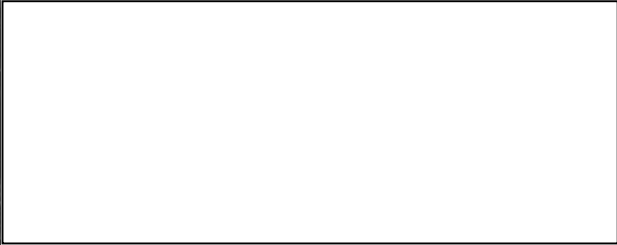


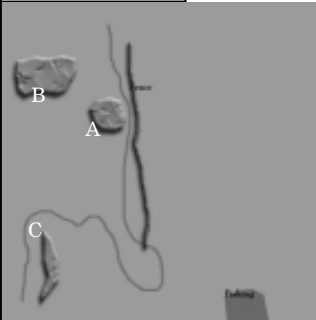
Blue Devil Valley

Getting there: Go 0.5 miles southwest of Granite Falls off of Hwy 23 on Co Hwy 39. Park in front of the SNA sign.

Island Boulder



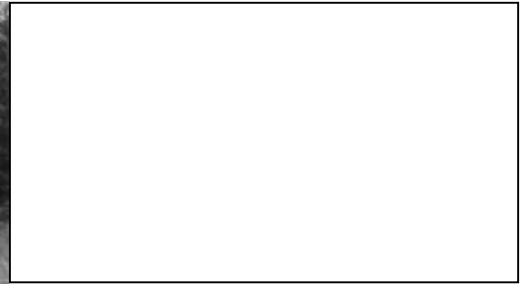
- A. The Island Boulder
- B. Scottish Crush Boulder
- C. Fried Fish Boulder



Scottish Crush Boulder



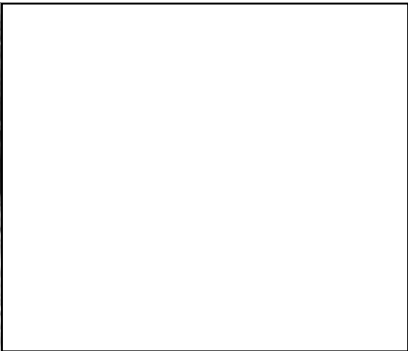
Fried Fish Boulder



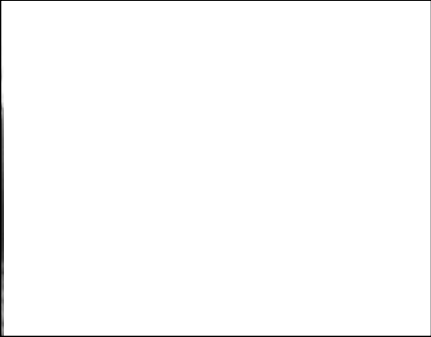
East Aquaman Boulder



Batman Boulder



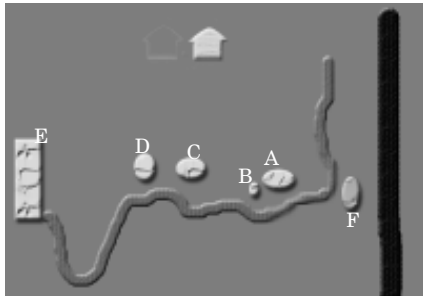
Teen Titan Wall



Cedar Rock Ranch

Getting there: Heading West on Hwy 67 out of Redwood Falls, head north on county rd 17. As you head down the hill before the Minnesota River, look for the Cedar Rock Ranch sign on the right. Take a right and follow the road to the end. On the left side you'll find Cedar Rock Ranch.

Logistics and details: This area offers some unique features. There are granite erratic boulders and bedrock climbing walls. There isn't a ton of climbs or problems, but a nice stop on the bouldering circuit. This is on private land so make sure to ask permission at the farm house. They also provide hay rides. The owners name is Bob Starr.



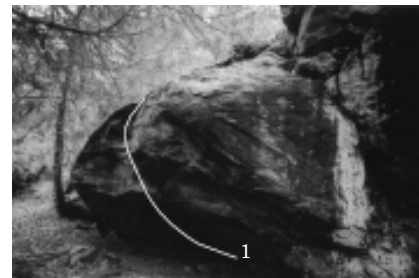
- A. Smallville Boulder
- B. Wonder Twins Boulder
- C. Justice League Boulder
- D. Aquaman Boulder
- E. Teen Titan Wall
- F. Batman Boulder

Smallville Boulder



1. V0 Kryptonite. Start on the right side and traverse the lip to the left.

Wonder Twins Boulder



1. V2 Rings of Power. Sit start on lower crimps. Throw up and over bulge.

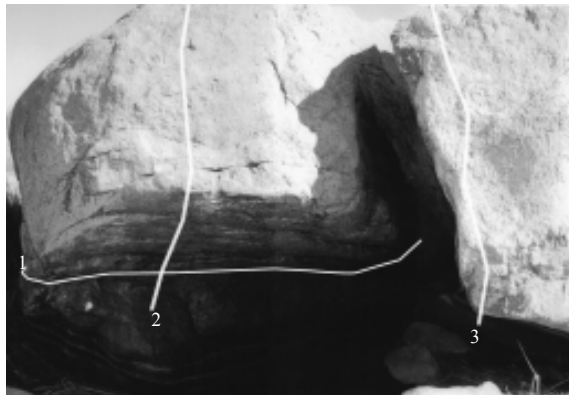
Justice League Boulder



Odessa Boulder

Getting There: Taking hiway 12 west towards big stone, look for a good sized boulder on the south side of the road when you get near odessa

West Face



- 1. The Wave V2.** Start just to the left of the overhanging bulge and traverse right to the end of the overhang.
- 2. Back Breaker V?** Watch the landing on this problem. Start on the low underclings and head to the horizontal crack just over the bulge and head to the top.
- 3. Hop the Train V2.** Head staright up the arete.



- 1. The Edge V1.** Head up line on the right side of the south face heading through the big horizontal

South Face



East Face



- 2. Unbreakable V2.** Head up the arete on the East Face.
- 3. The Sixth Sense V3.** This is a one-move wonder. Start on the horizontal crack and throw over to the top.

North Face

This area of the outcropping offers a range from moderate to really hard



Lone Rock Ranger

This rock is easy to spot. It is in the center of the field on the second loop.

South Face



Picture of a cow



1. **Smallville V2.** Sit start on the left side of the boulder.
2. **Rabbit Ears V0.** Traverse the top edge of the boulder from right to left.
3. **Animus V3.** Sit start and directly up the crack.
4. **Cactus Slap V3.** Sit start just to the right of Animus and up.
5. **Body Electric V?** Sit start to the right of Cactus Slap.

The Amplified Boulder



1. **Quantum V0.** Climb the inside corner of this boulder.
2. **The Leap V?** The outside arete of the Amplified Boulder.

East Face

The East Face is located just south of the parking area for the nature walk. It is located on the East face of the 1st large boulder

V0 Land



This area is all V0-V1 except for the North end which is freakin' hard.

South Face

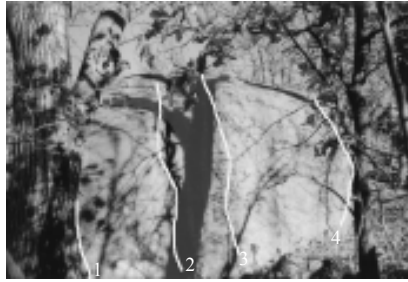
This area is located on the southeast corner of the outcrop. It offers some longer moderate slabs. Watch out for death trees at the bottom.



Mr. T Boulder South Face



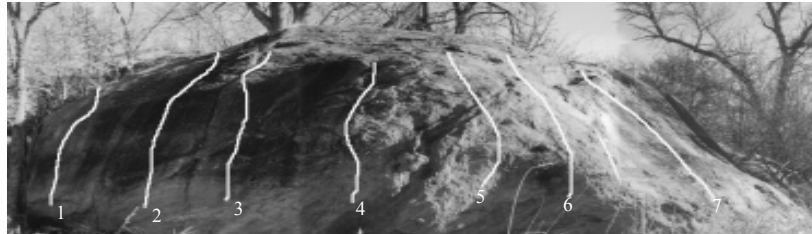
East Face



1. Pulp Fiction V2. Head up left arete.
2. Cracka' V1. Head up main crack on the East Face.
3. Squeal Like A Pig V? Head up line just right of Cracka'.
4. Pulp In My Juice V1. Start at the Flake on the right side of the East Face and head up.
5. (Not Pictured) Cosmos V0. Head up Right Arete on the East Face.

Brandt Boulder

The Brandt Boulder offers some awesome moderate slab routes



1. **Big and Meaty V1.** Start on left arete and head up.
2. **Movin' On Up V1.** Start left of the crack and head up.
3. **Seafood See food V1.** Start on the right of the crack and head straight up.
4. **Love Chunk V0.** Head up the big chunkies.
5. **Granola V0.**
6. **You Not So Funny V0.**

Nature Trail Area

The Nature Trail Area is located to the North of the Nature Trail parking lot.

Bolder Boulder

1. **Bacon Hit My Bumper V1.** This is a one move wonder up the South Face.



Large Pebble Boulders



1. **Captain Kangaroo V?**
2. **Cookie Monster V?**
3. **Korn on the Cob V?**

The Building Blocks



The Building blocks area is a stack of quarried blocks. This area makes for great warm-up problems. Be careful of loose blocks!

The Sheep Farm Area

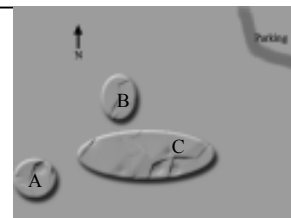
The Sheep farm area is located just across the road from Swedes Forest. This area is currently under development and not open to general climbing.

Big Stone



The Overlook

Directions: Follow the scenic road around and past the main parking area. Take the first right past the parking area and follow it up to the Overlook. From the Overlook parking head Southwest along the outcropping about 1/4 mile.



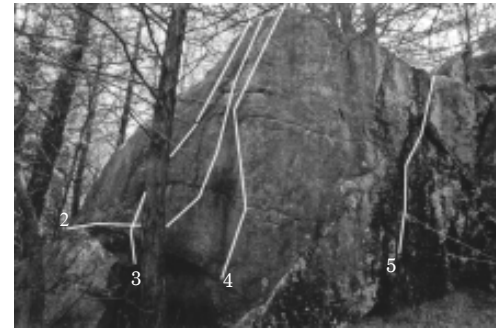
- A. Mosquito Boulder
- B. Mr. T Boulder
- C. Brandt Boulder



1. **Wet Bottom V1.** Scary slab climb up left side of the face.
2. **Soiled Bottom V1.** Other scary slab on right side of the face.
3. **Slab of Bacon V2.** Slab climb up center of face.
4. **Iron Cross V3+.** Start with Left hand on the Arete and right hand on crimp next to start of The One. Move up Arete for the finish.
5. **The One V2.** Sit start with left on edge. Move into the undercling and work your way up. Avoid the Big crack to the right.
6. **Jimmy Cracked Korn V0.** Sit start with obvious line up the big crack.

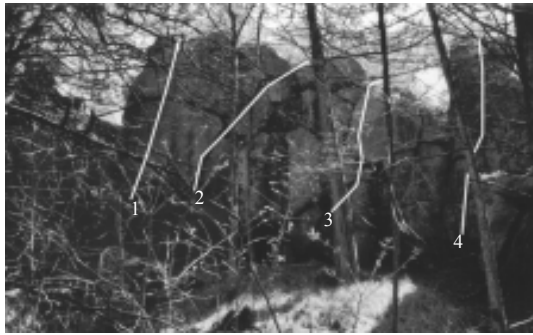


1. **Upchucky Cheese V5.** Sit Start left side, throw to the start of See Da and finish See Da.
2. **Slaps of Fury V?** Same start as Upchucky but traverse the lip to the right arete and then up the arete.



3. **See Da V4.** Sit Start at the middle of the face, start on good hold and go into a knee bar, throw to the left, use a left drop-knee, and continue over the lip to the top.
4. **Crimps of Fury V3+.** Sit start on the arete, throw right and work up the arete.
5. **Buddha's Ponch VV.** Sit start and up big crack.

Jacky Chan Wall



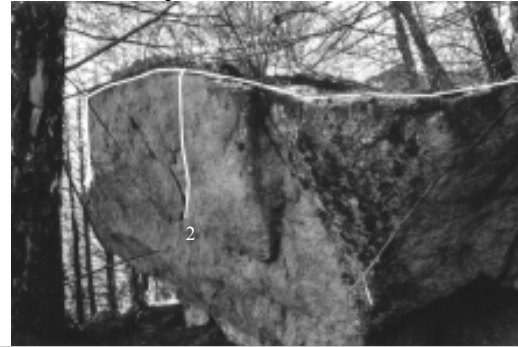
1. **Bear Hug V?** Bear hug the arete and the crack and work way up to the top.
2. **Downward Spiral V2.** Sit Start with hands on the block. Work the crack up to the right.
3. **Lichen It V1.** Sit start on obvious right crack.
4. **Merry Goes Mating V1.** Climb tallest face climb on the right face of the Jacky Chan Wall.
5. **Super Cop V?** Face climb up left face of Jacky Chan Wall.

Bruce Lee Wall



1. **Fists of Fury V?** Sit Start in the back of cave, traverse right and finish Enter the Dragon.
2. **Enter the Dragon V?** Go up left arete however you can manage.
3. **The Claw V4X.** Start on main face with left on top of the round fracture. Throw right and head up. Exit through the chimney for a V3 finish.
4. **None Chuck V?** Sit start and obvious line up smaller stack of rocks to the right of The Claw.

Mission Impossible Boulder



1. **Take the Mission V1** Traverse the upper lip of the boulder starting as far right as possible. Top out on Mission Impossible Face.
2. **Iwannahuck V2.** Sit start and crimp the flake, throw to the top for this one move wonder and mantel over.
3. **Mission Impossible V3.** Sit start with a pinch under the lip, throw to the crimps just over the lip and work way up slopers for an interesting mantel.

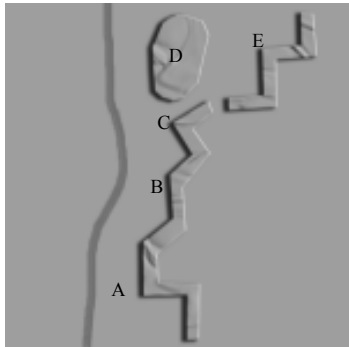


Jet Lee Wall

7. **Chimi Changa Has Gone Too Far V3.** Sit start on right inside face of the cave. Throw to the left and then up and right for the finish.
8. **The Big Chelupa V1.** Same start as CCHGTF, but throw right off the starting crimps.
9. **Out of Key VV.** Sit Start and head up obvious line.
10. **Hemroid Cushion V3.** Sit start at the crimps, throw up left and then head up the wall. Finish straight up.
11. **Wiley Women Wombats?** Sit Start on Crimps and head straight up, avoid the crack.

Kung Fu Boulders

Directions: While heading South on the main trail, take a right at the “T” junction. Follow the trail as it turns South, Just before the trail turns East, keep going straight past the SNA sign. The boulders are a couple of hundred feet past this point on your left.

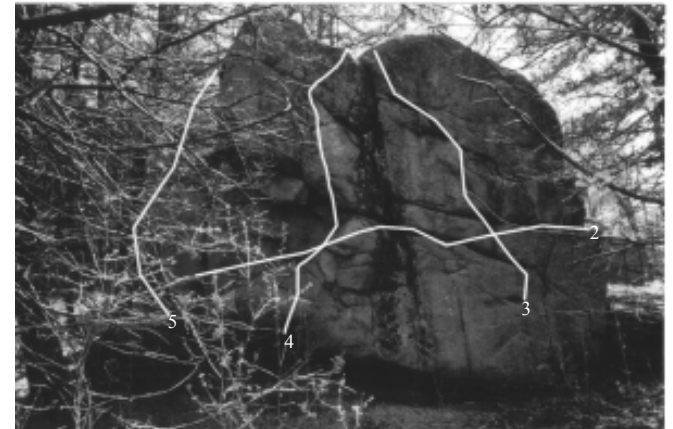


- A. The Wee Munter Wall
- B. Jacky Chan Wall
- C. Bruce Lee Wall
- D. Mission Impossible Boulder
- E. Jet Lee Wall

The Munter Wall



1. **Nada Nun Chunks ?** Sit start, throw left and then head up crack.
2. **Feelin' Lucky ?** Traverse the lower crack on the face.
3. **Texas Ranger V1.** Sit start at the scoop then head up and left for the “V” notch finish
4. **Homestar Runner V2.** Sit start then throw up and right. Follow the line straight up to the “V” notch finish.
5. **Too Short V5.** Sit Start at the left side of the face using the left undercling and a right crimp. Work way up Arete, the big crack on the right is off.



Naked Ape Boulders West



6. Crack Kills V2. Start in the ceiling crack near the bulge in the cave. Follow the crack out and onto the face. Pull through the flaring crack and up to the top.

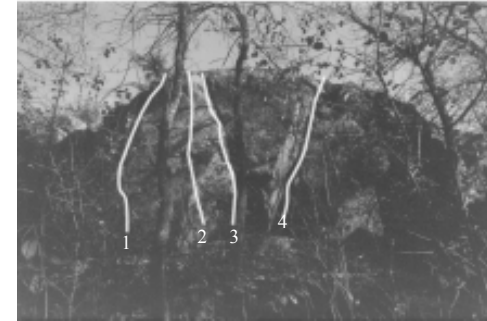
Half-Pint Wall



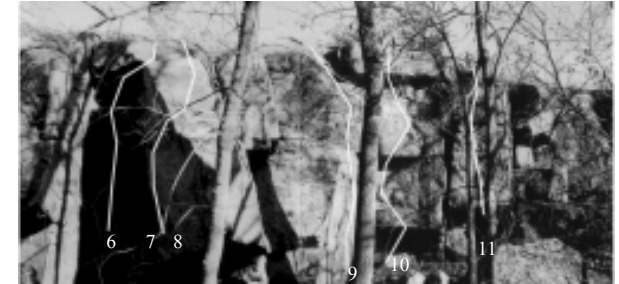
The Half-Pint Wall is located directly South from the Naked Ape Boulders. There is nothing too special here. It lends itself to a few sit starts.

Miner's Wall

Directions: The Miner's Wall is located Southwest from the Naked Ape Boulders. (The climbs are listed from left to right on the cliff face)



- 1. B minor. V2** Start on the left side on tiny crimps and head up.
- 2. Bread Puddin' VV.** Head up left of first crack.
- 3. From Russia With Love VV.** Head up Left Crack.
- 4. Cracker Jack Prozac VV.** Head up right crack.



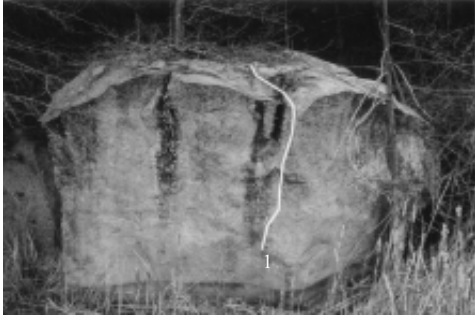
- 5. Toilet Bowl VV.** (not pictured) Head up left crack inside of cave.
- 6. Butt Crack of Dawn VV.** Head up the cave crack and finish right.
- 6A. Pure Butt Crack?** Head up the cave crack, but only use the crack. Exit to the right.

Monkey Wrench Boulder North Face

Directions: When you reach the "T" junction while heading south, turn left and head East down the trail.

The Swamp Boulder

*The water either needs to be low or frozen to get to the swamp boulder



Location: To find the swamp boulder and South Cactus Boulder, look for the first major set of boulders on left. The South Swamp Boulder is on the North side of the boulders. For the Swamp Boulder head north and you'll find the swamp. The swamp boulder is on the West edge of the swamp.

1. Swamp Thing VV. Go up center of boulder.

Cactus Boulder South

2. Groovin' V1. Start on the left Arete. Head towards the blast grooves then up and over.



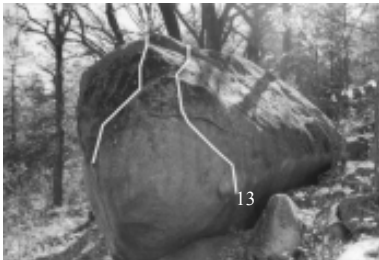
Cactus Boulder North

The North Cactus Boulder offers a few sit starts. Once again, this is a hard boulder to find. As you are hiking towards Naked Ape Boulder, look hard on your right. The boulder is about 30 feet off of the trail.

Naked Ape Boulders

- 1. Grape Ape?** Sit start and work up to the good hold on the flake, throw up left to the crimp and then over the top.
- 2. Great Grape Ape?** Same start as Grape Ape, then head far right and up.
- 3. Craft Arete V5.** Start low on the arete, head up and throw left to the crimp, bump up and head over the scary finish.
- 4. Easy Peasy VV.** Head up obvious line on the right face of the left boulder.
- 5. Apes Go Streakin'?** Start on left side pull and upper crimp in the dish, head, crank right and then up.





13. Karo Syrup and Bulldozers V2. Sit start at lower right of the North Face. Throw left into the bottom of the death block and then head up and over.

Sitting Skink



14. Project.

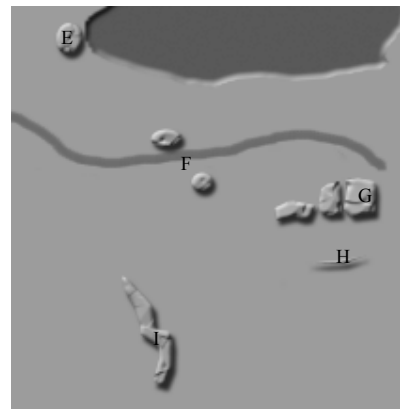
Culby Boulder

Directions: The Culby Boulder is located just before the "T" in the trail as you are heading South. The Boulder is located on the West Side of the trail. Depending on the time of year, this boulder can be very hard to spot.



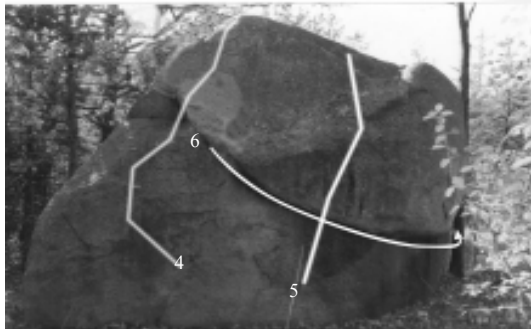
1. **The Pig Rules V3.** Sit start on the right arete. Throw up to the crimp, then head to the crack and up left.
2. **Drill Hole V2.** Same start as The Pig Rules, Throw to the crimp then head right and up to the drill hole on top of the boulder.
3. **Creme Poofers A'hoj V1.** Start at the right side of the West face. Head up to the drill hole.

The Lost Boulders



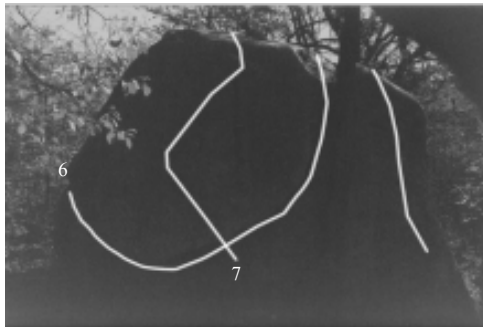
- E. Swamp Boulder
- F. Cactus Boulders
- G. Naked Ape Boulders
- H. Half-Pint Wall
- I. Miner's Wall

Skink's Palace East Face



- 4. **Do No Evil** VV. Start on left side and head towards upper side of the crack.
- 5. **Up the Lip** V3. Start near left side of the crack and throw to the small razor dish then head up and over.
- 6. **Skinks Crack** V3. Start near left side of the crack and start the traverse right. Finish on the north face heading up the crack.

Skink's Palace North Face

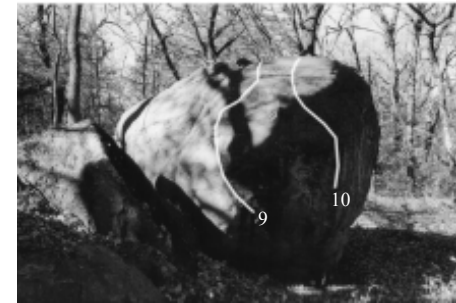


- 7. **On the Edge** V2. Start on the lower right side of crack, throw to the big hold near the top and then up and over

Skink's Palace West Face

Most of the routes on the West Face are VV. Be careful of loose flakes. The route on the left side of the West Face is the easiest to descend.

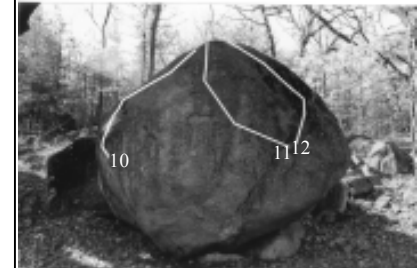
Monkey Wrench Boulder South Face



- 9. **Cuttin' Signs** V0. Start on the left side of the boulder, then head right and up.
- 10. **Down with the Coal Train** V3. Start on the right side of the boulder on the two lower crimps. Throw up left to the sloper and head up and over.

Monkey Wrench Boulder East Face

- 11. **Rudolph the Red** V4. Start at the good hold on the right side of the boulder. Head left and up.
- 12. **Jack Mormon** V3. Start at the good hold on the Right Side. Head to the crack on top of the block and then up and over.



Sheep Bones Area

Directions:

Sheep Bones is located on the East side of the walking trail and about 200 yards from the parking area. The boulder is hard to see from the trail. The climbing is on the East Face

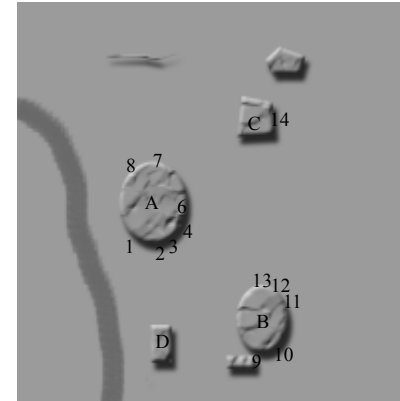
1. **Mutton On the Edge:** Start near the left Arete then head right and up the crack.
2. **Oh Sheep:** Take obvious line up center.
3. **Ewe Aint Kiddin':** Head up right arete.



The Skink Boulders

Directions:

Just after the trail heads East and starts back South, look for the large boulder on the East side of the trail.

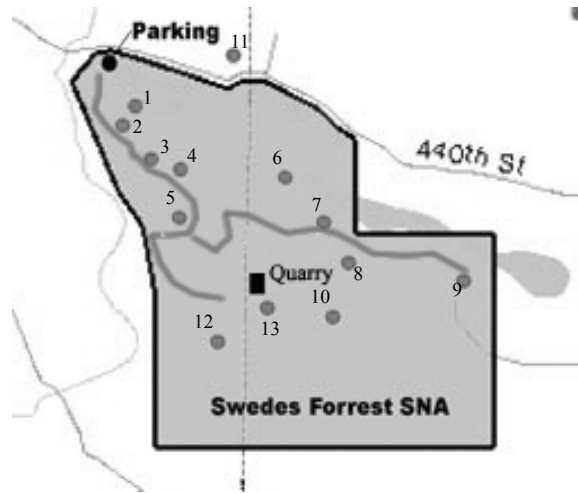


- A. Skinks Palace
- B. Monkey Wrench Boulder
- C. Sitting Skink
- D. The Diamond Skink

Skink's Palace South Face



1. **See No Evil V2.** Start on crimps on the left side, then work up and right
2. **Speak no Evil V1.** Start on the good hold on the left right side of the boulder. Throw left to the sharp edge and then head up.
3. **Hear no Evil V1.** Same start as SNE, but throw up to the crack. If you're flexible, look for the good heel hook to the right. Then head up and over.



1. Lake Boulder
2. Sheep Bones Area
- 3, 4. Skink Boulders
5. Culby Boulder
- 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. The Lost Boulders
11. The Sheep Farm Area
12. The Kung Fu Boulders
13. The Building Blocks Area

The Lake Boulder

Directions:

As you may have guessed, the lake boulders are located on the edge of the lake. About a hundred feet past the main gate, start looking on the left for a trail.



1. **Pocket Change V6:** Standing start with left hand on arete, right on lowest crimp. Go straight up using crimps for right hand and arete for left.
2. **Project**
3. **(not pictured):** There are a few easy problems behind the main lake boulder.

Swedes Forest

Geology:

No one is quite certain what caused the Minnesota River valley to have the geology that it does. One theory states that as the glaciers began to recede, they formed glacial lakes. Eventually, part of the land dam near Big Stone Lake broke, and dumping water down the Minnesota River Valley. As the water rushed forward, it carried glacial till with it. The granite erratics that were dropped along the way are some of the oldest known rocks ever discovered. However, the area was formed, it is interesting enough to bring geology students from around the country to explore and study the region.

How this guide came to be:

When I decided to head back to Minnesota for graduate school, it was a hard reality leaving the amazing bouldering of Utah. One day, I was talking with Dave Brandt from Prairie Walls and I told him my concerns with heading back to the Midwest. He told me about this amazing bouldering they discovered along the Minnesota River Valley. As one of my projects in the Experiential Ed projects at Mankato State. I drove up nearly every side road along the Minnesota River in my trusty white Escort (complete with purple racing stripe) in search of more granite erratics. After thousands of miles driven, countless rolls of film, a few friends persuaded to come along and too many hours behind a computer, this guide came into existence. This guide is a compilation of some of the better bouldering areas along the Minnesota River. Some are destinations and others are quick stops along the way to the better destinations.

Warnings and Considerations:

The bouldering listed in this guide is located on public and private lands. Please be respectful of land owners and ask permission. Also, be considerate of the sensitive nature in the SNA's. Keep in mind this guide HAS errors. The main purpose of this guide is to show where some of the best bouldering in Minnesota is located. Hopefully, future editions of the guide will be more accurate. Please send corrections, new discoveries or other related info to munterdesigns@gmail.com.

Rules and Logistics:

Swedes Forest is located on a Scientific and Natural Area. Therefore, tread lightly. Also, no dogs, no camping and no taking the cactus for a window decoration. There are also no bathrooms at Swedes, so come prepared. The Sheep Farm Area is located on private land. Check in with John the owner before you enter the property. His driveway is located about 100 feet past the Swedes parking area on the right. Be courteous, kind and respectful!

How to Get There:

From the South-Central

Take Hwy 14 West to New Ulm. Get onto Hwy 68 West. Eventually, merge into Hwy 67 West towards Redwood Falls. Head through Redwood Falls on 67. Take a right on JCT 7 heading to Sacred Heart. Continue North. Take a left on 440th St. If you hit the Minnesota River, you've gone too far. Continue about a mile and half down 440th st. The parking area for Swedes SNA is on your left side.

From Minneapolis/ St. Paul:

Take Hwy 212 West until you reach Sacred Heart. Just after you pass the sign for Sacred Heart, take your first left which is County Road 7. Head South until you cross over the Minnesota River. Take your first road on the right past the bridge. This is 440th St. The parking area is about a mile and a half down the road on your left.

Minnesota River Valley Bouldering

Discovery:

In 2001 a small group of climbers from Rochester made 5 trips West along the Minnesota River Valley in search of boulders. They found Swede's Forest SNA, the Odessa Boulder and Big Stone.

Rock Type:

The bouldering in Swedes Forest is made up of Granite boulders and Granite Gneiss. Most of the rock is high quality and close grained. The rocks in the area have been dated and found to be some of the oldest in the World.

Camping:

The two closest options for camping near Swedes Forest is Granite Falls and Ramsey Park in Redwood Falls. The closest Camping near Big Stone is Big Stone State Park northwest of Ortonville.