

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 called *A Pound of Flesh* in 2024. **Moose Patch/Right** however, had significant newer development over the last few years worth mentioning. These newer 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 fun 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'

25m

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

J

K

L

M

11b

11a

11c

11d

12a/b

11b

12a

12b

12c

12d

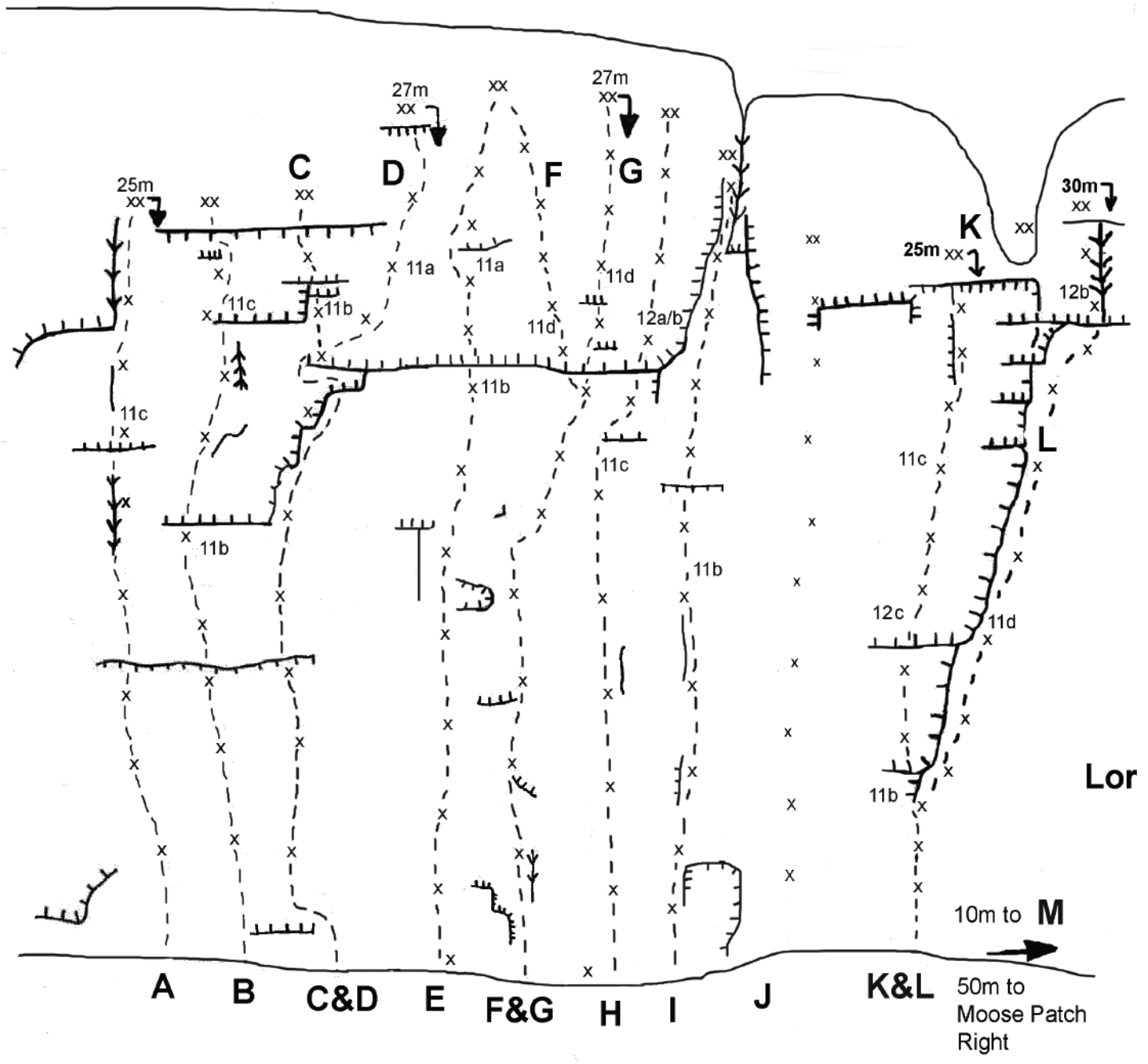
12a/b

- 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

A B C&D F&G

K&L

- G) Seasonal Adjustment *** S-5.11d
- H) Working the Patch ** S-5.12a/b
- I) The Moose is Loose ** S-5.11b
- J) Closed Project:
- K) Moose Knuckle ** S-5.12c
- L) Roshambo ** S-5.12b
- M) 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 | Closed Project: | |
| K | Moose Knuckle *** | 12c |
| L | Roshambo ** | 12b |
| M | Bandwagon ** | 12a/b |

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 a final crux of devious steep face movement to get past the 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. Sustained movement leads over excellent bulging rock, well worth the trip to challenge 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 starts steeply over upper 5.10 climbing to a definitive crux at mid-height to finish in a right leaning corner for the top third.

Closed Project: S.512?, 25m, 12 clips

Michael Grisdale, May 2026

Located about 5m right of the climb *The Moose Is Loose*, is this steep project has little info for now.

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 development in recent years. Back in the summer of 2018, Andy Genereux kick started this 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 to 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 retro-bolting and re-cleaning the first pitch of *A Moose Once Bit My Sister* taming this former nasty scary loose pitch with several death blocks. Turning this once frightening pitch 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 newer 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 gray 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, the crux getting past the second bolt, followed by superb, sustained, steep, and 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 gets 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 climbing leads to some very sustained movement through the continuously technical and devious upper half on this pitch. An old Ostrander project...?

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). It then shifts leftward onto some delicate movement before finishing up 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, sort through this obstacle with excellent gray 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-Stars)** 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 the top to reach a large tree to form a belay. **Pitch 2: 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 remains 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 had 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 loose 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 passing 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 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

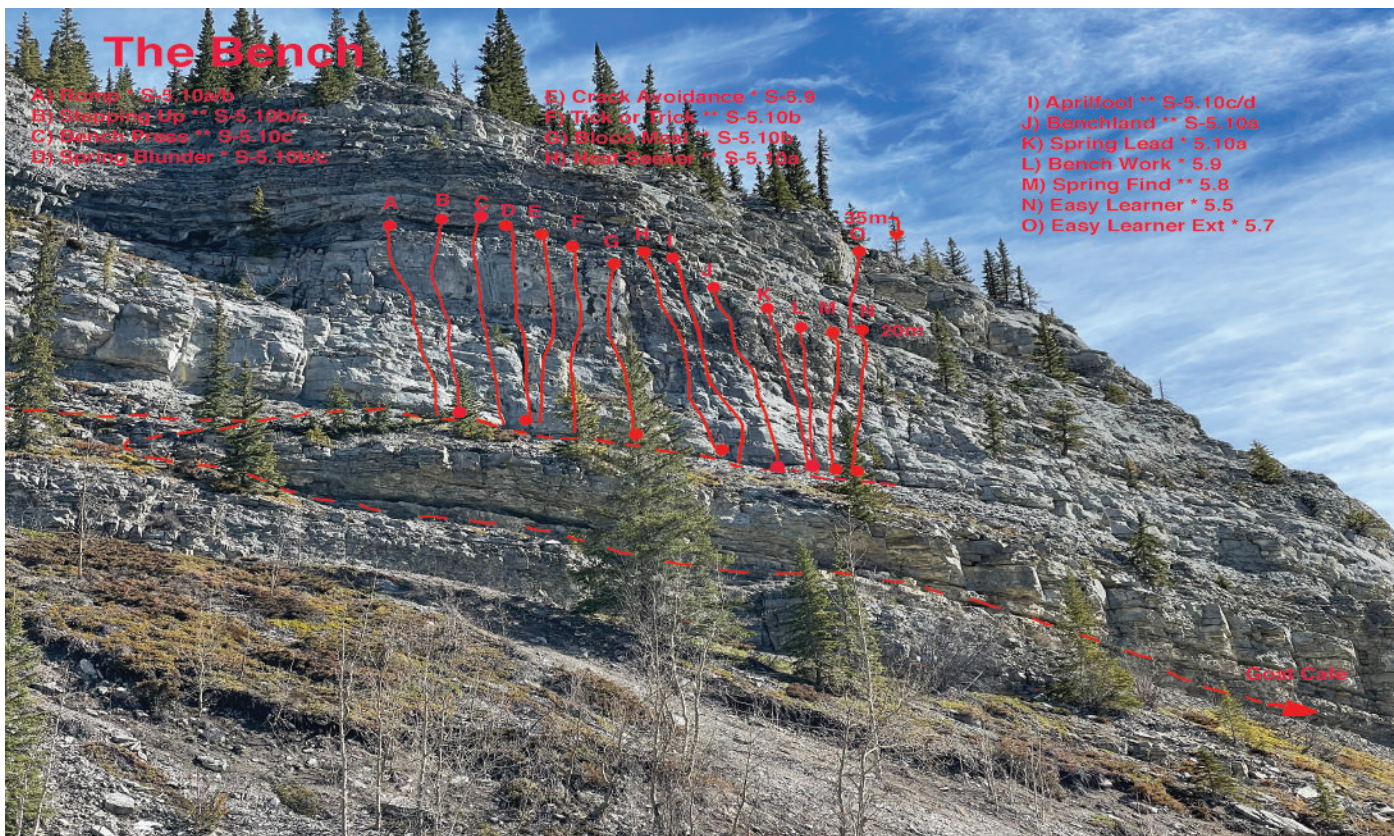
Andy Genereux, May 2021

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 slab. Excellent movement as the short cruxy section overcomes the steep slabby face. If only there could be more!



The Bench

A great smaller moderate sector that Andy Genereux first started developing in the spring of 2022. This little terraced bench hosts a number of good shorter 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 adding 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 they also help teams 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 these base anchor bolts.

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 Genereux, 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 Genereux, April 2023

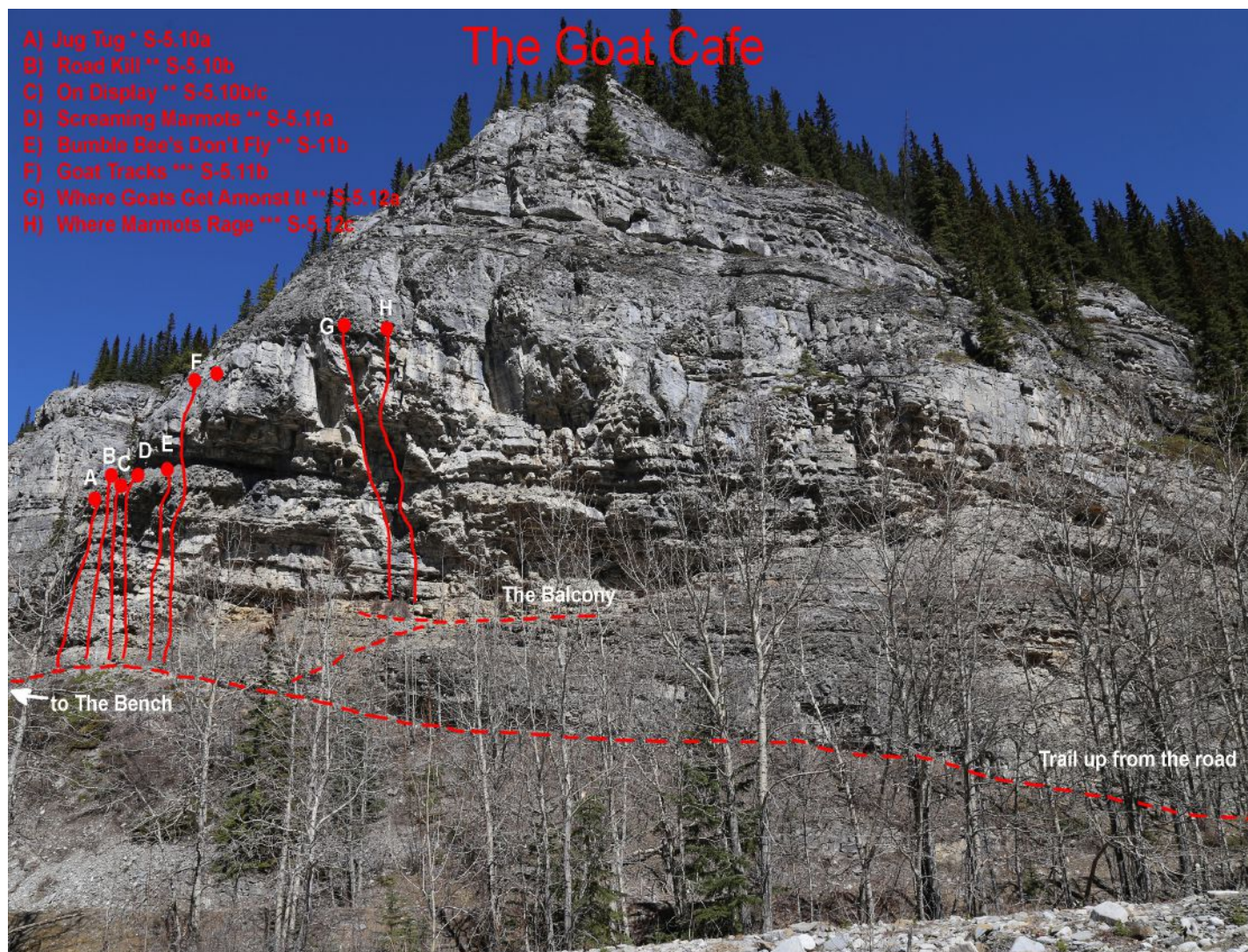
Probably the easiest bolted climb at the Moose Mountain Crags to date. This will be a popular well protected beginner route. A good compliment to the other moderates at The Bench. Established on lead and cleaned afterwards. Some big stuff was trundled. This slightly right leaning line of stepped limestone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

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

Andy Genereux, May 2023

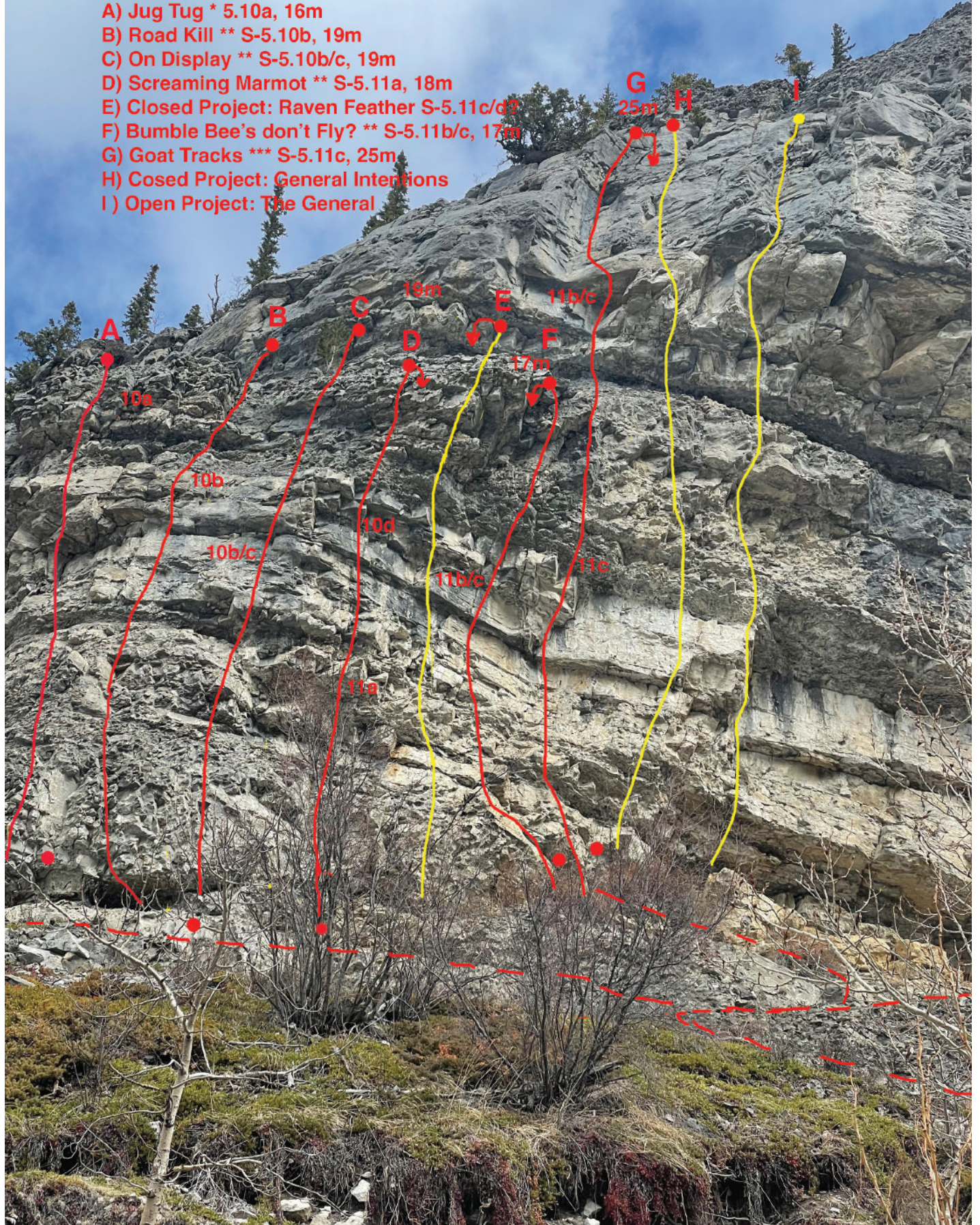
This is a five bolt extension to the climb *Easy Learner*. The crux comes just above the first ring-bolt belay. A few harder moves on chert knobs. Like the first pitch this extension was also established on lead a few days after *Easy Learner*.

Caution: Combining these two pitches as one long pitch makes this climb 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, due to the hidden 15m high lower cliff lurking 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 longer easier warm-up climb to start your day.



The Goat Cafe / Left Side

- A) Jug Tug * 5.10a, 16m
- B) Road Kill ** S-5.10b, 19m
- C) On Display ** S-5.10b/c, 19m
- D) Screaming Marmot ** S-5.11a, 18m
- E) Closed Project: Raven Feather S-5.11c/d?
- F) Bumble Bee's don't Fly? ** S-5.11b/c, 17m
- G) Goat Tracks *** S-5.11c, 25m
- H) Cosed Project: General Intentions
- I) Open Project: The General



The Goat Cafe

Potentially, this is going to be a great crag for some steep overhanging climbing. Named after a family of mountain goats that seems to enjoy hanging out on the upper ledges above this venue every spring the past few years. This cliff recently underwent some new development in 2022. Andy Genereux taking up the initial challenge. Historically this is an older shunting (top rope) venue. First developed by the late Larry Ostrander back in the early 1990's. Larry was the original pioneer for much of the early explorations at Moose Mountain. Several of his old anchors are found on this cliff. These old shunting (top rope) projects have been known about for many years. Surprisingly, is that this south facing cliff sits just above the access road and has not had any modern redevelopment until 2022. It's a much taller, significantly more overhanging cliff than lower extension lying to the east called **Roadside Attraction Crag**. Basically the cliff is 20-35m tall, has south exposure and quick access. All these factors should help this venue become a prime candidate to see more redevelopment. Yet these attractive qualities of sun and steepness have only recently come under closer scrutiny with the exploding popularity of the Moose Mountain Crags in recent years. The Goat Cafe with more development could eventually prove to be a great venue for spring, late winter, and fall climbing. To climb here on hotter days in summer you will want to come early hit the shade side by 11:00 or arrive after 6 pm once the sun is off the face.

Larry Ostrander previously established several anchors at the top of the steepest Centre Section of the cliff and these were known about for many years. However, nobody took the bait despite the obvious steep potential sitting literally beside the access road. The recent development of the Roadside Attraction Crag helped re-ignite interest in seeing this older sector undergo some redevelopment, expanded, and rejuvenated into a lead venue for the climbing enthusiast looking for steep terrain. There is potential for a wide range of grades. The two minute approach from the access road is sure to attract climbers and see this crag become hugely popular. That is, once things are fully cleaned and built out. The work part of developing the cliff is significant. Rock quality is variable (Moose Factor). The first lead routes developed on the left side after Andy Genereux uncovered the potential for a few short routes by following a lone goat track in the fresh snow across an elevated ledge system coming over from The Bench, a compact sector located just west.

The overall potential at this steep venue looks to be somewhere between 20-30 routes might eventually be developed? The grades are likely to span from low 5.10 to possibly as hard as 5.13 for now? The summer and fall building sessions of 2022 and into 2023 have started to tell the tale. There was keen interest from Ross Suchy in the spring of 2026 adding two steep 5.12's. Andy Genereux is back in the mix after a year off for knee replacements. Although Andy and Ross are two of the more active route builders at Moose Mountain, they welcome all developers to help this cliff get more fully explored. Both, have concerns about managing shrapnel from cleaning loose rock due to the close proximity of the cliff too the access road. Debris from building and cleaning, directly threatens both the approach trail and the access road please take care! There will be lots of work to clean and control hazards while building out these climbs. A short trail was recently constructed up from the road to access the good elevated ledge (The Balcony) below the Centre Section of this cliff. Several new base anchors along this ledge system were recently added in anticipation of new development. These base anchors will help to keep parties attached while belaying. Also note that an western extension of this access trail provides an option to access **The Bench** and **Moose Patch** Sectors. The first part of the access trail travels below a sub-cliff lying directly underneath The Balcony ledge. **Caution:** Any rock fall generated from climbers above directly impacts this trail, please be aware of this issue while climbing or developing on this wildly overhanging cliff. Coming down from The Bench the upper part of the trail provides safe access for the left side of the Goat Cafe.

For now there are six completed lead routes on the left side of the Goat Cafe and a few more projects started. The photo on the proceeding page details this left side development. The main central portion of the cliff, is where Larry Ostrander mostly plied his craft. Recently had two routes were established in April of 2026 by Ross Suchy. Other than these two bolted lines the Centre Section is open for redevelopment, there are some new base anchors and possibly some old directionals but these are not marking or reserving projects at this time.

Caution: Only two routes in the Centre Section of the cliff are lead climbs at this time. Be aware that if any route building is going on, there will be significant rock fall hazards over The Balcony ledge and lower approach trail coming up from the access road. Recommended climbers always wear a helmet at the Moose Mountain Crags.

The Goat Cafe / Left Side

Jug Tug * S-5.10a, 16m, 5 clips

Andy Genereux, May 2023

The left most route at the Goat Cafe, a single base belay bolt marks this climb. Recommend a stick clip to the first bolt due to rock quality at the start. The climbing gets gradually harder and steeper the higher you climb. Mostly juggy holds all the way to clipping the anchor located below the upper access ledge.

Road Kill ** S-5.10b, 18m, 6 clips*Andy Genereux, July 2022*

Starts slightly left of a two-bolt base anchor. Not hard but the worst rock quality is getting off the deck, I recommend a stick clip. Climbs up to the upper access ledge on some fun juggy movement to a ring bolt anchor above the ledge.

On Display ** S-5.10b/c, 18m, 6 clips*Andy Genereux, July 2022*

Starts directly above a two-bolt base anchor. Easy off the ground, recommend a stick clip due to rock quality issues on the bottom part of the cliff. Mostly fun juggy climbing with a steeper short definitive crux at two-thirds height. Carefully mantel onto the access ledge to reach a ring bolt anchor on the wall above the ledge.

Screaming Marmot ** S-5.11a, 18m, 7 clips*Andy Genereux, May 2022?*

This route has an anchor below the access ledge which can be clipped and then climb onto the access ledge to use the higher anchor on the *Raven Feather* project to the right. Using this upper anchor provides a few more juggy moves. To start this route locate a two bolt anchor at the base. Work up on some funky moves past the first two bolts. Then take some steady mostly juggy steep climbing. A powerful short route mostly mid 5.10, with a couple steep tricky (short) crux sections that are a little harder to figure out while the clock is ticking.

Closed Project: Raven Feather: S-5.11c, 19m, 8 clips?*Andy Genereux, Fall 2026?*

Steepish potential, has an anchor above the elevated access ledge. However the route still needs to be completely cleaned and bolted. Steep and bury at the top, will see if it all works out? This line might prove a little squeezed but for now it looks like there is enough room to push it up what is hopefully an independent line?

Bumble Bee's Don't Fly? ** S-5.11b, 17m, 8 clips*Andy Genereux, May 2022*

Start from a belay platform at the base of the wall and work up and left to a bolt. Continuously steep mostly juggy movement finishing to a hidden lay-back sequence to achieve the anchor. A very fun shorter, burly climb...!

Goat Tracks * S-5.11b, 25m, 12 clips***Andy Genereux, May 2022*

The first lead route to be developed at the Goat Cafe. The upper portion of the pitch was put up on lead via rope soloing from an access ledge at two thirds height. A lone mountain goat track in the fresh snow along the access ledge showed the way that day. The lower portion of the route was built on rappel. Two short crux sections require some harder pulls but the line offers steady steep juggy upper 5.10 movement nearly the whole way. Make sure to take the rest at the transition. The top corner requires varied technique and a bit of staying power to reach the anchor. Enjoy!

Closed Project: The Generals Intention: S-5.11d/12a, 25m, 12 clips?*Andy Genereux, Fall 2026?*

A longer very steep line right of *Goat Tracks*. There is an new anchor in place for now. This line looks to be somewhat harder, maybe upper 5.11 or low 5.12. Will have to see what gets uncovered after cleaning. What I do know is that it's going to provide a burly steep challenge for an old, shorter, fat guy.

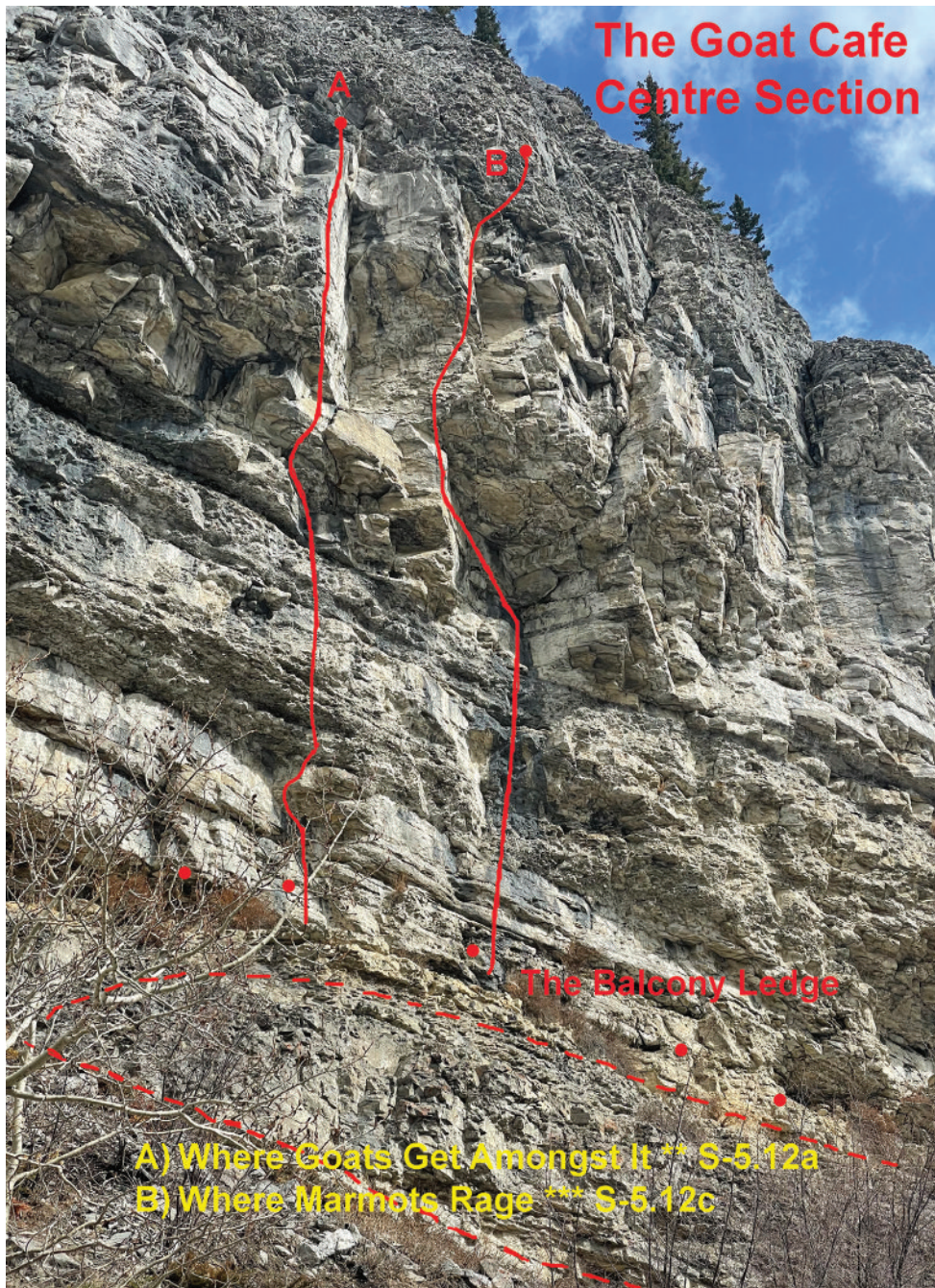
Open Project: The General: S-5.12a, 25m, 13 clips?

A steeper lost shunting line of Larry Ostrander with an old anchor of his at the top. Will see what transpires on the redevelopment this old shunt line of Larry's. Hopefully the next couple of years will see it finished along with several of Larry's other lost or forgotten projects at the Goat Cafe?

Goat Cafe / Centre Section

Access to this venue is from the Balcony staging ledge via the approach trail coming up from the road shown in the photo below. There are a few bolted stations off this ledge for belaying and to help keep parties from a nasty fall. The two established climbs so far are both radically overhanging. The belayer being attached is essential when lowering a climber or cleaning the route of draws.

Caution: Any loose material from the Balcony ledge/staging or above this area directly threatens the approach trail and access road below. Keep this in mind while developing or climbing here.



In April of 2026 Ross suchy established two routes in this steep center section of the Goat Cafe. Hopefully this will help to spur on more activity at this roadside venue in the coming years.

Where Goats Get Amongst It ** S-5.12a, 25m, 10 clips

Ross Suchy, April 2026

A steep line, the bottom half provides some steady burly pulls, the final third in a shallow corner proves the business end with some funky body language to overcome the challenges.

Where Marmots Rage * S-5.12c, 25m, 10 clips**

Ross Suchy, April 2026

A very steep line it overhangs almost 8m from the base anchor belay. Somewhat reasonable climbing to half height then things stiffen up with a tricky toe hook for balance. This is a hard on-sight figuring things out while the energy levels slip away. Good luck!