

## Gooseberry Area

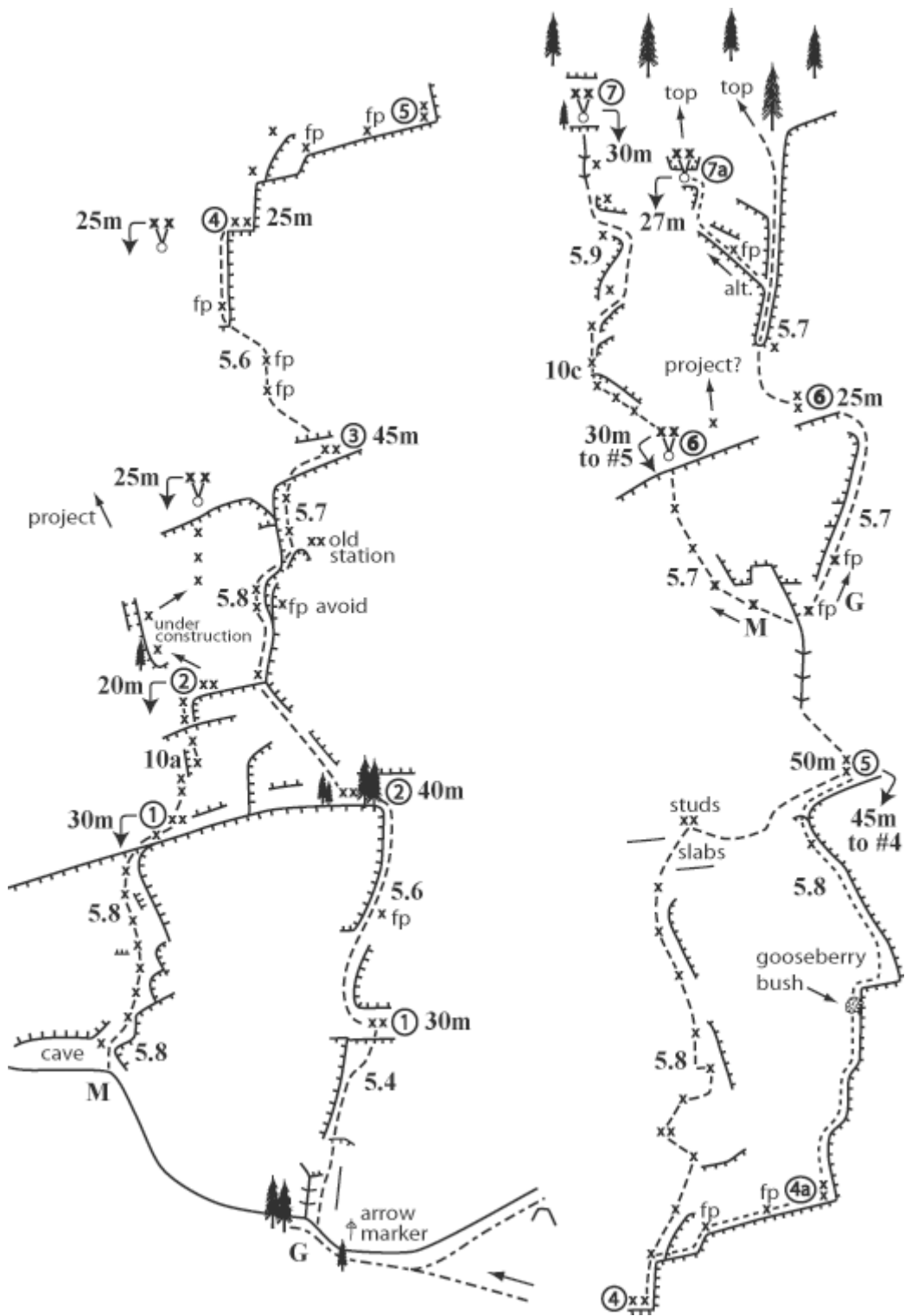
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Banff Rock

### Gooseberry 250 m, 5.8

*Ken Baker and Lloyd MacKay, May 1967*

Start below a short groove capped by a yellow roof.

- 1. 30 m, 5.4.** Climb the easy right wall of the groove past an old piton and a bolt higher up to a station at a ledge on the right.
- 2. 40 m, 5.6.** Move up and left to gain a ramp that leads to a long, right-facing corner. Climb the corner to a large ledge on the left and a bolted station behind trees.
- 3. 45 m, 5.8.** Starting a few metres left of the station, climb easily left and up to gain a large, left-facing corner system. Climb this, easily at first, and then make some awkward layback moves past two bolts on the left to pass a bulge (avoid the short corner and pitons on the right). Step back right and move up to a small ledge on the right. Climb the wall above past two bolts to reach a station on the right.
- 4. 25 m, 5.6.** Move up left over a small bulge and climb a shallow groove past two pitons. Go diagonally up left into a left-facing corner and follow it to a ledge and bolt belay. Stop here to climb the recommended pitch 5 or alternatively, continue up and make a long traverse right on easy ledges past some loose blocks (pitons) to a bolt belay at the base of a steep, left-facing corner/chimney. The corner is the route originally climbed on the first ascent and contains the famous gooseberry bush – or one of its descendents? It is described as pitch 5 (alt.) below.
- 5. 50 m, 5.8.** The recommended route is to climb the sport pitch on the *MacKay Route*. After moving up and beginning the traverse right on the original route, follow the line of bolts up and right at first on excellent rock with incut chert edges. At the top of the wall, move up sloping ledges to two large ½ inch studs (no hangers at present) and then traverse right and up to the bolt belay at the top of the big corner.
- 5 alt. 40 m, 5.8.** Climb the corner, easily at first, past the gooseberry bush to a large ledge below the more difficult upper section. Climb this on unnervingly slick rock past a bolt higher up to a major ledge system and a bolted station on the right.
- 6. 30 m, 5.7.** Move up diagonally left on broken ground to a groove capped by a roof. A few metres below the roof, ignore a line of bolts going left and move right and up past a fixed piton into a steep, right-facing corner. Sustained climbing up the corner leads to a step left at the top and a bolt belay on a good ledge below an obvious exit chimney.
- 8. 30 m, 5.7.** Move left and make an awkward move up past a bolt into the base of the chimney. Climb the chimney for a short distance and then step out left onto an easy ramp with excellent chert edges that leads up past a piton to a chained station near the top. Alternatively, continue up the chimney to a large tree at the start of easy ground.



## **MacKay Route 215 m, 5.10c**

*Joe Mackay - a work in progress!*

Start at an obvious cave about 50 m up and left from *Gooseberry*.

**1. 30 m, 5.8.** From the right-hand side of the cave, climb an overhanging, loose wall (5.8) to small ledges on the right. Move up right to a left-slanting corner and climb the slabby wall just left of this to reach a large ledge system that angles up to the right and connects with *Gooseberry*.

**2. 20 m, 5.10c.** Make a few unprotected moves up to the first bolt and then follow the bolts above up the small rib and right to a ledge. Move up past 2 move bolts to a station on a higher ledge.

**3. 25 m. (Currently decommissioned).** Move across left and up to a bolt by a small, right-facing corner/flake. Go up the corner to a second bolt and then traverse right to gain a line of bolts going straight up to a chained station level with the third belay on *Gooseberry*.

**4. 30 m, 5.6.** At present it is necessary to move across onto *Gooseberry* and continue up the fourth pitch of that route.

**5. 50 m, 5.8.** After moving up and beginning the traverse right on the original line of *Gooseberry*, follow the line of bolts up and right at first on excellent rock with incut chert edges. At the top of the wall, move up sloping ledges to two large ½ inch studs (no hangers at present) and then traverse easily right and up to the bolt belay at the top of the big corner of *Gooseberry*. This is the same pitch as the new, recommended pitch 5 of *Gooseberry*.

**6. 30 m, 5.7.** Move up diagonally left on broken ground to a groove capped by a roof. A few metres below the roof, follow a line of bolts left past the overhang and up to a chained station of the ledge system about 5 m left of the exit chimney of *Gooseberry*.

**7. 30 m, 5.10c.** Make a steep, rising traverse left past 3 bolts and then swing left and up (strenuous) to a fourth bolt. Continue more easily to steep slab of prickly rock right of a small corner (2 bolts). At the top of the corner, move delicately left past a bolt below an overhang and into an easy corner. Climb the corner to a chained station on the left.

## **Hidden Crack ? m, 5.9**

*Lloyd MacKay and Don Vockeroth, 1972*

CAJ 1976 description and photo: Up corner system on left side of lower buttress to tree ledge. "Crack running from the base of the highest tree through an overhanging section. First pitch 80ft. Second pitch 160ft. Both aid A3. Numerous possibilities to the top." PA done free – "F9"?

## **Sport Routes along base - Greg Golovach.**

