

# FROG ROCK EAST FACE

Anchors for crux notch traverse on "Frogback"

xx xx

"Dark Side" Routes  
see page 2

Jabba's Jingus Joyride 5.9  
(no anchor yet)

Start of Frogback Traverse

Frogback Traverse  
chimney pitch exit  
& belay tree

Virga 5.11d

Approach Hike

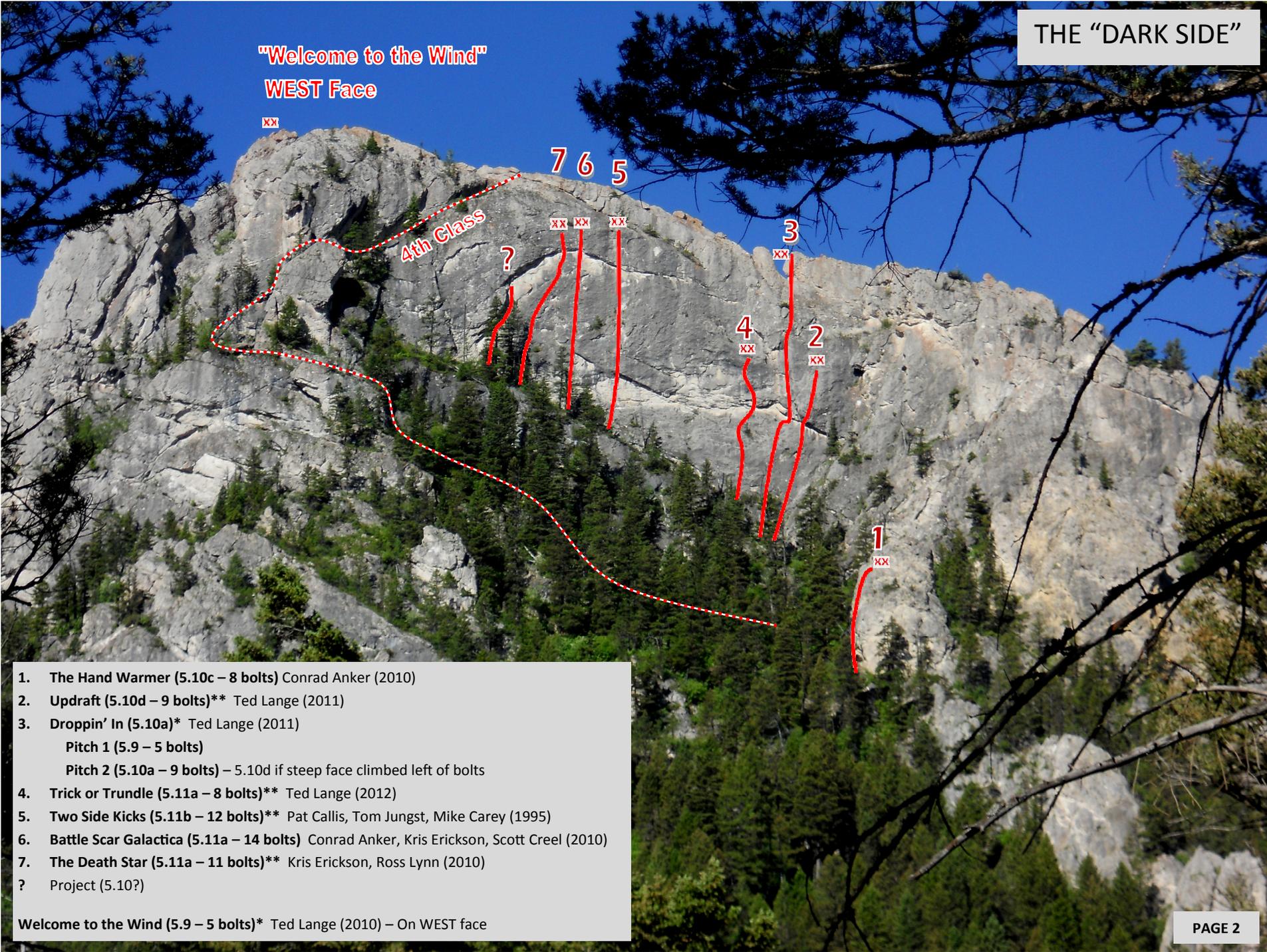
Alternate Approach

**Approach** – Dotted line indicates gully behind formation in foreground  
**Alternate Approach** – Actually traverses much lower on slope than shown here

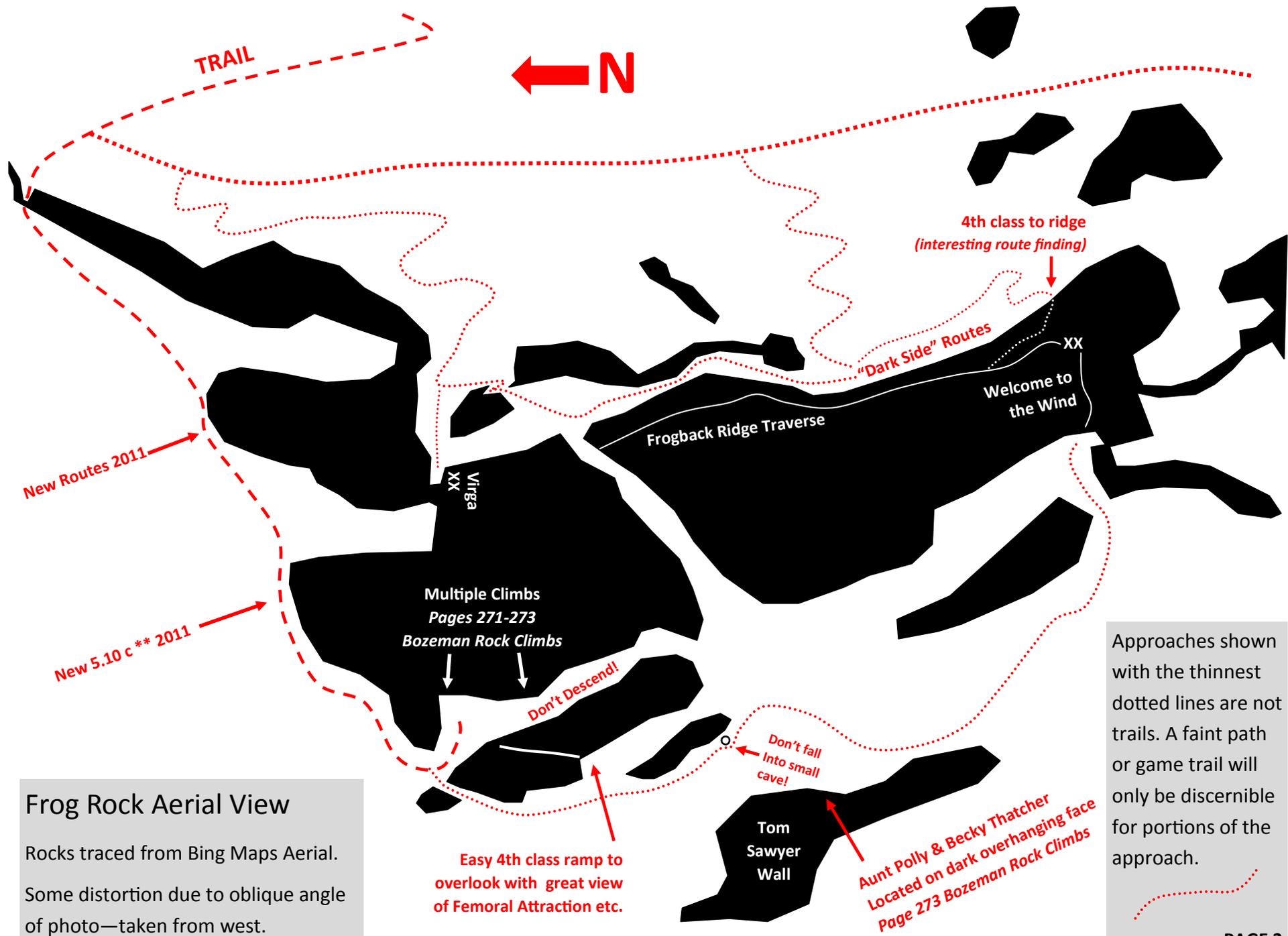
**Virga (5.11d)\*** Bill Dockins, Kristen Drumheller (June 1990)  
Access is from this approach.  
See Page 270 of Bozeman Rock Climbs 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

**Frogback Traverse (skyline ridge traverse) 5.7\*\*\*** See detailed description on Page 4  
**Jabba's Jingus Joyride (5.9 – 8 bolts)** Ted Lange (2011)

"Welcome to the Wind"  
WEST Face



- 1. **The Hand Warmer (5.10c – 8 bolts)** Conrad Anker (2010)
  - 2. **Updraft (5.10d – 9 bolts)\*\*** Ted Lange (2011)
  - 3. **Droppin' In (5.10a)\*** Ted Lange (2011)
    - Pitch 1 (5.9 – 5 bolts)
    - Pitch 2 (5.10a – 9 bolts) – 5.10d if steep face climbed left of bolts
  - 4. **Trick or Trundle (5.11a – 8 bolts)\*\*** Ted Lange (2012)
  - 5. **Two Side Kicks (5.11b – 12 bolts)\*\*** Pat Callis, Tom Jungst, Mike Carey (1995)
  - 6. **Battle Scar Galactica (5.11a – 14 bolts)** Conrad Anker, Kris Erickson, Scott Creel (2010)
  - 7. **The Death Star (5.11a – 11 bolts)\*\*** Kris Erickson, Ross Lynn (2010)
  - ? Project (5.10?)
- Welcome to the Wind (5.9 – 5 bolts)\*** Ted Lange (2010) – On WEST face



**Frog Rock Aerial View**  
 Rocks traced from Bing Maps Aerial.  
 Some distortion due to oblique angle  
 of photo—taken from west.

Approaches shown  
 with the thinnest  
 dotted lines are not  
 trails. A faint path  
 or game trail will  
 only be discernible  
 for portions of the  
 approach.

**PAGE 3**

## Access:

Start at the new (2010) Chestnut Mountain trailhead on Trail Creek Road, just a few hundred yards from the I-90 Trail Creek exit. The trailhead is about a 10 minute drive from the I-90 Bear Canyon exit. For a PDF map of the trail go to: [www.gvlt.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Chestnut-Mt-Map-Flyer.pdf](http://www.gvlt.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Chestnut-Mt-Map-Flyer.pdf)

Using a mountain bike for the approach is highly recommended – much more fun and much faster. The first mile is quite steep, but the rest of the approach is a great rollercoaster ride. Stash your bike just before the trail reaches the rocks – it's not rideable beyond this point anyway. This 2.1 mile section of the approach takes approximately 35 minutes by bike. Total elevation gain is 640 feet. Riding back out to the trailhead takes approximately 15 minutes.

To access the north and west-facing Frog Rock routes shown on Page 3, downclimb an eight-foot rock step and continue on the main trail.

To access the Dark Side routes, about 30 feet before the main trail drops over the rock step, switchback left up the slope following a fairly obvious path. As shown on Pages 1 and 3, there are a couple options from here. The higher approach takes you past all the routes on the east side of Frog Rock. It also takes you exactly where you want to go with very little guesswork. This approach climbs 540 feet in 0.2 miles and should take about 20 minutes without stopping once you know the way. The route labeled "Alternative Approach" on Page 1 traverses the slope on a narrow path from which you can hike directly up to the base of the Dark Side Wall. However, it is not obvious where to turn uphill and it is easy overshoot the turn. Also, note that this path actually traverses much lower than shown on the Page 1 photo. If you continue on the low traverse it will eventually take you to one of the larger spires where more new route activity is occurring.

Note that the ledge accessing routes 5-7 (Page 2) seems improbable at first, but it steadily widens as you scramble higher, and these climbs all have wonderfully flat, spacious belay platforms. Unfortunately this is not the case for routes 2-4.

## Routes (Described from right to left / north to south):

### Frogback Traverse (skyline ridge traverse) 5.7\*\*\*

This route gets three stars because it's a unique and highly scenic outing with a fun alpine feel. It's also a great outing for beginners and kids who have some prior experience and are comfortable with exposure.

**Pitch 1** (4<sup>th</sup> class) – Climb into the big notch between the lower and upper sections of the Frog Rock formation. This should be no problem for confident scramblers, but kids and some beginners should be roped.

**Pitch 2** (5.4) – Climb chimney from notch – mostly 4<sup>th</sup> class with 30 ft of fun 5<sup>th</sup> class to exit. Protect with medium cams. Near the top of the chimney, exit left/east on good rock with orange lichen to access great belay ledge with tree shown on Page 1 inset photo. Do NOT finish straight up through loose chockstones at top of chimney.

**Pitch 3** (5.7) – Scramble or simul-climb the ridge to the small notch and anchor at the top of "Droppin' In". Downclimb or lower into the notch and traverse on the east face, past one bolt to a small ledge with an anchor. Belay here or continue up to a big ledge and belay from cordelette/cams. The crux of this pitch is the downclimb into the notch (difficulty is height-dependent—stemming across), so the strongest climber should go last. Kids and beginners should be belayed from both sides.

**Finish** (4<sup>th</sup> class) – Scramble or simul-climb to the "Welcome to the Wind" anchor and rappel off the top of the west face.

**Descent** (shown on Page 3) – It is easiest to follow game trails west of the rock formations, looking for the easiest spot to angle back toward Frog Rock above the Tom Sawyer Wall. There are a couple of options when you reach the area at the top of two gullies and below the big notch where the Pitch 2 chimney starts. Experienced climbers/scramblers will be comfortable going back through the big notch and downclimbing Pitch 1. Do NOT descend the steep gully above Femoral Attraction etc. – exposed downclimbing and potential for knocking rocks on climbers and hikers below. Instead, stay left of the rock formations that form the gullies and watch for a narrow slot through the cliff west of Frog Rock, directly across the gully from the base of Servus (classic 5.10—not shown here).

**Bailing from the Ridge** – Thunder storms can come in fast, so the anchors at either end of Pitch 3 are positioned so that you can rappel with minimal risk of your rope getting stuck. All rappelling options require two rappels if you have a single 60 meter rope. From the south anchor, rappel to the Trick or Trundle anchor. From the north anchor, rappel to the Updraft anchor. From the north anchor you can also rappel the west face using a tree on a large ledge for the second rappel.

### **Jabba's Jingus Joyride (5.9 – 8 bolts)** Ted Lange (2011)

Shown on Page 1, this route was created to provide an alternative to the chimney for the start to the Frogback Traverse. It tops out at the nice ledge and belay tree at the top of the Frogback chimney pitch. There is currently no anchor. There is potential for several more moderate routes both left and right of this one.

### **Dark Side Wall** *(shown on Page 2)*

#### **1. The Hand Warmer (5.10c – 8 bolts)** Conrad Anker (Fall 2010)

Located on the south face of a little tower about 50 yards downhill of the base of the Dark Side wall. An overhanging boulder problem starts with fun moves on ugly rock leads to better rock higher up. Relax and let the toothy nodules lining the crack gently embrace your fingers and you might get through the crux without bloodshed.

#### **2. Updraft (5.10d – 9 bolts)\*\*** Ted Lange (Fall 2011)

Updraft's bottom section below the big overhang (5.9 – 5 bolts) can be climbed to the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch anchor on Droppin' In. The runout from the top bolt to the anchor may be a little sporty, but the climbing appears easy. This variation hasn't been climbed yet.

The crux overhang goes at 5.10d if climbed left of the bolts. There appears to be a much harder variation right of the bolts – maybe hard 5.11 or 5.12? This variation has not been seriously attempted yet (or fully cleaned). Above the overhang, climb directly up and right of the bolts for a challenging slab crux, or climb an easier variation left of the bolts, traversing into the anchor from the left and clipping a bolt that otherwise appears random. This bolt was going to be part of the anchor until I realized there was a much better place to put the anchor.

#### **3. Droppin' In (5.10a)\*** Ted Lange (Summer 2011)

Pitch 1 (5.9 – 5 bolts) Overall this pitch is good quality, but it starts on rock that would not take a solid bolt, so the first clip is a threaded loop of blue Kevlar cord that should prevent a tumbling fall if a hold were to break in the first 15 feet of easy climbing.

Pitch 2 (5.10a – 9 bolts) Step right through the overhang then continue up a section of good rock (climb the steep face left of the bolts for a 5.10d crux), followed by a dirty, low-angled scramble to the notch. From here there are several options for climbing the final 20 feet of steep rock to the ridge. The easiest options are to climb straight up past a single bolt and the anchor on the north side of the notch, or traverse left to the anchor on the south side (not visible from notch). For full value, stay right on fun overhanging rock, clipping two bolts before pulling onto the ridge about 10 feet right/north of the notch (5.10b).

To rappel, follow the directions for "bailing from the ridge" under the Frogback Traverse route description (Page 4). Note that the north anchor is NOT intended to be a hanging belay. It is located so that ropes will pull smoothly. Belay from a comfortable seat on top of the ridge (there are lots of features to loop cordelette around).

#### **4. Trick or Trundle (5.11a – 8 bolts) \*\*** Ted Lange (Halloween Day, 2012)

Pitch 1 (5.11a – 8 bolts) An exciting line through the big black bulge mid-way up the wall. Climb through a small bulge (5.9), then continue left of a small tree to the first overhang. Climb the overhang right of the bolt (difficulty is height-dependent) – note that if the key hold breaks the route will probably switch to a harder variation left of the bolt – an option that hasn't been tried or cleaned. Above the first overhang reach up and right to good holds, then work back left to clip the next bolt. At the final bulge, pick whichever treat looks sweetest – you can climb left or right of the final bolt. Both options are tasty but have very different flavors.

Pitch 2 (5.10a?) **NOT BOLTED YET.** Maybe summer 2013? Looks like it will be pretty good quality slab/face climbing on clean rock with a crux at a small bulge near the top.

5. **Two Side Kicks (5.11b – 12 bolts)\*\*** Pat Callis, Tom Jungst, Mike Carey (1995)

As you scramble up the approach ledge, this climb's third bolt is easy to spot in solid black rock in the big overhang that stretches across most of the face. This is a great climb with two interesting overhang cruxes. A 60-meter rope gets you back down to the first bolt with rope stretch. From there it's easy to downclimb to the ledge.

6. **Battle Scar Galactica (5.11a – 14 bolts)** Conrad Anker, Kris Erickson, Scott Creel (Summer 2010)

Start below a left-facing corner, at the left end of the long overhang at the first belay platform you encounter.

Climb a long slab up to the distant overhang crux. A 60-meter rope gets you to the ground if you pendulum left at the bottom.

7. **The Death Star (5.11a – 11 bolts)\*\*** Kris Erickson, Ross Lynn (Summer 2010)

Start from a big belay platform with a tree. Climb good black rock up through the overhang high above.

A 60-meter rope reaches the ground.

? **Project (5.10?)** Conrad Anker

## **West Side High Point & South End** *(anchors shown on Pages 2 & 3)*

### **Welcome to the Wind (5.9 – 5 bolts)\*** Ted Lange (2010)

A short, steep pocket pulling climb in a spectacular location. The climb itself probably isn't worth the hike, but the location is. However, there is potential for several more routes in this area so there may eventually be enough climbing here to justify the slog.

**South End** – The south end of Frog Rock looks like it would be worth some exploration. It could potentially offer some long, spectacular routes – or it may be too chossy. Note that it would be an interesting challenge to access the base of any south end routes. They would probably need to be accessed by hiking down and around from Welcome to the Wind.

**More New Routes** – As noted in the access description on Page 4, if you continue on the "Alternate Approach" trail shown on Page 1 you will eventually get to one of the larger spires where more new route activity is occurring. The routes may or may not be completed and are reportedly in the 5.10a range.