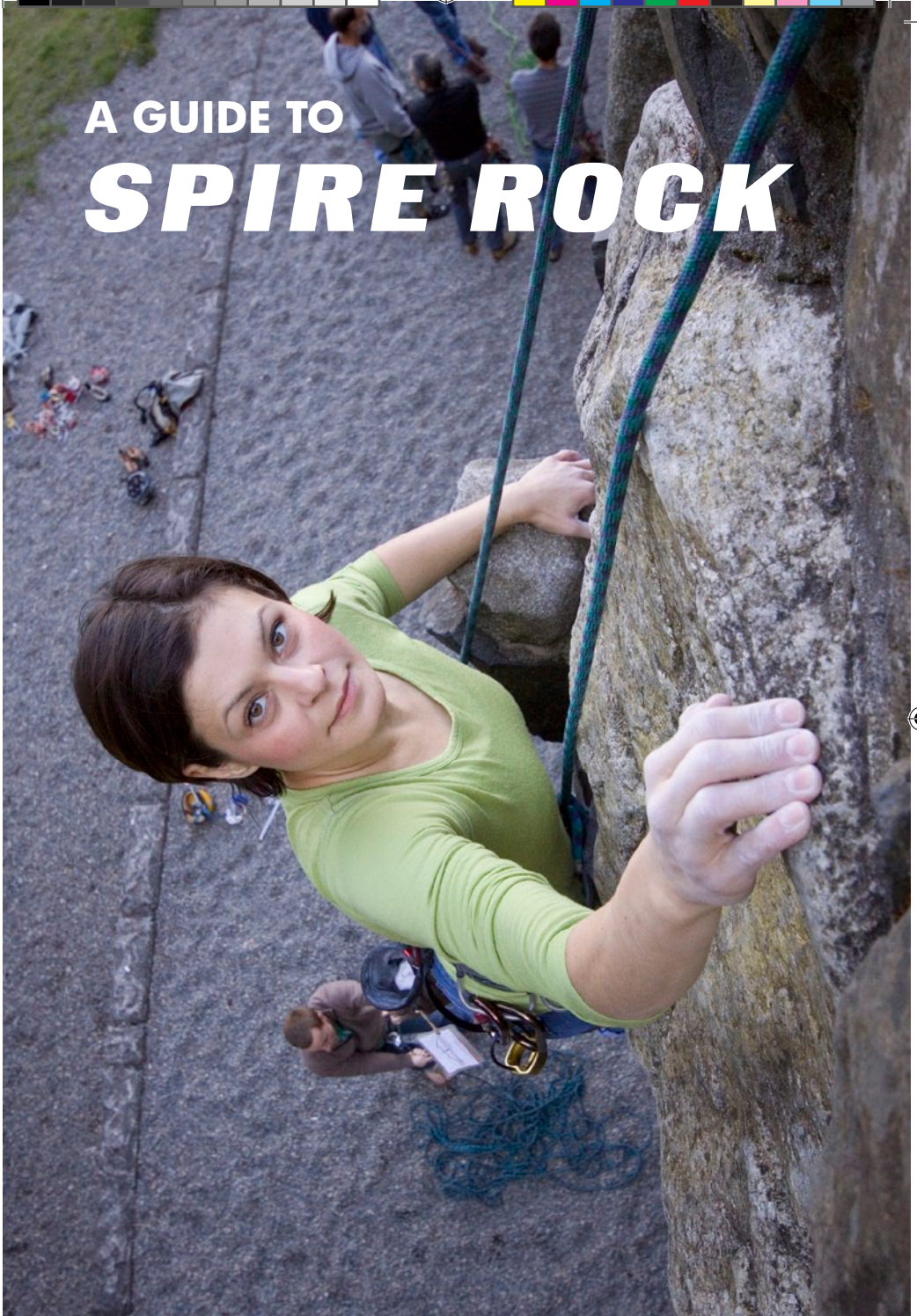




A GUIDE TO ***SPIRE ROCK***



Mark Webster & Jim Phillips





GETTING THERE

Spire Rock is located at Sprinker Recreation Center in South Tacoma (WA), just East of McChord Airforce Base.

Spire Rock is a Pierce County Parks and Recreation facility.
For official information about Spire visit this website:
<http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/PC/services/recreate/spirerock.htm>

If that address doesn't work, google: "spire rock sprinker".



A GUIDE TO

SPIRE ROCK

By Mark Webster and Jim Phillips

Spire Rock was built by volunteers who spent many long hours working on the project. Although many people and organizations put time and material into Spire Rock, Wayne Cooke was the main man behind every phase of planning, organizing and construction. Without his perseverance we would still be driving to Camp Long or climbing local buildings.
Thanks Wayne!

The most commonly asked question around Spire Rock is "How hard is it?" referring to the difficulty of a route. This book was written to answer that question and to give some examples of routes and their difficulties.

No effort has been made to describe the specific moves needed to complete a route. It is more interesting and rewarding if you figure the route out for yourself. The routes were rated by a number of active climbers who have climbed in many different areas across the United States.

Ratings are for routes tried on sight, without coaching and are not applicable when climbed with a tight top rope. Because of the compact nature of a constructed rock such as Spire, the ratings of most routes can be changed by just using different holds or techniques. Remember that these routes are not exactly the same as one finds in the mountains. On real rock, there are complicating factors such as exposure, lack of protection, weather and dehydration (to name a few) that may make any given move seem much harder than here at Spire Rock.

WARNING! Climbing is a dangerous sport and may injure or kill you. If you need to be totally safe, go back to your TV. If you want to learn to climb safe, take a class or find a mentor. Anyone using information from this book does so at their own risk.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to: Jim Phillips for the text from the first edition of this book; Larry Trudeau and Max for the information on, and the demonstrations of the boulder traverses; Vladi Cederman and Kyle Smith for helping with, and posing for the photography; the Tacoma Mountaineers for the training and the friends; www.edgeworkscimbing.com for a place to climb indoors when it's raining at Spire.

Climb safe! Mark Webster, www.websterart.com

SOUTH WALL

1.

The Overhang
go over the center of the roof

5.7
2.

Lieback Crack
Using the crack and any footholds
Lieback all the way
Jamming hands and feet (no face holds)

5.4
5.7
5.9
3.

Dog Route

4th class
4.

Rolling Stone Buttress

5.6
5.

Rolling Stone Chimney
Face climb using back wall chimney only

5.4
5.8+
6.

Rolling Stone Right Buttress

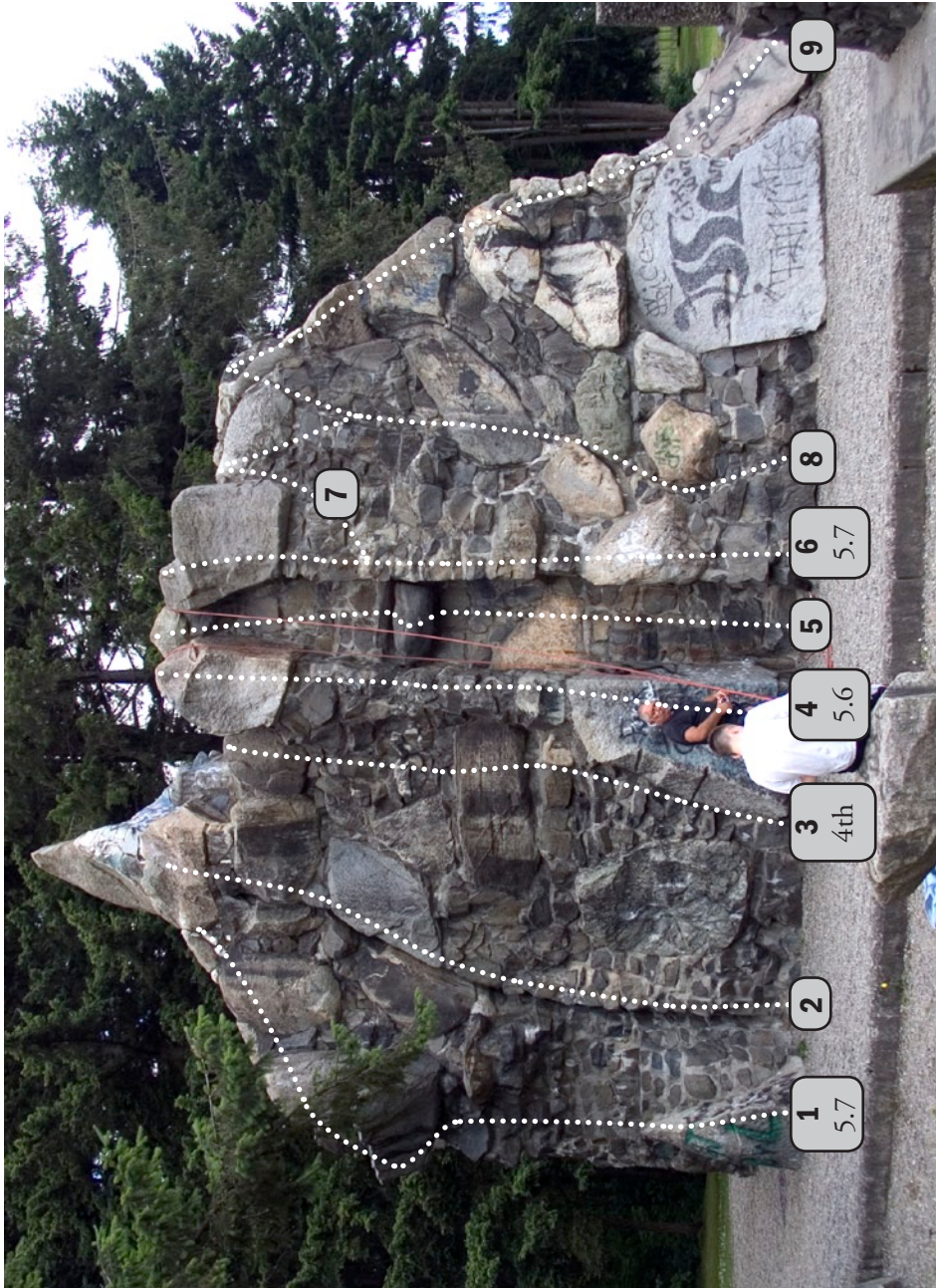
5.7
7.

Deception Variation

5.6
8.

Garner Wall
Deception Variation

5.0
5.6





EAST WALL

9. Mountaineer Rib 5.0
Good no hands route
10. Troglodyte Delight
No skill required
Good place for rappel practice
11. Sunrise Buttress 5.0



NORTH WALL

The routes between The Horn and Classic Crack are all in the 5.4 to 5.6 range whether face or crack climbs.

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|------|
| 12. | The Horn | 5.4 |
| 13. | Strawberry Jam Crack | 5.6 |
| 14. | Strawberry Face | 5.4 |
| 15. | Vanishing Crack | 5.6 |
| 16. | Half Crack | 5.6 |
| 17. | Classic Crack | 5.4 |
| 18. | Monkey Mantle | 5.7 |
| | Go directly over small roof | |
| 19. | Out and Up | 5.8+ |
| 20. | The Archway | 5.9 |
| 21. | Central Pillar of Frenzy | 5.8 |
| | Several bouldering starts | |
| 22. | The Rack (using corner) | 5.8 |
| | Without corner hold | 5.8+ |





WEST WALL OF TOWER

The Bouldering Area on Spire Rock

23.	River Rock Corner Left side using corner holds	5.8
24.	Speedi-Lube Left side without corner holds	5.10
25.	Crisco Slab	5.9
26.	Grand Central Direct	5.10
27.	Gargoyle	5.7
33.	Chimney face of main rock	5.0 5.4
34.	Green Slime Directly over granite boulder	5.6 5.7
35.	Cookies Try underclings only - -	5.4



SOUTH TOWER WALL

28.

Finger Crack
Hands and toes in crack

5.9
29.

Elbow Delight
Right arm in

Right side in using crack only
no face holds

Left arm in

Left Side in using crack only
no face holds
There is a 5.7 face climb right of the finger crack
Pine Cone
if you are under 5' 11"

5.7
5.8
5.8
5.9+
30.

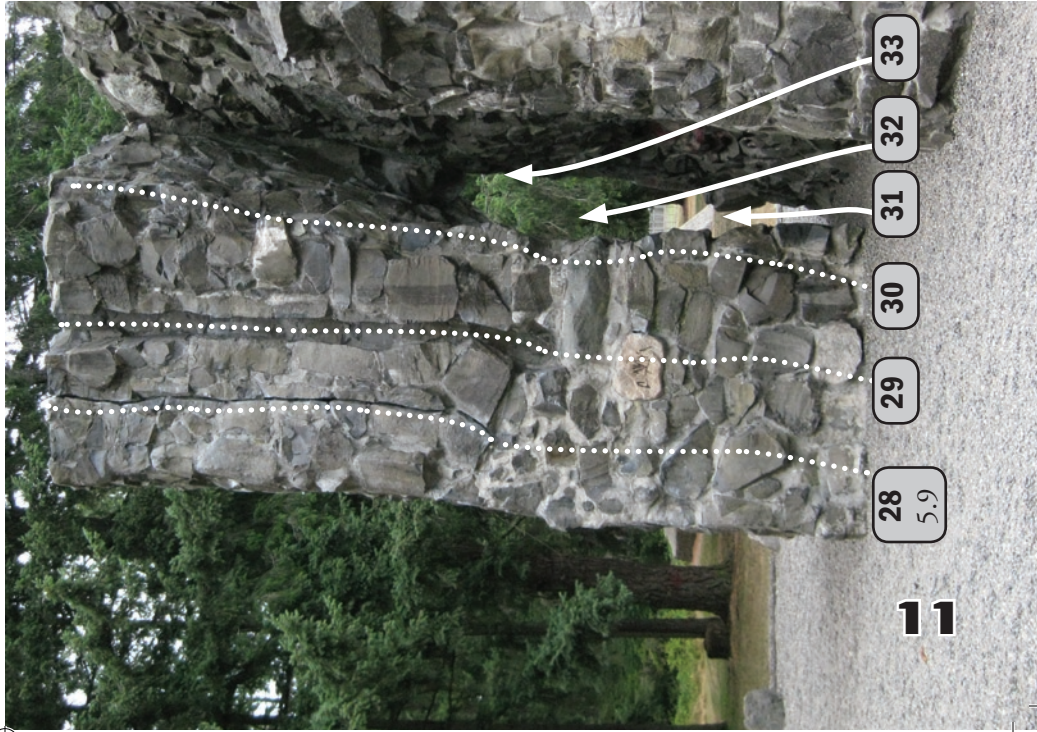
Shades of Gray
Inside face using left corner

5.10
31.

Inside Passage
Inside wall using face holds only, without
touching back wall

Chimney
Face of main rock

5.11
5.0
5.4





Larry Trudeau on The Rack



Larry Trudeau on The Archway



Andy demonstrates anchor techniques to a class of Tacoma Mountaineers

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The X's Traverse

On the North side of Spire you can find a series of X marks on the rocks that are about as far as you can reach apart. The idea is to hand traverse using only the rocks marked with an X. The feet can be placed anywhere. Also you are supposed to alternate hands. In other words, if you start on the West end of the North side with right hand on the first rock with an X and the left hand on the second rock with an X, the right hand then goes to the third rock with an X and so on all across the North face. The X marked rocks are all about eye level. The route can be done from West to East or East to West. It can also be traversed in the same directions but starting with the opposite hand which then gives you a total of four different routes to traverse. Thanks to Larry Trudeau for explaining and demonstrating the **X's Traverse**.

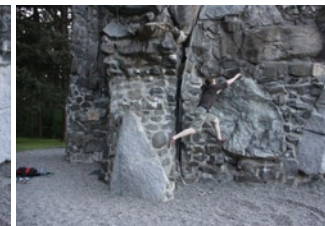
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Seven Continents Traverse

This boulder problem involves some long reaches, or challenging jumps. You must keep both hands and feet on the seven large boulders shown. A rope is advisable to make the move onto the last and highest boulder.

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Spire Rock has attracted many “locals” over the years. On a sunny afternoon in spring of ‘09, it was ‘Max’ showing me the moves of the **Seven Continents** traverse. He had it wired nicely, with the exception of the last move, which he said would be safer with a rope.



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Vladi comes to grips with Crisco Slab while Kyle belays



Andy, from www.edgeworkscimbing.com demonstrates a trad anchor..

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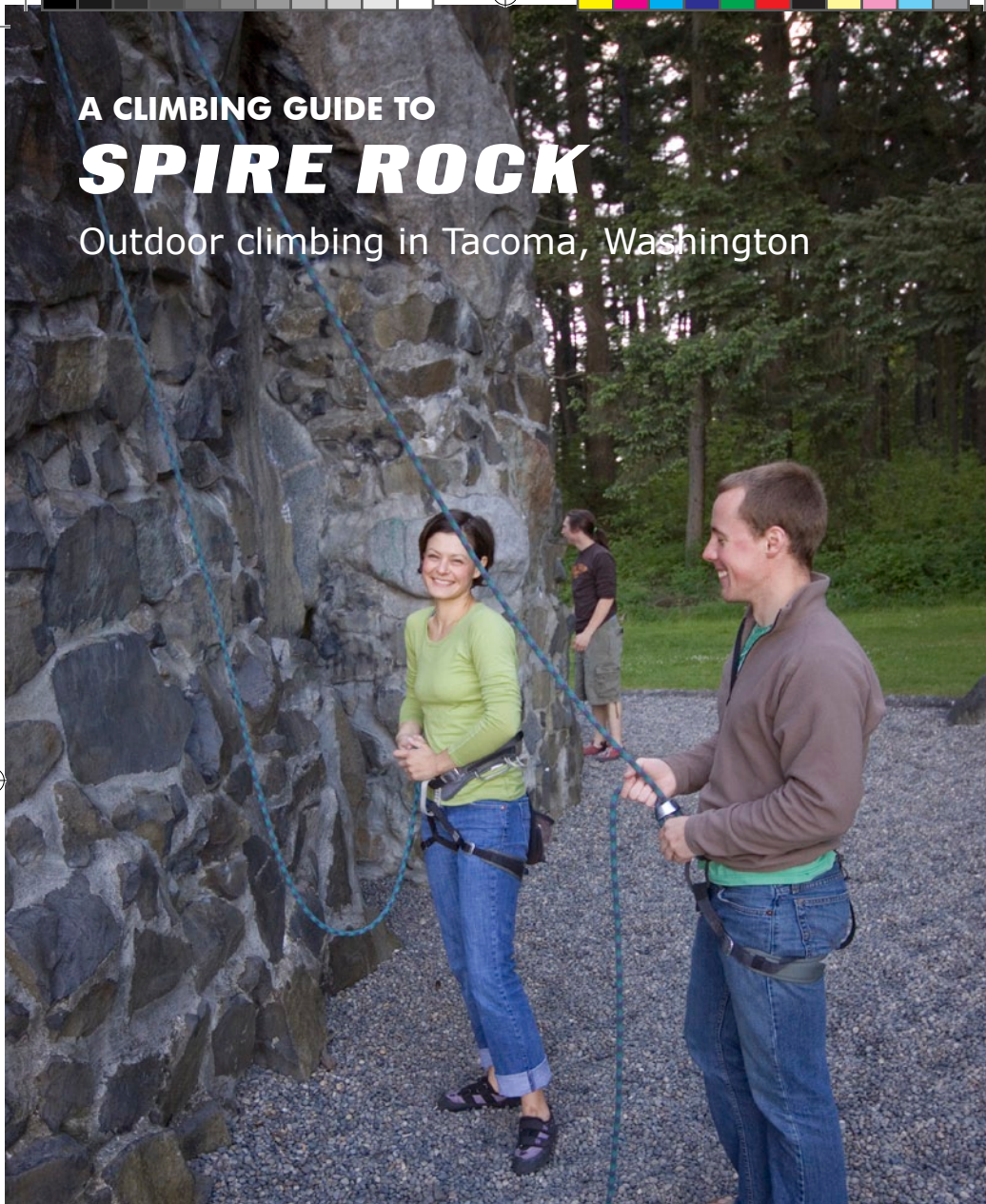
The Tacoma Mountaineers make frequent use of Spire Rock for training purposes. Here Mark Lemon and Marty Babare examine an old cam.



A CLIMBING GUIDE TO

SPIRE ROCK

Outdoor climbing in Tacoma, Washington



Spire Rock is a great place to go to learn some basic rock climbing skills. It's owned and managed by Pierce County Parks and Recreation and is located at the Sprinker Recreation Center in South Tacoma just East of McChord Airforce Base. Spire Rock is open to the public, and it's free. You will need some training if you plan to use ropes, but many people go there just for the bouldering problems, several of which are described in this book.

