

Dorset Rocks

INCOMPLETE HISTORY

The rocks are readily visible from hwy 35, and have been visited for quite some time.

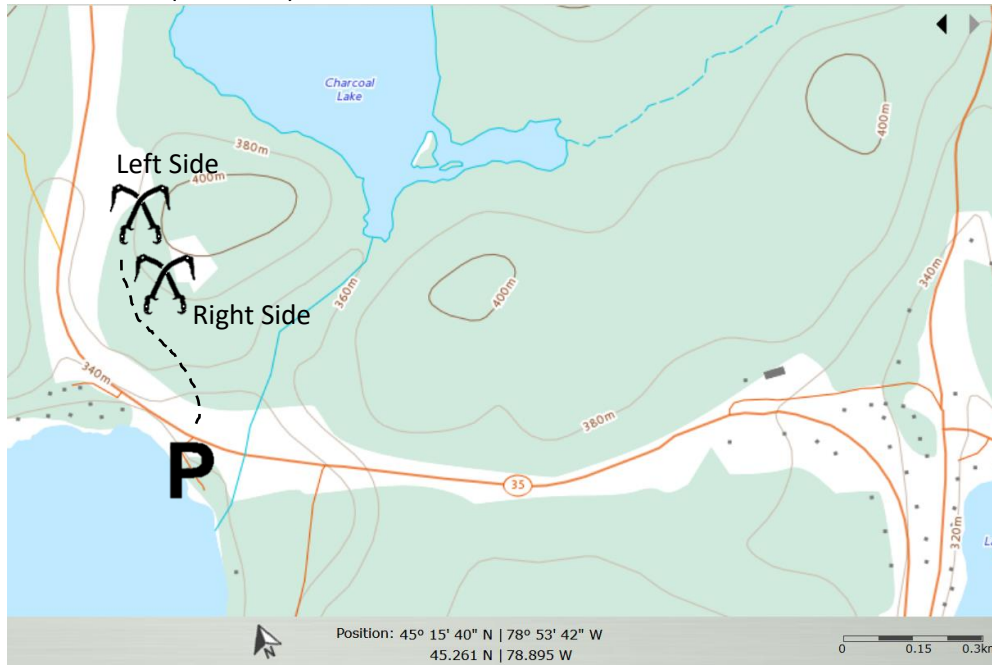
Lone Pine is out-of-site at the saddle between two hills. It's been used by groups and guides in the past offering a sweeping slab of low angle ice on which to practice your low-angle technique.

In the early 2000's the crag saw attention from Ed Reinhardt and Brian Irving, and who subsequently took a visiting Chris Ferguson there on a tour of Southern Ontario. With leashed tools (Carbon Fiber Black Prophets) and a rack of gear, they took to the steep rock by storm! *You Might Pray* is a testpiece, and still holds much respect today!

ACCESS

Drive north from Dorset for 2 minutes, looking for Rabbits Bay Rd on the left. Park at the boat launch's plowed parking area. Walk back up to 35. Carefully scoot across and dash into the woods and a broad valley that winds its way upwards.





RIGHT SECTOR

As you hike up the valley, thanks to blowdown and talus blocks, you're naturally pushed towards the saddle. From there it's easy to contour back towards the cliff to explore the 85 degree face that's been looming above you for the last 2 minutes... From left to right:

Damsel to The Rescue (M5, 20m)

The lower angle corner at the far-left side, leading to an ice flow and steep corner exit. Two bolts to keep it reasonable off the ground (frequently thin and tricky = easy to pop off) to a fat flow. And then more bolts for the exit. An anchor is found right underneath an overlap, right after you top out.



Defend Analog (M4, 20m) (FRA: Brent and Andriy, 2019)

10 m to the right is a shield of rock that guards a hand-crack corner that leads past a tree. Occasionally it forms as a fat WI3, more likely in the late season. Bring your hexes, and patience.

Haliburton Hustle (M6, 20m) (AK, ~2016/17?)

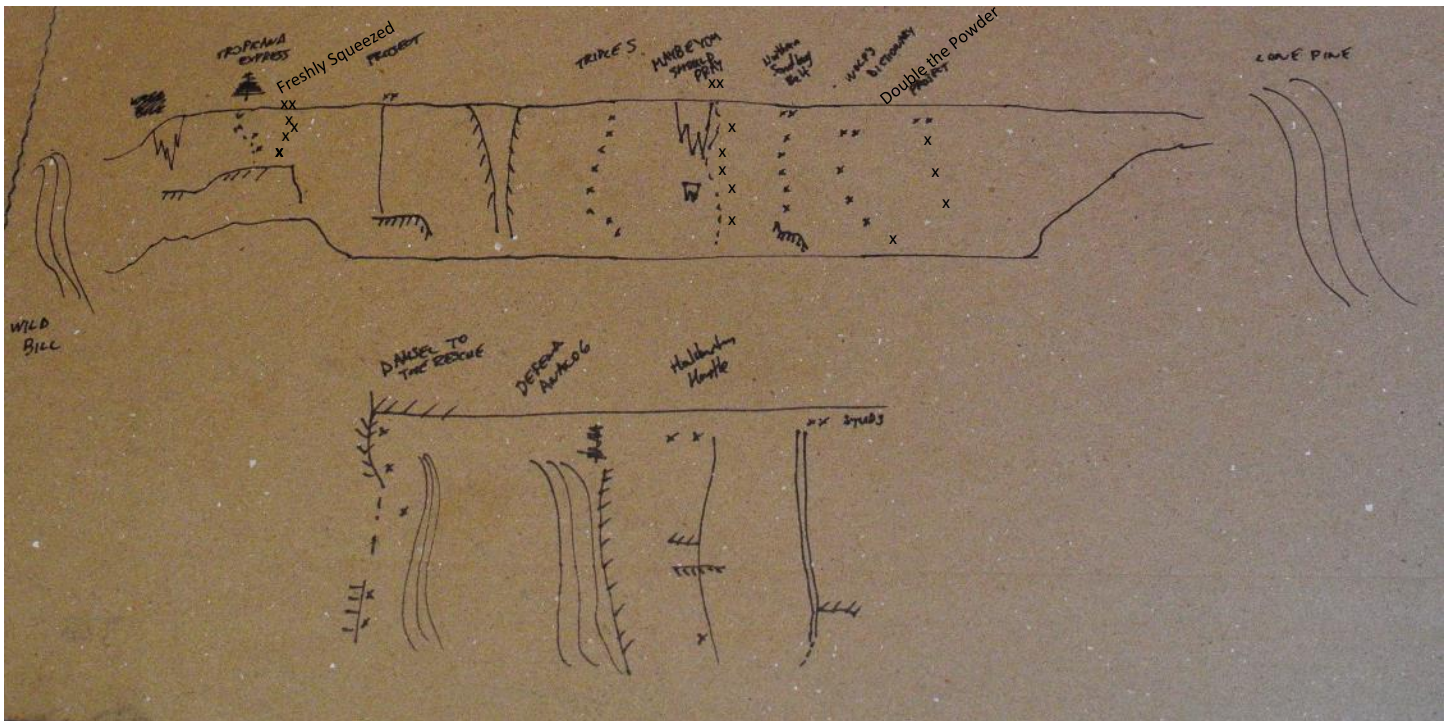
A low bolt protects the start. Gear can then be found in the crack system that steepens. Make a memorable double-reverse cam pick to step up and coolly clip the anchors to your left.

Project

The overhanging bottomless corner looks very inviting! Bring your own rings for the anchor studs already in place. But upon closer inspection a hold is missing to help get established in the crack. ..and the thin hand-crack is unfortunately filled with turf, that won't lend itself to sustainable attention... maybe better left as a beauty splitter for attention in the warmer months.

THE SADDLE**Lone Pine (WI2, 20m)**

Lots of options. Big, wide low angle flow.

LEFT SECTOR

Continue stomping out a good trail past Lone Pine and now drop downwards with a quickly-growing cliffline on your right. From right to left:

Double The Powder, Shorten the Fuse (Project, hard-ish)

Wolf's Dictionary (M8-, 10m)

Short and steep. Big moves and fun. Bolted.

Northern Sandbag Belt (M6+, 12m) (Andriy and Peter, ~2016)

Starts out easy, but quickly gets steeper and thinner. Sustained and pumpy, making one wonder why the heck m6 feels so hard. Head's up: in fat years the last bolt and anchor can ice over.

You Might Pray (M7+, 25m-R-) (FA: Chris Ferguson and Ed Reinhardt, Jan 4, 2005)

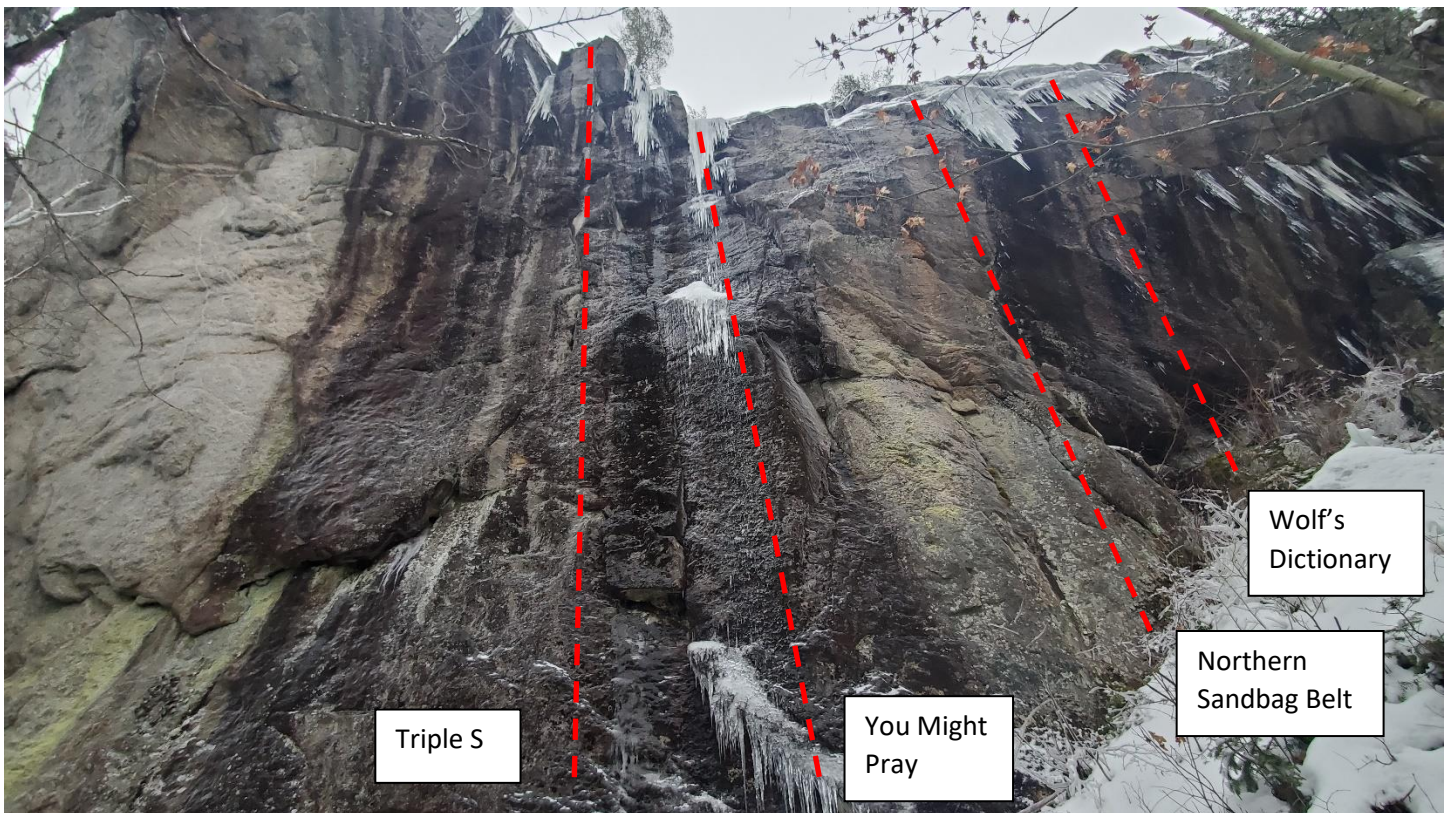
It's the least steep line on this section of granite, but by no means the least technical, tricky, tenuous, sustained or pumpy... and it's not over once you reach the ice dagger. Bring you're A-Game! Originally climbed in '05 with straight-shafted Black Prophets.

With the agreement of the first ascensionist, bolts have been added to protect the cruxes and offer a good flow of movement, yet with still a taste of the original feel. It can now be enjoyed in any conditions! Lower-off anchors above the lip and to the right.

Original description for posterity: Thin moves on a face lead to a thin crack system with fairly good pick placements and a good nut slot. A bulge is surmounted on very thin monopoint placements and a sequence bit of tooling (good nut placement). Very thin moves left (verglass, to 1 cm for feet) lead to an upper crack where 2 nuts were preplaced (would be tricky on lead placing here). This crack is semi-laybacked (strenuous) until a small blob of ice to the right of the dagger is gained. Overhanging, very committing moves take you out onto the 15 foot hanging dagger and then to the top.

Triple S (M8, 25m) (FA: Peter, with Josh and Andriy's sweat equity in equipping this rig. ~2015)

"We were *Sadly Sans Smith*, the day Peter cruised up!" Intro moves lead to an imaginary/balancy sequence that guards entry to the flaired crack. Take it to the top. Pass a pick-torquing layback crux. And make an exposed set of moves to the very top!



Project

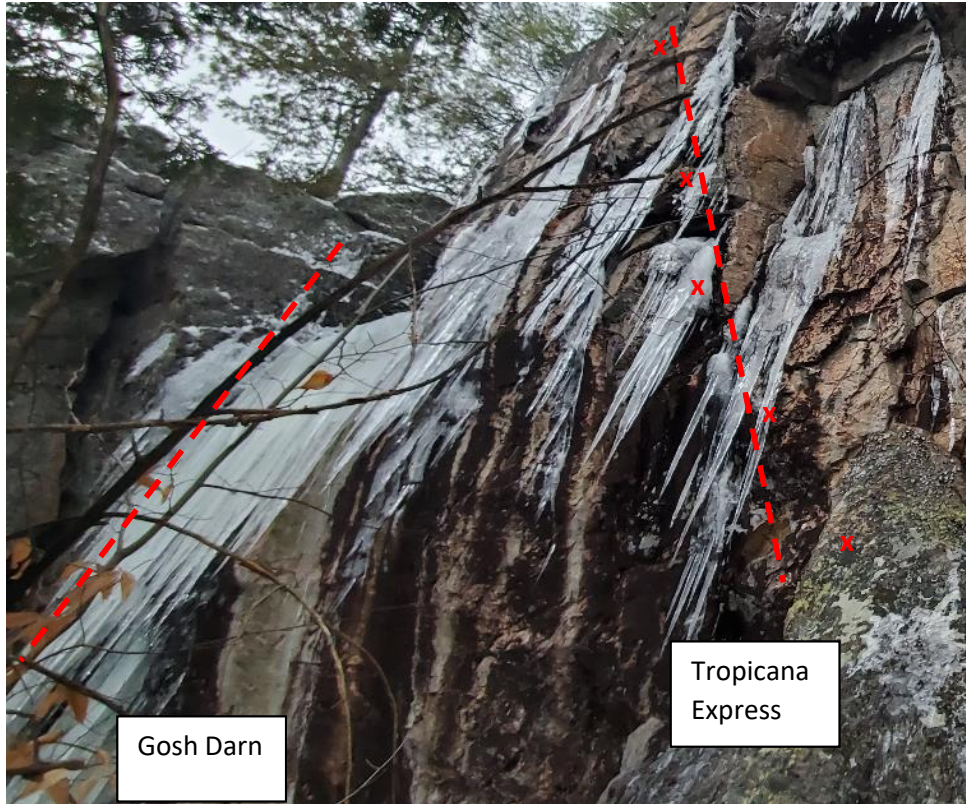
Down and around the corner from the proud prow! Has seen good efforts by Sam. TR'd free, but ground up lead attempts have been repelled.

Freshly Squeezed (M5+, 9m)

From the ledge, stick clip the first bolt. Head up the groove, and get established on the steeper wall. Continue upwards, clipping bolts along the way, enjoying the secure holds. Pumpier than it looks.

Tropicana Express (M6+, 10m) (FA: Andriy and Steve Snopkowski, ~2015)

At the far left side of the crag, scramble up low angle terrain below Gosh, Darn to set up on a ledge to the right. Clip bolts upwards, exiting up and left. Lower-off or rappel from a tree.



Gosh, Darn (M4, 20m) (FA: Chris Ferguson and Ed Reinhardt Jan 4, 2005)

The mixed corner at the left (north) end of the crag. Takes a low-angled ramp to vertical daggers (which may or may not be attached at their base). Rock moves to the left (awkward, small cam) allow you to make committing and strenuous moves back to the dagger higher up. Above, a slight ledge gave some rest before a final mixed/thin ice corner (small cam) led to the top. This occasionally forms as a WI3+.

Wild Bill (WI2+, 20m) (FA: Michael Bryant, Beth "Billy" Hlozan, John Ireland, March 10, 1996)

Located at the far left side of the cliff. The route wanders leftwards up the slab to finish in the trees.