

Anchors for crux notch traverse on Frogback  
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East Face Routes see page 2

Unnamed 5.9 (no anchor yet)

Start of Frogback Traverse

Frogback Traverse chimney pitch exit & belay

**FROG ROCK EAST FACE**

Approach – Dotted line indicates gully behind formation in foreground

Virga (5.11d)\* Bill Dockins, Kristen Drumheller (June 1990)  
Access is from this approach.

See page 270 of Bozeman Rock Climbs 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

**Frogback Traverse (skyline ridge traverse) 5.8\*\*\*** See detailed description on page 4

**Unnamed (5.9 – 8 bolts)** Ted Lange (2011)

No anchor – use tree at top of Frogback chimney pitch

Virga 5.11d

Approach Hike

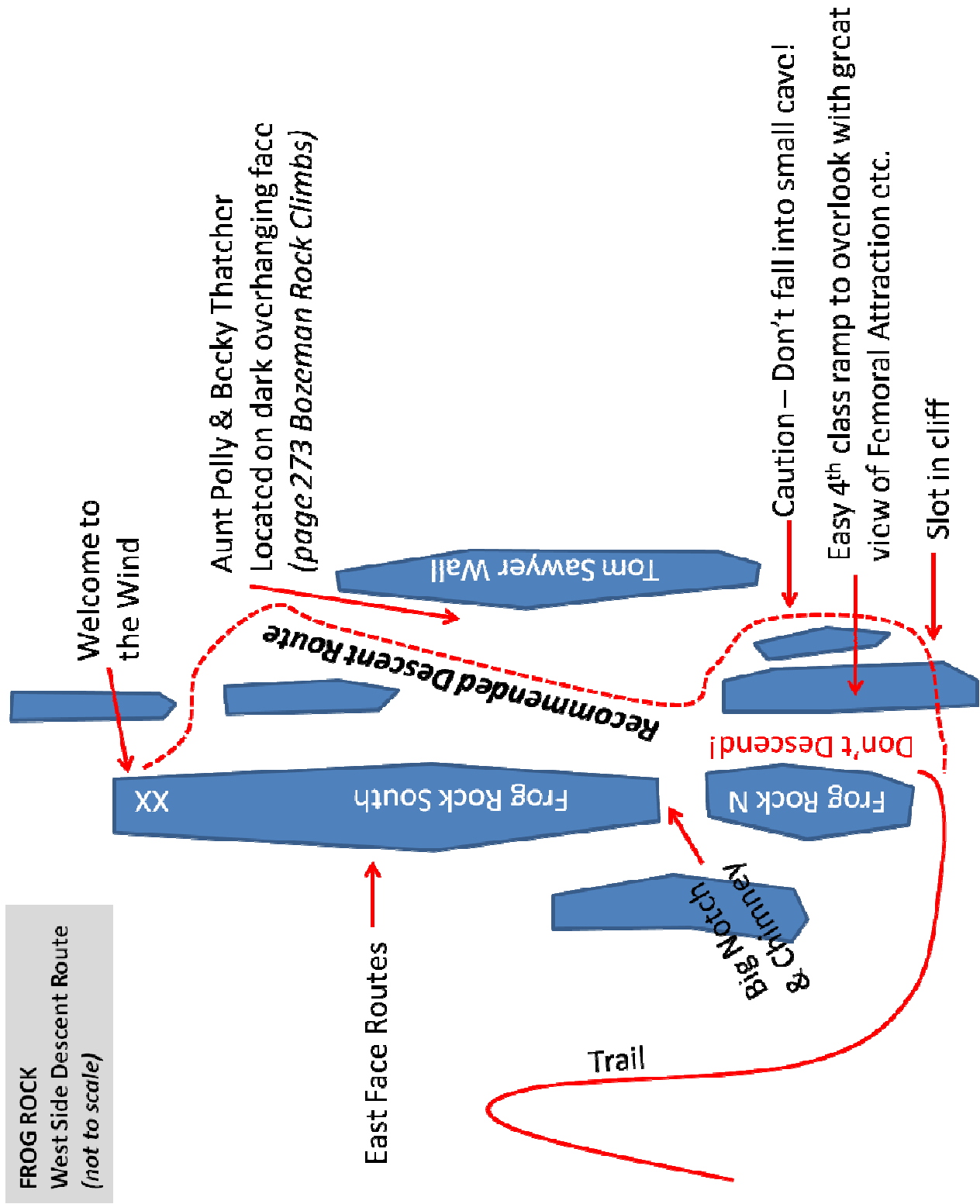
**FROG ROCK EAST FACE**  
Dark Side Wall

**"Welcome to the Wind"**  
**WEST face**  
XX

See page 5 for more detailed route information



- 1. **Hand Warmer (5.10c – 8 bolts)** Conrad Anker (2010)
  - 2. **Updraft (5.10d – 9 bolts)\*\*** Ted Lange (2011)
  - 3. **Droppin' In (5.10c)\*** Ted Lange (2011)  
Pitch 1 (5.9 – 5 bolts)  
Pitch 2 (5.10c – 9 bolts)
  - 3. **Two Side Kicks (5.11b – 12 bolts)\*\*** Pat Callis, Tom Jungst, Mike Carey (1995)
  - 4. **Battle Scar Galactica (5.11a – 14 bolts)**  
Conrad Anker, Kris Erickson, Scott Creel (2010)
  - 5. **The Death Star (5.11a – 11 bolts)\*\*** Kris Erickson, Ross Lynn (2010)
  - ? **Project (5.10?)**
- Welcome to the Wind (5.9 – 5 bolts)\*** Ted Lange (2010) – On **WEST** face



**ACCESS:**

Start at the new Chestnut Mountain trailhead on Trail Creek Road, just a few hundred yards from the I-90 Trail Creek exit. The trailhead is about a 15 minute drive from the Kagy/Willson intersection. For a PDF map of the trail go to: [www.gvlt.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Chestnut-Mt-Map-Flyer.pdf](http://www.gvlt.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Chestnut-Mt-Map-Flyer.pdf)

Using a mountain bike for the approach is highly recommended – much more fun and much faster. The first mile is quite steep, but the rest of the approach is a great rollercoaster ride. Stash your bike where the trail reaches the rocks – it's not rideable beyond this point anyway. This 2.1 mile section of the approach takes approximately 35 minutes. Total elevation gain is 640 feet. Riding back out to the trailhead takes approximately 15 minutes.

A fairly obvious path heads up the slope at this point – about 30 feet before the trail drops over a rock step. To access the north and west-facing Frog Rock routes not included in this guide, downclimb the rock step and continue on the main trail. The approach up to the east face currently has yellow/green flagging tape marking the first section. Part way up to the base of the main formation, the flagged approach traverses left. This approach route is not shown on Page 1 because it is easy to lose in the middle and does not provide access to the routes shown on Page 1. The approach shown on Page 1 takes you exactly where you want to go with less guessing. This approach climbs 540 feet in 0.2 miles and should take about 20 minutes without stopping once you know the way.

**ROUTES (Described from right to left / north to south):****Frogback Traverse (skyline ridge traverse) 5.8\*\*\***

Three stars because it's a unique and spectacular outing with a fun alpine feel. It's also a great outing for beginners and kids who have some prior experience and are comfortable with exposure.

**Pitch 1** (4<sup>th</sup> class) – Climb into the big notch between the lower and upper sections of the Frog Rock formation. Should be no problem for confident scramblers, but kids and some beginners should be roped.

**Pitch 2** (5.4) – Climb chimney from notch – 4<sup>th</sup> class ending with 30 ft of fun 5<sup>th</sup> class. Protect with medium cams. Near top of chimney, exit left/east on good rock with orange lichen to access great belay ledge with tree shown on Page 1 inset photo – plenty of room for several people. Do NOT finish straight up through loose chockstones at top of chimney.

**Pitch 3** (5.8?) – Scramble or simul-climb the ridge to the notch and anchor at the top of “Droppin’ In”. Downclimb or lower into the notch and traverse to south side. You can belay at the small ledge with the second bolted anchor, but better to continue up to big ledge and belay from cordelette/cams. The second bolted anchor is there primarily for future east face climbs. Note that a rappel from this anchor requires two ropes. The crux of this pitch is the downclimb from the first anchor, so it's a bit hard to rate. Note that the LAST climber (not the leader) faces the lead fall potential on this crux downclimb. From the first anchor you can rappel east or west if you need to.

**Finish** (4<sup>th</sup> class) – Scramble or simul-climb to the “Welcome to the Wind” anchor. Rappel off the top of the west face and hike down following the route shown on Page 3. Rather than descending immediately below the west face, it's easiest to follow game trails west of Frog Rock, looking for the easiest spot to angle back toward Frog Rock above the Tom Sawyer Wall. Descend past Tom Sawyer's east face to the big notch where the Pitch 2 chimney starts. Do NOT downclimb the steep, loose, rocky gully above Femoral Attraction and other west face climbs – too much potential for knocking rocks on climbers and hikers below. Experienced climbers will be comfortable going back through the notch below the chimney pitch and downclimbing Pitch 1. Alternately, descend on the west side of the formation west of these climbs, watching for a narrow slot in the cliff face that will put you in the gully directly across from the access trail coming from the east side and across from the base of Servus.

**Unnamed (5.9 – 8 bolts)**

This route provides an alternate start to the Frogback Traverse. It tops out at the nice ledge and belay tree at the top of the Frogback chimney pitch. There is currently no anchor. There is potential for several more moderate routes both left and right of this one.

**EAST FACE – DARK SIDE WALL**

*(shown on Page 2)*

**1. The Hand Warmer (5.10c – 8 bolts)** Conrad Anker (Fall 2010)

Located on the south face of a little tower about 50 yards downhill and right of the base of Droppin' In. Don't be deterred by the dirty-looking start, once you gain the bulge the climbing is quite good and should clean up nicely.

**2. Updraft (5.10d – 9 bolts)\*\*** Ted Lange (Fall 2011)

- Updraft's bottom section (5.9 – 5 bolts) below the big overhang can be climbed to the 1<sup>st</sup> pitch anchor on Droppin' In. The runout from the top bolt to the anchor may be a little sporty, but the climbing appears easy. This variation hasn't been climbed yet.
- The crux overhang goes at 5.10d if climbed left of the bolts. There appears to be a much harder variation right of the bolts – maybe hard 5.11 or 5.12? This variation hasn't been seriously attempted yet.
- Above the overhang, climb directly up and right of the bolts for a challenging slab crux, or climb an easier variation left of the bolts, traversing into the anchor from the right and clipping a bolt that otherwise appears random. This bolt was going to be part of the anchor until I realized there was a much better place to put the anchor.

**3. Droppin' In (5.10c)\*** Ted Lange (Summer 2011)

- Pitch 1 (5.9 – 5 bolts) is high quality overall, but starts on rock that would not take a solid bolt, so the first clip is a threaded loop of blue Kevlar cord that should prevent a tumbling fall if a hold were to break in the first 15 feet of easy climbing.
- Pitch 2 (5.10c – 9 bolts) steps right through the overhang then continues up good rock to a 4<sup>th</sup> class section before a final bit of fun steep rock at the top. There are multiple options for topping out, but for full value stay right on overhanging rock, clipping gold-colored bolts (5.10b?). The silver bolts are for the Frogback Traverse.
- A 60 meter rope may or may not reach the Pitch 1 anchor (I haven't tested this yet), but it will definitely reach the Updraft anchor.

**4. Two Side Kicks (5.11b – 12 bolts)\*\*** Pat Callis, Tom Jungst, Mike Carey (1995)

As you scramble up the approach ledge, this climb's third bolt is easy to spot in solid black rock in the big overhang that stretches across to routes 1 & 2. This is a great climb with two interesting overhang cruxes.

A 60-meter rope gets you back down to the first bolt with rope stretch. From there it's easy downclimbing.

**5. Battle Scar Galactica (5.11a – 14 bolts)** Conrad Anker, Kris Erickson, Scott Creel (Summer 2010)

Start below a left-facing corner, at the left end of the long overhang at the first belay platform you encounter.

Climb a long slab up through the distant overhang.

A 60-meter rope gets you to the ground if you pendulum left at the bottom.

6. **The Death Star (5.11a – 11 bolts)\*\*** Kris Erickson, Ross Lynn (Summer 2010)

Start from a big belay platform with a tree. Climb good black rock up through the overhang high above.  
A 60-meter rope reaches the ground.

? **Project (5.10?)** Conrad Anker