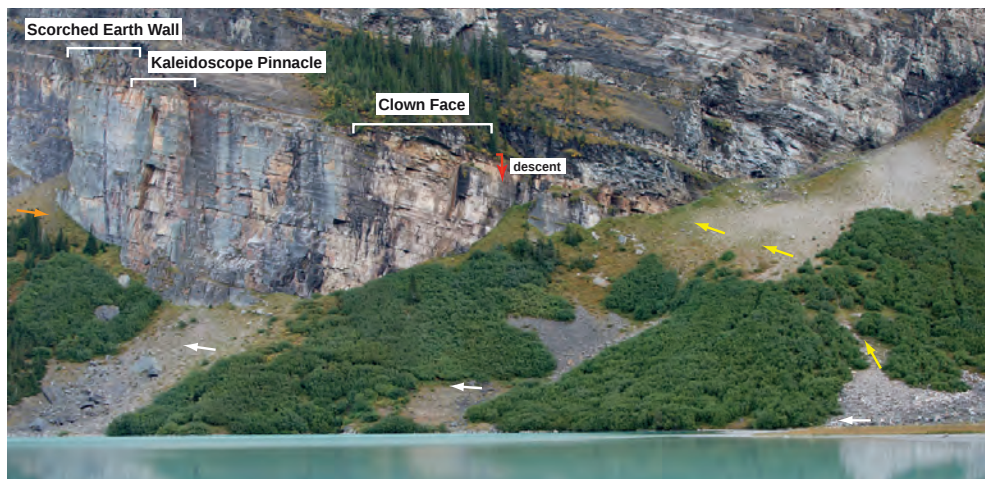


Kaleidoscope Pinnacle and Scorched Earth Wall

Further west from **Rockfall Wall** and closer to the lake, the same cliff band forms a large wall about 100 m high with a big, square-cut buttress protruding roughly from its centre. The buttress has a well-defined corner system on each side and, because of its wide variety of rock colourations, is known as **Kaleidoscope Pinnacle**. The wall on its left is called **Scorched Earth Wall**, and at the far right end, angled back into the slope, is **Clown Face**. There are a number of older climbs dating from the early 1980s centred around the pinnacle, most notable of which is **Nautilus** (5.9), the uncontested classic of the crag. Newer climbs have been added to Scorched Earth Wall, both sport and gear-protected, and these range in difficulty from 5.11b to 5.12b. **Clown Face** gets the late-afternoon sun, but otherwise the cliff is in the shade all day. The cliffs can be reached either from the **Back of the Lake** climbing area or via the **Roadfall Wall** approach on the south of the lake.



Approach: From the **Back of the Lake**, wade across several small stream channels in the delta at the west end of the lake and walk along the south shore to a boulder field and the first patch of alders. The condition of the trail through the alders varies from year to year (bring pruning shears!), but it should be possible to locate an opening, marked by a cairn, a short distance above the lake. Follow the trail through to a large clearing (marked by the second arrow on the photograph above) and then pick up a better-defined trail which leads through to an open slope below the cliff. In recent years, now that the trail is overgrown, some parties have found it easier to follow a route marked by yellow arrows in the photograph above and climb fairly open slopes to the far west end of the cliff and then traverse across from there. The lower "trail" is shorter and requires less elevation gain but needs constant maintenance to be feasible. It is also possible to reach the cliffs via the **Rockfall Wall** approach on the south side of the lake using the small trail that runs up along the base and connect the two climbing areas - orange arrow in the photograph above.

Descent: Most climbs are set up individually for rappel. To descend from the top of the cliff, traverse across and down to its far right-hand side, being careful not to go too high and enter into the upper rock bands. Make a 40 m rappel from a tree down to grassy slopes at the far west end (red arrow on the photograph above). Alternatively, it may be possible to locate the station at the top of **Mountain Friction** and rappel that route (45 m).

Lake Louise – Kaleidoscope Pinnacle Area

As at all cliffs on this side of the lake, there is some danger from rockfall, especially during early-season snow-melt. However, there is little evidence of recent activity in the region of *Kaleidoscope Pinnacle* and *Scorched Earth Wall*, where vegetation at the base appears to be thriving. The wall to the right of the pinnacle may be more at risk since there is little vegetation at the top or bottom of the cliff, although this is probably caused by winter avalanches. It is advisable to wear a helmet at all times and to stay away during risky conditions.



The climbs are described from right to left, beginning with those on *Clown Face*. Two early routes were established here in the 1980s and are of unknown quality.

Tears of a Clown 55 m, 5.10a (gear) [A]

Marc Dube and Tim Pochay, 1984

The climb starts below a large, open corner in the upper part of the face. Climb up to a short diagonal groove which angles up to the right and is capped by an overhang on its left. Exit right at the top of the groove and climb the wall above, trending left at first and then back right up to the base of the upper corner. Climb the corner (5.10a) to a big ledge system on the left and then finish up a slabby corner to terraces at the top. To descend, traverse right and make a 40 m rappel from a tree back to the base.

Cornflakes 90 m, 5.10b (gear) [B]

Tim Pochay and Joe Buszowski, 1985

The climb starts about 35 m from the edge of the face at a small area of light-coloured rock below a curving, dark grey overlap. There is an alcove at the base of the cliff, immediately to the right, and a disjointed crack system higher up the cliff, directly above. Climb up and right below the overlap and continue up to a small roof. Move past this on the right (5.10b) and climb the wall above to the base of a wide, curving crack. Climb the crack, move left and continue up another crack (5.9) to an alcove below roofs with a large ledge system on the right. Traverse right along the ledge system and finish up the slabby corner on *Tears of a Clown* to the top.

Kaleidoscope Right 100 m, 5.7 (gear) [C]

Pierre Lemire and party, 1971

The climb follows the wide crack and chimney system on the right-hand side of the pinnacle. The start is reached by scrambling up from the right, and the best descent is by rappel from the west end of the cliff (one rope, as described earlier). The variation start on the left climbs a right-facing corner/crack (5.8) to the first belay. Large gear is useful and there is a piton belay at the top behind a large boulder.

Mountain Fiction 95 m, 5.7, A2 [D]

Dustin Lynx and Jerry Auld, September 2015

To the right of **Kaleidoscope Right** is a impressive wall with the stunning crack line running directly up the centre. The wall and crack line are shown on the photograph opposite and in close-up on the photo/topo on the following page. The line very compelling and it has been attempted several times. The lower section, up to the bolted station below the roof, was first climbed free at 5.11a by Peter Arbic and Marc Dube in the 1980s. The next recorded attempt to climb higher was in 2014 when Sonnie Trotter free-climbed the roof at 5.11d and continued up the easier crack above until vegetation and the need for prior cleaning forced a retreat at about half height. To this end, Dustin Lynx and Jerry Auld used aid to climb the crack to the top of the wall, cleaning dirt and vegetation as they went. Currently, the climb may be clean enough for a completely free ascent, although none have been recorded and prior inspection top-down is probably advisable.

Project - Right Wall

Sam Eastman and Matt Norman, July 2015

There is a station, marked on the photo/topo, that was used for a photo-shoot for an attempted project on the right wall. Whether a climb was completed there or not is uncertain. There are no in-place bolts but intermittent thin cracks may have provided adequate gear protection for a complete ascent? The area is definitely worth exploring, although clearly the level of climbing difficulty will be high!

Nautilus 90 m, 5.9/10a (gear) [E] **

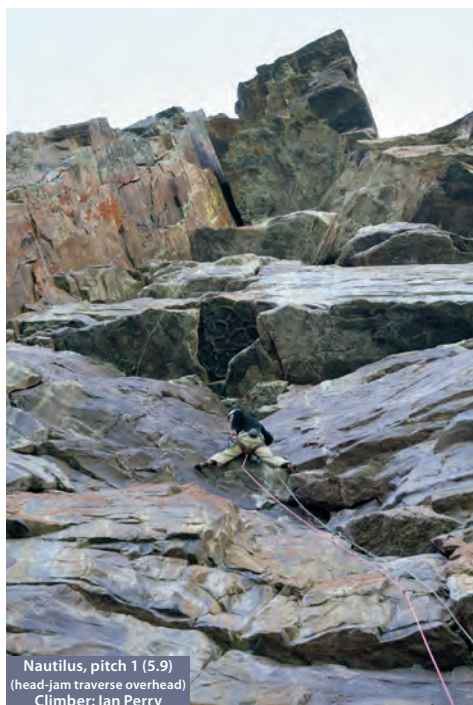
Peter Charkiw and Bruce Howatt, 1984

Nautilus is an excellent climb with a lot of character. It combines many of the key ingredients of a classic climb: improbable line, great position, interesting and varied climbing, and fabulous scenery. It also features a unique head-jam traverse. The climbing is well protected (gear to 4 inches) and there is a straightforward rappel descent if two ropes are used.

1. 30 m, 5.9/10a. Start in a grassy bay up and right from the large rock at the base of the cliff and climb easily to the first roof. Climb through this with difficulty and continue up to a second roof. Layback over this to good footholds and then traverse directly left to a pinnacle with a bolted station on the wall above.

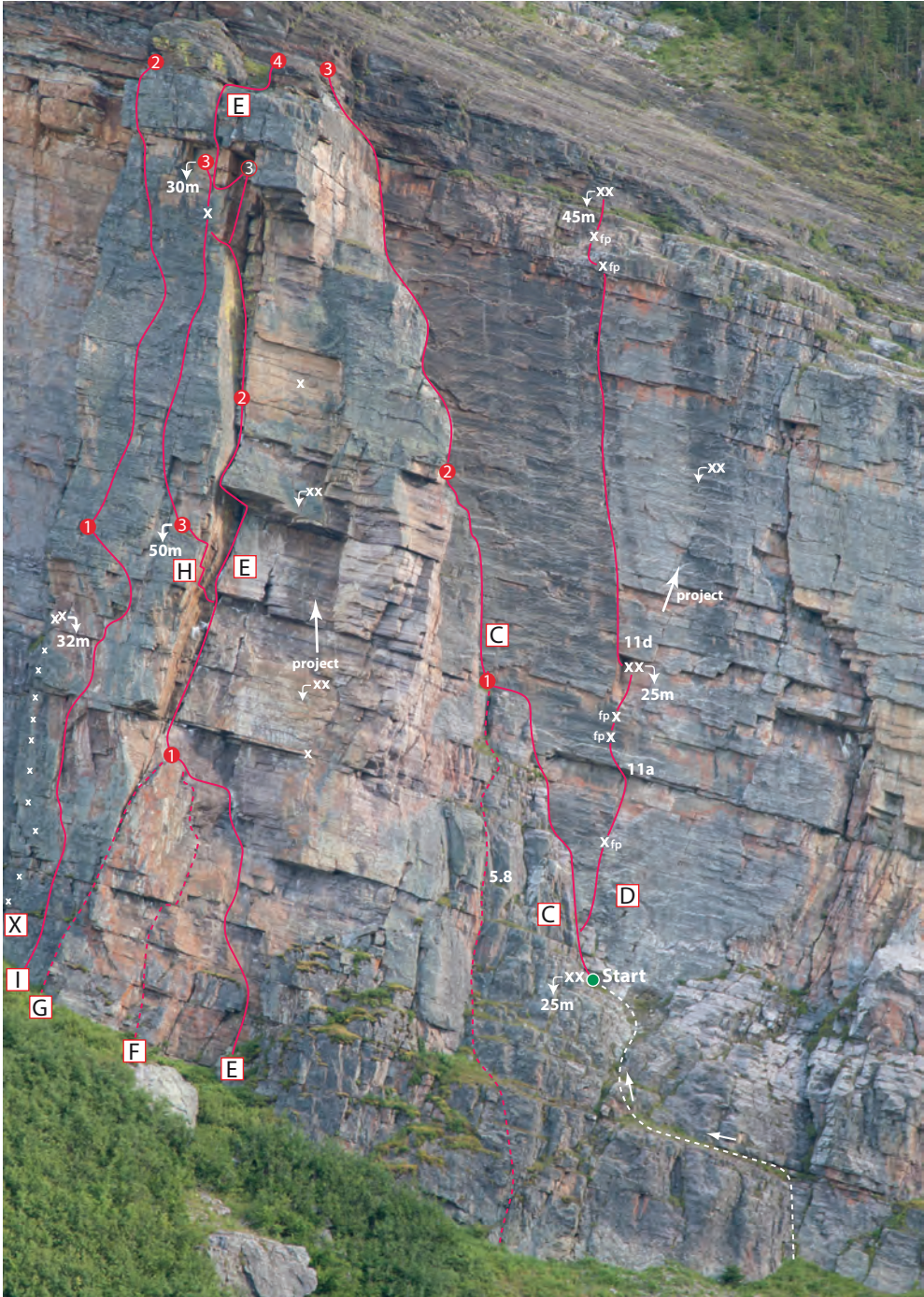
2. 30 m, 5.9. Climb the steep, blocky corner above to the huge roof with a wide crack cutting through it. Face left, remove helmet (optional) and move up onto a narrow foot ledge that leads out left to the lip of the roof. This is the famous head-jam traverse which offers a secure but unnerving passage out to good holds around the roof. Belay on top of a large chockstone in the chimney above.

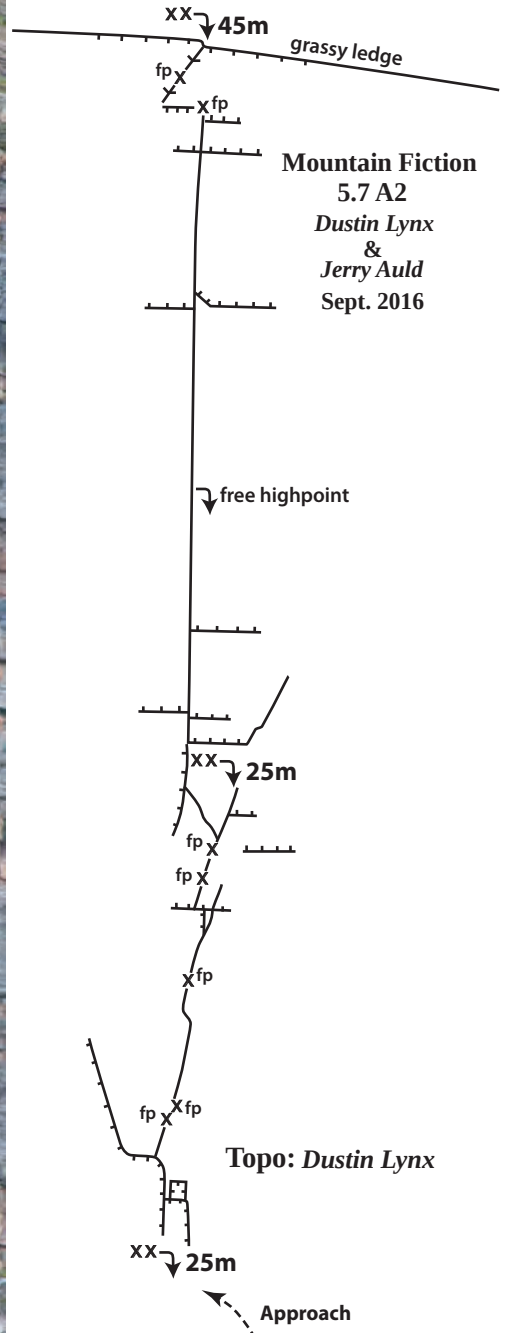
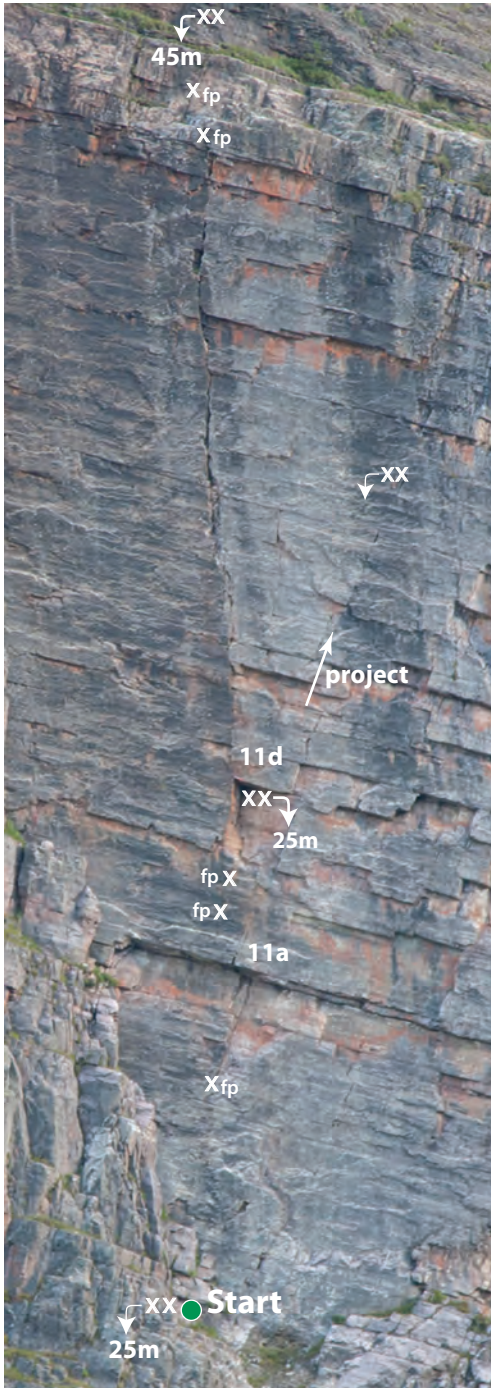
3. 30 m, 5.9/10a. There are a number of ways of climbing the last pitch and ending the climb. Continue up the chimney above the chockstone and, where it divides, climb the left wall out to a ledge on the arête. From



Nautilus, pitch 1 (5.9)
(head-jam traverse overhead)
Climber: Ian Perry

Lake Louise – Kaleidoscope Pinnacle Area





Lake Louise – Kaleidoscope Pinnacle Area

here, either move left and climb past a bolt on the wall (5.10a) to the top station on **Crack Connection** (recommended), or continue up a shallow groove on the right side of the arête past pitons (5.9) to a station up under the big roof which caps the chimney. This station can also be reached by taking the right fork in the chimney lower down. From the station below the roof it is necessary to step down slightly and traverse left below some large, precariously jammed blocks to gain the arête immediately right of the station on **Crack Connection**. From this common point, the climb may be finished either by rappelling from the station (30 m to station #2 on **Crack Connection**, then 50 m to the ground - recommended!) or by climbing a wide crack over a small roof and past a chockstone with slings to the top of the cliff (piton belay higher up on the left side of a boulder). From the top, traverse to the far right end of the cliff (stay low, as described earlier) and make 40 m rappel from a tree, or locate the station at the top of **Mountain Friction** and rappel from there (45 m).

Lake View Crescent 30 m, 5.9/10a (gear) [F] **

Marc Dube and Dan Guthrie, 1984

This single-pitch route is one of two variation starts that go to the first station on **Nautilus**. It may be combined with **The Crack Connection** to give an almost independent route up the cliff. The climb starts directly behind the large rock at the base of the cliff, below a thin crack leading up to the right-hand side of a small roof.

1. **30 m, 5.9/10a.** Climb up to the roof, step right and layback up a right-facing corner towards a steep, bulging crack. Climb the crack to gain the right-hand side of the pinnacle on **Nautilus** and the bolted station just above.

Left-Hand Start 30 m, 5.8/5.9 (gear) [G]

Unknown

1. **30 m, 5.8/5.9** The climb starts on the left, about 5 m before the edge of the cliff, and follows a vegetated groove which diagonals up and right. The groove turns into a wide crack higher up and leads to the left side of the pinnacle and the first station on **Nautilus**.

The Crack Connection 80 m, 5.10c (gear) [H] **

Geoff Thornton-Trump and Bob Andrychuck, August 1995

The climb connects the lower part of **Nautilus** with some steep climbing on the outside face of the pinnacle. It does this via a short section of steep crack climbing from partway up pitch 2. **Lake View Crescent** makes a logical start. Gear to 4 inches and two ropes are required.

1. **30 m, 5.9/10a.** Climb the first pitch of **Lake View Crescent** to the station at the pinnacle.

2. **20 m, 5.10c.** Follow the second pitch of **Nautilus** about halfway to the big roof and then move out left on a low-angled ledge of white rock to below a 2-inch jam crack. Climb the crack with increasing difficulty to a mantel onto a ledge and a bolt and piton station.

3. **30 m, 5.10b.** Climb up to a small roof and move up left onto the face. Sustained face climbing following thin cracks leads up past a piton to a bolt (junction with left-hand finish of **Nautilus**) and a steep pull up to a bolted station in an alcove just below the top.

Finish as for **Nautilus** to the top of the cliff or rappel to the station below (30 m) and then to the ground (50 m).

Santa's Revenge 90 m, 5.10a R (gear) [I] *

Rob Rohn and Dan Guthrie, 1984

Santa's Revenge climbs the outside face of the pinnacle near its left boundary. The climb is named because "The red and green rock looked like an early Christmas present but Santa got the last laugh." The climb is probably harder than 5.10a, and an "R" grade from the 1980s means that it is very run-out. Take pitons and a good-sized rack for the long pitches.

The start and finish of the climb are obvious, but the middle section and the location of the first belay are estimated on the photograph. The climb starts about 2 metres from the edge of the face and climbs up to a jagged crack system leading up through purple rock to a small roof about 25 m up the cliff. It moves right past the roof and angles right on steep rock past two more small roofs until it is possible to move up and back left slightly to a belay ledge. From the ledge the climb follows thin cracks directly up the wall (and may even go as far over as the 3rd pitch of **Crack Connection**?). Farther up it angles left to an obvious weakness leading up to the top near the left edge of the face.

Lardy Tart 32 m, 5.10b (10 bolts) [X]

Mark Carlson, July 2018

This single-pitch sport route climbs the left arete of the pinnacle to about one third height. It gives good climbing as far as it goes and could be continued for two more pitches to the top although that may possibly interfere with the upper part of **Santa's Revenge**.

Kaleidoscope Left 95 m, 5.8 (gear) [J]

Bernard Ehmann and Pierre Lemire, 1980

This old and neglected climb goes up the wide crack in the large corner on the left side of the pinnacle. The corner can be climbed in two pitches, both with difficult off-width sections, with a break at a grassy ledge at half height. A generous supply of big gear is useful.



Scorched Earth Wall

The wall on the left side of the pinnacle is known as **Scorched Earth Wall** after an earlier climb of that name on its far left side. Difficult sport and gear-protected routes were added later and recent activity has resulted in three more sport routes (X, Y and Z on the photo/topo opposite) and the impressive **Shield of Saturn** at the far left end.

Descent is normally made by rappel, but the original route **Scorched Earth Policy** goes to the top, where currently there is no fixed anchor. The cliff is in the shade all day and appears to be more sheltered from rockfall than the nearby **Rockfall Wall**.

Tyler's Route 30 m, 5.11b (11 bolts) [Y]

Tyler Kirkland, July 2018

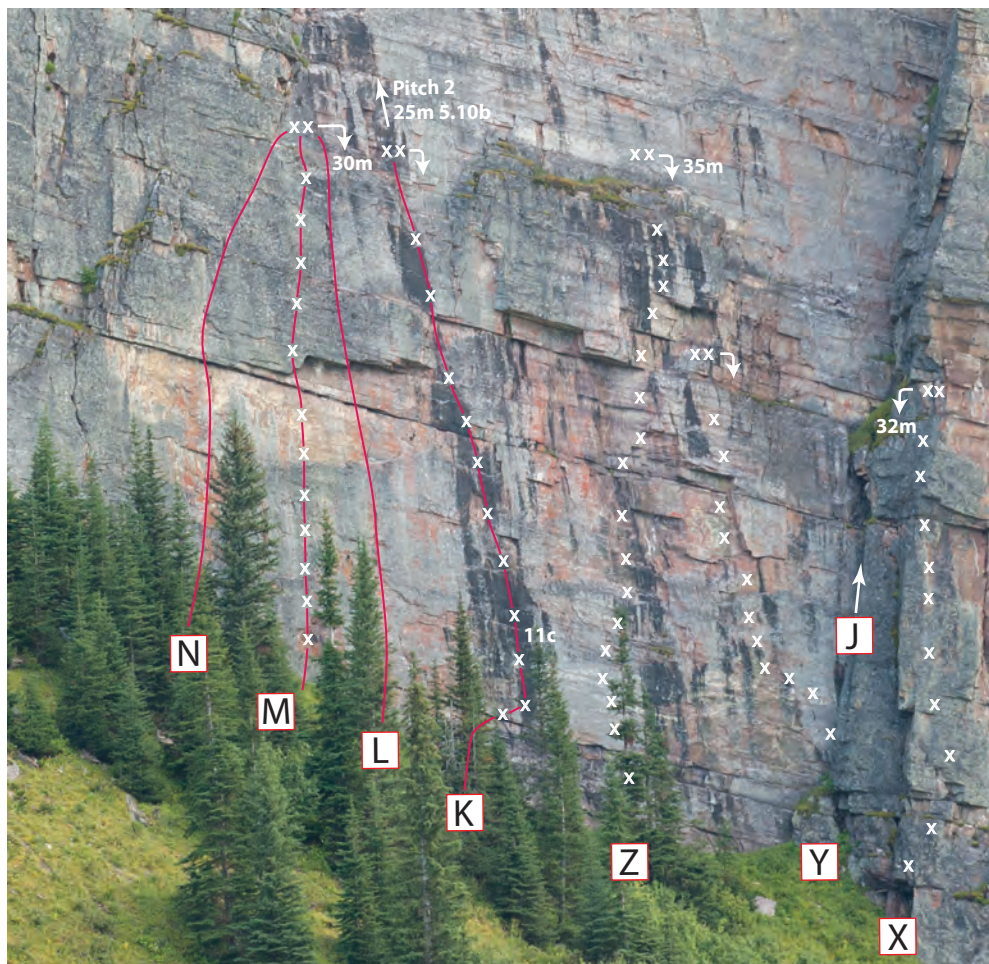
Start up the chimney for 2 m or so and then break out onto the left wall.

Mistine 35 m, 5.12b/c (17 bolts) [Z]

Mark Carlson and Christine Mireault, July 2018

The next row of bolts left of **Tyler's Route**, before **Black September**.

Lake Louise – Scorched Earth Wall



Black September 55 m, 5.11b & 5.10b (11 bolts) [K] **

Peter Arbic, 2002

The climb follows a prominent black streak for almost the full height of the cliff and has an excellent but very technical first pitch. The pitch may be undergraded at 5.11b (perhaps 5.11c), and current positioning of the last two bolts results in a possible ledge-fall. The complete climb is shown on the photo/topo on the next page.

Road Man 30 m, 5.12 R (gear to 3 inches, RPs) [L] *

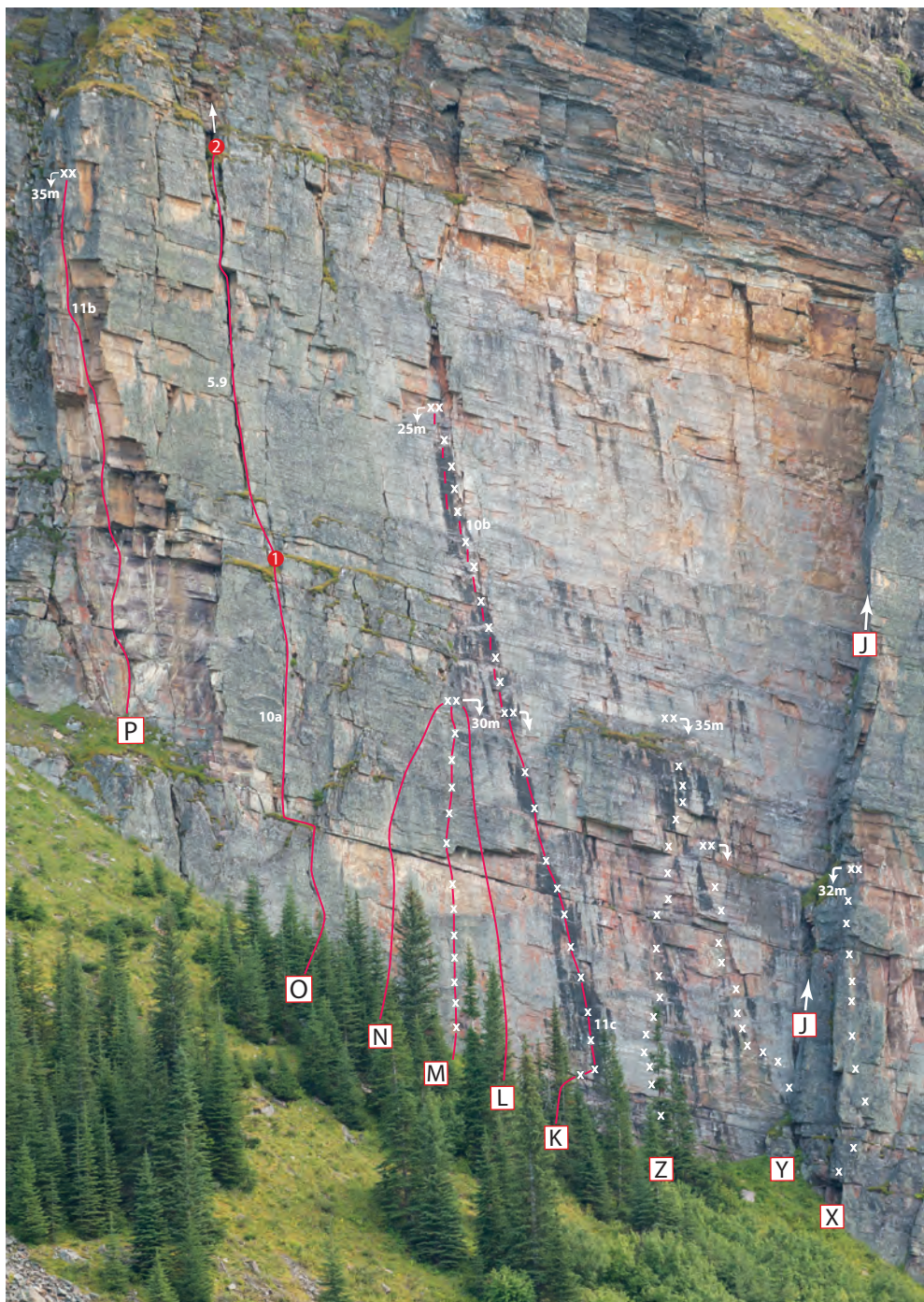
Peter Arbic, 2002

This impressive route follows a thin crack in the wall about 3 m left of the black streak and continues over the roof and the wall above to the station on *Shapeshifter*. Very small gear is required, including some RPs.

Shapeshifter 30 m, 5.12a (12 bolts) [M] **

Peter Arbic, 2002

Good protection makes this a more appealing pitch than either of its neighbours.



Lake Louise – Scorched Earth Wall

Brujo 30 m, 5.12a (gear to 3 inches) [N] **

Peter Arbic, 2002

Brujo follows a faint crack system up to the roof and then a better-defined one angling up right to the *Shapeshifter* belay. Mainly small gear is required, including some RPs.

Scorched Earth Policy 70 m, 5.10a & 5.9 (gear to 4 inches) [O]

Peter Arbic and Peter Charkiw, 1985

The climb follows a continuous crack line which runs the full height of the wall near its left-hand end. It starts as a thin crack which angles right at first and then back left to a grassy ledge at about 10 m. The main crack system goes up from there in two pitches, widening towards the top and becoming off-width. Currently, there is no fixed station at the top and the best descent is by rappel from the far west end of the cliff as described earlier, or possibly via the top station on *Mountain Fiction*.

Shield of Saturn 35 m, 5.11b (gear to 3 inches, doubles 0.2-0.75, long slings) [P]

Niall Hamill, September 2017

The climb follows a very steep crack/corner system up fractured arete at the far left end of the wall.

Scramble up on the left to gain a grassy ledge directly below the route.

Climb a large flake and then, above an overhang, make a series of face moves protected by a bolt. Mantle onto a ledge and climb a crack in an overhung bay to a fixed piton under a roof (extra long sling.) An undercling sequence left leads to a thin corner above, the crux being the switch from one thin crack to another. The crack widens to fist size and leads to the rap-ring anchor above.

Caution is required when lowering or rappelling with a 70 m rope since it is possible to go past the starting ledge to the base of the cliff which is 5 m lower! An 80 m rope avoids this problem.

