... I thought it was good, that's why I upgraded the bolt, and "published" the description... thanks for correcting me.

The "other" Jimmy

P.S. I tried to PM you this message first, but for some reason it wouldn't leave my outbox? I need to get your email address again... try PM-ing me.

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Oklahoma Climbing /
 41 Wichita Mountains / Lower Mt Scott - Routes on: July 28, 2005, 02:57:26 PM

A few years back... yeah, emphasis on "few"! (Insert chuckles)

Lefty is comfortable with anonymity, in same ways to a fault, but

he prefers to keep it that way... a chest beater he is not.

Lower Mt. Scott, The Full Monty, and who knows what else?... he was there first... but, as he'll tell you, he's not interested in claiming FA's... that includes disputing "false" claims as well... a historian he is not.

Even his call name on this web site is a stab at self-depreciation...

Talk about "The Man"!

Regarding the topic of the post: There's been a lot TR variations done on the main High Anxiety Buttress, particularly the nice headwall left of the upper crack... not so sure about contrived leads though?

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
42 [Wichita Mountains / New route - classic](#) on: July 26, 2005, 01:52:12 PM

I'm glad you "articulated" in a public format. The local climbing community would be well served from knowing more about you, your record, and your opinions... you've got as much experience, and perspective on the home stone as anyone.

My last, albeit long winded response was in reference to the most important question you raised... I subsequently ran out of energy and inclination to respond further.

As for the other, more specific question, everybody has their buttons (thus the climbing means different things to different people disclaimer)... retro-rating is one of mine. Squashed toads in the road "offend" me too... to each their own.

It's in my nature to "audit" guidebooks... I basically do the same thing on the rock... if anyone is interested in "discrepancies", which I doubt, then all they have to do is compare... while I may have made a personal criticism in the original post, what I neglected to communicate is that I think both of the new guides did a good job... I use both of them... and I know where everything is... what better compliment can I say.

Let's continue this discussion at the crag in the near future.

As for Babe... you can't fool us... Terry doesn't need any "pushing" into doing the absolute ridiculous... and our thoughts and prayers are with you in your speedy recovery.

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
43 [Wichita Mountains / New route - classic](#) on: July 25, 2005, 04:58:52 PM

"Also, IMO, any member of the ABC should recuse themselves from obtaining any permits for bolting (new or replacement) in the WMWR. Seems like a conflict of interest to me. But what do I know?"

During my escapades on the home stone, I am sometimes

obligated to wear two hats. So I'll put on my WMCC hat, the one I wear the least, to attempt to answer your concern.

After taking the time to reflect on the following response, if you (or anyone else for that matter) still have concerns (conflict of interest, or any issue for that matter) regarding the WMCC Fixed Anchor Process we invite your constructive suggestions, criticisms, etc. We are certainly interested in improving the process.

Speaking as a member of the WMCC:

BOLT UPGRADES

As we enter our ninth year of regulation, certain recurrent themes in the evaluation process have come to light regarding bolt replacement. These common themes are evident in all our reviews:

It's intuitive to justify bolt replacement from a resource perspective:

- 1.) Replacing bolts does not add to the bolt-count in the Refuge.
- 2.) Replacing bolts with new hardware that blends in with the natural color of the rock will improve visual aesthetics. Eliminating "shiny" bolts should reduce an already low profile, as the majority of bolts in the Refuge are not easy to see. Most occur off of the "beaten" trail, and high off of the ground. Understandably, climbers are the only user group in a position to see them. Camouflaging may conceal a bolt so well that a climber on route can't readily see it, much less someone hiking, fishing, or nature viewing on the ground or in the vicinity.
- 3.) It's also important to recognize that, by granting approval based entirely on aesthetic and natural resource criteria (i.e., the points mentioned above), a secondary, inherent benefit is derived for the user community: outdated and deteriorating bolts get upgraded! Replacing unsafe bolts, while not an evaluation criterion, is a driver for management's continued support in Refuge-wide replacement efforts, support that includes the Charons Garden Wilderness Area.

The reality is, applicant aside, 100% of bolt replacement is recommended for approval. Bolt replacement must be consistent with the following:

- 1.) Replace bolt-for-bolt in the same location (i.e., hole for hole), or as close to the same location as possible.
- 2.) Remove all obsolete hardware, and patch any unfilled holes.
- 3.) New hardware must blend in with the natural color of the rock.

There can't be "conflict of interest" issues on bolt upgrades because all bolt upgrades that meet the above criteria are recommended for approval.

NEW BOLTS

Regarding new bolts, the approval process is less "intuitive", and must pass two hurdles: 1.) objective criteria, 2.) subjective criteria.

Objective Criteria:

Objective criteria tends to have a definitive answer. If a new bolt request fails the objective hurdle, it doesn't even get subjective

consideration. Examples of objective criteria include:

- 1.) Resource Impacts: New fixed gear routes will be evaluated on the potential degree of impact to Refuge resources. Of main concern are areas with: (1.) Existing high densities of fixed anchors, (2.) Sensitive plants and wildlife (3.) Fragile rock.
- 2.) Convenience bolting: Equipping new routes with fixed anchors should be done only out of necessity (i.e. fixed anchors are the only means by which the route can offer protection). Generally fixed anchors should not be placed near adequate natural protection. "Convenience bolting" is not appropriate for the Refuge. Rappel anchors may be appropriate in cases where rappelling the route results in less trail erosion or resource impact than down climbing or hiking off of the "back side".
- 3.) Retro-Bolting: The essential character of routes, as established by the first free ascent, should be preserved. This means existing traditional climbs will remain so. Generally retro-bolting will be approved only to replace bolt for bolt in the same location. Exceptions may occur.
- 4.) Route Alterations: Gardening, chipping, gluing, removing vegetation, cutting trees and prying off rocks is prohibited. Be "resource sensitive" when developing new routes. Tread lightly and be aware of environmental impacts. Use good judgment!
- 5.) Route Height: Generally routes under thirty feet (30ft) will be evaluated as top-rope problems only.
- 6.) Power Drills: Power drills are prohibited in the Charons Garden Wilderness Area.

Still, please note in the above examples that words such as "tends to", "may be appropriate", "generally", "exceptions may occur", etc. are (by design) built in to the process... thus comes the subjective piece of the equation.

Subjective Criteria

Subjective criteria tends to be open to interpretation. If a new bolt request passes the objective hurdle, then it undergoes subjective consideration. Examples of subjective criteria include:

- 1.) Quality Routes: Requests for new bolts will be evaluated using a high standard. Only quality new fixed gear routes that add to the Refuge's climbing experience and do not infringe on existing climbs will be approved.
- 2.) Wilderness: Due to its legislative designation as wilderness, we believe the Charons Garden Wilderness Area dictates our heightened respect and consideration when it comes to evaluating resource criteria and potential impacts. We reserve approval for those routes that wholeheartedly satisfy the resource criteria mandate and are representative of other exemplary routes found in the Refuge and across the country. Minimally met review criteria will not warrant a positive recommendation in the Charons Garden Wilderness Area.

The WMCC has discussed at length the subjective criteria part of the process, because we feel that this is the area where someone that's uninformed, or has an axe to grind, etc., could raise the "conflict of interest", preferential treatment, or like issue. We feel that we are unbiased, and see the smarts in taking any steps that can help reduce any illusions of preferential treatment, etc. One solution that we have discussed, and are enacting looking to the future is that all applications for new bolts will be submitted to the committee as anonymous applicants. That way, who the applicant

is, will be unknown by two of the three ABC members, and in theory, then personal bias could not enter the process.

To other WMCC committee members, if I've left something out, please help me fill in the blanks.

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Oklahoma Climbing /
44 [Wichita Mountains / New route - classic](#) on: July 19, 2005, 11:19:30 AM

I just splashed down the description for the Full Monty... I'll revise it per your comments... but just so you'll know... you adventurous spirit... all of your new routes get put in BetaBase! I read RC.noob just to keep tabs on you! Also, as you may have noticed, I usually get the 2nd ascent on a lot of them! Yeah, I'll be heading to the Motherlode/Area 51, etc. soon...

As a practice, I camo 99% of my bolts, usually even the bolt heads themselves, no matter where I'm climbing (excluding those rough-cut Fixe hangers of yours we used in MX, and I still may paint them yet)... but really, in regards to the WMWR... it's not a choice... all approved bolt applications (new, or upgrade) must be camouflaged to match the rock, no exceptions... so yeah, the new bolts are camouflaged.

I also use the same holes when ever possible (another WMWR guideline for upgrades), but on Riverside Attraction the old bolts were some type of "hardware store" wedge... they were wider than the 3/8" replacements, but with about 1" threads... they came out with a "tuning fork" pretty easy. I still need to patch the old holes (another WMWR guideline for upgrades)... didn't have the patch kit with me... if anyone beats me to it... please feel free.

I always thought the hangers on Riverside were homemade hangers, but they're not... they're Troll hangers... hadn't really seen those before... new addition to my bolt museum/collection.

Climbing means different things to different people, as do ratings, but IMHO, retro-ratings are about as "ugly" as retro-bolts (not to be confused with bolt upgrades/re-do's)... maybe merited in certain situations, but not very often. Ker Plunk has been rated 5.6 from the first published (i.e., pre-1986) sources (i.e., Southern Exposure, OK on the Rocks I & II) The two guides since (i.e., post-1986) did a lot of "retro rating" abuse... some of this may be current "community consensus"... but a lot of it's just the opinion of a single author that decided they didn't agree with a letter or two (i.e., hair splitting).

As for me, outside of an "orders of magnitude" difference (which may be merited), give me the "old school" rating every time!

BetaBase tends to reflect the following policy:

Wichita Mountain Ratings: Generally, whenever multiple guidebooks have been written for a specific area, especially by multiple authors, discrepancies in published ratings tend to occur.

Keep in mind that ratings are not a point-feature; they're a linear-feature, or a range. The "range" reflected in this guide tends to be consistent with the following:

Vintage Ratings: The ratings listed for routes established pre-1986

tend to reflect the ratings published in Oklahoma on the Rocks2.

Later Ratings: The ratings listed for routes established post-1986 tend to reflect the ratings suggested by the first ascent party, published references if they exist, community consensus, or the personal opinion of the authors.

Everyone, please forgive the rant.

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
45 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [dr cool](#) on: July 19, 2005, 08:53:18 AM
[head](#)

I guess that's why I said "mysteriously broke"... because if it was a leader fall that broke the flake, then I'm sure we would have heard about someone decking??? Since no one has come forward, it must have been broken on top rope, by someone yarding on it??? Which doesn't seem likely either... that's why Ryan had suggested vandals (i.e., hammer), because we were trying to figure out under what circumstances the thing broke??? It was a pretty big chunk... seems like it would have had to been some meaningful "trauma" to detach it? Oh well, at least what's left is still viable.

Holds, protection opportunities degrade sometimes... fact of life in climbing, especially on routes that get a lot of attention.

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[46 Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / New route - classic](#) on: July 18, 2005, 12:41:55 PM

The lead bolts on Riverside Attraction were upgraded this weekend... also had permit approval to install a fixed belay at waterline... I decided to apply for these new bolts after taking a long whip from above the 2nd bolt years ago, and the upward yank completely ripped the gear we had dinked in for a belay around waterline. Tony W. also had a similar experience... during his episode, he and RH were basically using the 1st bolt for their belay... anyway, I decided to only place one bolt, since you can get some natural gear in to compliment it...

Also, this new fixed belay can be used for Terry's new route... of course, in respect to the FA, clothing can still be optional.

For those interested, here's the BetaBase descriptions:

Riverside Attraction

(5.11a / R / 80ft / gear .5in to 1.5in, 2 bolts, shares Ker Plunk's 1st pitch natural belay)

Climb the vertical face above the lagoon. Getting to the start is cumbersome, but worth it. The standard approach is probably to climb Ker Plunk (5.6) and rappel to the base. You'll get the rope wet on the pull-down, but at least you can pre-inspect the line before pulling it, and after inspecting it, you might decide to keep that rope dry (i.e., TR it)? If you have an aversion to pre-inspection at all costs, you can rap blindfolded, or attempt to boulder in laterally (the FA traversed in from the south?), traversing just above waterline (swimming in is illegal) Start from a one-bolt fixed belay (retro 2005), backed up by gear (.75in).

Sporadic natural pro compliments two bolts on the way to the top: getting to the first bolt is committing (5.11 / R), climbing above the last one, along a cool arch, is spine tingling. The "over the water" exposure is good stuff. There's a precedent of long falls above the last bolt. Spice Tour certified. Lead bolts upgraded 2005.

The Full Monty

(5.8 / 80ft / gear .5in to 4in, shares Ker Plunk's 1st pitch natural belay)

Link the corner systems demarcating the left side of the Riverside

Attraction face. From the fixed belay on Riverside Attraction, and respective of the waterline, traverse left, and then up to gain the crack in a left-facing corner. Stems and hidden holds keep jam counts low. Link to the right-facing corner, and a wide crack that curves back right to the cedar tree. Note: The FA traversed in from the south, but the standard approach is probably to climb Ker Plunk, and rap in per Riverside Attraction.

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[Oklahoma Climbing](#) /
47 [Wichita Mountains](#) / [dr cool head](#) on: July 18, 2005, 12:06:26 PM

I was in the Narrows this weekend, taking care of some bolting upgrades, and couldn't resist checking out the "new" Dr. Coolhead. Having led this route 30+ times, the recent "modifications" messed with my entrenched sequence, and altered my likewise entrenched pro placement in said "broken flake", but the bottom line (echoing what Terry said) is that it still takes adequate pro... In addition, what remains, looks permanent (i.e., can't be broken any further).

Also, I upgraded the stand-alone bolt that enables the lead variation of Resurrection Factor that I established a couple of years ago.

For those interested in long winded beta... here's the updated BetaBase descriptions for Dr. Coolhead, and Resurrection Factor.

Resurrection Factor

(5.11- / TR or R / 80ft / gear .5in to 2in, 1 bolt, shares fixed belay with Crazy Alice)

Climb the mysterious TR that nobody does. It's the somewhat contrived face-climbing lane to the left of Richard Pryor. The lower headwall section is super thin, and it's hard not to deviate here, and there. Climb to the intersection of McBrides Mind, and continue on that route.

Lead variation:

Sometime around the mid-1980s a mysterious bolt appeared, and has remained? While this bolt is certainly not placed optimally... it does enable lead attempts, with a crux section similar in nature and spice, to its cool headed neighbor out left. The lead basically follows a line directly under, and right of the bolt. Start by climbing the leftmost starting variation on Richard Pryor Route (5.7). Protect well at the end of the crack (gear .75in to 2in), and staying on the face, balance up to the horizontal edge-rail below the bolt; mantle up.

Getting clipped:

Clipping the bolt is height dependent. It necessitates an extremely delicate (read no hand holds) tiptoeing across the rail to facilitate reaching the bolt... real scary (read looking at a long fall).

Respective of one's height, and or boldness, consider shifty reach-tactics, such as a stiff draw, or totally take the cruiser way, and pre-hang a draw. Either way, once clipped, the game is to keep on the face, but generally climb up, and right of the bolt. Puzzle out how to obtain the underclinging flap above (5.11a), before intersecting with McBrides Mind (a.k.a. Leap Frog). Note: The first ascent of this route was established headpoint style (2003), and to date hasn't had an on-sight ground-up lead? Lead bolt upgraded

2005.

Dr. Coolhead

(5.10 / R / 80ft / limited gear .75in to 1.5in, 2 bolts, shares fixed belay with Crazy Alice)

Climb the classic crimp face. It's classic on many fronts: quality terrain, mind-control, and local history. Dr. Coolhead, as an independent line, is the result of two famous ground-up leads, circa 1980. The section through the first bolt is original McBride's Mind terrain; thus, you can't obtain passage without paying homage to the progenitor. With the first bolt pre-existing, the stage was set for Dr. Coolhead, which was originally led (same year, different party) without benefit of the second bolt; this feat made durable by long-slinging gear, up high, from neighboring Crazy Alice. Sometime after the first ascent, around the mid-80s, the second bolt was added. This "community accepted" retro-bolt allows the strict and direct path that is the standard today. For "local certification", stay in between the two cracks, and refrain from using the hump stance on McBride's Mind (located up and right of the first bolt) or any crack holds on either side. Of course, these eliminates are rescinded if one chooses to lead it in the style of the first ascent (i.e., sans the 2nd bolt)! Forcing a direct path, while rewarding, has implications, such as it's more sustained, and cumulatively harder, but namely that there's only three pieces of protection in 80ft. While they don't call Dr. Coolhead the mind-control classic of the Refuge for nothing, it's generally reasonable for those adapted to spicy fare, as evidenced by the occasional ground-up, on-sight. Here's the breakdown (please forgive the granularity):

Getting to the first bolt:

Mostly per the McBride's Mind description: Earnest caution is required below the first bolt. Here, the first crux is encountered (5.10), and fall potential is at its proven worst. To start, align with the first bolt, and climb to the bottoming slot... a.k.a., the highest point of protection before the bolt. In a former incarnation, said slot used to be more flake-like before mysteriously breaking (summer 2005). The new "configuration" still takes adequate gear, but requires thoughtful placement (gear 1in to 1.5in), and it's a healthy idea to back it up. Although infrequently utilized (because it may be too low to help a fall from the crux?), protection opportunities exist below the slot too. Regardless, feel good about your pro before advancing, as standing up on the diagonal tips-rail requires balance, commitment and composure.

Getting to the top:

Once "that" bolt is clipped, the more-serious part is over. Despite appearances, the rest of the route presents long, but generally non-scathing fall potential... if you fall "correctly". Still, while the consequences of a fall may be decelerating, the exposure, and intimate points of contact are accelerating. From the first bolt, continue on crimps that get better the closer you get to the second bolt. The section above the 2nd bolt is sustained, and thin, with a record of long falls. Fight to stay direct, and persevere to the rim.

Wandering options:

Sometimes, as the concept of mind-control classic comes to bare, the motivation to stay direct goes out the window. No worries, wandering has implications too, namely escape, and the opportunity for additional pro (optional gear .5in to 2in). Proven bailouts include: a.) From the 1st bolt: make the hump stance on

McBride's Mind, and traverse the horizontal weakness right to join Leap Frog, b.) From at, or above the 2nd bolt: retreating to the cracks: Crazy Alice (left, easier, readily viable), or the terminus of the left-angling Leap Frog crack (right, harder, less viable) are proven bailouts.

The bottom line:

Dr. Coolhead is classic, and rewarding no matter how it's climbed.

As a lead objective, it's the standard by which other spicy routes in the Refuge are measured. On the other hand, it's location on a popular wall, below a fixed belay, are perfect logistics for top roping. Originally rated low-end 5.10, some crimps immediately above the 1st bolt have degraded, in addition to the aforementioned broken slot-flake, and now the rating tends to weigh in on the "meatier" side of 5.10. Lead bolts upgraded in 1999.

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48 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / Tyro Rumpus, Window Rock, and Treasure Cove](#) on: April 25, 2005, 10:42:12 AM

They don't get climbed that much... for various reasons... occasional suspect rock, runout, etc. but Panther Canyon has some great routes... skeptics take note.

Afterburner (5.9), and Tyro Rumpus (5.9) are excellent, and both have fixed belays for top roping if the lead-head isn't feeling happy.

For a step up, Bro Frontiers (5.10b), and Fort Jo Jo are just as good.

For those interested... here's the BetaBase descriptions:

3.5. PANTHER CANYON

(14 routes from 5.8 to 5.12a / primarily east facing aspects)

The familiar Narrows adventurer, unaware of what lies in the next canyon over (east), or even unaware that there is a next canyon over, may be surprised to learn that a smaller, somewhat less dramatic version of the Narrows resides just next door, on the other side of Rattlesnake Island. In the Narrows, the Rattlesnake Island side on the canyon plays second fiddle; in Panther Canyon, it takes the lead. From a scenic perspective, Window Rock, when viewed from south, strikes about as dramatic a profile as any single formation in the Refuge. The canyon is otherwise carpeted in granite, and cedar.

From a climbing perspective, despite one's first impression of Window Rock, the larger walls in the canyon, for the most part, tend to be broken in all the wrong spots, and the longer stretches, needed to host routes, quality or otherwise, tend not to pan out?

It just seems that, with all the rock, there should be more route supporting resources here? With that said, the resources that do support routes, pan out quite nicely.

RATTLESNAKE ISLAND SIDE OF THE CANYON

The main climbing formations start creek side, which is often dry-to-intermittent, but expect seasonal fluctuations in water levels to cause access problems. Walls/areas on this side of the canyon include (described from left (south) to right (north), as

encountered on the standard approach in):

3.5.1. Rumpus Wall

3.5.2. Window Rock

OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE CANYON

Currently, no developed climbing occurs on this side of the canyon.

Panther Canyon Approach: Hike the Narrows Trail to Lichen Wall.

Continue a short distance past Lichen Wall to the intersection of West Cache and Panther Creek. A vague hiker/climber's trail hairpins into Panther Canyon, skirting the west (left) side of Panther Creek. Soon the dramatic profile of Window Rock comes into view, indicating the way to go.

Estimated time of travel (trailhead to base of Rumpus Wall): 45 minutes.

3.5.1. RUMPUS WALL

(6 routes from 5.9 to 5.11- / primarily east facing aspects)

Do you like to tinker with pro? Do you like committing moves off of good stances? If so, please direct your rumpus over here.

The Rumpus Wall sector includes the progression of broken walls, at first shorter, then taller, that initially define the western side of the canyon/creek basin, before the Window Rock formation.

Despite the amount of rock, most of the walls are broken, and can't seem to accumulate into much?

The main structure offers heads-up gear routes, as well as quality rock, and decent height (100ft to 120ft). Routes are described from left (south) to right (north) when facing the base of the cliff.

3.5.1.1. Okie Mojo

(5.11- / R / limited gear .4in to 3.5in / 100ft / shares fixed belay with Tyro Rumpus)

Climb the right side of the shelter cave (left of Bro Frontiers) as denoted by nice in-cut edges and reddish granite. The first prospects for protection occur semi-off-route (right), in a small horizontal finger slot (gear .4in). Rejoin the corner proper, and climb until paused by the hang, before escaping right (5,11- / R) into the open corner. The base of the corner takes pro, thus competes the riskier section. Work to the top of the corner, step right, and merge into Tyro's upper headwall.

3.5.1.2. Bro Frontiers

(5.10b / R / 110ft / gear .5in to 2in, shares fixed belay with Tyro Rumpus)

Climb the corner-ramp system to an overhanging block with big holds (5.10b / R). There's minimal protection until the block, making the flat, sandy landing, and low crux, much appreciated.

At the block, protect well (1in to 1.75in) before pulling into the corner (5.10a) above. It sucks up gear (.5in to 1.75in) until the headwall, where pro becomes intermittent again. Tend left toward a friable, but decent gear slot (2in), before stepping right and intersecting with Tyro's upper headwall.

Route variations: Bro Frontier's variations all use the same crux start (5.10b / R), but seem independent enough to warrant their own description.

3.5.1.3. Bro Frontiers Left

(5.10b / R / 110ft / gear .5in to 2in, shares fixed belay with Tyro

Rumpus)

Climb to Bro's overhang block before taking the vertical corner (5.9) left of the original line. It offers limited, but reasonable protection (.5in to 1.25in) and is bolstered by a ladder of positive, butter-knife edges, one right after another. Gain the headwall on a series of pinch-like holds where a bit of heads-up climbing rejoins the original line.

3.5.1.4. Bro Frontiers Right

(5.10b / s / 110ft / gear .5in to 3in, shares fixed belay with Tyro Rumpus)

Climb Bro's overhang block before traversing around the corner, briefly intersecting with Tyro Rumpus, to the base of a long, right-angling crack. The crack (5.7) is more layback than jam. It terminates on the ledge system that doubles as Pioneer Bros' 2nd pitch, and assumes its poor rock, and anchor situation.

3.5.1.5. Tyro Rumpus

(5.9 / 120ft / gear .5in to 3in, fixed belay)

Start by picking a start. Climb either side of the prow to a blocky stance. The original line (left side) is more aesthetic, and easier to get off of the ground, but more tedious to protect (.5in to 1.5in) than the variation, which is harder to get off of the ground, but easier to protect (3in to 4in). At the blocky stance, the line tends left, past semi-overhangs, to the base of a long, right-angling, diagonal crack (2.25in). Don't take this crack (Bro Frontiers Right / 5.7), but instead, continue angling up and left, aiming for the middle (dark waterstreak) of the upper headwall. This upper headwall is characterized by sporadic pro, and committing moves off of good stances, spine-tingling stuff.

SIDE PANEL

This is the lower wall located immediately right of Tyro Rumpus.

Due to the lack of a fixed belay to facilitate descent, and poor rock quality, and lower angles up top to impact the fall potential, it's probably advantageous to break the following route into two pitches.

3.5.1.6. Pioneer Bros

(5.10a / R / 80ft / 2 pitches)

Climb the low-level hang, to insipid crack/seam right of Tyro Rumpus.

1 (5.10a / R / 30ft / minimal lead gear .4in to 1in, natural belay gear 1.5in to 3in)

Boulder to the overhang, grope some holds, and decide what to do? Quality protection, or the lure of it, shouldn't be a consideration, as pending prospects are iffy. Near the ledge, a decent gear slot (.75in) finally materializes.

2 (5.8 / 50ft / lead gear .5in to 2in, natural belay gear to 3in)

This is basically an exit pitch of very poor quality, and is currently the only way to get off of the wall. Surmount the vertical step above to easy, broken ground. Wander left to a notch beside the main wall. Watch out for loose rock. Constructing an anchor is tedious due to poor rock quality and a lack of cracks. Walk off of the backside to descend.

3.5.2. WINDOW ROCK

(8 routes from 5.8 to 5.12a / primarily east facing aspects)

Text pending. Afterburner (5.9), with its roof-jug exit, is one of the best moderates in the Refuge.

Sub-walls are described from left (south) to right (north) as encountered on the standard approach in:

Horn of Plenty Buttress (3.5.2.1.)

Stealth Wall (3.5.2.2. – 3.5.2.3.)

Window Rock (3.5.2.4. – 3.5.2.8.)

HORN OF PLENTY BUTTRESS

Slog up the hillside left (south) of Window Rock around to the base of a somewhat rotten dihedral.

Descent: Walk-off to the right (north), and wind back to the base of Window Rock.

3.5.2.1. Horn of Plenty

(5.8 / R / 140ft / lead gear ?in to ?in, natural belay gear ?in to ?in)
The Stealth Wall's southeast aspect forms a broken buttress.

Climb it. The suspect rock quality is offset by length and varied terrain, including a set of small overhangs.

STEALTH WALL

This hanging wall is located immediately left of the 2nd pitch of Tuberculosis (5.8).

Approach: The Stealth Wall can be accessed in multiple ways: a.) Climb Tuberculosis (5.8), or b.) Journey around to the right (north) side of Window Rock, and scramble up the talus gully for one of two approaches: 1.) Continue to the top, or the promontory point above Window Rock, and rappel into the gap behind it (natural anchor / gear 2.5in to 4in), look for lead bolts on the way down, or 2.) Don't continue to the top, but rather, climb into said gap via a dirty gully/chimney system that demarcates the backside of Window Rock proper. Routes are described from left (south) to right (north) when facing the base of the cliff:

3.5.2.2. Bone Collector

(5.9 / 70ft / 2 bolts, natural belay)

Climb the left side of the face, to a high 1st bolt, and a hidden 2nd bolt. Collecting bones is better than digging graves.

3.5.2.3. Grave Digger

(5.9 / 70ft / 2 bolts, natural belay)

Climb to the right side of the face. Get the 1st bolt on Bone Collector, and then traverse horizontally right to pick up this line.

It's crunchy, and loose, but why not?

Starting variation: Scramble to the base of the chimney and face climb to the 1st bolt on Grave Digger.

WINDOW ROCK

Window Rock's blocky, freestanding, peninsula-like summit is arguably the most classic summit in the Wichita Mountains.

Skeptical? Perhaps you should check it out for yourself? Routes are described from left (south) to right (north) when facing the base of the cliff:

3.5.2.4. Evolution

(5.12a / R / 80ft / gear .75in to 3in)

Climb the ramp-shield left of Fort JoJo. This is basically a highball boulder problem, and there's no gear until it's over.

3.5.2.5. Fort Jo Jo

(5.10d / 130ft / 2 pitches)

Climb the crack system delineating the left (south) side of the

Tuberculosis slab.

1 (5.10d / 70ft / gear .75in to 3.25in, natural belay)
Puzzle past a cave start to gain the ramp/corner (5.10d).

Pitch Variation: The 1st pitch is good, the 2nd pitch isn't. Climb Fort JoJo to the Afterburner belay. At the top of the slab, climb up a move or two, but traverse right at the first opportunity. This opportunity occurs before the real scraggly terrain.

3.5.2.6. Tuberculosis
(5.8 / R / 160ft / 2 pitches)

Climb the original route on Window Rock, circa 1974... Refuge climbing doesn't get too much more vintage than that. The first part, from the slab to the base of the upper corner is high quality, the second part, from the corner up, is the opposite of high quality. As mentioned, the freestanding summit of Window Rock may be the best perch in the Refuge. Originally done in 3 pitches.

1 (5.8 / R / 100ft / lead gear .5in to ?in, natural belay gear ?in to ?in)

Climb the awesome wave-like slab, capped in roofline.

2 (5.8 / 60ft / lead gear ?in to ?in, natural belay gear ?in to ?in)
Climb the upper corner to the "window" in the rock.

3.5.2.7. Afterburner

(5.9 / R / 80ft / lead gear .5in to 2in, 1 bolt, fixed belay)

Climb the Tuberculosis slab to the roofs, step right to the bolt, and fire the jets. The exit is big: big air, big holds and big fun.

Descent: Rap the formation (80ft) or descent the slab behind the anchor (easy 5th Class) to join the talus gully.

3.5.2.8. Gully Face

(5.8 / 60ft / gear .35in to 3in, shares fixed belay with Afterburner)

Climb the gully face. Micro-pro is needed for the initial section (.35in to .5in). Somewhat suspect rock, and a horrible landing compliment the dinky pro. Try to force a direct line, avoiding easier terrain out right. The summit block is surprisingly exposed.

Lastly, a number of bolts were chopped off of the Treasure Cove's Dog Wall a number of years ago. The Lohn guide doesn't reflect this.

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49 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / Newbie](#) on: April 21, 2005, 11:34:26 AM

Berkly,

I spewed my morning tea at the thought of you in a sports bra!
Very funny stuff... and good advice... to a troll.

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50 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / Newbie](#) on: April 19, 2005, 11:33:16 AM

Troll Alert!

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51 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / No Rock climbing this side of creek](#) on: April 15, 2005, 12:33:10 PM

Yo, Big Terr,

Regarding the opposite side of the Narrows: You're right, no entity really did an impact study... there was supposedly some guy that might have walked around one weekend, or something like that?

What I meant by "good faith" was that they opened it back up... after being closed for 5 years. No apathy was exhibited, nor loop holes "invented" to keep the previous 5 year's status quo in effect... not to mention, they didn't procrastinate either... as soon as the declared time limit was up... they rescinded it... pretty cool, whether you technically call it "good faith" or not. Yeah, they probably should update the sign (they're probably unaware of it being outdated)... but the bottom line is... you can climb over there.

Regarding Sunshine Wall, most of the routes that have been perpetuated in guide books, namely Cool Dude (5.8 / 1986), Shuttle Booster (5.10a / 1986), Rocket Sled (5.10d / 1986) were established after Southern Exposure (circa 1980), with the exception of O-Ring (5.8 / 1978).

Southern Exposure calls Sunshine Wall the Friction Slab and lists 4 routes, of which I believe what they're calling the Middle Route may be a part of current day O-Ring? It's the other three routes that have never been in any guide book since... they are indirect lines, on low-end 5th Class, that reside off of the main face... it seems they were so "trivial" that they didn't even make Oklahoma on the Rocks I? These were the routes that I listed for "historical purposes only"... not the ones on the main face... plus my interpretation of "historical purposes only" is simply routes that are so obscure that in general they never get climbed... doesn't imply that one shouldn't climb em'... some of the best rewards are found on the paths less traveled.

As you know, I didn't hit the Wichita's until 1989, so prior to that, a lot of my research comes from scrutinizing the old guides, and climbing all the routes... good, bad, or ugly... so if the guidebooks messed up dates, or so fourth, then I could be off in my estimations... that's where you come in "old" (been around for ever) buddy! And most folks call me an old-schooler!

Anyway, to those that are interested, here are the BetaBase descriptions:

3.3.5. SUNSHINE WALL

(8 routes from 5.6 to 5.10d / primarily west facing aspects)
Aptly named, this usually solar radiating slab is located on the Rattlesnake Island (left, or east) side of the creek, just before Lichen Wall. The face is cat-scratched with the occasional horizontal crack, seam, or slot. These orifices, while often hidden from below, offer up varying degrees of protection, and generally dictate the line of ascent, at least on lead. Otherwise, the face is

climbable in almost any direction. Regarding the routes on the main face/slab, proficient gear placement is critical, and none of these routes, at their respective grades, are optimal candidates for novice, or out of practice, leaders.

The routes located on the fringes of the slab are old, forgotten about routes that were described in "Southern Exposure" (1980) as being on the Friction Slab. Either by design, or insignificance, these routes were omitted from later guides... until now.

Approach: See map (page Ab-7, fig. a-3). Narrows Creek Trail: Unfortunately, the face doesn't come down to the creek, requiring a scramble to get to the base. Depending on the water level, this is generally done via the chimney-gully, noted by a cedar tree at the top, located below, and right of the upper face.

The following routes are located on the fringes of the main face/slab proper. Routes are described from left (north) to right (south) when facing the base of the cliff:

3.3.5.1. Mouth

(5.7)

Climb through the overhang at the base of the slab above the water. Belay by a large cedar tree. Descend to the left, or continue up the slab.

3.3.5.2. Middle Route

(5.6)

1 (5.6 / natural belay)

Scramble up talus on the left side to a broken corner. Follow the corner 30ft to a tree.

2 (5.6 / natural belay)

Above, climb up the middle of the slab to a large ledge. Scramble left to descend.

3.3.5.3. Right Corner

(5.7)

Climb the left-facing corners on the right side.

1 (Middle Route / 5.6 / natural belay)

Climb the 1st pitch of the Middle Route.

2 (5.7 / natural belay)

Climb the corners to the right to an overhang. Traverse right to easier rock, or for a challenge, go directly up the overhang.

3.3.5.4. Nose

(5.8)

Climb the multi-colored steep wall to the right of, and around the corner from the Mouth Route. Follow the crossing cracks on the face, working to the right.

The following routes, located on the main face/slab, are described from left (north) to right (south) when facing the base of the cliff:

3.3.5.5. Cool Dude

(5.8 / TR / 70ft / natural belay gear 3in to 4in, long slings)

Start on Shuttle Booster, and climb to the apex of the flake.

Where Shuttle Booster goes right, go left. Edge fest. Multiple variations exist.

3.3.5.6. Shuttle Booster

(5.10a / R / 70ft / lead gear .4in to 4in, natural belay gear 3in to 4in)

Climb the somewhat zigzag path left of O-Ring. It zigzags because

the only opportunities for pro make it so. Start in the big, left-leaning crack, and climb to the apex of the flake. From the apex of the flake, pull crux moves to gain the next horizontal seam up and right. Said slot is tedious to secure (micro-nuts, and cams, off-set cams useful) Once protected, take good edges up and right again, before taking a line that tracks just to the left of O-Ring, intersecting with it at the cave.

3.3.5.7. O-Ring

(5.8 / 90ft / lead gear .4in to 2in, natural belay gear 3in to 4in)
Climb the face, using horizontal cracks, seams, and slots for pro.

The result: an interesting exercise in bolt-less face climbing.

Start in the medium, right-leaning crack, and climb to the obvious ear-shaped flake directly above. Continue past a series of insipid horizontals, before catching a left-leaning crack that leads to a ledge stance in the "cave". Surmount the summit boulder via the crack.

3.3.5.8. Rocket Sled

(5.10d / R / 60ft / lead gear .4in to 2in, natural belay gear 3in to 4in)

Climb the shallow corner system, and flakes right of O-Ring. Align with the first bolt, and climb past a pair of horizontal cracks, to a series of small flakes. Clip the bolt, then move up into the shallow corner. The long spot between bolts can be protected, in a questionable manner, by a hidden slot. Said slot is tedious to secure (micro nuts to .5in, or yellow Alien-size). Look no further for a gritty, mixed-trad test piece.

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52 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / No Rock climbing this side of creek](#) on: April 14, 2005, 01:52:24 PM

The ban, regarding climbing on the opposite side of the Narrows (i.e., east side of W. Cache Creek), was rescinded after the 5 year ban (sometime in 2001). Basically, climbing was determined not to cause significant impacts, and Refuge Management showed good faith (as they have more recently by allowing new fixed anchors in Designated Wilderness) in rescinding the ban. However, the restriction on rappelling in the Narrows is in effect indefinitely... so the sign is half right!

In Southern Exposure, Sunshine Wall is referred to as the Friction Slab... most of the routes mentioned (beside O-Ring which as far as I can tell was called the Middle Route) relate to obscure routes that haven't appeared in any guide book since...

I did climb them, and list them in BetaBase for historical purposes only... which is probably comprehensive to a fault.

I'm not sure what you're calling the East Slabs... what page are you referring too?

Hope this helps.

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53 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains /](#) on: April 14, 2005, 08:26:27 AM

Narrows Boulders

They're called the Pac Man Boulders... The first time I heard of them was from Ron Teague... who probably wasn't the first to climb there, and he first started messing around with them in the late 1980's. The main group, as well as the boulders occurring north of the main group get attention from time to time... none of the lines have established names, except for some on the back side of the Pac Man Boulder... of which Jason Bynum put up a couple of problems, and assigned some silly French names to...

From outward appearances, bouldering seems to be an informal pursuit in the Refuge, but a number of locals have been chipping away at stuff over the years... If you're game, contact me off-line, and maybe we can join forces, and get some of the stuff written up?

Regardless, climb on.

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54 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / LEFT NORTH FACE JACKET AT QUARTZ](#) on: March 24, 2005, 02:12:29 AM

I left Ruby Jane's blue North Face jacket at the base of Snow White/Jet Stream at Quartz on the weekend of March 12th... For a year's supply of good karma, please help me get it back to its rightful owner.

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55 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / history errors in new guidebook](#) on: March 03, 2005, 12:07:27 PM

Regarding the date on the LOD story... I got that from Terry... I didn't hit the Wichita's (nor technical climbing for that matter) until the late 1980's.

Anyway, I'll tidy up the chronology, and stuff. This is good feedback, because as many of you know, I've been writing a lot of anecdotes on Wichita climbing, etc.

Ultimately, my plan is to pass out some of the pre-release stuff to Hern, and other old-shcoolers for reviewing (if they're interested), but sometimes I can't resist posting it out when the right threads come along.

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56 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / history errors in new guidebook](#) on: February 25, 2005, 09:58:07 AM

I enjoy them too! Here's another:

Yarns about Epic Characters... or is that Characters in Epics?

Another "True" Account of
ANECDOTES IN OKLAHOMAN MOUNTAINEERING

Tales of Fame & Infamy in the Wichita Mountains

GROUND FALL, HARD HEAD

Lichen Wall, League of Doom

Being the scene of multiple big falls over the years, League of Doom's first pitch (5.9 / R) has a reputation that precedes it.

There's the story of a fallen leader, head butting the gravel, averting disaster by a margin of rope stretch. There's another story about a broken hold on Vegetarian's Delight, and the resulting back buster onto League's first pitch. There are other stories, of falls and close calls, and variations of the same, but perhaps the best story is the one that started them all.

One day in the Narrows, on Lichen Wall, two teams of climbers are climbing new routes. It's the late seventy's, and there are new routes to be had. One team, the one on the left, is climbing a slick slab-like corner right of Old #7. The line will eventually become League of Doom (5.11a / 3 pitches), a guidebook classic, but not on this day. On this day, history has something else in store. The history maker is Bill Thomas, who is on lead... Duane Raleigh is on belay.

The other team, the one on the right, is climbing the overhanging rock that defines the upper sweep, of the lower corner, that is the Large Corner Girdle. The line will never make a guidebook... until now. Here, Terry Andrews is on lead, and Grey Wells is belaying.

All of a sudden, they are disturbed to see, and hear, Duane skirting the lagoon in front of Lichen Wall, rushing toward them.

He's more than upset... he's distraught.

"Bill's fallen... He's dead."

The news is grim and all three climbers feel sucker punched in the gut. Duane, having witnessed the event is shaking. Terry and Grey immediately rap from the wall... soon they're all heading back to the scene of the tragedy, expecting to confirm the worst. As they round the bend... much to their amazement... Bill is sitting up.

Bill is alive! As the realization sinks in, a reflection of relief crosses their faces, and they rush over to render aid. A formal inspection ensues. The only visible damage seems to be a contusion on the side of his head, but other than that he seems to be okay, but how? A discussion ensues. They piece together the following account: Bill, originally falling headfirst for a coffin, was saved at the last moment by a stroke of fortune, if you can call it that? Nearest the ground, the base of the ramp juts out, and at the last possible instant, Bill's head skimmed the rock, immediately flipping his legs over into a lifesaving landing orientation. Still, he hit hard. Hard enough that Duane was sure he was dead.

Interesting Side Notes:

Later that day, Terry told Duane about a "new" climbing area that he knew about... a place called Quartz? Indeed, the very next day, they all made the drive to Altus, Oklahoma. It was a dreary day, but a little rain never stands in the way of adventure. There, before them, stood Quartz Mountain, and by Oklahoma standards, the face was impressive. Enshrouded in the mist, it looked even more impressive. Suffice to say it certainly made an impression.

That was the day that Duane met Quartz, and the rest... they say... is history.

A little rain never stops pioneers from pioneering, but no wonder... at Quartz that day... Bill didn't feel much like climbing... his head hurt...

Bill's head didn't hurt for long... within the next couple of years, he and Duane would form one of the (perhaps the original) Great Partnerships of the Wichita Mountains (GPWM). Eventually, they would get up the corner where Bill had almost Bought the Farm, and continue to the summit, establishing the first ascent (aid) of League of Doom (5.9 A2 / 1979), and as for the other place they visited that rainy weekend, Quartz, they basically put it, and the state of Oklahoma along with it, on the Climbing Map. During this time, they established such time-tested classics as S-Wall (5.9 / R), Last of the Good Guys (5.10c), Snow White (5.10b / R), Jet Stream (5.10b / R), Silent Scream (5.10c), as well as others.

At Quartz, Duane would also team up with Terry to establish yet another time-tested classic, Baptism (5.10a / R). Terry would go on to add a few easier classics as well, teaming up with Greg Schooley to establish Field of Opportunity (5.9), and 3-Bolt (5.9).

Certainly, Duane and Quartz were inevitable? Still, in some strange cosmic way, at least from this romantic scribe's perspective, the whole Quartz thing kind of got started with three climbers, and a near catastrophe, at the base of Lichen Wall.

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Oklahoma Climbing /
Wichita Mountains /
57 Best climbs in the wichitas Including quartz on: February 02, 2005, 12:42:55 PM

I'm a climbing whore, and have too many favorites to list just one per grade (mission of original thread)...

However, regarding Amazon Woman... a.) There is optional pro, albeit it somewhat questionable, located before the first bolt, along the horizontal-like traverse, in a quartz pocket... an adequate spot for those with tricam fetishes? While the fall potential would certainly be mitigated, it would still be far from "agreeable"... A serious mentality for getting to the first bolt without falling should still take precedent. b.) I'm the farthest thing from a rating hair-splitter, but from my experience, I'd say that the high-step crux is solid 5.10, and the reason why the route gets the rating.

However, I'd agree that everything else in between hovers in the 5.9 range. c.) With that said, one could also do a crux avoidance variation to Amazon Woman that avoids the aforementioned high-step by traversing left a bit, and then heading up... that would be the 5.9 way to do it. d.) In relation to history, terrain, and spiciness, both ladies... Amazon, and LA are classic at their respective ratings, and for the genre (i.e., slab routes)... they would hold up as high quality at any climbing area.

Hey Terry, cool historical beta on the original start to Atlantic Route... must do... Also, Mike Hankins put up a linking variation that starts on South Pacific, and finishes on Amazon Woman... joining about mid-way up, and topping out left of the aforementioned high step crux.

Berkley congrats on the Amazon send.

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58 [Oklahoma Climbing / Wichita Mountains / Duane Raleigh, Rock & Ice #140, and Quartz.](#) on: January 26, 2005, 05:19:39 PM

You guys... I was trying to keep this low profile... thanks a lot (insert sarcasm). Sheesh... tell Terry something...

I always have a number of "irons" in the fire, and the "unfinished" route to the left of Stray Cats was one of them. Duane, via email, motivated me to go have a look... which I did immediately after the last Spring Fling. While my intent was to attempt, and complete the route in the best style possible, as is often the case, the rock had something else in store... after a period of ridiculous ground-up shenanigans, and much digression (to the degree that at the end of the day, my partner Ruby Jane was curious, being that the good-style nutrients had probably been cooked completely out of the process, what was the point of all the trouble?), I upgraded the existing bolt, and started the hole for the second bolt, but by that time the good-style nutrients weren't the only thing feeling cooked (i.e., me), not to mention the wind was trying to blow me off of my hook... excuses, excuses...

My intent now (might as well make it public) is to get the route equipped ground up, which is very doable... then save it for the Spring Fling, and give Duane the first few go's at it. After spending 17 years repeating his routes... it would be an honor.

Logistics: This route can be hook-bolted ground up, followed by ground-up redpoint attempts... meaning we can put it up in the same style as it was begun... which is in the spirit and character that the route deserves. The initial move is a hard 5.11 mantle, and the undone face section looks to be thin 5.12-ish.

Looks like I'll be heading to Quartz now.

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