

BOZEMAN

ROCK

CLIMBS

Second Edition

A CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO HYALITE,
GALLATIN & ROCKY CANYONS AND
THE MADISON RIVER AREA

Bozeman, Montana
1995

Bill Dockins

Introduction & Climbing History:
by Pat Callis

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors thank the members of Bozeman's climbing population who contributed to this guide. For the first edition published in 1987, many local climbers provided route descriptions, photographs, drawings, advice and opinions. They include: Clark Alexis, Van Alke, Scott Anderson, Duane Bowles, John Drumheller, Kristen Drumheller, Barry Frost, David Gerhart, Steve Jackson, Tom Jüngst, Tom Kalakay, Jim Kanzler, Kim Keating, Terry Kennedy, John Kravetz, Brian Leo, Alex Lowe, Jack Tackle, Scott Wade, and Craig Zaspel. Many of these climbers also contributed to this latest effort, and they were joined by Donny Black, Todd Cozzens, Doug Davis, Derek Gustafson, Meg Hall, Mike Kehoe, Simon Lohbeck, Robert Müller, Buck Rea, Ed Sondeno, Rand Swanson, Chuck Swenson, Gigi Swenson, Jason Todd, and David Vaughan. Without the efforts of all of these folks, and a few others whose names I undoubtedly have failed to mention (and for which I apologize beforehand), it would be pretty slim pickings in the Bozeman area for established climbing routes.

The covers of both the first and second editions and the flora and fauna illustrations were done by Kristen Drumheller. She also reviewed the route descriptions and by correcting my mistakes saved a lot of you from traversing left into Never-Never Land when you should have traversed right to that bomber belay. John Drumheller drew and contributed the cartoons which detail just a few of the many adventures of "Mr. Frank" in Gallatin Canyon.

CHAPTER ONE GENERAL INFORMATION

A wide variety of rockclimbing suitable for climbers of all abilities and inclinations is easily accessible around Bozeman. Locals are fortunate to be able to hone their skills on routes done in different styles on several types of rock. One day you can choose to climb traditionally protected, perhaps even intimidating, routes on good quality metamorphic rock and the next retreat to the relative security of bolt protected limestone faces. Cracks of all sizes (from seams to chimneys), edges, pockets, overhangs and slabs provide an all-around climbing experience.

Like everywhere else, the popularity of climbing has exploded here in the past few years. Since the first edition of this guide was published in 1987 over 90 new routes have been established, many in two "new" limestone areas, Rocky Canyon and Squaw Creek. Some well known classics now see almost daily traffic, and even many once obscure routes have achieved popularity and received numerous repeats.

Like its predecessor, this second edition focuses on the area's more developed and accessible climbing. Routes established in Hyalite, Gallatin and Rocky Canyons are covered comprehensively while only the most popular crags along the Madison River are included. A few areas having a smattering of routes have been omitted because they either have access problems or are in alpine locales where Montana climbers traditionally shun guidebooks. The included areas are easily accessible by good roads. Figure 1 is an overall map showing the locations of the areas. Allow about 45 minutes from Bozeman to reach Neat Rock on the Madison River; the other areas require from 10 to 30 minutes of driving time.

With the exception of portions of the Rocky Canyon limestone area, the climbing areas are situated on public land. The Rocky Canyon area north of Interstate 90 is privately owned, and climbers should pay particular attention to the access, parking, and other concerns noted in the introduction to Chapter Seven.

The book's first task is, of course, to inform climbers of climbing opportunities and direct them to good routes, especially those that might otherwise be overlooked. Hopefully we can spread out the climbing traffic by coaxing some climbers away from the trade routes to lesser known lines of equal or better quality and perhaps even suggest areas that might hold potential for route development.

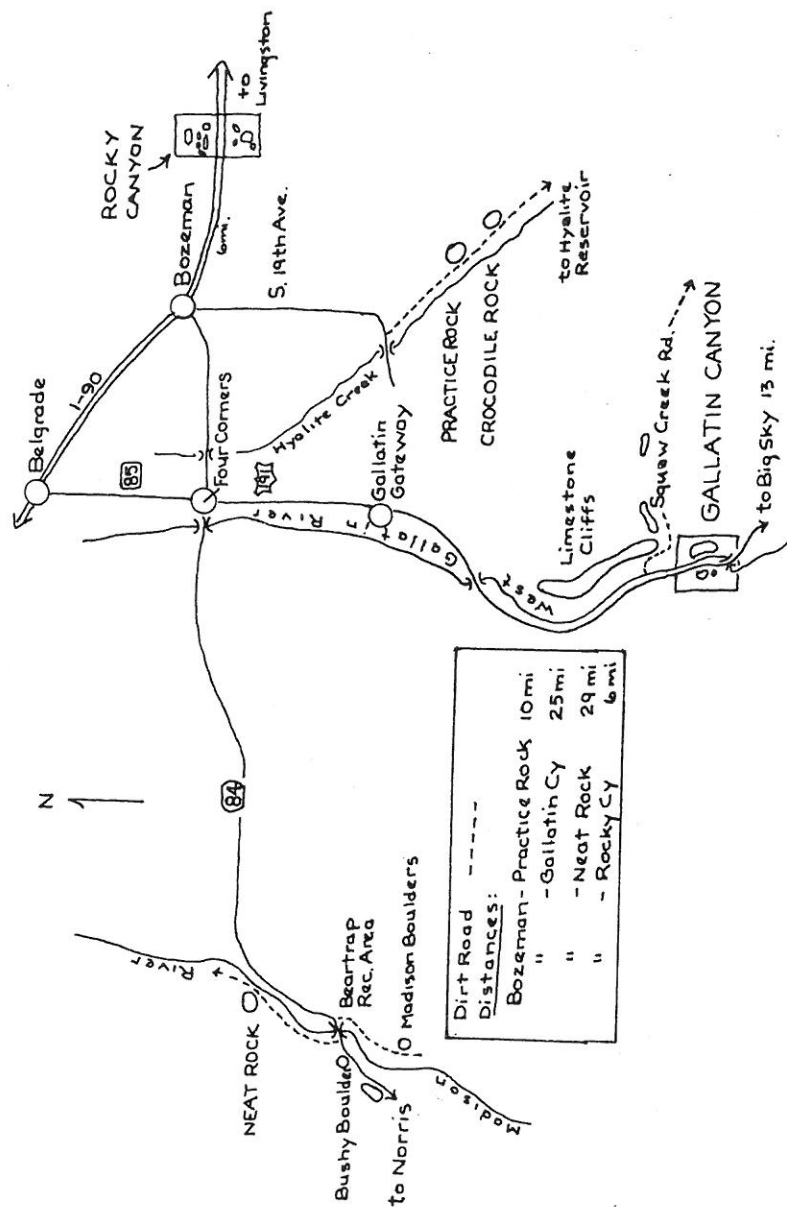


Figure 1. Locations of Bozeman's local climbing areas.

At the same time, we hope to interweave some of the local climbing history for those who find such things interesting. Despite relatively few climbers, Bozeman area climbing is set against a historical backdrop of colorful characters and epic adventures. Pat Callis, who has been a part of much of the region's climbing development, wrote a short segment on the area's history for the first edition and has updated it here. Noteworthy tidbits contributed by others enhance some of the route descriptions.












In addition to the crag climbing, the Bozeman area has some excellent bouldering, much of which is on private land along the West Gallatin River. Check with local climbers to locate these areas. If you wish to climb on private land, ask permission, respect the land and the landowner, leave gates as you found them, and leave pets at home. Again, local landowners have been very accommodating to climbers, but increasing recreational use of the areas coupled with several abuses (i.e. dogs chasing and killing livestock, litter, erosion, campfires) have made continued access more and more tenuous.

USE OF THE GUIDE

Guidebook writers walk a fine line between demystifying routes by over-description and rendering their guides useless by giving up too few details. Hopefully, most of the descriptions here are sufficient to help you find a route, unravel its secrets, and make your way back to the car. The task of supplying reasonably accurate route information in the Bozeman area is often challenging because many routes have had only a few ascents or because first ascensionists have either disappeared or developed memory lapses. Most of the descriptions, however, come from firsthand information.

A general orientation to each of the areas is presented in the chapter and section introductions. Then, a combination of maps, written descriptions, and line drawings is used in hopes of steering readers to the routes they wish to try. Line drawings are relied on heavily, especially for those amorphous routes which defy written description. Routes not shown on a line drawing are noted with the phrase "no topo" in the written description. "Right" and "left" directions are given as if the climber was facing the route.

The following symbols are used to varying degrees in the line drawings:

Line of route		Fixed pin or nut	
Left-facing dihedral		Chimney	 CHIM
Right-facing dihedral		Offwidth	 OW
Overhang or roof		Bush	
Ledge		Rappel	
Bolt			

Please remember that this book is only a guide, not an instructional manual, and is no substitute for skill, experience and good judgment. The outdoors, even rock and rockclimbing routes, changes constantly, and each of us perceives and experiences it differently. You are ultimately responsible to recognize and avoid hazards, to evaluate the routes and make all decisions incident to climbing them, and to climb safely. The watchwords are "have fun and be safe." Climbers with additions or corrections are urged to contact the authors at PO Box 1825, Bozeman, MT 59771-1825.

CLIMATE

The climbing season usually begins in earnest in April and extends through October. Montana occasionally earns its Arctic reputation so don't be surprised to come across cold weather, even snow, anytime during this period. On the other hand, January and February rockclimbing in shirtsleeves at Neat Rock is not unheard of. In the spring and fall the weather can seesaw from one extreme to the other in just a few hours.

On cold, sunny days good rockclimbing may often be had on south-facing Neat Rock or at Rocky Canyon. Hot days are best spent in the shade in Hyalite and Gallatin Canyons, on Frog Rock and other north-facing crags in Rocky Canyon, or swimming. Start early to avoid debilitating approaches.

The approximate base elevations of the climbing areas are: Hyalite Canyon—5800', Gallatin Canyon—6000', Madison River Areas—4500' and Rocky Canyon—5100'.

CAMPING AND SERVICES

Camping sites are plentiful near all the climbing areas mentioned in this guide except Rocky Canyon. There are Forest Service campgrounds a few miles up the Hyalite Canyon road from Crocodile Rock at Langhor and at Hyalite Reservoir. One may camp virtually anywhere on the Madison River alongside the road leading to Neat Rock or use developed campsites in the Beartrap Recreation Area. In the Gallatin Canyon area, camping is available at both developed and undeveloped sites along the Squaw Creek Road. Additionally, several Forest Service fee campgrounds are located along Highway 191 south of Gallatin Tower toward Big Sky. Camping has been permitted near the Cascade Creek trailhead (see Figure 5). Please don't camp in the parking areas in Rocky Canyon; between the trucks and the trains, you won't sleep anyway.

Most other needs a climber might have—food, drink, climbing gear, medical facilities, etc.—are available in Bozeman. Big Sky, Gallatin Gateway, and Norris offer more limited services. For showers try the swim center on West Main Street or soak in commercial hot springs at Four Corners and near Norris.

HAZARDS AND RESTRICTIONS

Most climbing-related hazards can be avoided by just applying good common sense, but each of the local areas has a few perils that deserve special mention.

Some of the local fauna can cause surprise, disease, or both. Rattlesnakes are common along the Madison River, and they particularly enjoy uninterrupted sunbathing on south-facing Neat Rock during the early season. Woodticks are found in the spring and early summer in all of the climbing areas, although the Gallatin limestone area along Squaw Creek seems to be their special place. More than a few people have been inflicted with *Giardia* as a result of drinking West Gallatin River water. You take a risk drinking out of any surface water source, although we've not heard of anyone getting sick drinking water from Cave Creek near Gallatin Tower.

Afternoon electrical storms can pose problems during the summer. Many parties have had to hastily retreat off of Gallatin Tower because it is situated in such a way that one usually can't see the storms coming.

Both of the Gallatin Canyon climbing areas have quite a bit of loose rock, especially on new routes. Many local climbers rappel prospective new lines to garden the cracks and knock off the loose chunks, taking care not to scar the rock faces. Boulder trundling, with its inherent excitement and the clean, crisp smell

of pulverized rock and lichen, was once a major Gallatin Canyon subport, but the pastime is now far too dangerous because of an increasing number of climbers.

Fortunately, there are virtually no restrictions governing climbing on local public lands. The area around Neat Rock is a cultural resource site so leave any artifacts you might find where you found them. Golden eagles and great horned owls occasionally nest on Neat Rock and should not be disturbed.



"Begin in a mossy corner and climb wet rock to a loose flake. Step left into an overhanging dirt-filled offwidth. When the crack degenerates into a nondescript trough step right and climb very loose rock to a lichenous face, clip a fixed bashie and make crux moves to a scree-covered, sloping ledge and belay from an ancient rurlp. Rack up to a #2 RP. Highly recommended, a Bozeman classic."

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PROTECTION

Unless otherwise noted, all routes in this book can be protected using chocks, camming devices and any existing fixed protection. A standard rack for traditionally protected routes would include small to medium wired stoppers, a few medium size nuts on slings, #1-3 Friends or equivalent sizes of other camming devices, and a half-dozen slings to tie off natural anchors. RP's, small Tricams, and flexible spring loaded camming devices are particularly useful in Gallatin Canyon, the latter two primarily in horizontal placements. Many climbers use double rope technique in Gallatin Canyon to protect meandering lines and to facilitate rappels. Some of the route descriptions give equipment suggestions, but they are not intended to displace your own judgment; take whatever gear you think you may need.

Care should be taken in the use of rappel anchors and fixed protection. Many of the listed routes are infrequently climbed so fixed gear and rappel anchors may go for years without use. Non-destructively inspect all anchors, and back them up if necessary. Keep in mind that freeze-thaw cycles can cause fixed pitons to loosen.

Don't pound on bolts or hangers. In recent years an effort has been made to place larger bolts (usually 3/8") where bolt failure could result in serious injury. One should, however, be wary of the 1/4" bolts that were placed years ago on many routes. Also, please don't back off routes by leaving webbing threaded through the bolt hangers. Leave an old carabiner or use your imagination and rig up a way of pulling your webbing down behind you. Old webbing is not only unsightly but also potentially dangerous to a subsequent leader.

RATINGS

The decimal system prevalent in most US climbing areas is used in this guide to gauge the difficulty of the routes. If you are not familiar with this system please refer to any one of numerous instructional books describing the "decimal" or "Yosemite decimal" system. Suffice it to say that climbs in this guide are rated from 5.1 to 5.12, reflecting the lower to upper end of the difficulty scale respectively.

Routes with ratings of 5.9 or harder may be followed with a "-" or "+" indicating that the route is at the lower or upper end of difficulty within that rating. This -/+ system is used instead of the "a,b,c,d" subgrades common in many other guidebooks and climbing areas. For translation purposes, a 5.10- would roughly be a 5.10a while a 5.10+ would check in at about 5.10d.

The relative danger of a route is indicated by the seriousness rating first introduced by Jim Erickson in his guide *Rocky*

Heights, A Guide to Boulder Free Climbs 1980. If the route lacks a seriousness rating you can assume, a la the movies, that it is a "G" or "PG" and that a competent, properly-equipped leader can reasonably protect the climb. An "R" following the grade suggests long runouts or difficult placements and a possibility that a falling leader would be injured. An "X" following the grade denotes a serious, unprotected lead where the leader may not survive a fall.

Some attempt has been made to rate local climbs in an internally consistent manner, at least among the various rock types. Out of deference to earlier climbers, many of whom tended to underestimate their abilities, we've not upgraded routes that were used in the past as ratings "standards." Instead, we have continued to use those routes as a basis for comparison, at least for those routes done in a traditional style. Rating some of the routes in this book is further confounded by the difficulty of comparing Gallatin Canyon climbing with other areas. The climbing there tends to involve unusual sequences and weirdly-positioned holds. Many climbers have remarked that until they got used to the rock certain Gallatin climbs seemed more difficult than their ratings (i.e. "sandbags").

Please keep in mind that factors other than the pure technical difficulty reflected in a route rating contribute to the overall level of skill and commitment that a route may demand. It is one thing to climb a bolt-protected sport route and quite another to climb a route of the same grade having sketchy or difficult natural protection. Route ratings also can vary considerably depending on things such as hand or finger size and height; we have, however, tried to note routes where difficulty is obviously height dependent.

Finally, don't treat these ratings as if they were written in stone, so to speak. If things get a little strange and you feel in over your head, use your own judgment before continuing upward rather than relying on someone else's ratings opinion. It may be best to bail off and save the route for another day. Ratings are expressions of opinion only and are pretty arbitrary things; a consensus is hard to find in an area like ours where many routes seldom get done. We won't strenuously argue with anyone who says that the rating of a route in this book is wrong.

STYLE & ETHICS

Discussions of style and ethics in climbing invariably raise touchy subjects and invite a plethora of conflicting viewpoints. So with two or three exceptions we want to sidestep such weighty concerns and leave their resolution to philosophical meanderings over a pitcher of beer, fisticuffs at the crags, or whatever.

If there are any ethical tenets of rockclimbing, two of them must be that upward progress is not to be made by chipping holds in the rock and that fixed protection is not to be added to existing routes. Hold chipping reflects the practitioner's arrogance and lack of vision. Adding fixed gear to existing routes demonstrates a lack of respect for the style of the first ascent. Both practices are used by the impatient as a substitute for skill, experience, or boldness.

Hold chipping, drilling, sculpting or manufacturing of any sort has not been a problem in this area and is overwhelmingly condemned by local climbers. Don't do it or even think about it.

Unfortunately, there has been a disturbing proliferation of new bolts on existing routes, especially in Gallatin Canyon. Installation of well-placed rappel stations serving several routes can be justified on some crags, but placement of belay bolts with a lot of flashy hardware next to perfectly good natural anchors that have served well for twenty years cannot. Some recent protection bolts are senseless additions to easy, well-protected lines while others have erased the fear factor that lent excitement and challenge to certain routes. All routes are not for all climbers; if a climber has qualms about the safety of a route, he or she should top rope it or do another climb rather than bolt an existing route into submission. We hope that those climbing in this area will use good sense and refrain from degrading established lines into mindless sport routes. Such restraint will assure that we will continue to have a good variety of routes done in different styles to choose from.

Regarding fixed protection on new routes, we have no wish to debate the relative merits of routes established by preplacing bolts on rappel versus those put up boldly by placing bolts or pins on the lead. Both styles have gained local acceptance and resulted in some fine routes, and there's no evidence that the two styles will become mutually exclusive at any time in the near future. Regardless of the style employed, fixed protection should be used *only* when nuts and camming devices cannot be placed by a competent leader; bolts placed anywhere near protectable cracks are likely to be unceremoniously removed. Fixed protection must be strong, properly placed and as inconspicuous as possible.

On a final topic of style, we'd like to encourage some thoughtfulness in "zoning" of routes. Just as cities become congested without restrictions imposed on development, climbing routes lose their aesthetic line and individuality and become contrived when bunched too closely together. In the olden days (early 80's) this wasn't much of a problem because most routes followed crack lines and other protectable weaknesses, but with more widespread acceptance of fixed anchors, a new route can be placed virtually anywhere there are

holds. There's little sense in putting up a new route that diminishes the quality of an existing one. The Bozeman area has many undeveloped cliffs; let's expand our horizons and spread out the new routes.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Notwithstanding the foregoing section, rock climbers would be far better off spending less time debating ethics and styles of each other's ascents and focusing their ethical concerns on protecting the environmental quality of their climbing areas. Montana areas have seen little climber-related impact, and with proper respect for the land we can keep it that way, even though the sport is becoming more popular.

One persistent problem is trail erosion on steep approaches. Recently, good efforts have been made to develop trails to Hyalite's Practice Rock and to various outcrops in Rocky Canyon. Many of the approaches in Gallatin Canyon, however, are in bad shape, partly because of windfallen timber. Staying on established trails and using (or developing) switchbacks helps slow erosion, but the problem is not likely to be remedied without a continued effort to develop decent trails.

Other environmental concerns are more easily dealt with. It seems too obvious to mention that tape, cans, old webbing and other trash, whether it's yours or somebody else's, should be picked up. Avoiding the use of brightly colored slings at rappel stations and camouflaging fixed protection, including bolts, hangers and rappel chains, will lessen the visual impact of climbing. So far, chalk washes off about as fast as it's applied, but use it sensibly and with restraint especially under overhangs. Finally, climbers should leave raspberries, especially the red, ripe ones, on the bushes for indigenous wildlife and guidebook writers.

CHAPTER TWO INTRODUCTION AND CLIMBING HISTORY

By Pat Callis

It was an unforgettably brilliant afternoon in late July 1968, with the Northern Rockies at their peak of lushness, that marked my first encounter with the Gallatin Towers. Gayle and I and two-year-old Kristina were literally high on the greens, golds, and special incense of Gallatin Canyon, having driven directly from LA across the hot Nevada Desert. It was more than love at first sight. There was immediate recognition that this oasis of hardrock crags in a region of crumbling limestone would be the site of many enjoyable hours of exploratory rockclimbing I had grown to love during the previous decade on the West Coast. The afternoon sun highlighted tier after tier of alluring towers and ribs rising high above the intervening stream. One seemingly perfect rib became imprinted as the initial objective, even though we did not stop the heavily-laden VW Bug.

The appropriate time came in October of that year, and Jim Kanzler, Jerry Kanzler, Gordon McFeters, and I drove to the Canyon and walked without hesitation directly to the foot of Sparerib. So began what can be identified as the second phase of climbing in Gallatin Canyon, one marked by free climbs of the obvious west-facing aretes and buttresses on the east side of the river.

The earlier phase remains largely obscure. It is believed that the Elevator Shaft was climbed, but names and dates are unknown. Most activity was naturally directed to Gallatin Tower, only a ten minute scramble from the highway. The first ascents of the Tower and the popular Standard Route are unknown to us at this time but were clearly prior to 1965. Jerry Kanzler led the first free ascent of the 5.9 finish with Barry Frost in 1967. Brian Leo and Chuck Roset did the first ascent of Tigger with direct aid before 1968.

During the period 1968-75 only about a dozen new routes were done. The evident east-side buttresses—Sparerib, Mother's Day, The Joker, Skyline, Warts and Corns, and The Waltz—were all done in the characteristic style of the times: decide the objective before leaving the car, proceed to the bottom of the route, and ascend upward into the unknown (often armed with a bolt kit because of the blank appearance of the climbs). We were constantly amazed to find beautiful lines opening up before our eyes as we climbed. Only once was a bolt necessary (The Joker). Each route was done on-sight and in one push. This was

possible because of the lower angle, non-severe (5.9 max), and fairly clean nature of these climbs.

The other major activity of that era involved the lovely cluster of lines to the right of the Standard Route on Gallatin Tower. Here the angle is higher, and the first 5.10's in the Canyon were done. The 5.11 on the Orange Crack was done with aid.

It should be pointed out that these dozen or so routes represent a minor portion of the activity of the local climbers of those days. Considerable time and energy was devoted to explorations and deeds in the Beartooths, the Humbugs, Glacier Park, and the Canadian Rockies. Unquestionably more richness would have ensued were it not for a tragic avalanche on Mt. Cleveland in December 1969 which claimed the life of Jerry Kanzler whose talent and spirit had already contributed greatly at the age of 18. Also lost were Clare Pogreba and Ray Martin, two vigorous young pioneers of the Humbug Area.

After a slow year in 1976 a third wave of development, a kind of golden age, was ignited by the discovery that excellent climbs existed on the side walls of the buttresses. This era, extending to early 1980, yielded the steeper, more sustained classics such as Black Line, Diesel Driver, Farewell to Arms, Skydiver and Pineapple Thunderpussy. (Naming became more colorful as well.) A host of strong and active climbers seemed to have converged on the Bozeman area and contributed to at least 25 new routes during this period. Setting the standard were veteran Jim "Rathole" Kanzler, joined by newcomers Terry Kennedy, Doug Randall, Jack Tackle, John Kravetz, and Tom Ballard. Brian Leo, Dougal McCarty, Steve Jackson, Gary Skaar, Mindy Shulak and Dave Vaughan were involved in many of these routes. The Canyon's first 5.11's were done during this period (Crack of Libido and the second pitch of Orange Crack).

Sadly, the Canyon's only climbing fatality occurred in this era. Doug Randall, perhaps the most gifted and inspirational local climber at the time was killed by a loose block during a leader fall on Skydiver's first pitch.

Outside the Canyon this period saw major creative achievements. Scott Anderson and Bill Dockins, and later Dave Batten, Peter Boveng, and Clark Alexis, developed the Grove and other outcrops into excellent bouldering areas. At Crocodile Rock Tom Ballard's top-roped ascent of Crack of Tripe became a minor legend, remaining unrepeatable until 1984. Terry Kennedy's 5.11 at Crocodile was also significant as was his vision in establishing the Practice Wall at Practice Rock.

The golden years of 1977-79 faded nearly as quickly as they began, and no new routes were recorded from May 1980 to August 1981. Then a flurry of new activity broke out in August 1981, with

eight new routes on the sides of Skyline Buttress being put up in a month's time mostly by a "new" group consisting of Bill Dockins, Peter Boveng, Kim Keating, Tom Jungst and myself. The intervening years to the present seem to constitute the latest phase of development of the Canyon. Several climbers, especially Tom Kalakay, have sought out and developed difficult routes on the blank-looking faces. There has been a steady rise in the level of difficulty and boldness, especially during the last three years. A core of "hard persons" who are "comfortable" on 5.11 has evolved. Included are Kalakay, Dockins, Alex Lowe, Kristen Drumheller, Jim Scott, Scott Wade, and others. Lowe and Dockins have established the first 5.12's in the area.

Along with the high level of difficulty has come an inevitable change in style. The steepness and small holds characteristic of the hard 5.11's and 5.12's have necessitated, to some degree, the precleaning (and sometimes prebolting) of routes. Routes are often top-roped before being led.

As well as reclaiming rock by extensive cleaning, many new routes have appeared by extending the boundaries. For example, Jim Scott, Van Alke, and David Gerhart opened up the fine Canine Cliffs area; the Out-of-Bounds Wall has yielded several nice routes. There must be more.

Addendum to Second Edition:

Indeed there was. The seven years since the last printing will be known as the limestone era, what with 55 of 85+ new entries in the guide being in two new limestone areas, Rocky Canyon (aka "The Pass") and the Gallatin Canyon limestone near Squaw Creek. Most encouraging is the general high quality of most of these routes, which show a considerable thoughtfulness on the part of their creators; 20 of the new routes are "starred". As would be expected, the average difficulty was high too: there were 12 new 5.12, 26 new 5.11, and 21 new 5.10 routes.

The local limestone movement was initiated primarily by Tom Kalakay and Tom Jungst at The Pass in 1987. Although scanned by many climbers over the years, no one found the limestone near Bozeman attractive for climbing until these two applied modern rap cleaning and power bolting procedures, which had already lead to the birth of famous "sport climbing" areas all over the world. The first route was bolted at The Pass only after agonizing soul searching, and the two meticulously shared the burden of the ethical breach: one of them did the drilling, the other driving in the bolts. That first route was named Ethos Burned. Despite their fears, the wrath of the local climbing community did not descend upon them. Instead, others eagerly followed.

The most active contributors locally during this period were Kalakay, Kristen Drumheller and Bill Dockins, with about two dozen new routes. Meg Hall, Robert Müller, Tom Jüngst, Simon Lohbeck, and Mike Kehoe all were involved in about a dozen, while Rand Swanson, Pat Callis, Jason Todd, Alex Lowe, Todd Cousins, Chuck Swenson, and Clark Alexis were involved in two or more. It is notable that Bill and Kristen continued to find many fine routes in the original Gallatin Canyon areas, including sole ownership of the Cube, and several just above Spare Rib.



Shooting Stars

CHAPTER THREE: HYALITE CANYON

Two small crags, Practice Rock and Crocodile Rock, are situated on the lower end of Hyalite Canyon above Hyalite (aka Middle) Creek. Because they are close to Bozeman and are easily accessible, they are popular. The rock in this portion of Hyalite Canyon is superb—its only fault being that there's just not enough of it exposed. Practice Rock has a wide variety of one and two pitch climbs from the easiest to 5.12, and it is popular with climbing classes. Most of the climbs at Crocodile Rock are easily topoped, making it a good place to test your limits.

PRACTICE ROCK

Practice Rock is reached from Bozeman by traveling south on South 19th Avenue 6 or 7 miles to the Hyalite Canyon junction (the road curves to the west a mile or so before the junction is reached). Turn left and head up the paved canyon road 3.1 miles to a large turnout on the right. Practice Rock is on the southwest-facing slope above the turnout. The short, but steep, hill to the crag is negotiated by following a switchback trail up through the talus above the turnout.

Climbs on Practice Rock are listed from left to right (counterclockwise) around the rock, and line drawings indicate route locations. From the top, Practice Rock is descended by scrambling off the backside then walking down trails along either side of the rock. In recent years several routes have been graced with rappel anchors.

1. **Tangentially** (5.9) This rarely done line starts 10 feet left of The Fiver. Climb a shallow corner to a ledge then follow a diagonalling crack up and right to a meeting with the upper part of Wizard's Well.
2. **The Fiver** (5.8) Follow a crack on the steep north-facing wall of the crag leading to the left side of a large ledge with a raven's nest. A chained rappel anchor has been placed on the ledge or one may or continue upward via Wizard's Well or Theoradical.
3. **Wizard's Well** (5.9+) This pitch is a good continuation of either the Fiver or Theoretically. From the raven's nest continue up and left to the corner of the roof. Traverse a few feet left past a bolt to a crack system which is followed to the top. Walk off or rappel (two ropes).