

The Moose Patch / Left & Right Sectors

This venue is roughly 300m wide and is one of the older sectors at the Moose Mountain Crags. It has a south facing aspect and hosts some of the earliest lead problems developed in the area. Until recently nearly all the climbs in these sectors were 5.11 & 5.12, most offered up sustained technical face climbing with burly bits. Some of the earliest climbs found here have a slightly more spacious bolt spacing than the newer modern standard at the Moose Mountain Crags. I have included a new photo topo for the Left half of this sector as not much had changed for several years at **Moose Patch/Left** until 2021. When Ross Suchy added two new 5.12 lines called *Rashambo* and *Bandwagon*. The newest 5,12 *A Pound of Flesh* in 2024. **Moose Patch/Right** however, had significant newer development over the last few years worth mentioning. These latest routes are all described including a new photo topo's for both sides of this sunny sector. The Moose Patch now has 40 routes with a good range of grades from 5.10 through mid 5.12 and broad range of climbing styles. The sector is well worth a visit to test your metal on some of the Moose Mountain older classics, also enjoy the extensive newer additions.

For winter options this cliff has south exposure and usually comes into the sun about 10:30-11:00. Things get decidedly warm if the sun is shining. A great winter crag form end of January going forward. There is more wind exposure at this part of the cliff. For the best results while winter cragging remember it needs to be sunny, plus two or three, and no wind and you will have t-shirt conditions. In the fall it has sun until the end of October. Best avoided in the darker months from November till the end of January as the sun is too low on the horizon during these winter months, unless its really warm!

To Approach: For all climbs at **The Moose Patch** continue west up the access road from **Roadside Attraction Crag** for approximately 300m then look for a significant dark colored patch of rock on the cliff line above the right (north) side of the road. Below this feature look for a rock Carin by some aspen trees on a small bench about 10m above the road that marks the start of the short access trail which ascends the slope to the base of this dark patch of rock. The left side of this obvious badge of darker colored rock defines the left most edge of the **Moose Patch/Right** sector. To reach the **Moose Patch/Left** sector involves either traversing left/West along the base of the cliff for roughly 40m from the edge of the dark rock shield to reach the route *Bandwagon*, or continue on the left branch of the access trail found halfway up the approach slope, this version arrives directly below the routes *Moose Knuckle* & *Rashambo* sharing a common start. **Routes are described left to right:**

Moose Patch/Left

A Pound of Flesh ** S-5.12c, 30m, 12 clips

Michael Gridale, June 2024

The most recent route established in this older sector, is located 5m left of *I fall to Pieces*. Fun moves on interesting holds leading to a tricky roof encounter. Rock quality like much of the area improves after the third bolt. Having a wide wing span is an asset on this one while getting up to, then working over a small roof at two thirds height is the business.

I Fall to Pieces ** S-5.11c, 25m, 9 clips

Andy Genereux, June 1994

Climb a bulging face to a couple of intermittent seams in a shallow right facing corner. The climbing above the seams is sustained to reach the anchor.

Shattered Logic * S-5.11b/c, 25m 9 clips

Andy Genereux June 1994

Enjoy some great moves through a bit of dubious rock-tread lightly! Work through two overlaps to reach a small ledge with the anchor. Good climbing with friable rock and slightly spacious bolts, thus an old school Moose Mountain classic!

Spring Clean Up ** S-5.11b, 25m 9 clips

Andy Genereux, May 1994

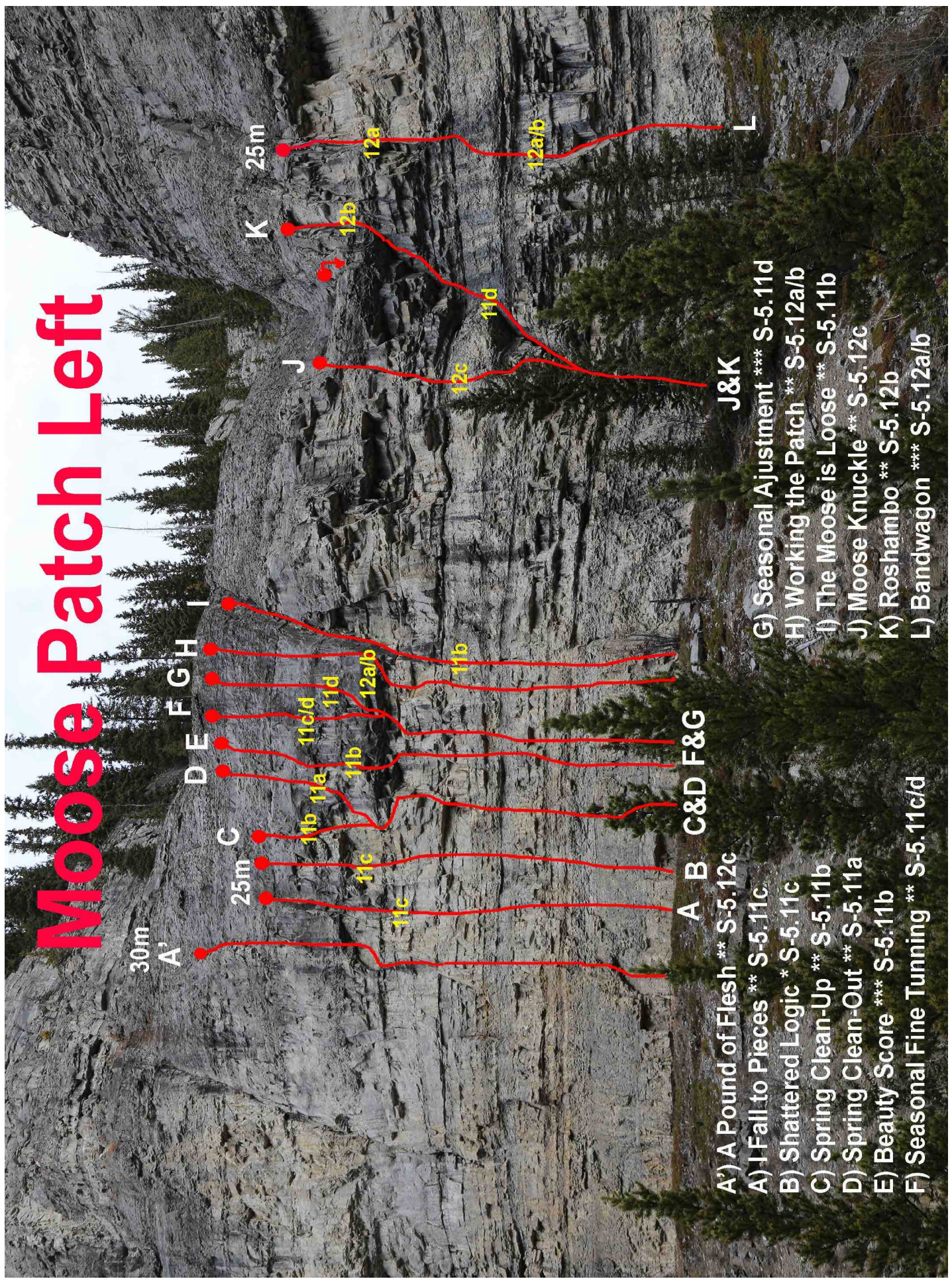
The marginally harder left hand finish for *Spring Clean Out*, which was the first version of this route. After the hand traverse left until below a bulge, now climb directly up into a bulging shallow corner. A few burly moves are needed to reach a narrow ledge and the anchor above.

Spring Clean Out * S-5.11a, 27m, 10 clips**

Andy Genereux, April 1994

This wild route features steady 5.10+ climbing to an exposed leftward traversing handrail then overcomes a bulge onto sustained technical face climbing which traverses back right and up through a devious techy face crux to the anchor.

Moose Patch Left



30m

A'

C

25m

D

E

F

G

H

I

D

E

F

G

H

I

11b

11a

11c/d

11d

12a/b

11b

11c

11d

12a/b

11b

11c

11d

12a/b

11b

A B C&D F&G

25m

K

J

12b

12a

11d

12c

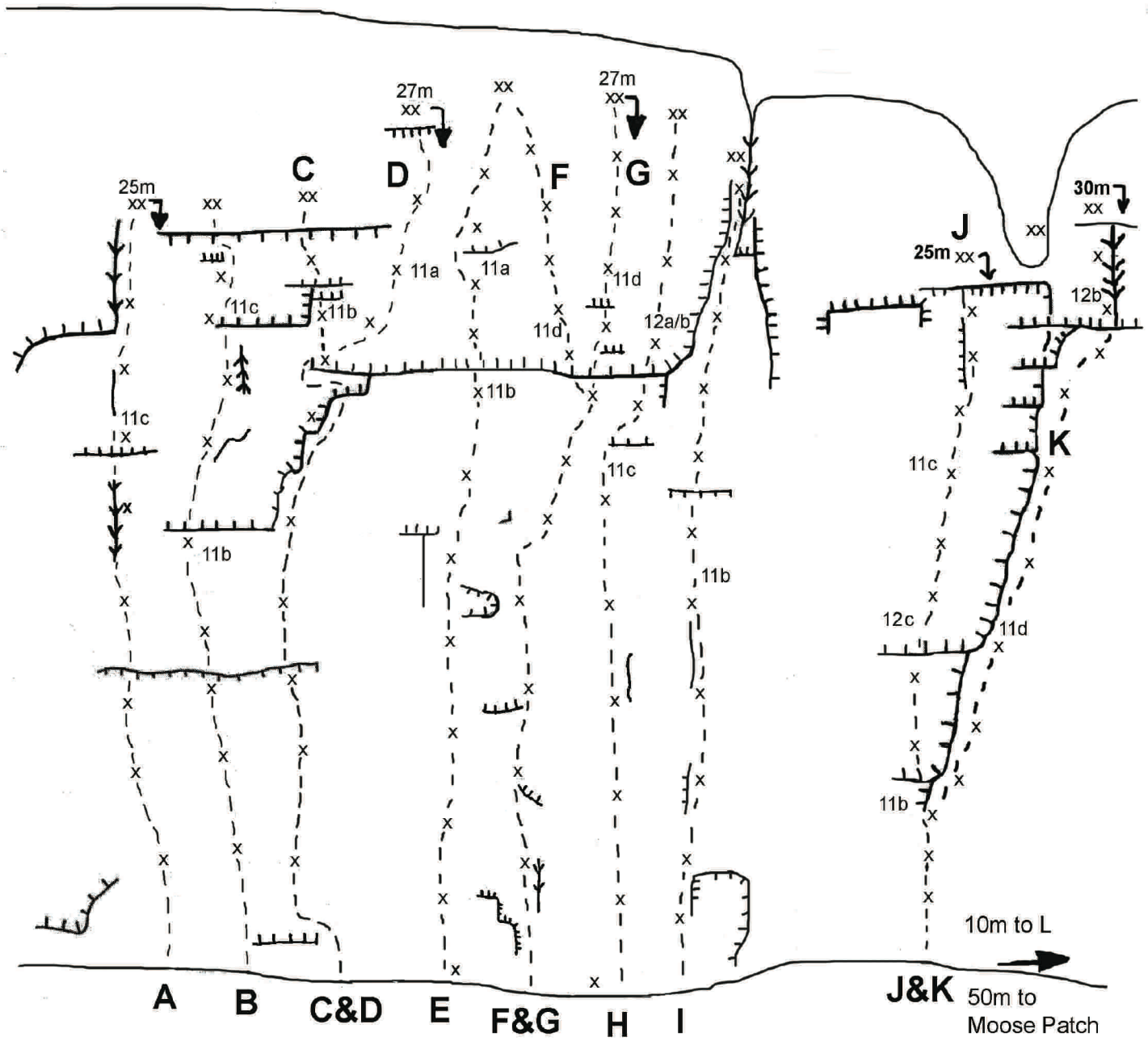
12a/b

11d

12a/b

- A') A Pound of Flesh ** S-5.12c
- A) I Fall to Pieces ** S-5.11c.
- B) Shattered Logic * S-5.11c
- C) Spring Clean-Up ** S-5.11b
- D) Spring Clean-Out ** S-5.11a
- E) Beauty Score *** S-5.11b
- F) Seasonal Fine Tunning ** S-5.11c/d

- J&K
- G) Seasonal Ajustment *** S-5.11d
- H) Working the Patch ** S-5.12a/b
- I) The Moose is Loose ** S-5.11b
- J) Moose Knuckle ** S-5.12c
- K) Roshambo ** S-5.12b
- L) Bandwagon *** S-5.12a/b



**The Moose Patch
Left Side**

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-------|
| A | I Fall to Pieces ** | 11c |
| B | Shattered Logic * | 11c |
| C | Spring Clean Up ** | 11b |
| D | Spring Clean Out *** | 11a |
| E | Beauty Score*** | 11b |
| F | Seasonal Fine Tuning ** | 11c/d |
| G | Seasonal Adjustment *** | 11d |
| H | Working the Patch ** | 12a/b |
| I | The Moose is Loose ** | 11b |
| J | Moose Knuckle *** | 12c |
| K | Roshambo ** | 12b |
| L) | Bandwagon ** | 12a/b |

J&K 50m to
Moose Patch
Right

Beauty Score * S-5.11b, 27m, 12 clips***Andy Genereux, June 2013*

Sustained and physical upper 5.10 climbing leads to a big roof. Give it all you got over this burly bit then take in the well deserved shake above before working out the final crux of devious steep face movement to get past a final bulge.

Seasonal Fine-tuning ** S-5.11c/d, 27m, 12 clips*Andy Genereux, June 2013*

This alternative finish for *Seasonal Adjustment* was added 19 years later. A fun but more sustained option. At the roof take the left hand bolt line overcoming devious face climbing on good rock all the way to an independent anchor.

Seasonal Adjustment * S-5.11d, 27m, 11 clips***Andy Genereux, July 1994*

Work through some suspect rock on the lower wall over steady upper 5.10 climbing to the roof at mid height then work out a bit right. Now sustained movement leads over excellent bulging rock, well worth the trip to climb this top section.

Working the Patch * S-5.12b, 27m, 11 clips*Andy Genereux, August 2013*

Sustained 5.11 climbing over some friable rock on the lower wall to a single jarring boulder problem at the roof/bulge to gain the rounded arête with steady less difficult techy face climbing on superb rock to reach the anchor.

The Moose Is Loose ** S-5.11b, 25m, 11 clips*Andy Genereux, April 1994*

The first lead route established at Moose Mountain by Genereux. Originally put in ground up, resulting in three lead falls due to rock failure. The route was transformed over the years being cleaned, straightened and more bolts added. It now starts steeply over solid 5.10 climbing to a definitive crux at mid-height finishing up a right leaning corner for the top third.

Moose Knuckle * S-5.12c, 24m, 11 clips***Bolted Andy Genereux, 2003**Ross Suchy F.A., June 2013*

Starts steeply into an obvious right leaning corner. After four bolts heads straight up over a small roof to a definitive crux overcoming the bulge above. Sustained 5.11 climbing to finish. Note, the grade was bumped up a from 5.12b by Ross.

Roshambo ** S-5.12b, 30m, 12 clips*Ross Suchy, April 2021*

Starts the same as for *Moose Knuckle* then heads right up the staggered right leaning corner after four bolts. Steady 5.11 movement climbs the corner with the definitive crux at the end to gain entry to the final V-groove to reach the anchor. This climb is often wet and seeping in the spring from snow melt.

Bandwagon * S-5.12a/b, 25m, 12 clips***Ross Suchy, April 2021*

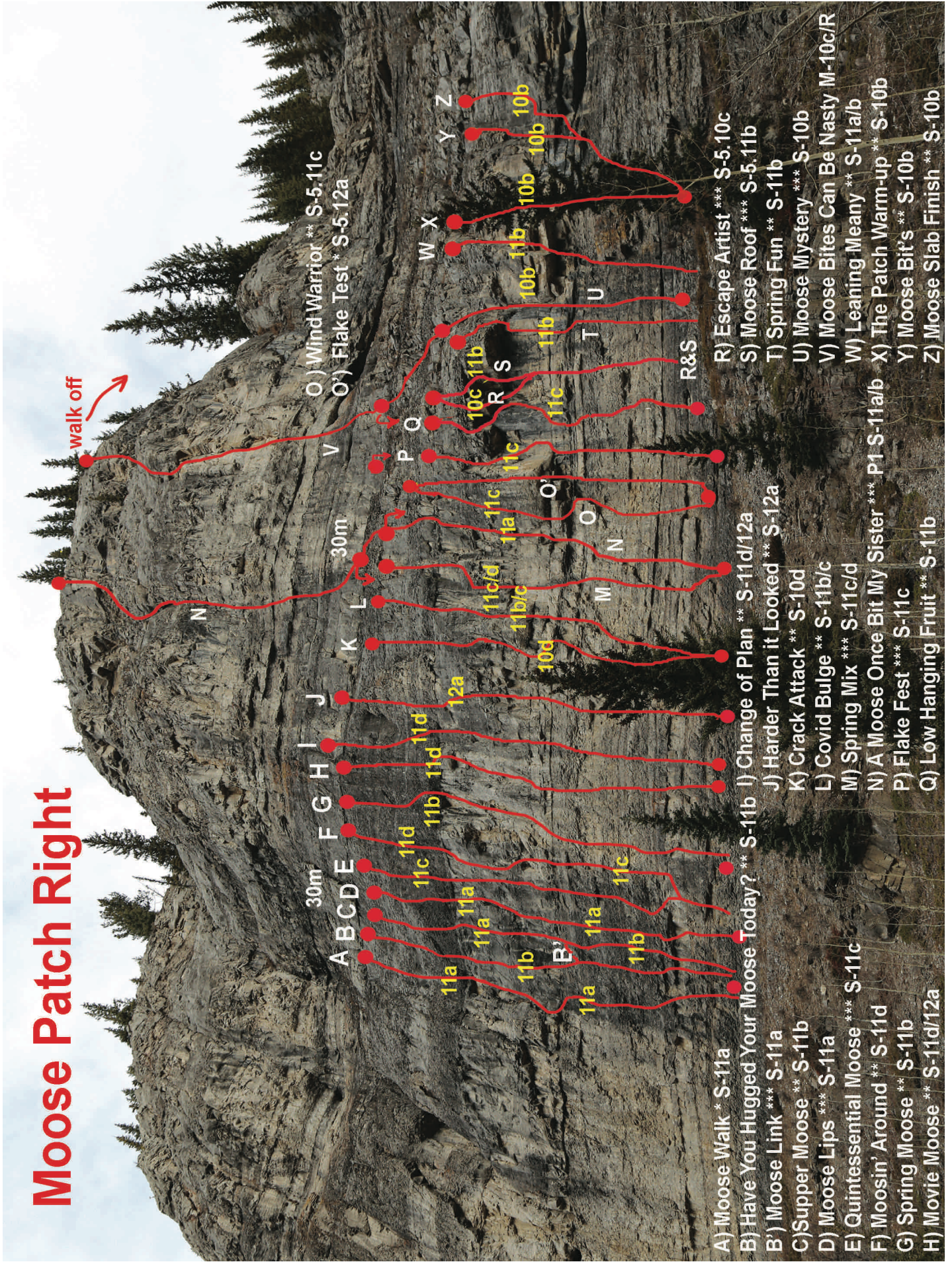
Move about 10m right of the *Moose Knuckle/Roshambo* start for the latest line in the sector by Ross. This rig was bolted ground up. A very nice, quite overhanging line that connects together two shallow corners working some hard pulls through a steep middle bulge. Overall steady upper 5.11 climbing with a short but very stiff crux section over the middle bulge. Has a couple good rests which helps to make this a really fun adventure at this grade.

The Moose Patch Right

The right side of The Moose Patch underwent significant new development the past several years. Back in the summer of 2018, Andy Genereux kick started the resurgence adding five new routes. During the process upgrading the midway "Rescue Ledge" anchors on the two mixed traditional routes *A Moose Once Bit My Sister* and *Moose Bites Can Be Nasty*. In line with fixing up old things he also retro-bolted and re-cleaned the *Moose Mystery* route replacing all the carbon steel bolts with new stainless steel studs and adding a second ring-bolt to the top anchor and also adding two bolts to reach the upper "Rescue Ledge" more safely. He also added several single bolt anchors along the base of the wall, which are intended for rope soloing or help parties avoid a nasty tumble down the scree slope while belaying.

In the spring of 2021 Genereux was back with renewed vigor, hoping to further develop and expand this older sector. During that spring, establishing several new lines. Also he retro-bolted and re-cleaned the first pitch of *A Moose Once Bit My Sister* taming this former nasty scary loose pitch with potential death blocks. Turning this once frightening pitch

Moose Patch Right



walk off

- A) Moose Walk * S-11a
- B) Have You Hugged Your Moose Today? ** S-11b
- B') Moose Link *** S-11a
- C) Supper Moose ** S-11b
- D) Moose Lips *** S-11a
- E) Quintessential Moose *** S-11c
- F) Moosin' Around ** S-11d
- G) Spring Moose ** S-11b
- H) Movie Moose ** S-11d/12a
- I) Change of Plan ** S-11d/12a
- J) Harder Than it Looked *** S-12a
- K) Crack Attack ** S-10d
- L) Covid Bulge ** S-11b/c
- M) Spring Mix *** S-11c/d
- N) A Moose Once Bit My Sister *** P1 S-11a/b
- P) Flake Fest *** S-11c
- Q) Low Hanging Fruit ** S-11b
- R) Escape Artist *** S-5.10c
- S) Moose Roof *** S-5.11b
- T) Spring Fun ** S-11b
- U) Moose Mystery *** S-10b
- V) Moose Bites Can Be Nasty M-10c/R
- W) Leaning Meany ** S-11a/b
- X) The Patch Warm-up ** S-10b
- Y) Moose Bit's ** S-10b
- Z) Moose Slab Finish *** S-10b

30m

30m

30m

30m

into a really fun gem. Now considered a very safe three star sport protected lead climb. Most of these latest lines are in the 5.11 and 5.10 range filling in most of the available blanks on the right side of The Moose Patch Right. With a couple more projects still under development at seasons end that tackled the big bulge left of the route *Flake Fest*. Both of these lines were eventually completed in 2022. These new routes significantly expand the scope for some steepish climbing in the sun. More importantly the warm-up options have increased significantly with five new 5.10's on offer in the sector.

Moose Walk * S-5.11a, 25m, 9 clips

Andy Genereux, April 2000

Located at the left edge of the dark grey rock shield. Recommend a stick clip to a high first bolt. Above intricate sustained face climbing leads over a blanker section. Then physical climbing gains a shallow corner leading up to the upper bulge with more mind numbing face trickery over excellent rock to reach the anchor.

Have You Hugged Your Moose Today? ** S-5.11b, 25m, 10 clips

Andy Genereux, June 1995

Intricate face climbing leads to a short right facing corner at half height. Above a thin devious face section providing the definitive crux with sustained 5.10+/11- movement continuing all the way to the anchor over excellent rock.

Moose Link * S-5.11a, 25m, 10 clips**

Andy Genereux, June 2000

Not a new route but a linkage utilizing the bottom half of a *Have You Hugged Your Moose Today?* and the upper half of *Super Moose* for possibly the best low 5.11 experience on the wall. Expect sustained upper 5.10 climbing with an intricate crux leaving the big slot at half height. You use five bolts on each route, enjoy this exceptional combination.

Super Moose ** S-5.11b, 25m 10 clips

Andy Genereux, June 1999

Has a very funky hard read through the crux getting past the second bolt followed by sustained steep intricate face climbing all the way to the anchor.

Moose Lips * S-5.11a, 25m, 10 clips**

Andy Genereux, April 1995

The first route established at the Moose Patch Right it involves a series of cruxy moments over excellent rock. It was originally graded 5.10d and had 3 less bolts (old School). Overcome a small roof at the second bolt with sustained intricate face climbing above to reach a shallow corner/groove, a variety of techniques get you to the final bulge with excellent chert climbing above to the anchor. This has excellent sustained technical movement the entire way, enjoy!

Quintessential Moose * S-5.11c, 25m, 10clips**

Andy Genereux, June 2000

Surmount a small roof/overlap off the ground to the first bolt, climb straight up on sustained face climbing to reach exceptional rock at half height. More sustained and slightly harder technical steep face climbing leads to a final bulge with a big move from a pocket unlocks this superb thin technical enduro route.

Moosin' Around ** S-5.11d, 25m, 12 clips

Andy Genereux, June 1995

Starts as for *Quintessential Moose* immediately after the little starting overlap heads right on thin moves to gain a hidden shallow corner with difficulty. Sustained steep climbing tackles the shallow corner to a final bulging band which holds the definitive crimp crux just before the anchor.

Spring Moose ** S-5.11b, 25m, 10 bolts

Andy Genereux, April 2007

Climbs over yellow rock into a corner feature at half height. At the top of the corner overcome a roof on the right making some burly moves in order to reach easier climbing up a shallow groove to the anchor.

Movie Moose ** S-5.11d, 30m, 14 clips

Andy Genereux, July 2018

A movie crew working on the access road resulted in a change of venue from the Painted Wall as my planned day would ruin the shot...! This route was the result. It turned out to be a fun but a harder technical challenge than it first looked. Located a few meters right of the climb *Spring Moose* it climbs a sustained 5.10 face section to reach a shallow corner with devious moves over a bulge to finish through the steeper upper chert band (crux) in order to reach the anchor.

Change of Plan ** S-5.11d, 30m, 14 clips

Andy Genereux, July 2018

There was an lone old bolt and old anchor on this route, both of which were replaced. The anchor with new ring-bolts and new stainless steel studs. No other hardware was found. Mid 5.10 then very sustained movement through the continuously technical and devious upper half on this pitch.

Harder than it Looked ** S-5.12a, 30m, 14 clips

Andy Genereux July 2018

Several cruxy bits lower down lead to a challenging and continuous upper section that works up the left side of a big flake (more solid than it looks) then shifts leftward onto some delicate movement before finishing up on a sustained series of thin face moves. Lots of 11+ techy climbing before you get to a fine belay ledge. Sustained overall with several funky problems presenting a real cerebral challenge working through this longer technical mind-field on the upper half.

Crack Attack ** S-5.10d, 28m, 12 clips

Andy Genereux, May 2021

Starts above a single SMC hanger base bolt. It shares the first protection bolt with *Covid Bulge* taking the left hand series of friable flakes to a bulge at 20m. Work left to a short hidden right leaning crack to sort through this obstacle with excellent grey rock and technical face climbing to finish. Good climbing, **caution** some scrappy rock over the lower half.

Covid Bulge ** S-5.11b/c, 28m, 12 clips

Andy Genereux, May 2021

Use the first bolt on *Crack Attack*, then undertake some sustained tricky face climbing using the right-hand series of friable flakes to reach the bulge at mid height. An intermittent crack sorts out the burly bulge. There is sustained delicate movement required above and below this bulge. Work the rest points and definitely save a little juice to finish.

Spring Mix *** S-5.11c/d, 28m, 12 clips

Andy Genereux, April 2021

This route starts 2m left of *A Moose Once Bit My Sister* which is marked by a shiny plated gym hanger (base anchor). It starts up some hollow flakes then heads up onto a bulging headwall with sequential sustained movement through the upper half to reach the anchor found a few meters below the "Rescue Ledge." An excellent but hard to read crux section.

A Moose Once Bit My Sister M-5.11a/b, 75m, gear to 3"

Allan Derbyshire & Choc Quinn, June 2016

The start of this climb is now marked by a lone shiny plated gym hanger for a base anchor. This mixed traditional protection route is compromised of two pitches to the top of the wall. Overall the original cleaning/building effort could have been much better! With nobody wanting to trust their luck, after 5 long years..! The spring of 2021 saw the first pitch completely re-bolted and properly cleaned by Andy Genereux. These tasks taking well over 6 hours to complete. During the process a few thousand pounds of loose rock, including several potential death blocks were removed. This first pitch is now considered an excellent, safe, sport pitch. Now a (3 Moose Star) classic outing to a new slightly lower top anchor on this first pitch. This revitalized pitch makes a great addition to the sport cragging options for this sector.

Caution: Be aware of the potential for loose sections on the 2nd pitch still exists as no retro work was undertaken on this upper pitch. The original marginal mid-station on the "**Rescue Ledge**" was upgraded to new stainless studs and ring-bolts in 2019. Replacing the rather sad looking 40-50 year old anchor with a rusty self-drive bolts and a heavily rusted fixed piton dating from mountain rescue courses held back in the late seventies or thereabouts. These sad relics were left behind by the first ascent team to form what the author feels was a very scary looking, poor quality anchor.

To Start: Located 25m, right (east) of the climb *Spring Moose* the right most routes found at the Moose Patch Right Sector in the guidebook (*Sport Climbs of The Canadian Rockies 7th edition from 2016*). Locate a lone, shiny plated gym hanger used for a base anchor with bolts above leading to a shallow V-groove on the left side of an obvious bulge found left of the large roof. Now seven routes to the right of *Spring Moose*. **Note:** The first assentionist references gear being useful for the second pitch. So it would seem prudent to have a small rack of gear to succeed and possibly better protect the leader on this "old school styled" upper "sport-like" pitch!

P1: * S-5.11a/b, 30m, 12 clips.** Angle up and slightly rightward to reach the crux through a bulge into the V-groove and then an intermittent crack to a new belay located one meter below the "Rescue Ledge" for an excellent stand alone pitch. If continuing onto the second pitch, continue past the new belay to gain the "Rescue Ledge" and angle leftward 2m to another belay with two new ring-bolts and also marked by a old rusty piton in a crack just above.

P2: M-5.10c/d/R, 45m, 10 clips & gear to 3”. From the new ring-bolt anchor (rusty piton above), look left around a short corner for a bolt above. The crux on this pitch is overcoming an overhanging section. Then, work up a left-facing corner (some 2” cams useful) to a ledge. Climbs right of an arête, then step left and continue to top of crag to reach a large tree to form a belay. **Pitch 2 is not recommended unless you have solid traditional leading skills!**

Descent: There is no fixed top anchor on P2 use a tree to rap off (**2 ropes required**) or walk off east (climbers right). Another option is to head east 15-20m and then very carefully scramble down the loose slope, solid 4th class to reach the “Rescue Ledge”. Once there rappel off 30m from one of three newly bolted anchors. Or simply walk off further east about 300m to above the Roadside Attraction Crag to regain the access road using the faint drainage on it’s east side.

Wind Warrior ** S-5.11c 28m, 11clips

Andy Genereux, April 2022

Climbs through the big bulge just right of *A Moose Once Bit My Sister*. Climb the face to a faint right facing corner below the big bulge (some fragile rock). Steep moves on generally good hand-holds working over the bulge into a bit of thin intricate face movement. Built the same day as *Flake Test* in the late fall of 2021, it shares the same top anchor.

Flake Test * S-5.12a, 28m, 12 clips

Andy Genereux, September 2022

The final blank bit on this part of the wall. The line tackles the right side of the big bulge just left of the obvious *Flake Fest* corner. Techy somewhat moderate face climbing leads up to the bulge. Make a few intense pulls to gain the face above using awkward spacious sandy feeling side pulls with bad feet to surmount the bulge. Above interesting but much easier face climbing is maintained to the anchor. Shares the top anchor with *Wind Warrior* angling over from the left.

Flake Fest * S-5.11c, 26m, 12 clips**

Andy Genereux, August 2018

A really fun pitch that climbs a twisting upper corner section through the left side of the big roof to reach a ring-bolt anchor 4m below the access ledge. Climbers have to trust pulling on the big hollow sounding flake at the bottom of the corner to get up and into the crux sequence. It held my fat ass so it should be good to go for most normal sized people.

Low Hanging Fruit ** S-5.11b/c, 25m, 11 clips

Andy Genereux, August 2018

Some cruxy technical bits of face climbing through the middle section leads up through the center of the roof with some steep burly moves on mostly good holds as you move left from the sentry box below the roof to finish to a new anchor.

Escape Artist * S-5.10c, 25m, 10 clips**

Andy Genereux, September 2021

The more moderate and consistent left hand version to the *Moose Roof*. It uses the same anchor as the right version. This finish can also be used as a somewhat less physical option for *Low Hanging Fruit* immediately to the left. Start as for *Moose Roof* then takes the left bolt line under the triangular shaped lower roof. Big holds but physical pulls required.

Moose Roof * S-5.11b, 25m, 10 clips**

Andy Genereux, September 2021

An older project that was finally completed. Really fun mid 5.10 climbing leads up to the roof then only a few burly very overhanging moves to surmount the roof (good hands, but thin feet). Undecided on which way to tackle the *Moose Roof* the builder installed two versions this is the more direct right-hand one. The fat boy was very happy to uncover this short bouldery cruxy movement over the widest portion of this obvious roof feature. Super fun enjoy!

Spring Fun ** S-5.11b, 23m, 9 clips

Andy Genereux, April 2021

Starts just left of the *Moose Mystery* route to eventually overcome the right hand end of the big roof. Some hard pulls at mid-height lead to a blind reach around the roof with a somewhat awkward sustained finish to reach the anchor.

Moose Mystery * S-5.10b, 23m, 9 clips**

First ascent unknown, (circa 1997?)

The route has been around for about 20 or more years? However, not much was known about the grade or who built it until it was utilized as a pitch to access *Moose Bites Can Be Nasty* found on the upper wall above the “Rescue Ledge”. In 2018 the original *Moose Mystery* pitch was completely retro-bolted, upgrading all the existing hardware to stainless

steel studs, also adding a proper ring-bolt anchor at the top of the initial pitch by Andy Genereux. He also added two **NEW** protection bolts protecting the easier terrain above the original first anchor in order to safely access the “Rescue Ledge”/ belay before continuing up onto the upper pitch for *Moose Bites Can Be Nasty*. This lovely lower pitch climbs the face then enters a corner dihedral at half height (reasonable trad gear possible here), the line was originally a fully bolted affair and this status remains as the original builder intended. Despite being fully bolted this classic corner proves to be quite fun and is a very popular warm-up outing.

Moose Bites Can Be Nasty M-5.10c/R, gear to 3”, 45m from the rescue ledge

Allan Derbyshire and Dennis Kok, July 2016

This route is found on the upper wall above the “Rescue Ledge” and is generally accessed by climbing the route *Moose Mystery* and then continues past the first ring bolt anchor for that route past two more protection bolts to access the ledge 5.10b, 30m, 12 clips. *Moose Bites* then climbs above the right most bolted belay anchor off the “Rescue Ledge”. Expect somewhat pushy climbing up the face (bolts) into a steep corner, working left at the top of the corner to enter a shallow groove taking this feature up to a large tree to belay at the top of the wall. Expect to climb at the grade with some questionable rock (poor cleaning effort). **Caution:** There is no top anchor use the tree to belay.

Descent: Rappel from a large tree **two-ropes required** to reach the rescue ledge or walk off to the climbers right 15m-20m as depicted in the cliff photo then very carefully! Descend a solid 4th class scramble to reach the “Rescue Ledge”. From the “Rescue Ledge” rappel off using one of three belay/rappel anchors, all are 30m to reach the ground.

Leaning Meany * S-5.11a/b, 23m, 8 clips

Andy Genereux, April 2021

Starts just right of *Mystery Moose*. Climb the face left of a small left facing corner, move right and enter the upper right leaning corner over a roof. Some hard sequential pulls at mid-height past a bouldery crux with easier climbing to finish.

The Patch Warm-up ** S-5.10b, 20m, 7 clips

Andy Genereux, April 2021

This was only the second 5.10 in the entire sector. The two newest 5.10's to the right were added two weeks later for a few more good warm-up options to help get the blood flowing. Climb directly up on some easier ground to a small roof, then physical lay backing up a shallow corner to the right, moving back left to gain a bulging face with a few thin moves.

Moose Bit's ** S-5.10b, 20m, 7 clips

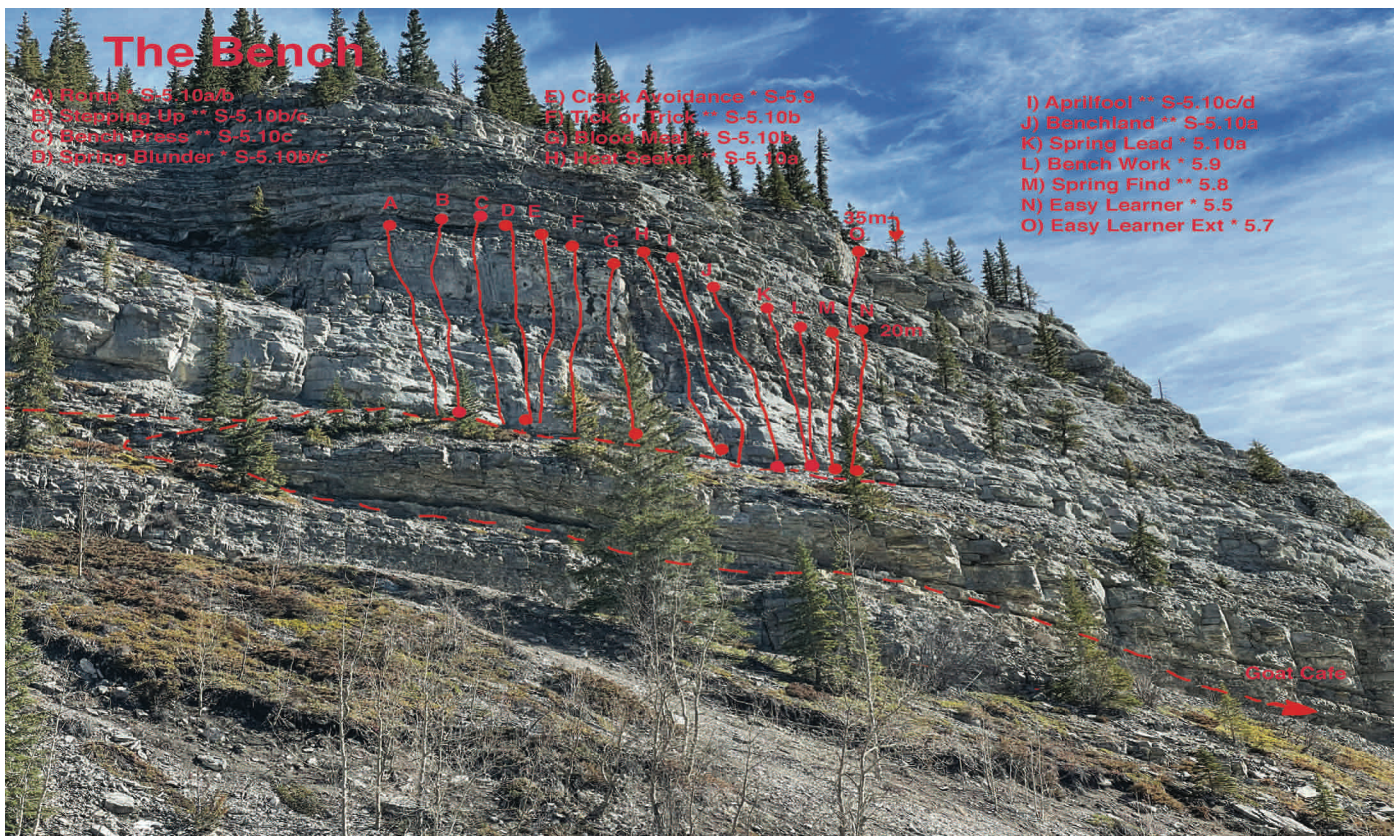
Andy Genereux, May 2021

Another moderate, it starts immediately right of *The Patch Warm-up*. Takes a slightly right leaning bolt line and overcomes easier stepped ground up to a bulge. Here enter a shallow right-facing corner with difficulty. Then overcome some excellent but tricky moves in the shallow corner.

Moose Slab Finish ** S-5.10b, 21m, 8 clips

Andy Genereux, May 2021

Starts the same as for *Moose Bit's* too the bulge, then takes the steep slab out right. Finishing past four bolts to an independent anchor. Superb rock ascending the finishing slab. Excellent movement as the short cruxy section overcomes the steep slabby face. If only there could be more!



The Bench

A great smaller **New** moderate sector that Andy Genereux first started developing in the spring of 2022. This little terraced bench hosts a number of good shorter fun moderate climbs. One of the newer sectors at Moose Mountain it is located on the north side of the access road about a 60m right (east) of the Moose Patch Right Sector. To get to this venue, Approach as for the **Moose Patch/Right Sector**, then traverse the base of the cliff eastward from the climb *Moose Slab Finish*, the right most route at this older sector. Using a faint trail head east about 60m up onto an elevated bench separating two cliff bands detailed in the photo above, takes maybe two minutes to arrive, coming over from The Moose Patch. The cliff has a southwest orientation and is somewhat more susceptible to wind exposure. Due to the direction this venue faces the sun takes a little longer to arrive on the wall verses the Moose Patch. On cooler days and wanting sun, plan on arriving around noon. On hotter days this is about the time when you want to be thinking about heading over to the shady side of the valley only a few minutes away.

At this venue the rock found here is generally considered good quality by Moose Mountain standards. The first twelve routes were established over five days of effort in 2022. The following spring Andy added two more moderates on the right side of the sector. All of these climbs provide good warm-up options before heading further west for harder selections. This small sector is now considered fully developed. This crag has proven very popular due to what's on offer at the lower end of the grade spectrum at Moose Mountain. There are several single bolt base anchors that are intended for rope soloing but also help for teams to stay attached to the mountain keeping in mind that a hidden cliff lies below The Bench terrace that is up to 15m in height. Be aware only a small scree slope separates you from this hidden hazard if things go sideways before reaching the first clip. Please do not remove or damage this base anchor hardware.

All routes are described climbers left to right.

Romp * S-5.10a, 17m, 6 clips

Andy Genereux, April 2022

The left-most route at The Bench. Tackle the first bolt directly, overcoming a short cruxy opening. Easier stepped climbing to reach the upper headwall. This final section requires attention and a few harder pulls to achieve the anchor.

Stepping Up ** S-5.10b, 18m, 6 clips

Andy Genereux, April 2022

From below this looked to be the best of the 3 lines starting off near my original free soloing access point to reach the "Rescue Ledge". Lead bolted during an intense spring snow squall. It provides fun moderate rolling terrain to reach the headwall with a few interesting harder moves to gain the ledge and the ring-bolt belay located above.

Bench Press ** S-5.10c, 18m, 8 clips*Andy Genereux, April 2022*

Overall very good rock, it might be one of the best routes at this moderate sector. Take a steepish face working left of a small spruce tree near the middle, overcoming a few technical moves to reach the upper headwall with a sustained second cruxy bit using a couple key finger pockets to achieve the ledge with a directional bolt left of the fixed belay.

Spring Blunder * S-5.10c, 18m, 7 clips*Andy Genereux, April 2022*

The crack/shallow corner just right of a rounded rib left of *Crack Avoidance*. Climb into the crack directly (bouldery start) stay with the easy crack/shallow corner to reach the upper headwall at half height. Work delicately past a couple hollow sounding flakes to overcome the steeper headwall crux (good movement) to reach a ledge and the belay.

Crack Avoidance * S-5.9, 19m, 6 clips*Andy Genereux, April 2022*

Starts immediately right of a crack and shallow corner of *Spring Blunder*. Mostly moderate juggy movement, then things steepen up at the top, with a few strenuous moves to gain the anchor. A very fun warm-up to get the juices flowing.

Tick or Trick ** S-5.10b, 19m, 7 clips*Andy Genereux, May 2022*

Take on directly a stepped start with an easy mantle move onto a wide ledge. Move across the stepped ledge and access a small shallow corner to gain the upper headwall. Good face climbing angles slightly rightward on some fun movement to a small stance and the belay. Located 1.5m right of *Crack Avoidance*.

Blood Meal ** S-5.10b, 19m, 7 clips*Andy Genereux, May 2022*

Friable stepped terrain at the bottom heading up to the headwall with some great hand holds but thin foot placements. Provides some nice climbing over a less obvious path to reach a ledge with ring-bolts above.

Heat Seeker ** S-5.10a, 19m, 7 clips*Andy Genereux, April 2022*

Starts just left of the route *April Fool*. Take a short corner to access the face, really good juggy movement. The name refers to tick's seeking a blood meal. Found 4 ticks in one day building at The Bench, more than the past 20 years combined climbing at Moose Mountain. Yikes! Although 2022 did seem to be a bad year for these little buggers.

April Fool ** S-5.10c/d, 18m, 7 clips*Andy Genereux, April 01, 2022*

A hard read on the crux along with a couple harder moves getting by the first bolt. Some great rock makes this a fun but somewhat testy route for this warm-up crag. The headwall provides a sustained cruxy section at two-thirds height. Built and climbed via rope soloing on April first. Also the birth month of the first ascentionist, thus the name...!

Benchland ** S-5.10a, 17m, 6 clips*Andy Genereux, April 2022*

Another fun climb with a couple moments to think your way towards the best path as things steepen. There is a single belay bolt at the base for rope soloing. This base anchor also helps keep parties safe. **Caution:** The hidden lower cliff band located below The Bench is about 15m in height at this point. A very short run-out on loose scree if thing go sideways, please be aware of this very real threat..!

Spring Lead ** S-5.10a, 17m, 7 clips*Andy Genereux, April 2022*

Established ground up on-sight via rope soloing. Still launched a few loose blocks while on lead but overall it worked out well. My first outside lead of 2022. It's a fun little warm up with generally quite good rock. There are a couple of short cruxy moments with easier climbing most of the way.

Bench Work * S-5.9, 16m, 6 clips*Andy Genereux, April 2022*

One of the last bits of worthwhile rock to be exploited during the first season, this short line is now the third bolt line in from the right most end of the Bench Sector. Fun moderate juggy climbing overall with the hardest bit getting up to the anchor. Look for the hidden hold, making it easier to unlock the final sequence.

Spring Find ** S-5.8, 18m, 7 clips

Andy Genreux, April 2023

A fun little climb that gets gradually harder as you gain height with mostly juggy holds over generally good rock.

Easy Learner * S-5.5, 20m, 9 clips

Andy Genreux, April 2023

Probably the easiest bolted climb at the Moose Mountain Crags to date. This will be a popular well protected beginner route. A good compliment to the other moderates at The Bench. Established on lead and cleaned afterwards. Some big stuff was trundled. This slightly right leaning line of stepped limestone now makes for a fun outing.

Easy Learner Extension * S-5.7, 35m, 14 clips

Andy Genreux, May 2023

This is a five bolt extension to the climb *Easy Learner*. The crux comes just above the first ring-bolt belay. A few harder moves on chert knobs. Like the first pitch this extension was also established on lead a few days after *Easy Learner*.

Caution: This climb is the longest at The Bench Sector. To lower from the top anchor to the base of the route requires a 70m rope. Make sure you use the base belay bolt and a backup knot before lowering, as the hidden 15m high lower cliff lurks just below a short scree run-out. This is a good intro route to practice a multi-pitch exchange or simply do it as a great longer easier warm-up climb to start your day.