



Big Wall Climbing

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What is a Big Wall?



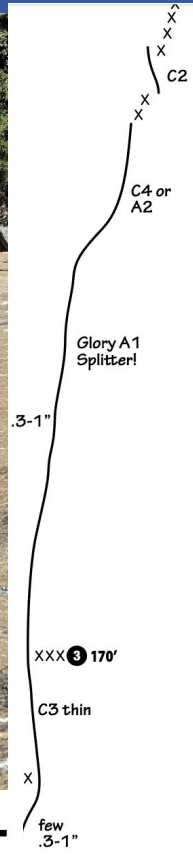
It's big
Most parties take multiple days
Involves unique systems
Most originally climbed with aid
It's a matter of opinion

What is Aid Climbing?

Basics and Aid Ratings



Laughing at the Void VI 5.7 C4 or A2+



Why climb Big Walls?

Skills and experience

The Walls!

Adventure and partnership

You have an affinity for sweating



New Dawn finish

Big Wall Systems and Learning

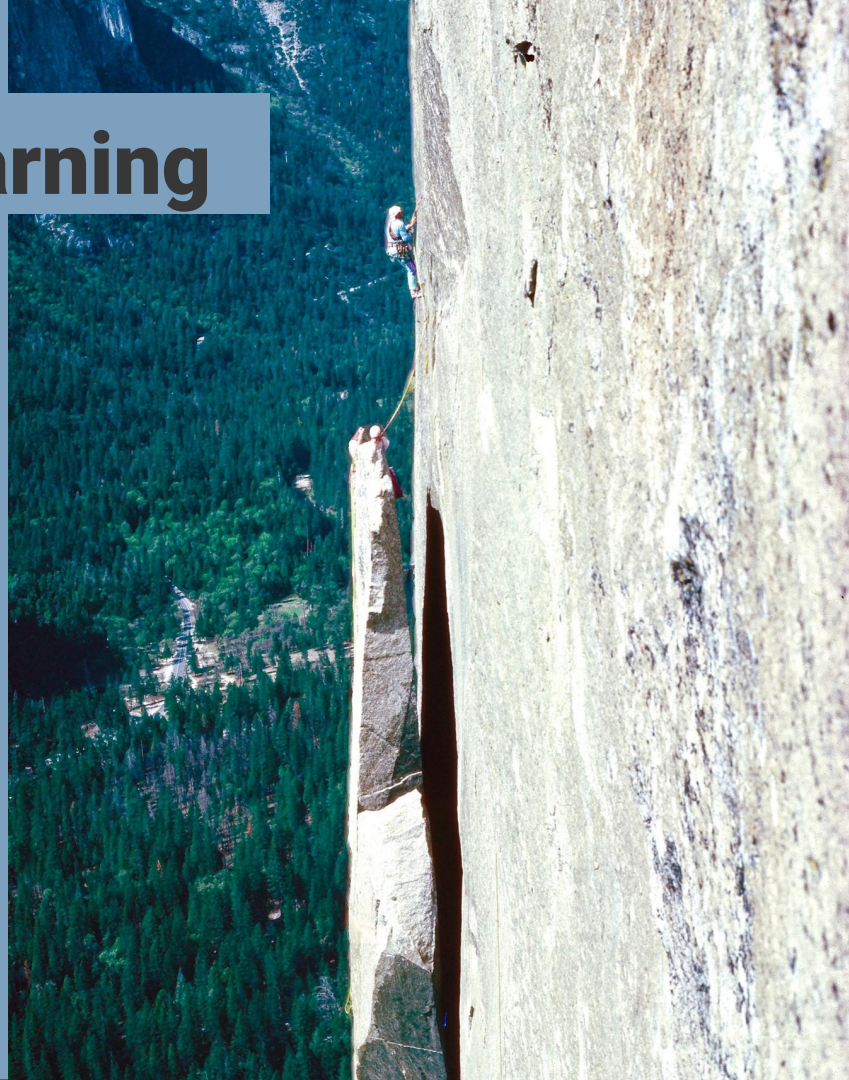
Leading and Following

Hauling and Docking

Living on a Wall

Descent, Self Rescue, Retreat,
Staying Alive

Picking a Route and Route Strategy



Leading



Efficiency, safety, gear mgmt, anchors



Leading Harder Aid



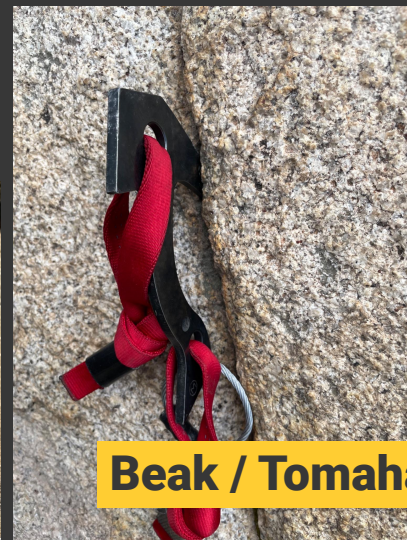
Hook



Cam Hook



C3+ in Yosemite
Many routes are climbed clean



Beak / Tomahawk



Copperhead

Hauling



*Pre-rigged
haul kit*



Space Hauling

Many skills and techniques for hauling



Main bag

Ledge

Mini bag

Waste bag

Following



Efficiency, Safety/Rope Mgmt, Trickery

Staying Organized Minimizing Clusters Keeping your Stoke Avoiding a Stroke

**A Partial Anchor
Separated and Organized Ropes
Nothing Pinned
Backups in Place
Ready for Next Leader
Haul Bag on same side as next pitch**

...



Living on a Wall

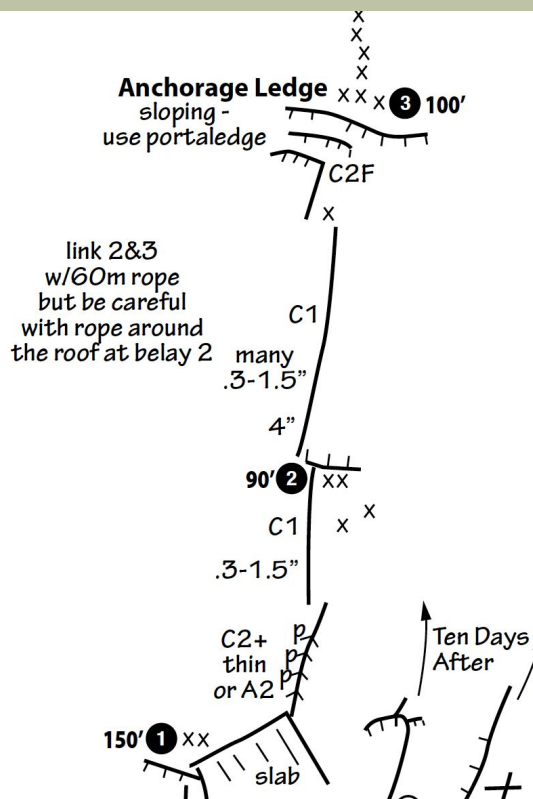


Descent, Retreat, Staying Alive



Plan your descent, know how to go down, respect the weather

Picking a Route / Topos



Rack:

3 Beaks: 1 ea #2
2 ea #3

Nuts: 2 ea micro

1 ea regular

Cams: 3 ea .3 - 1.25"

2 ea 1.5" - 4"

1 ea 5"

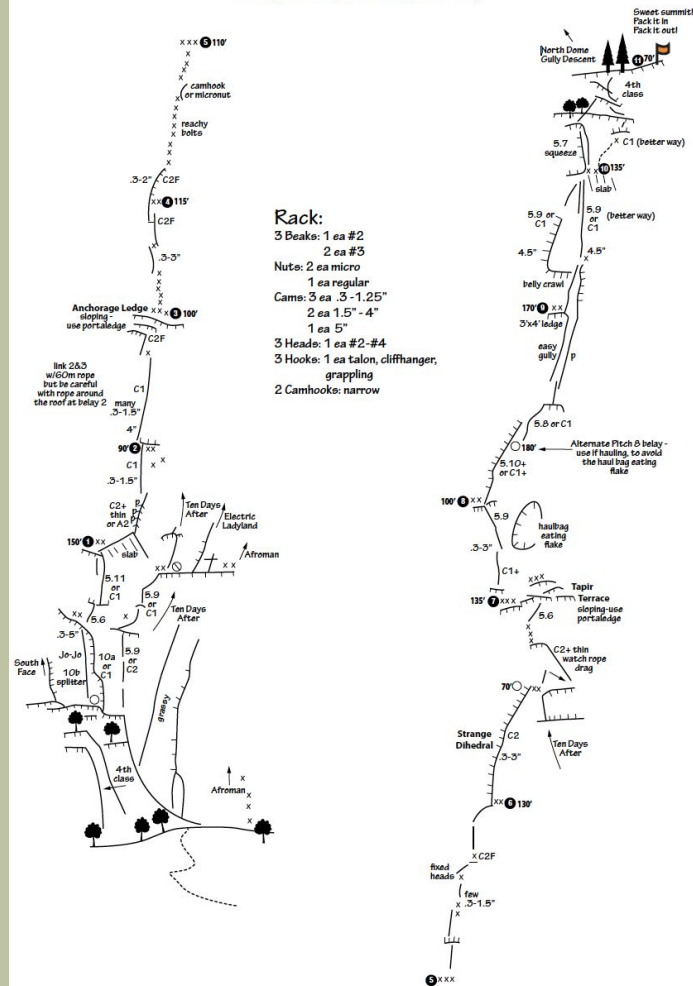
3 Heads: 1 ea #2-#4

3 Hooks: 1 ea talon, cliffhanger,
grappling

2 Camhooks: narrow

The Prow V 5.6 A2 or C2+

FA: May 1969 - Royal Robbins, Glen Denny



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Route Strategy



How much gear?
Fixing pitches
Assigning pitches / blocks
Speed / How Many Days?
Bivy sites
Descent
Permits
Options / Weather / Season

Learning and Succeeding

Books - Higher Education, Hooking Up, Guidebooks

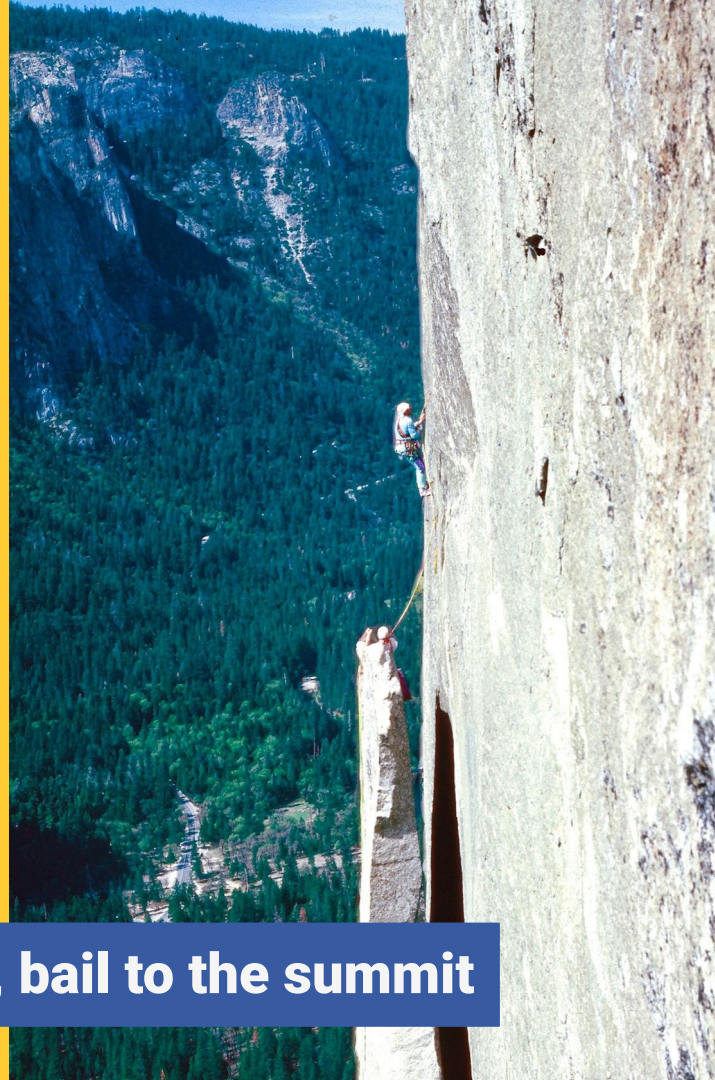
**Websites - alpinesavvy.com, bigwalls.com,
hudonpanos.com, elcapreport.com, others**

Guide Services - mirandaoakley.com, others

Find a Mentor

Practice, Practice, Practice

When things go sideways, bail to the summit



Suggested Practice Crags & Climbs on Lemmon

- **It Crack (excellent C1 aid practice)**
- **Agatha Christie Direct (goes at 5.6 C1, with an optional top rope)**
- **English Breakfast Crack (Sunspots, 5.7 C1)**
- **Crags against Humanity (hauling, logistics practice, portaledge practice, Moral Ambiguity goes at 5.7 C1 w/ bolts for backup)**
- **If I Only Had a Brain (Munchkinland, goes at C1+ with gear, bolts and a few hook moves)**
- **The Bill (Goosehead 5.6 C0 bolt ladder roof, epic portaledge camp)**
- **Aid bouldering**



Pic: Will Sharp

Thank you! Questions?

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Slides available at theclimbershome.org

