

h-oh. Guess I'll have to use a different pocket."
I withdraw my hand and watch the black widow creep farther back into the hole. A little higher I pause to scratch what I think is poison oak, only to discover a tick has embedded itself in my neck.

"I'm sweating so much my chalk's like mud on the holds!"

There's no response from Todd. Glancing down, I see what looks like a scene from *The Swarm* surrounding his head. He doesn't look happy. A little higher I grease off a sloper. Now I'm not happy.

"Jeezus, now I've gotta do this again! Whoever said you could climb in Santa Barbara in the summer musta' been drunk!"

When I moved here a few years ago, local climbing had stagnated. I heard the area was "climbed out," that there was "nothing good left to do." Locals seemed happy to repeat T-Crack over and over. A friend from Switzerland, however, couldn't believe it.

"Look at all this rock!" he mused. "There must be some good routes."
But I didn't look. Like most locals, I hit the road every weekend. Then
Pat Briggs discovered the Green Dome. A few lines went in, some classic.
Dave Griffith's Quartz Crystal (12d) is still a brilliant testpiece. The Green
Dome got everyone psyched for the local possiblities, but apparently not
enough. Soon it was the same as it ever was.

Last winter, a trip to the Green Dome changed my perspective. The trail was overgrown and all the routes had cobwebs on them. No one had been there in ages. Many good lines were untouched and obviously no one else was doing them. I enlisted the help of Todd Mei and soon there were 20 routes with at least one of every grade between 5.9 and 5.13.

Carl Jung spoke of the "collective unconscious." I don't think this is what he was referring to, exactly, but somehow, after years of stagnation, new routes were being done all at once, by different people, in different areas, all around Santa Barbara. While Todd and I were busy at the Green Dome, longtime activists Briggs and Tony Becchio finished the Toxic Waste Wall near Gibraltar Rock, then took on the arduous task of developing Cold Springs Falls. Concurrently, Randy Judycki and Mike Colley were working on the Fire Crags, and Stuart Ruckman, the Theology Crag. Then John Perlin walked into my shop and asked to borrow my drill....

"You've gotta check out the crag I found today!" has been John's incessant greeting over the last six months. The Acropolis and Project Earthwatch are just two of his discoveries. We have so many areas to develop, we'll be busy for years. John's infectious enthusiasm never lets me relax. He's constantly giving me a hard time about "getting to work," and I'm spending more time and money on first ascents than on my own business. His work, too, must be suffering as he heeds his own cry of: "I can't be doing this, I've got routes to redpoint."

The number of good-quality sport climbs in the area has probably tripled in the last year, with much still to be done. The climbing varies from slabby to steep and the majority of climbing is fitness oriented. The rock quality is not always so great, but the view usually is. Climbers after moderates should head for the Fire Crags or the Gibraltar area, whilst the honemasters won't want ot miss the Acropolis and the Green Dome. With a little work and traffic, the Brickyard could become one of the best bouldering spots in the West and in a wet year like this, it's worth the hike to Cold Springs Falls for the scenery alone.

As for the best route in Santa Barbara, my vote is Ruckman's awesome Stealing Fire (12d), but I'm sure many would argue for Perlin's The Odyssey (12c) or Phil Requist's Triple Linkup (12b). Those who don't climb as hard may feel The Rapture (9), The Soul (11b), Dancing Fingers (10d) or even T-Crack (10a) might deserve this title.

I shouldn't have to say much about the local amenities. I mean, geez, we even have our own soap opera. But I should mention the fact that Santa Barbara is the burrito capital of the world. Cuca's and Freebirds are two of the best burrito spots. The other essential would be coffee. Try the Santa Barbara Roasting company (voted "the best place to be seen"), Cafe Roma, the Green Dragon or Java Jones. For gear, it's Mountain Air Sports, but for local info, try Great Pacific Iron Works or Just Another @#*&! Video. Just Another @#*&! Video has an updated guide, so bring your first-ascent information here, especially for the Brickyard. For camping, all of East Camino Cielo is national forest land and camping is allowed. The climbing season is year 'round, but for a pleasurable experience, you may want to skip the summer. The third annual Masters of Plastic bouldering competition is on May 8 at UCSB, so come on up and check out the area. You can stay at my place.

- 1. Mountain Air Sports, 14 State St., (805) 962-0049.
- 2. Santa Barbara Roasting Co., 321 Motor Way.
- 3. Great Pacific Iron Works, 1114 State St.
- 4. Cuca's, Micheltorena & 101.
- 5. Espresso Roma Cafe, 888 Embarcadero Del Norte, IV; 728 State St., SB.
- 6. Freebirds World Burrito, 879 Embarcadero Del Norte, IV.
- 7. Just Another @#*&! Video Shop, 900 Embarcadero Del Mar, IV, (805) 968-7227.
- 8. Java Jones, across from Just Another @#*&! Video.
- 9. Green Dragon, 22 W. Mission.

Notes on the ratings:

PG= Not well-protected.

R= Long-fall potential.

X= A fall would very likely result in serious injury or death.

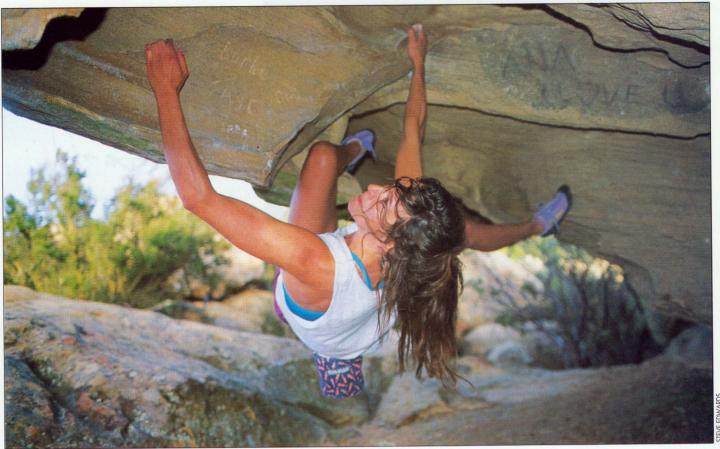
If a route does not have the above "seriousness ratings," it doesn't mean that it's perfectly safe.



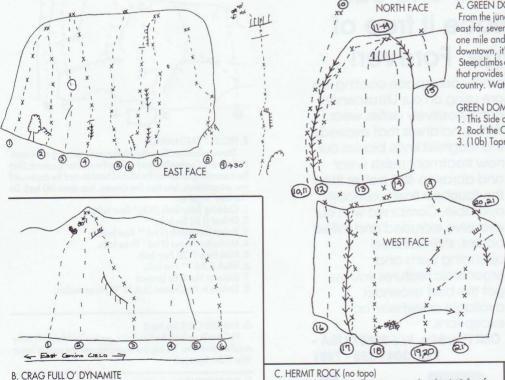
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SARA MUNRO PARTWAY ALONG THE BOULDER PROBLEM, MEILEE (V3), NEAR THE LIZARD'S MOUTH



B. CRAG FULL O' DYNAMITE

Roadcut on the way to Green Dome. Rock quality is not so great, but you can't beat the approach. Well-protected, north-facing and cool.

- For a Few Crystals More (9) Toprope.
 Fistfull of Crystals (8) Toprope.
- 3. The Good, the Bad and the Ugly (10b) * Seven bolts.
- 4. Unknown (7) Toprope.
- 5. Arch Stanton (7) Toprope.
 6. The Ecstacy of Gold (8) * Four bolts.

A. GREEN DOME

From the junction of Gibraltar Road and East Camino Cielo, head east for seven miles until the road turns to dirt. Go approximately one mile and park on the left, where you can see the crag. From downtown, it's a 40-minute drive and five-minute hike.

Steep climbs on blue schist, which is quite different from the sandstone that provides most of the region's climbing. Excellent view of condor country. Watch for poison oak and rattlesnakes.

GREEN DOME - EAST FACE

- 1. This Side of Paradise (10c) * Four bolts.
- Rock the Casbah (9) * Four bolts.
- 3. (10b) Toprope.

 - 4. Piece of the Action (10b) ** Six bolts.
 5. Metamorphosis (10a, PG) * Five bolts.
 6. Environmental (10b, PG) ** Four bolts.
 7. Dancing Fingers (10d) *** Five bolts.
 8. Arachnoid Arete (11b, R) Five bolts.

 - 9. For the World Is Hollow and I Have Touched the Sky (11b) * Eight bolts.

GREEN DOME - NORTH FACE

- 10. What Have You Done With Spock's Brain? (9) Four bolts.
- 11. Looking for Spock's Brain (9+) * Six bolts.
- 12. Patterns of Force (11d) ** Six bolts.
- 13. Macho Grande (12b) Toprope
- 14. Kingdom of the Green Light (11a) * Toprope.
- 15. Patriot Roof (10a) Toprope.

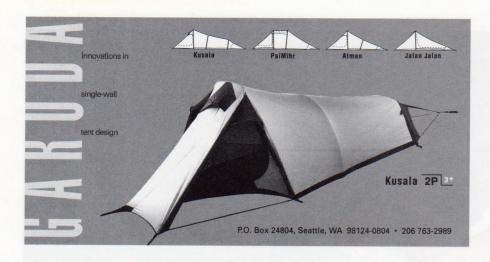
GREEN DOME - WEST FACE

- 16. (9) * Toprope. 17. That Which Survives (11c, PG) * Four bolts. 18. Stealing Fire (12d) ***
- 19. Quartz Crystal (12d) *** Seven bolts.
- 20. Monster in the Maze (12a) *** Five bolts.
- 21. Dagger of the Mind (12c) *** Four bolts.

1. Chunky Monkey (11+) *
2. Battle of the Bulge (10+) *

3. The Wind Beneath Her Wings (8) **

Just below Crag Full O' Dynamite lies this 140-foot face. Approach via the left gully. The three routes all need some pro or become R-rated. The rock is conglomerate and interesting to climb. From left to right:



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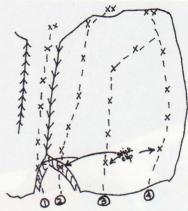
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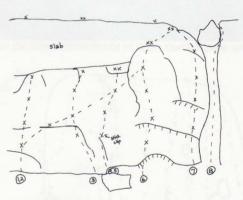
D. THE ACROPOLIS

From Gibraltar Rock/Camino Cielo junction, go west for 1.4 miles. (A view of the crag can be had by looking down the hill .2 miles before the turnoff.) Park in a large dirt turnout on the ocean side. Follow a faint trail down into the boulders, then scramble awhile. It's a five-minute approach if done correctly.

Steep, sustained fitness climbing. Gets a lot of sun, but Icarus and Bubba get afternoon shade.

- Jar of Mischief (11b) **Five bolts.
 The Odyssey (12c) *** Six bolts.
 Its carus Descending (12b) *** Five bolts.

- 4. Bubba Kneels Before Zeus (11d) *** Four bolts.



E. PROJECT EARTHWATCH

Stunning location. Some bouldering and toproping in the area. Park at La Cumbre Peak and walk up the road to the summit. Skirt the transmitting station on the left and head toward the ocean until you see goldshuts. Less than five minutes. Rap down (40 feet). Do 'Tankers" to get out.

- 1. Clubbing Baby Seals (10b) * Four bolts.
- 2. Driftnet (12c) Six bolts.
- 3. Project Earthwatch (11a) ** Four bolts.
- 4. Manhattan Project (11a) * Three bolts.
- 5. Mink Farm (12b) Four bolts.6. Work (13a) *** Five bolts.
- 7. Epoxy or Not to Be (project)
- 8. Tankers in the Channel (5.4, X) *** No protection.

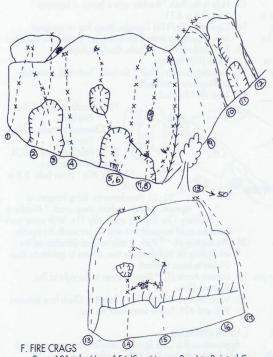
G. PAINTED CAVE (no topo)

Half a mile up from the Fire Crags are two boulders with many excellent problems. The big arete hanging over the road is Trojan War (12+, toprope).

H. THE BRICKYARD (no topo)

Turn left off Hwy. 154 at Kinevan Road. Go 3.4 miles to a turnout. There's a black fence with a road sign. Go past this, past a "No Shooting" sign and follow an easy trail (toward the ocean) for five minutes. Start exploring.

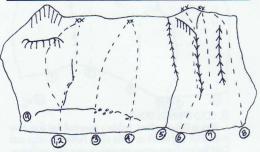
Like Painted Cave, but with 100 more boulders, the place has unlimited potential! Bring a wire brush and go to town!



From 101 take Hwy. 154 (San Marcos Pass) to Painted Cave Road. (You can see the crags from here.) Head uphill for .7 mile to a dirt turnout on the left. Follow a well-marked trail west for five minutes.

- 1. Europe Revisited (7) Two bolts.
- 2. Tester (9) Three bolts
- 3. Short Shot (7) Two bolts
- 4. Bent Brain (8) * Four bolts.
- 5. Jensen's Jugs (10b) * Four bolts. 6. Movin' Out (11b) * Five bolts.
- 7. Grib Dat Hole (11b) ** Five bolts. 8. Finger Fit (11c) ** Five bolts.

- 9. Project
- 10. Face the Seam (10) Toprope.
- 11. Project 12. Black Crack (9) Toprope.
- 13. Quick Crank (10) Toprope
- 14. Screamin' Knee-Knee (11c) * Three bolts
- 15. Flacidly, Flexing Forearms (a.k.a. 3F, 11b/c) * Three bolts.
- 16. Project
- 17. Crack It Up (9) Toprope



I. LIZARD'S MOUTH

Park .2 mile past the Brickyard (just before the Gun Club). Find a trail that starts on a slab of rock. It's a five-minute hike to the Lizard's Mouth, which is the highest point of rock when looking west.

Lots of rock, but not much development, it's common to share this scenic area with groups of drunken college students. The Lizard's Mouth allows 5.10 climbers to get on some very steep rock.

1. Lizard Lips (11a) * Toprope. 2. Flight of the Iguana (11a) *

3. Gila Monster (11) Toprope. 4. Yellowbelly (10-) * Toprope. 5. You Skink (7)

6. Lizard King (11-) * Toprope. 7. El Gecko (11+) * Toprope. 8. Lizard Music (11-) * Toprope. 9. Traverse (VO) **

Three hundred yards east (behind) the Lizard's Mouth is a 20-foot boulder with two routes:

10. Lord of the Flies (10+) * Toprope. 11. Return of the Fly (11) * Toprope. Just behind this is perhaps the single best boulder problem in SB: 12. Meilee (V3) *** Traverse from left

to right, then top out. 25 feet.

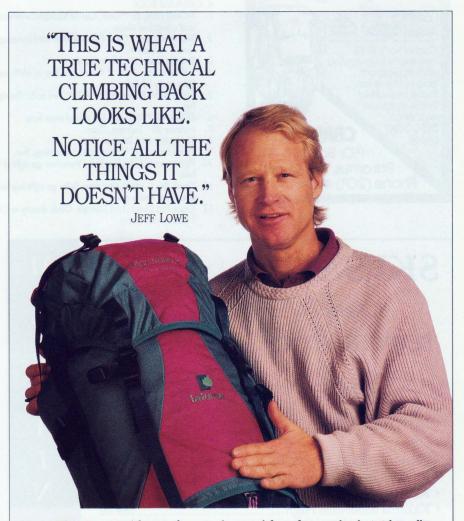


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J. CAVEMAN (12a) **(no topo)
At .4 mile past Gibraltar Rock, look up left and you'll see a huge roof with a tree in front of it. Park at .6 mile and hike west up a good trail that starts in a drainage, which will take you to the ridge above Caveman. Scramble down. 15-20 minutes. Bring an extra rope to set up Caveman, which turns the far right of the cave and ascends the overhanging face. Killer moves. A lot of route potential exists in the great

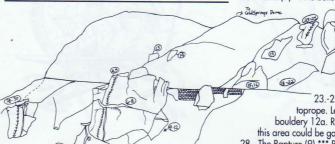
13. Hole in the Rock * Boulder with a bunch of topropes from 5.8 to 5.11

14. Cig-arete (10c/11b) Toprope. Steep line on marginal rock. Staying on arete is contrived, but harder and more fun.

15. Bolt Ladder (10+) * 19 bolts. Easily toproped.

16. Crack (10-) Toprope

Sweating Buckets (12a) ** Six bolts. Technical, powerful, baffling slab. Confused? 18. Toxic (9) * Five bolts.



K. GIBRALTAR ROCK

T-Crack (10a, R) ** Gear. Can be toproped with some pro 29. and a bunch of slings.

The Nose (10+) * Gear. Fifteen feet of hard jamming. Good exposure

Smooth Arete (12) Silly toprope. Self-Reflections (11b) ** Three bolts. Rap in, climb out. Very pretty left line.

Mirror in the Bathroom (9+, PG) ** Two bolts. The right

Klingon (8) ** Toprope. Left side of main face. Midface (6) * Toprope. Clean. The Ladder (4) * Toprope. Pretty. Crank Start (11c) ** Four bolts. Super-steep. Fun.

10. Fly Harmonic (12a) Five bolts. Variation: go right at last

11. Crank This (11d) ** After three bolts, go right two bolts and dyno! Really good.

12. Crank This Direct (11c) Toprope. Climb directly to Crank This anchors. Choss.

19. Hazardous Waste (10a)

** Five bolts. 20. Chemical Warefare (10a) Five bolts.

21.(9) Four bolts and .5 TCU. Needs better anchors. 22. (10a, PG) * Three bolts. 5.9 to

first bolt.

23.-25. Pseudomania. Bring hangers to toprope. Left line: a short, steep crack. * Middle: a bouldery 12a. Right: a steep, silly 11+. With some work this area could be good, but now it's not worth the trouble. The Rapture (9) *** Park . 1 mile beyond Gibraltar on the

left. Follow the trail down for two minutes to goldshuts. Rap 70 feet to base. Brilliant!

Lieback Annie (7) ** Gear. Corner to the right of The Rapture, Clean,

Variation on a Scam (10c) ** Toprope. Climb face between #28 and #29. Follow seam near the top.

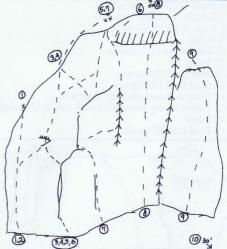
L. UPPER GIBRALTAR

Approach as if to Cold Springs Dome and cut over on a wellmarked trail to the top. Rap 130 feet off two goldshuts. 15

This is an example of how "climbed out" SB is. In March '93, Jeff Buhl and Mike Brown did two brilliant lines. These routes have been in plain view of every person to climb here, yet no one attempted them

26. The Soul (11b) ** Follow the goldshuts.

27. The Gibbon (10b) * Follow the hangers. Loose at the bulge.



M. COLD SPRINGS DOME

Park at Gibraltar Rock. Follow a steep trail that skirts Hole in the Rock and heads up to the ridge. Follow the ridge until Cold Springs Dome comes into view on your right and below. 20 minutes. Take long slings.

Long, steep jug hauls. Excellent for training thanks to Phil "God of the Dome" Requist who, while he was in town, issued a challenge of \$100 to anyone who could keep up with him for a day. His record number of laps is 30. Good luck!

1. No Women, No Cats (12a) * Toprope.

Triple Linkup (12b) *** Toprope. Link-up.

Homo Erectus (11d) ** Toprope. Maukenauma (11b) ** Gear.

Maukenauma Direct (12a) *** Toprope.

Kneeanderthal (11d) ** Toprope.

Variation Start (12a) Toprope.

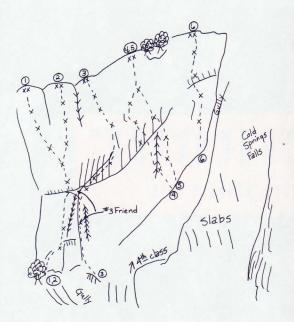
8. Predators Keep the Balance (12c) *** Toprope.

Baby Scorpions (11a) Toprope.

10. Fun in the Sun (9, PG) * Bolts.

11. Post Modern Retro Classic (10d, PG) * Four bolts. The first face one sees approaching the Dome. The arete left of #11 has also been climbed on toprope (10+) *.





N.COLD SPRINGS FALLS

Take Hot Springs Road to Mountain Drive. Go left 1.25 miles to Cold Springs Trailhead. Follow trail for .25 mile, take the west (left across creek) fork. After a few minutes, the waterfall will come into view. Look for a trail veering right as you head up the canyon. A good (tourist) trail leads to the base of the falls. 45 minutes. Some routes need supplemental pro. Bring a few Friends up to #3.

- 1. Unknown (11c, PG) Seven bolts, # 3 Friend.
- 2. Unknown (11c, PG) Seven bolts, # 3 Friend.
- 3. Infectious Grove (11d/12a) ***Six bolts.
- 4. The Cosmic Tarantula (11b/c) **Five bolts.
- 5. Chunky (10b, PG)** Four bolts.6. Ballistic Midget (10a) ** Four bolts.

O. THE TOMBSTONE (no topo) The Tombstone (11b, PG) * Five bolts.

Park .25 mile down from Gibraltar Rock at the head of the Rattlesnake Canyon Trail (there's a sign at the start of the trail). Hike down to the creek bed and follow it up until you see the crag on your left. Go just past, then scramble up. 40

One of the most striking lines in the area. A broken bolt hanger made this route an X, but it's rumored to have been fixed. The last bolt was the broken one. Look closely before beginning.

P. THEOLOGY CRAG (no topo)

Park at the end of Tunnel Road. Hike up the road until a large trail branches left. Follow this up, then down into a creekbed. Ascend the creekbed (through Seven Falls) to a crag, or after about 50 feet of creekbed, take a steep, but well-maintained trail up and left to the ridge line and back down to the crag. 30-40 minutes.

The crag is very impressive and there are stacks of FA possibilities in the area. Presently there are two bolted lines.

 The Fire Within (11a) * Toprope. Far left.
 Beggar's Banquet (11c) * Eight bolts.
 Nothing about Normal (11b) *** Seven bolts. The awesome, steep corner.

It is impossible to perfectly describe the real, changing world and what each person's experience will be in it. The information contained herein can never be a substitute for good judgment. Rock & Ice is not responsible for the use or misuse of this information.

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