

# South Clear Creek

SOUTH CLEAR

*I realized a while back that climbing has little to do with achievement. Now it's the memories of cliff top campfires and midnight bouldering sessions that have stayed. The thrill of squeezing a few more laps in as falling snow would blanket the forest in a sea of white. It's that view from the anchors I wouldn't trade for much of anything.*

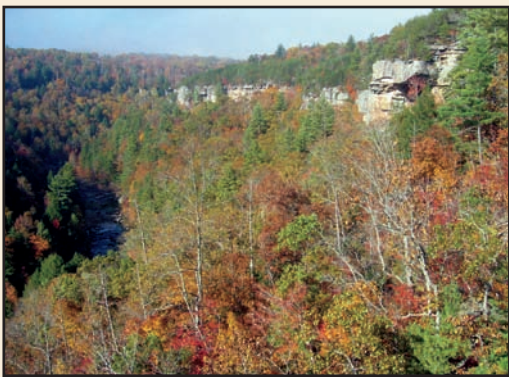
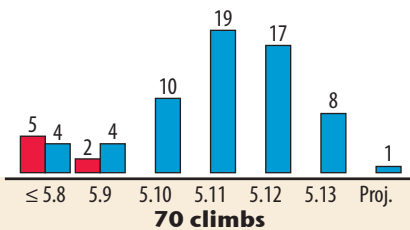
— Brad Carter



Matt Santella on *Solstice* (5.12a), p. 78. Photo: Mark A.Large.

# South Clear Creek

hike	season	sun/shade	ok in rain?
25 minutes	fall, winter, spring	sun all day, shade under roofs	Yes



South Clear is characterized by great rock with the routes generally stacking up a bit shorter than other areas in the Obed. Many of the climbs are covered by big roofs, so much of the area stays dry in the rain. The routes range from 5.7 to 5.13c, yielding something for everyone. So come to South Clear to enjoy everything from easier slabs to master-blasting, overhanging arm drainers that will test most climbers.

Cliffs tower above Clear Creek. Photo: Luke Laeser.



## PARKING

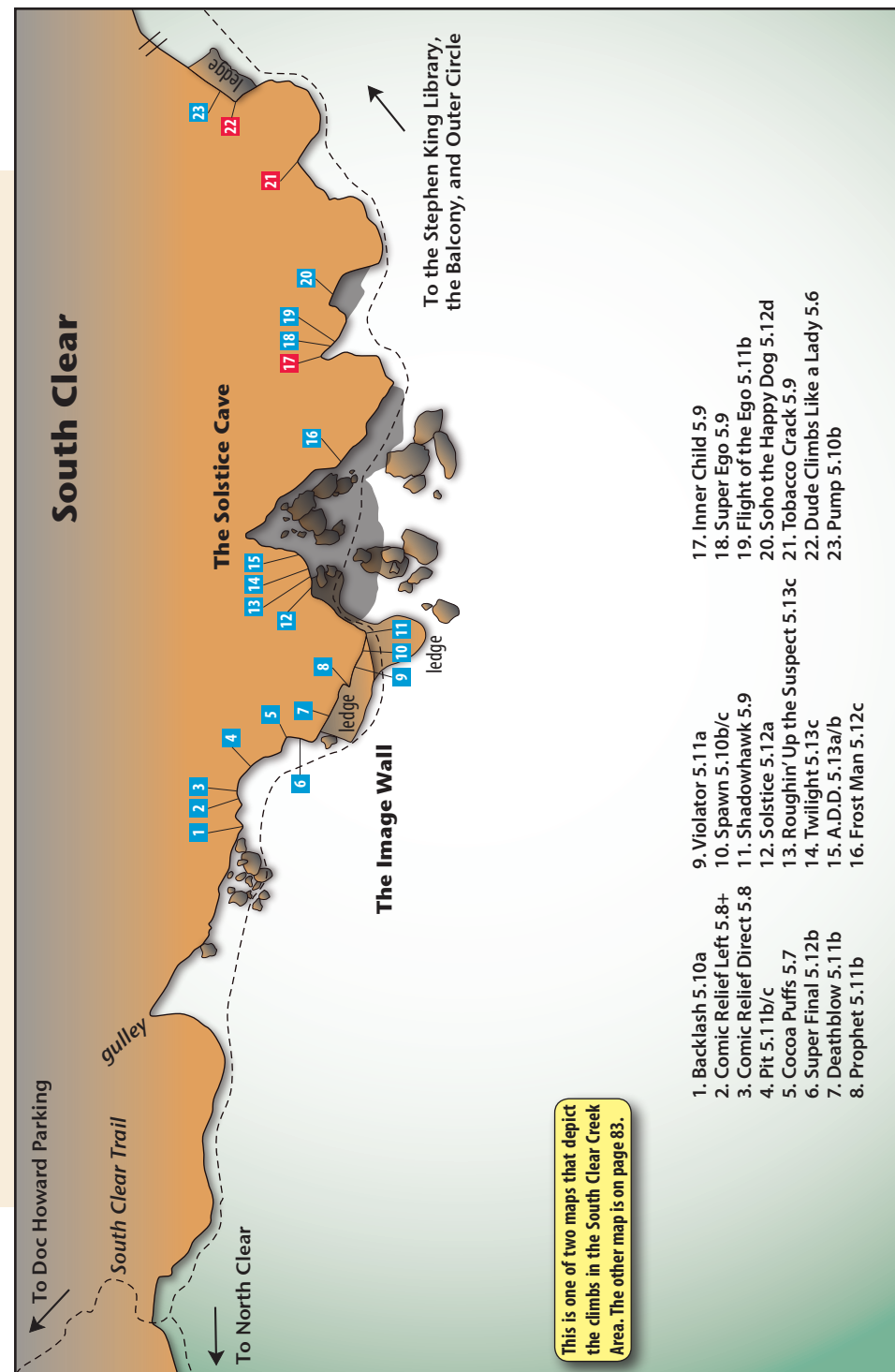
Parking for South Clear is located off Doc Howard Road. PLEASE, put something in the donation box. Dawson Howard and his family have so graciously let climbers park there for years. From State Hwy. 62 take a left onto Ridge Road. Drive 2.8 miles and turn left on Doc Howard Road. A short way in, make your first right into the parking area.

**GPS Coordinates:** 36° 6' 8.7" North; 84° 42' 40" West



## APPROACH

Take the trail into the woods and stay on top of the cliff for 15–20 minutes. Stay on the trail and stay off the deck, there is private property around! The trail will eventually drop down to the base of the cliff. Here you will find yourself between the Blue Crystal Buttruss upstream, described on pages 68–69, at the end of the North Clear section, and the Image Wall, which is the beginning of South Clear, will be downstream to your left. **The climbs are described from left to right as you encounter them.**



- 1. Backlash 5.10a
- 2. Comic Relief Left 5.8+
- 3. Comic Relief Direct 5.8
- 4. Pit 5.11b/c
- 5. Cocoa Puffs 5.7
- 6. Super Final 5.12b
- 7. Deathblow 5.11b
- 8. Prophet 5.11b
- 9. Violator 5.11a
- 10. Spawn 5.10b/c
- 11. Shadowhawk 5.9
- 12. Solstice 5.12a
- 13. Roughin' Up the Suspect 5.13c
- 14. Twilight 5.13c
- 15. A.D.D. 5.13a/b
- 16. Frost Man 5.12c
- 17. Inner Child 5.9
- 18. Super Ego 5.9
- 19. Flight of the Ego 5.11b
- 20. Soho the Happy Dog 5.12d
- 21. Tobacco Crack 5.9
- 22. Dude Climbs Like a Lady 5.6
- 23. Pump 5.10b

This is one of two maps that depict the climbs in the South Clear Creek Area. The other map is on page 83.

SOUTH CLEAR

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## IMAGE WALL

This will be the first area you will get to in South Clear. Here you will find good whitish rock with routes ranging from 5.7 to 5.12b. Most of the route names come from Image Comics. A great area to warm up.

### 1. Backlash 5.10a ★

Start behind a tree. Climb to a small roof, surmount this and on to the top.

FA: James Gose. 7 bolts to cold shut anchors.

### 2. Comic Relief Left 5.8+

Short route, good into climb. There is a 2nd set of anchors up higher. Often wet.

FA: James Gose. 6 bolts to cold shut anchors.

### 3. Comic Relief Direct 5.8

A few feet to the right. This has a lower set of anchors as well.

FA: James Gose. 7 bolts to cold shut anchors.

### 4. Pit 5.11b/c

A delicate face move allows you passage to the tiers up top.

FA: Mike McKee. 6 bolts to cold shut anchors.

### 5. Cocoa Puffs 5.7 ★

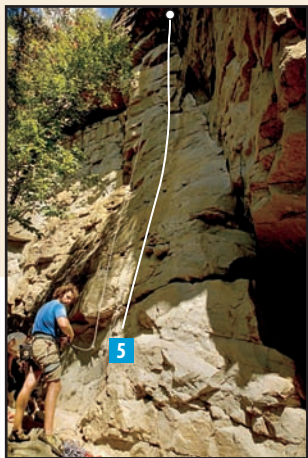
Climb the face up to a corner with a flake that looks like South America. Overcome the bulge in the corner.

FA: Witt Boy. 6 bolts to cold shut anchors.

### 6. Super Final 5.12b ★★★

AKA *Nasty's Wild Ride*. Sustained face climbing up to crash-endo throw to the top. A lot of fun. I saw Matt Nasty take that Wild Ride only to break his hand on that toss.

FA: Greg Houston. 5 bolts to anchors.



Noel Seagle Lewis on *Super Final* (5.12b), opposite page.  
Photo: Mark A. Large.

