

Laurel Wright overcomes the *Tsunami*, 5.9, p30 photo: Andrew Burr

### 103 Waves 5.8 R ★

**Location:** 25 feet S of the mouth of the landmark E-W gully.

**Description:** (E-facing)

**P1:** Scramble up to gain the right-to-left-angling dykes. Follow it to the low-angled ramp and veer right for the last bolt. From here, climb the easy grade to the anchors. (75')

**P2:** Follow the bolt line up the arête. (90')

**Gear:** 12 bolts

**FA:** Vernon Phinney, Mike Engle; 1989 Ground Up

### 104 Humpbacks in Love 5.10 ★★

**Location:** 55 feet S of the landmark E-W gully that divides Shipyard and Hornets' Nest.

**Description:** (SE-facing)

**P1:** Climb the dyke in the middle of the SE face to the low-angled face and waves of rock. Veer off the dyke and follow the bolts to the first set of anchors. (75')

**P2:** From the anchors, go up the left arête and crack, following the bolt line to the anchors. (90')

**Gear:** C3 2 - #1, Nuts, 13 bolts

**FA:** Bob Archbold, Duane Martenson, Ron Yahne; 2001

### 105 Traditional Wave 5.6 ★★★

**Location:** This route starts in the tight gully.

**Description:** (S-facing) Scramble up the chimney system for 30 feet. Take a wide crack up and right to the low-angled face, clip the anchors and continue up and right, heading for the arête. Dance around the arête and then head back left to the face. Shares the last two bolts with Waves. (150')

**Gear:** 0.5 - #4, Nuts, Micro-Nuts, 4 bolts

**FA:** Vernon Phinney & Mike Engle; 1985 Ground Up

### 106 Shipyard Rock 5.6

**Location:** Climb the first 80 feet of *Jellyfish and Condoms*.

**Description:** (SE-facing) Instead of taking the crack up and left, go to the end of the gully and climb the chimney/gully between the major and minor formations. Once atop the minor formation, climb the northernmost chimney/crack to the major summit. (160')

**Gear:** 0.3 - #4, Nuts

**FA:** Bill Gilson, Al Haock; 1957 Ground Up

### 107 Jellyfish and Condoms 5.9

**Location:** On the S side of the formation, located up the gully created by Shipyard and Sharks Fin.

**Approach:** Scramble up the 5.0 chimney/gully for 70 feet to the Y-intersection; go right behind the flake for 15 feet.

**Description:** (SE-facing) At the end of the gully, climb the vertical crack up and left to the face. Follow the bolts up the face of the lower headwall. (55')

**Gear:** 0.4 - #3, Nuts, 5 bolts

**FA:** Bob Archbold; 2001

## SHARK'S TAIL

### 108 Rest and Relaxation 5.9 ★★

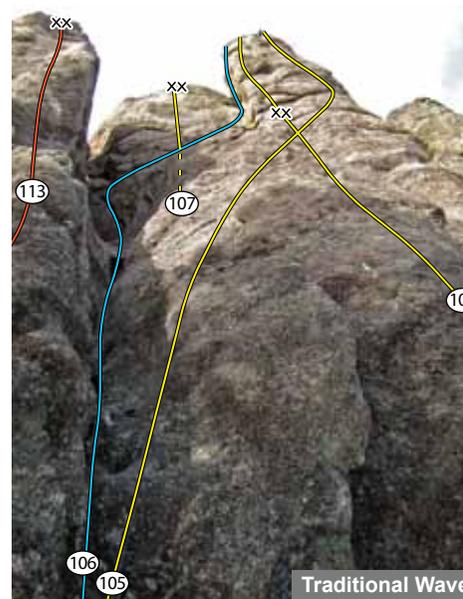
**Location:** Located to the N of Shark's Fin and adjacent to *All Tuckered Out*. This formation is just a sub-formation of the Shipyard Rock group.

**Description:** (NW-facing) (55')

**Gear:** 6 bolts

**Descent:** Rappel (2-bolt anchor)

**FA:** Bob and Tammi Archbold; 2000



Traditional Wave

## SHARK'S TOOTH

### 109 Boxcars and Airplanes 5.7 ★★

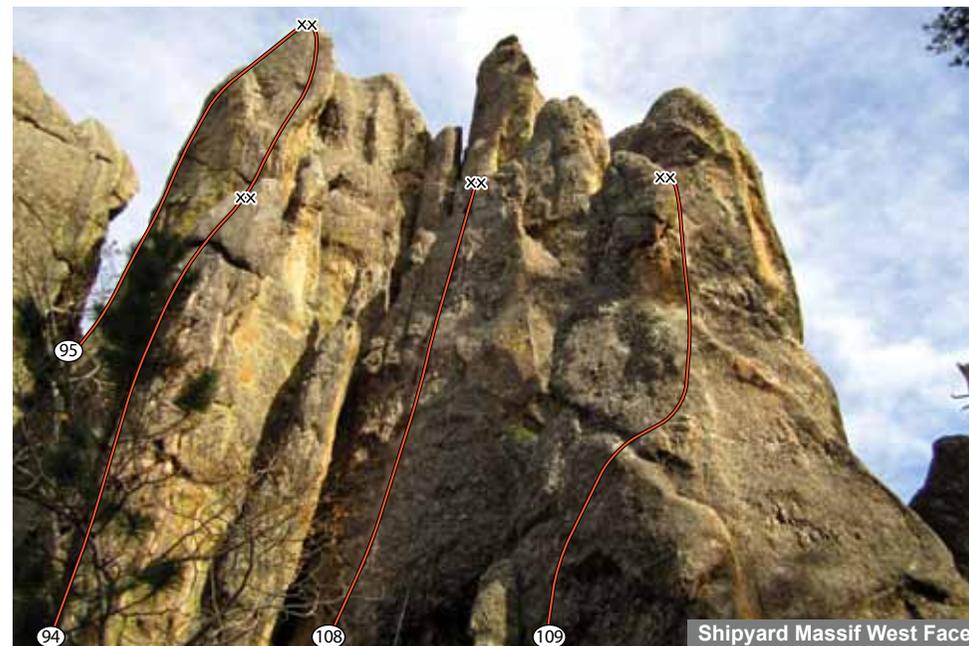
**Location:** (GPS N 43.886278° W 103.467213°) This little formation is located across from the sign-in register.

**Description:** (W-facing) Start on the W face and attain the flake. After the second bolt, go right to the arête. (35')

**Gear:** 4 bolts

**Descent:** Rappel (2-bolt anchor)

**FA:** Bob Archbold, Dave Green; 1990 Ground Up



Shipyard Massif West Face

## SHARK'S FIN (Range 80-110')

**Location:** (GPS N 43.886241° W -103.467062°) Located 75 feet E of the sign-in kiosk.

**Approach:** From the sign-in kiosk, walk S on the old roadbed for 25 feet and then go left (E), down a tight granite gully. This will deposit you on the SE side of the formation.

**Descent:** Rappel (2-bolt anchors)

*Routes listed W-S-E*

### 110 Captain Hook 5.9 PG13 ★★★

**Location:** Sixty feet up the low-angled ramp, left of the landmark (furthest protruding toe of the formation on the SE side).

**Description:** (S-facing) Start near the top of the low-angled ramp on the left-to-right-diagonal dyke. Clip the bolt and continue up to gain the headwall. Follow the bolt line as it zig-zags up to the black water groove. (80')

**Gear:** long slings, 5 bolts

**FA:** Vern Phinney, Mike Engle; 1987 Ground Up

### 111 Shark Attack 5.11 ★★

**Location:** Adjacent to a large boulder, 15 feet left of the landmark protruding toe of the formation.

**Description:** (S-facing) Climb the low-angled face to gain the headwall and water groove. (100')

**Gear:** 14 bolts

**FA:** Bob Archbold; 2001

**127 Cereal Killer 5.10 ★★★** 

**Location:** This is the middle route up the N face.

**Description:** (N-facing) Climb the boulder/flake from the ground to access the bolt line. (70')

**Gear:** 7 bolts

*FA:* Jacob Valdez, Bill McMann; 1990

**128 Bulge in a China Shop 5.12 ★★** 

**Location:** Easternmost (climbers' left) route on the N face.

**Description:** (N-facing) Follow the bolt line over the big bulge. (70')

**Gear:** 5 bolts

*FA:* Eddy Bagoon; 1990

**DUCKBILL** (Range 60-85')

**Location:** (GPS N 43.885022° W -103.466022°) This is the middle formation of the group, between Cornflake and Kara.

**Descent:** Rappel (slings)

*Routes listed E-S-W*

**129 Duckbill 5.7 R ★★★★★** 

**Location:** This route is located on the E arête.

**Description:** Scramble up the E arête. At the notch proceed around to the N face and take the low-angled crystal face for 15 feet to gain the vein. Follow the vein to the S (past the relic star drive bolt) and head up the crystal ladder (just left of the bolt). This leads past a horizontal crack that takes the route's only gear and onto the arête and summit. (60')

**Gear:** 0.75 - #2, 1 bolt

**Descent:** Rappel off of slings

*FA:* Dennis Horning, Doug Quiett; 1978 Ground Up

**130 Mallard 5.9+ R** 

**Location & Description:** (SE-facing) Climb the SE corner, past three bolts to gain the star drive and the rest of the classic quack show that is *Duckbill*. (65')

**Gear:** 0.75 - #2, 4 bolts

**131 Cowboy Fever 5.10 ★★★** 

**Location:** W arête of Duckbill. Best approached by walking S of Kara.

**Description:** (W-facing) Scramble up the west side of the E-W chimney/gully formed by Kara and Duckbill for 15 feet to gain the face and a bolt. Follow bolt line up the arête. A #1-#2 Camalot can be placed up high. (85')

**Gear:** 8 bolts

*FA:* Eddie Bagoon, Tracy Ramm; 1990

**KARA** (Range 70-75')

**Location:** (GPS N 43.884951° W -103.466067°) This is the furthest S of the formations, 530 feet S-SE of the sign-in register.

**Descent:** NSR

*Routes listed E-S*

**132 Kara 5.7 X ★★★★★** 

**Location:** The route is on the N side of the formation. Locate the E-W gully from the E; scramble 25 feet up the gully.

**Description:** Climb the right-to-left-angling crack for a short distance past the E arête to gain the face. Climb the unprotected but easy face up to the arête and proceed to the short chimney and summit. (75')

**Gear:** 0.4 - #2, Long Slings, Nuts

**Descent:** NSR

*FA:* Dennis Horning, Doug Quiett; 1971 Ground Up

**133 Same as Samoyed 5.10 ★★** 

**Location:** Center of the S face.

**Description:** (S-facing) Diagonal up the schist band to the left to gain the bolt and water streak. Follow the weakness past bolts to summit. (70')

**Gear:** 4 bolts, 1 fixed pin

**Descent:** NSR

*FA:* Mike and Rusty Lewis; 1988 Ground Up



Luke Kretschmar atop *Ankles Away*, 5.10+, p22  
photo: Andrew Burr

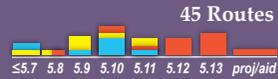


Jason McNabb on *Cereal Killer*, 5.10, previous page. photo: Andrew Burr

# Old Baldy Mountain Area



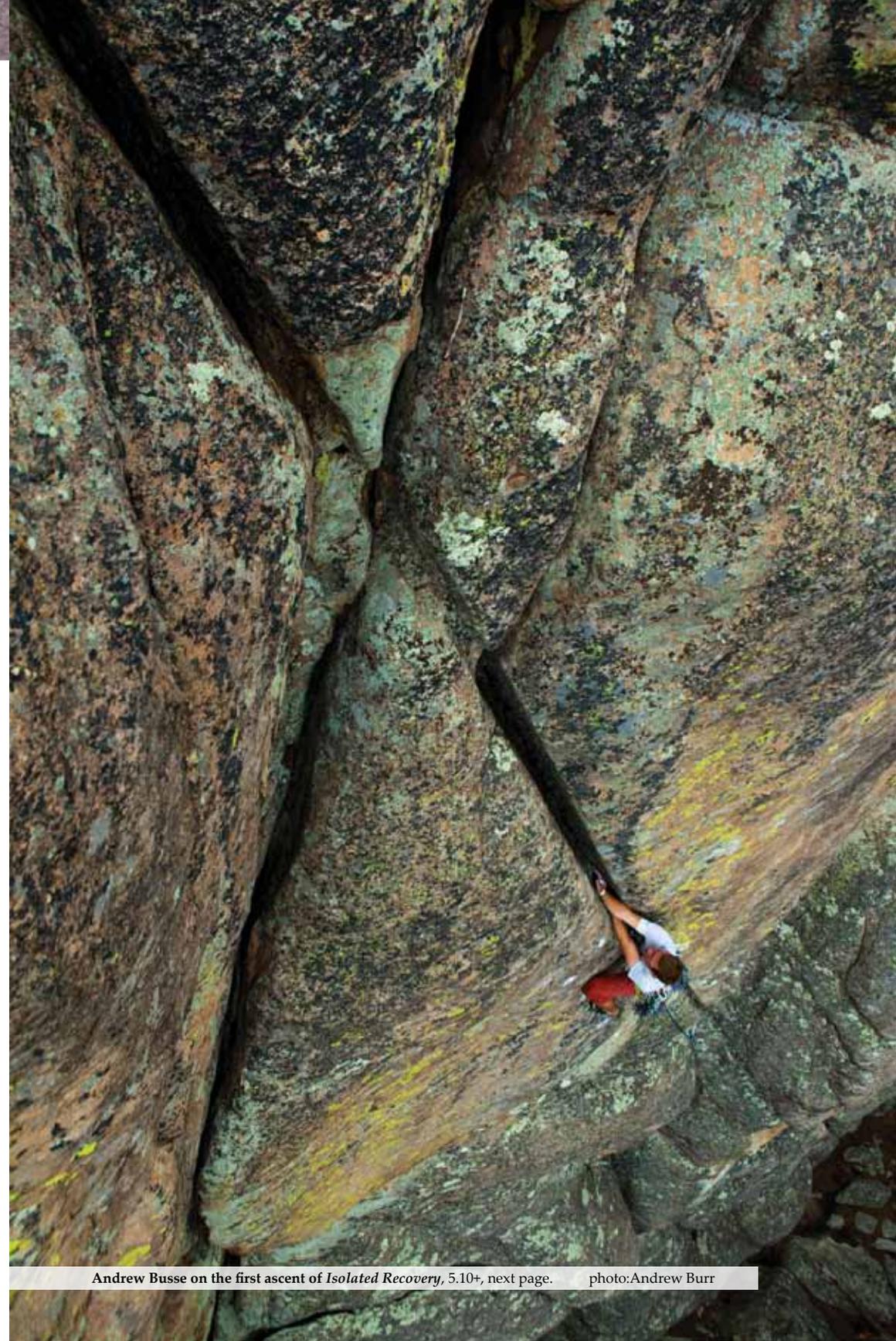
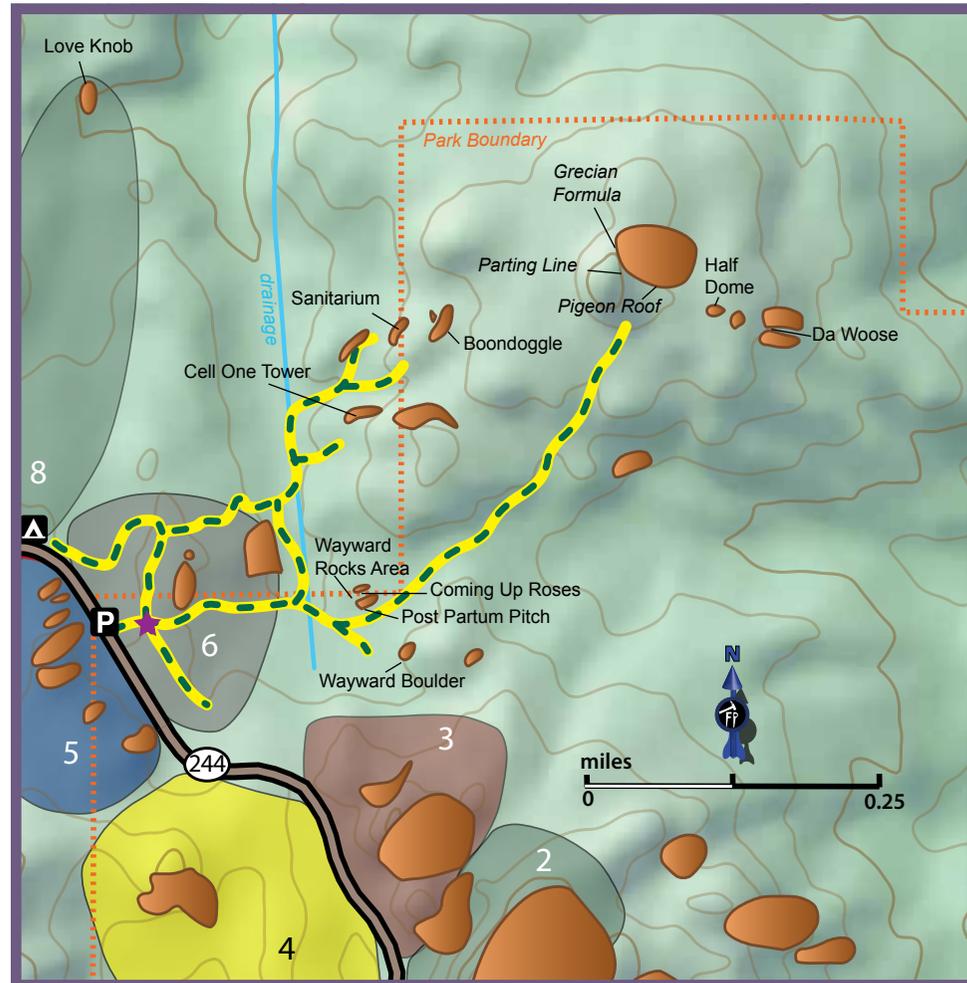
10-15min



**Description:** This area is located within the Mt. Rushmore National Memorial boundaries and borders the adjacent climber areas: South Seas and Magna Carta. Its epicenter is Old Baldy Mountain itself. It sits high on the ridge with its prominent SW face visible from Hwy-244.

**Directions:** From the entrance of Mt. Rushmore National Park, continue NW on Hwy-244 for 1.5 miles to the NPS boundary sign and parking lot on the NE side of the road. Note: This is also the same parking lot for the South Seas climbing area. *Additional parking is available at the Wrinkled Rock Campground 0.1 miles further NW on Hwy-244.*

**Parking:** Park at the pull-off area to the N side of the highway on the park boundary (GPS N 43.885929° W 103.467995°).  
Formations listed N-S



Andrew Busse on the first ascent of *Isolated Recovery*, 5.10+, next page. photo:Andrew Burr

## The Birth of Climbing in the Black Hills

We, Jan and Herb Conn, first visited the South Dakota Black Hills in 1947. We had just been denied permission to climb Devil's Tower in nearby Wyoming, and were seeking consolation for this disappointment. We found it. Here were hundreds, perhaps thousands, of small summits instead of one big one. Each was a challenge of varying difficulty, and only a few had already been climbed about ten years prior to our arrival by the legendary Fritz Wiessner and party. There was no climbing activity in the area at this time and additionally, no one to object to our climbing activity. The Custer State Park Superintendent Les Price told us, "We have mountain goats and mountain sheep; hell, we might as well have mountain climbers." But he cautioned us not to do anything that would disturb the natural scenery.

As kids, the two of us had scrambled rope-less in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and learned to climb with ropes and pitons during World War II on the cliffs along the Potomac River with the Potomac Appalachian Club. We were doing war work six days a week and climbing on Sundays. Gasoline was rationed, so we couldn't venture far from Washington, D.C. After the war and a stint in the Army, we were eager to travel, to see other climbing areas and meet other climbers, of which there were relatively few in those days. We fixed up a little panel truck as an R.V. before such vehicles were manufactured commercially. We roamed the country, meeting and climbing with Sierra Club climbers in Berkeley and Yosemite Valley, with Colorado Mountain Club climbers in Colorado, and Iowa Mountaineers at Devils Lake, Wisconsin. Several of these folks had climbed Devil's Tower and recommended it to us. But it took a year of negotiating with the National Park Service before we finally gained permission.

After a few climbs in the Black Hills Needles, we were on our way again, but we were impressed enough to return in 1948. In 1949 we returned again and bought ten acres of land as close as we could to the Needles. There was enough climbing right here to last us a lifetime! We built a little shelter on our land to protect us from the weather, and figured out ways to earn a living on the days we weren't climbing.

The rock was firm and adequately supplied with hand and footholds. There were cracks, chimneys, and smooth faces. We especially liked the fact that we could reach the climbs without long hikes or arduous backpacking. It was fun to climb each new spire, to think up a name for it, and to add it to the map we were making.

We told climbing friends of our newfound paradise, and from time to time some would come for a climb, but they were usually on their way to or from the real mountains, the Tetons or Selkirks, and stayed here only briefly. As the years passed, we encountered a few local climbers, Bill Gilson, John Paup, and Vern Phinney. As word spread of our climbing opportunities here, other climbers came from afar on vacations whose sole destination was right here, and not the far mountains. Dave Rearick, Bob Kamps, John Gill, and Paul Muehl soon pushed the climbing standards many notches higher.

Now, of course, climbing is much more popular, but still new routes and areas are being found. This book is a very fresh welcome, giving a look into who is having fun and who is doing what. We still love to remember our climbing days and think of our climbs often.



Herb and Jan Conn at their home in Custer, 2010. photo: Andrew Burr