

# Sauratown Climbers Guide



**Carolina Climbers Coalition**

Emil Briggs







**Cover photos:** Daniel Chambo on Shock the Monkey and Anna Chapman on Barbs World/Leisure Time. Photo credits, Jeff Dunbar on Shock the Monkey and Emil Briggs on Barbs World.

Carolina Climbers Coalition has reached a 20 year lease agreement (until 2037) with the owners of Sauratown that provides access for climbers. Home to a number of classic trad lines and a number of excellent sport climbs, the area had been closed for many years due to a variety of factors. If you've never climbed at Sauratown it's the best winter cragging in the Piedmont - steep and pumpy on incredible rock.

**IMPORTANT!** Access will **ONLY** be allowed from **December 1 to March 31st** and is **7 days a week**. **Dogs are not allowed**. Please do not jeopardize all of the hard work that has gone into this by trying to go to Sauratown at any other time. The cliff remains closed except for those times. Don't be the person who gets the gate slammed in our face. Seriously, don't.

Many thanks to Camp Hanes, who has partnered with us on this and to the climbers who humped stainless steel up the trail and replaced 30+ bolts and anchors, flagged trail and cleaned up the base of the cliff. We wouldn't be having as much fun as we're going to have without your help.

There is a fee associated with this agreement that the CCC is paying to get everyone access to the property. Please consider making a donation to help us recover those funds so we can use them for future projects.

## **Logistics and Directions**

For the latest updates on access and logistics check.

<http://carolinaclimbers.org/climbing-areas/sauratown.html>

Access is via Camp Hanes, 1225 Camp Hanes Road King, NC 27021  
When you enter the camp - drive SLOWLY! Respect the camp facilities and other visitors. Parking is in the gravel lot across the field that is behind the Baker Center, use the Baker Center lot for overflow parking only.

From the gravel lot, cross Camp Hanes Road, hike the short gravel road to the end and the trailhead begins just left of the large blue water tank. The new trail is obvious and heads left and switchbacks up. Continue up that trail and it will take you to the cliff near the base of Stokes County Monkey Trial. Where the trail meets the first rock bands, there is a trail that cuts right and skirts the base of the cliff. This trail takes you to the end of the climbing area near the route "Beer Bellies" and can be used to avoid the step across the open area in the cliff on the upper trail. The hike is fairly steep and takes about 30 minutes. There are bathrooms in the basement of the Baker Center





The new approach trail was funded by grants from REI and the American Alpine Club, it is much more sustainable, a better walking layout, and helps build a very strong relationship with the camp.

Here's a few things you need to know about the new trail:

- PLEASE ONLY USE THE NEW TRAIL AND DON'T CUT THE SWITCHBACKS!
- Watch for roots, loose rocks and other tripping hazards
- While hiking up and down, feel free to toss rocks to the side of the trail to help improve the surface. It's a little thing you can do every time you climb that will benefit everyone.

Please fill out an online waiver at

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1fb9tLJ\\_yiGbW6ggsP6kdwmOmO0EnOMs-O2uGy24z9iE/viewform?edit\\_requested=true&fbclid=IwAR0\\_65Hwlq1XM5nMIqCXJZUvSl2ry3rqTEUVgp5LUU1EM\\_JhZtv-saLUhdl](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1fb9tLJ_yiGbW6ggsP6kdwmOmO0EnOMs-O2uGy24z9iE/viewform?edit_requested=true&fbclid=IwAR0_65Hwlq1XM5nMIqCXJZUvSl2ry3rqTEUVgp5LUU1EM_JhZtv-saLUhdl)

Please carpool if possible.

Free camping is available on the weekends only, please call the camp in advance at (336) 983-3131 to let them know you want to camp. There are platforms and tent sites available.

**Please note the following list of things you're not allowed to do at Sauratown per the agreement with Camp Hanes:**

No dogs or other pets!

No hunting

No use or discharge of firearms or explosives of any kind

No firewood cutting or gathering

No disturbing, gathering or removing, plants, rocks, cultural artifacts or other materials

No fishing

No swimming



No use of manmade climbing platforms or walls  
No boating  
No use of any intoxicating substances

## **Route guide listed from left to right.**

For quick reference the names of sport routes are listed in **green**, mixed lines in **blue** and traditional routes in **red**. However be aware that most of the sport lines are not closely bolted, and many have either runout sections on easier ground or high first clips. Specific gear recommendations are noted in the route descriptions.

- ★ Done everything else and want to try something new?
- ★★ Not a classic but well worth doing.
- ★★★ Outstanding route for the area.
- ★★★★ Outstanding route anywhere, don't miss this one.

This is a free online guide and will be updated through the season as more information becomes available.





*Climber to the left on Franks World while Emma Briggs follows Lemon Twist*



## I. Far left side

A mix of sport and trad lines.

1. **Here Be Dragons** 5.10d Locate a bolt on an overhang and gain it by careful fourth classing. The route is named for the dragon teeth under your fourth class efforts. Steep and pumpy. 6 bolts (which are old).
2. ★ **Pump House** 5.8+ Up a gully past Roof Garden, and the variation finish Lemon Twist. Setup belay under a rather large suspended room sized block. Bolts, fixed gear and some rack will protect this fine moderate. Bolts are old.
3. ★★★ **Franks World** aka **Uptown** 5.10b A nice line with some interesting moves. 5 bolts to shuts but one could place a medium sized cam or two as well. FA Frank Orthel.
4. ★★ **Lemon Twist** 5.9 Some unusual moves makes this trad line a worthwhile lead. Belay from the anchors atop Franks World. Can be done without a #4 Camalot but you might want one.
5. ★★ **Roof Garden** 5.10a From the anchors on top of Franks World and Lemon Twist head left up the face and through the tiered roofs. Good protection. To descend look for a large tree with knotted cord around it and rap from there.
6. ★★★ **Channel 12** 5.12d. A steep and powerful line up the overhanging prow. Originally 12a/b but due to holds breaking over the years this route is now considerably harder. FA Porter Jarrad.



7. **Hellbound** 5.12a Steep and pumpy with a crux before the anchors. Start to the right of Channel 12 in the same spot as EZ Does it and boulder up left towards the first bolt. Continue up and right towards the obvious point on the prow. A few cams will protect the middle section between bolts. FA Seth Tart.



*Ari Grode on Hellbound. Photo by Robert Liberatore.*



8. ★★½ **EZ Does it** 5.11+/R First route to the right of Hellbound. A boulder problem start with no pro so be careful. After the start place solid gear from a good stance and head up the steep wall above you. FA Eric Ziesche.
9. ★★ **Ape Reflex** 5.11-/R Uses the same start as EZ Does It but moves right at the first roof and up through some rotten rock. FA Eric Ziesche.



*Michael Gaunce belayed by Mackenzie McBride on Channel 12. Photo by Emil Briggs.*



## II. Orange Dihedral/Sourballs area

This is the tallest part of the cliff and mostly consists of steep traditionally protected routes on high quality rock.

10. ★★★½ **Chief Big Hold original start** PG13 5.10+ Start has cleaned up some but is often wet. Recommend starting from Bad Boys. For an alternate finish instead of going right at the top via the normal finish head left through an overhanging corner/crack feature. Belay from pine tree. (Alternate FA Tim Fisher). Another alternate finish (Chief Funkhedral) follows the green line at the top as shown in the diagram (FA Austin Goff).
11. ★★★★★ **The Fugitive** 5.12d Long steep line on beautiful rock. The crux can be done with a big dynamic move and feels easier if you're tall. An alternate sequence without the dyno is probably in the 5.13 range. FA Porter Jarrad.



*Bennet Harris on The Fugitive 5.12d. Photo by Mike Nalevanko.*

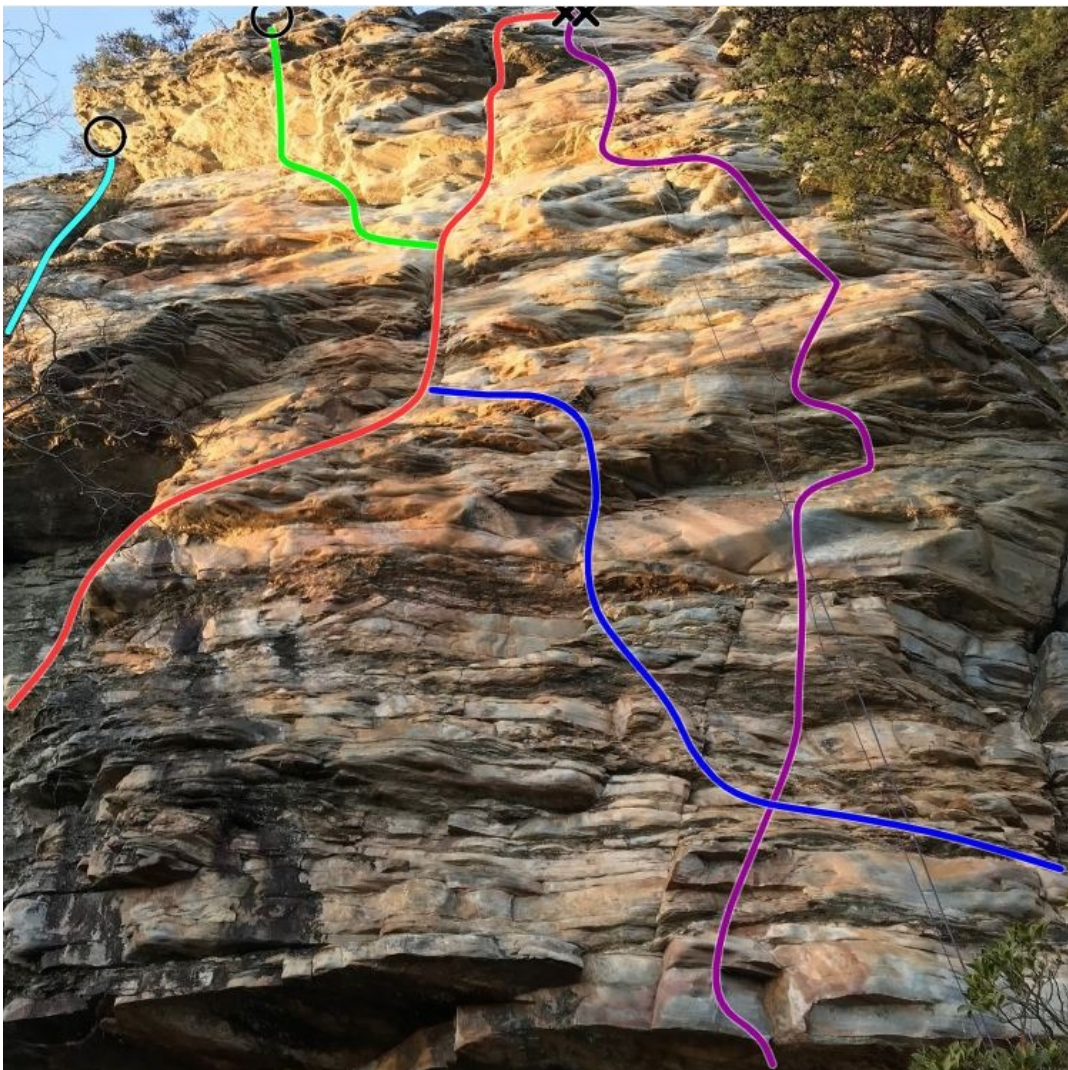


12. ★★★½ **Bad Boys** 5.10+/5.11 This is a linkup which starts on Orange Dihedral/Sourballs then climbs up and left. You will cross the line of the Fugitive and can clip one of its bolts. Gear is available before the bolt but sling it long unless you're using double ropes which can be helpful on this route. Continue up and left clipping another bolt at a roof. Pull the roof and keep heading up and left towards a corner. Finish by traversing right to the anchors on The Fugitive. 2-3 bolts and a single rack up to a #1 Camalot with a set of nuts. One can also choose either of the alternate finishes to CBH. FA Alan Howell.
13. ★★ **Unnamed** 5.10+/R This is a variation of Chief Big Hold. Do the original start and then go left as shown in the beta pic. Anchor is a good sized pine tree. Descent is possible with a 60m and some care. FA Tim Fisher.
14. ★★★★★ **Orange Dihedral** 5.10+ A tall outstanding gear line with two hard pumpy sections separated by a decent rest. Shares the start with Sour Balls but heads left up a beautiful overhanging orange dihedral. Sometimes done in two pitches.
15. ★★★★★ **Sour Balls** 5.11a Todd Skinner described this as one of the best 5.11 routes he ever did. Steep and sustained it's a trad testpiece. Shares the start with Orange Dihedral but breaks right instead of left and follows a right facing dihedral. Runout 5.9 facing climbing at the top. For descent go to the top of the cliff and walk towards the top out for Roof Garden. You should find a large tree with a knotted cord anchor to rappel from.
16. ★★ **Sour Grapes** 5.10- moderate but poorly protected climbing leads to solid gear (but some ledge fall potential) and an interesting and exciting crux. Figure out the tricky beta and it's 10- otherwise will feel more like 10+. Anchor is webbing around a large block so inspect it carefully and bring something to back it up or replace if needed. Another option is to top out and use the anchors above Roof Garden.





*Beta pic: Yellow-Sour Balls, Orange-Orange Dihedral, Purple-Fugitive, Blue-Bad Boys, Red-Chief Big Hold, Green-Chief Funkhedral, Light Blue-Unnamed, Black-Ape Reflex, Cyan-Easy Does It. Photo by Austin Goff.*





### III. The Meadows

Called the Meadows because of a flat open section near the base. The cliff line is around 150 feet tall here but the upper part consists of lower quality rock so most of the routes stop at a ledge system about 45 feet up.



*Kate Jones on Old Mans Sport Route. Old Mans Sugar Daddy starts 10 feet to the left while Old Mans Brother is 10 feet to the right. Photo by Anne McLaughlin.*



- 17. ★★ **Old Mans Sugar Daddy** 5.10+/5.11a Powerful moves at the start lead to some thin face climbing. 5 bolts to shuts. Some suspect rock at the start of the route.
- 18. ★★★ **Old Mans Sport Route** 5.10a A popular route that is one of the few true sport lines at Sauratown requiring no extra gear. FA Callicutt, Cobb, Broome.
- 19. ★★ **Old Mans Brother aka Clean Sweep** 5.8 Shares the anchor with Old Mans Sport Route. 4 bolts. FA Cobb, Callicutt, Broome.
- 20. ★★ **Naked on a Train** 5.11d/5.12a Mixed route that starts just left of Medusa. Climb a powerful roof with a couple of bolts and continue climbing a sustained face to the top of the cliff. 2-3 bolts plus standard rack. Rebolted 2018.
- 21. **Curious George** 5.10d
- 22. ★★ **The Man in the Yellow Hat** 5.7+/5.9 Mixed line starts just to the left of the inside corner of the Monkey Buttress. Don't be fooled by the mossy start. This is a nice long mixed line with interesting moves on solid rock in the upper section. A long runout between the first and second bolts with mediocre natural pro. Seven bolts and a light rack up to one inch. Head right into the chimney higher up to keep the grade to 5.7 or left for the 5.9 variation. Rap from a tree but a single 60m rope may come up short. FA R. Cobb.

#### IV. Monkey Buttress

A tall left facing buttress with several outstanding routes. Easy to find as the approach trail reaches the cliff line at the Monkey Buttress.

- 23. ★★★★★ **Stokes County Monkey Trial** 5.10+ One of two outstanding routes on the face of the Monkey Buttress. SCMT is the route on the left side of the Buttress while Shock the Monkey is on the right. 3 bolts down low plus gear for the upper part. No super hard moves but packs quite a pump.



24. ★★★★★ **Shock the Monkey** 5.10c One of the best routes anywhere at this grade. High first bolt (too high to stick clip) but some gear is available before it. The clipping holds for the first bolt are on less solid rock so placing that gear is advisable. Crux is a technical section immediately above the first bolt followed by a glorious jug haul up an overhanging face on immaculate white rock.
25. ★★★★★ **Whiskey Sour** 5.6 The best moderate trad line at Sauratown. Start on the outside corner of the buttress and trend a little right. Descend using the anchors for Shock the Monkey which can be easily reached by stepping left as you top out.
26. **Show me the Monkey** 5.8. Start 25 feet right of Whiskey Sour, gear, 3 bolts, bolted anchors. FA AJ, Dave Ware.
27. **Camping with Roosters** 5.7R. Same start as Show me the Monkey, traverse onto small buttress to the right. FA AJ, Lee Decker. 1Molly1b

## V. Monkey Buttress to Party Ledge

This area is bounded by the Monkey Buttress on the left side and a big and obvious drop off on the right.

28. **Mountain Calling** 5.10b Begin from the trail just right of the start to Show me the Monkey. 2 bolts and gear. FA AJ, Eric Janacek.
29. **Cold Coffee** 5.9 To the right of Mountain Calling. One bolt plus gear. Shares anchor with Mountain Calling. FA Eric Janacek, AJ
30. **Jenga** 5.10- starts from the ledge you can access via Mountain Calling left of the pillar of loose looking rock. Rap off a tree for now. FA AJ, Eric Janacek.





*Ari Grode on Shock the Monkey. Red rope to the right follows the line of Whiskey Sour.  
Photo by Robert Liberatore.*



31. ★★★ **Target Practice** 5.9+ Bolts and gear leading up through some big roofs. Due to a band of rotten rock at the start most parties begin to the left, climb above the rotten band and traverse right to the first bolt.
32. **Unknown**
33. **Unknown** 5.11ish
34. **Unknown** wide chimney in the corner to the left of House of Cards
35. ★★ **House of Cards** 5.11c Starts just left of Chapel Hill Arete. Marginal quality rock to the roof then a solid boulder problem. Recently rebolted.





36. ★★ **Sour Puss** aka **Chapel Hill Arete** 5.10c A large block fell off this route in 2015 changing both it's safety and character. Due to proximity to the drop off anchoring the belayer is advisable. A #3 Camalot can be used for protection before the first bolt. FA Bill Webster. Rebolted 2018.



*Emma Briggs on Sour Puss aka Chapel Hill Arete*



## VI. Party Ledge aka The Beach

A large ledge beneath a huge roof that is bounded by a large drop off on the left side and a left facing buttress on the right. The warmest and most sheltered part of the cliff and an excellent choice on colder or windier days. The high concentration of moderate sport routes can attract quite a crowd.

**Warning! There is quite a bit of loose rock on the upper parts of these routes. Consider helmets for belayers and beware of fall lines.**



*Anne McLaughlin on Pilots License. Photo by Henry Ritterpusch.*

37. ★★ **Bark like a chicken** 5.10b Bring a light rack to supplement the bolts. Crux will feel easier for taller climbers. Shuts for anchors.



38. ★★★ **Big Erector** 5.9+ Bring some gear to protect the opening moves before the first bolt. 4 bolts, finish to the right on the Kish Disk anchors. Alternative finish heads left and up past an old buttonhead bolt to a tree anchor. FA Mike Stewart.
39. ★★★ **Kish Dish** 5.8 A popular warm up route but not a good first lead due to a high first bolt and a runout section before the anchors. The first bolt can be stick clipped or you can place a stopper (#12 BD) or cam to protect the opening moves. 4 bolts to shuts.
40. ★★★ **Pilots license aka Test Pilot** 5.10b This is an extension to Kish Dish. Clip the anchors with a long sling and eye the imposing roof. Head to the right and follow the bolts through the roof to shuts. Falling off the crux will leave you hanging in space. FA Bill Webster, Brian Payst.
41. ★★ **Barbs World** aka **Leisure Time** 5.10b/c Technical face climbing leads to a roof and a big move. Stick clip the first bolt or place some gear before it. Watch out for loose rock in the upper section. 5 bolts to shuts. FA Porter Jarrad.
42. ★★ **Barbs World extension** 5.11b From the top of Barbs World there are a couple of variations that climb through the big roof and can make it feel slightly harder or easier depending on the exact line taken. Bomber horizontals provide jugs and solid pro but be careful of some loose rock. FA Porter Jarrad.





*Sarah Wolfe on 5.7 corner. Ropes to the left on Leisure Time and to the right on Lust in a Cheap Motel.*

43. ★★ **5.7 corner** 5.7 Climb up the obvious corner. Traverse left to the Barbs World anchors . Standard NC rack. Be extremely careful of loose rock, especially on the traverse to the anchor.



44. ★★★½ **Lust in a Cheap Motel** 5.10b A high quality route that starts on the left facing buttress on the extreme right side of the Party ledge. The upper roof section often has a wet patch above it but don't let that scare you off since it's easy to climb around it. Bolts replaced for 2016 season.



*Tim Reddy on Barbs World Extension. Photo by Emil Briggs.*

## VII. Party Ledge to Skin Toy Area

45. ★★★ **Deadbeat Dad club** 5.11d First climb to the right of Lust in a Cheap Motel and shares anchors with it. Starts with thin technical arete and face climbing then some roof pulling. 3Bolts plus gear for the upper part. FA either Porter Jarrard or Danny Caldwell, Tony Mcgee.



46. ★★★ **The Amazing Joe** 5.12b This is the second bolted line to the right of Lust in a Cheap Motel. Most parties finish up and left on the Lust in a Cheap Motel anchors. Named after the famous escape artist Joseph Burrus who called himself the Amazing Joe. FA Porter Jarrad.



*Alex Blum in the crux of The Amazing Joe. Photo by Emil Briggs.*

47. ★★★ **I'll be Danned** 5.10d. Thin face climbing to a pair of roofs. The first is hard but straightforward while the second is tricky. Clipping the bolt under the first roof is perhaps the mental crux of the route. Bolts to shuts.



48. ★★★ **Porters 11** 5.11d Start by climbing the big block to the right of I'll be Danned (gear available) then climb through the overhanging section on bolts and finish up the slab above. Anchor is a slung tree and you may want a cam or two to protect getting to it. FA Porter Jarrad. Rebolted 2018.
49. **Green Arrow** 5.10/5.8 start. Begin 15 feet left of Spiderman. Follow the right arching crack to a ledge, past 2 bolts to bolted anchors. Pull the bulge left of the 2nd bolt and it goes 5.10-, finish slightly right of the 2nd bolt for the 5.8 version. FA AJ, Eric Janecek.



*Katie Hughes making a big reach on I'll be Danned. Photo by Jeff Dunbar.*



50. ★★★★★ **Spider Man Gets a job** 5.9+ One of those rare routes that has a section that feels harder for taller climbers. Take a few medium sized nuts and cams.
51. **Justice League of America** 5.12a Shares the start with DC Comics but splits off to the left after the 3rd bolt.
52. ★★★★★ **DC Comics** 5.10b Spectacular exposure at the top make this a must do. A bit of a runout in the middle on easy terrain but gear is available. If you are having trouble finding anchors look to your left.
53. **Superman** 5.10 Another variation with DC Comics that splits off right after the 4th bolt.



*Oya Bermek enjoys the amazing exposure at the top of DC Comics. Photo by Anne McLaughlin.*



54. **Jackals** 5.10d Originally shared first bolt with Do the right thing and then cut left. A direct start is now available but as with Do the right thing the first bolt is high so consider a stick clip.
55. **Do the right thing** 5.10+ High first bolt so a stick clip might be advisable. FA Howie Feinsilber.
56. **Sauratown Social Club** 5.9 FA Brooks, Cobb.
57. ★★★ **Texas Pete Rim Job** 5.10b The first route immediately to the left of the big chimney.

## VIII. Skin Toy Area

The furthest right area at Sauratown. A short steep wall with high quality rock.

58. ★ **Unknown** this unappetizing looking chimney is rarely done
59. ★★★★★ **Skin Toy** 5.11b One of the best sport routes at Sauratown. Crimpy and sequential at the start to a steep pumpy finish. 5 bolts to anchors.
60. ★★★ **Steves Flying Circus aka Beware** 5.10c 4 bolts to anchors.
61. ★★ **Beerbellies** 5.10a Bring some gear unless you're comfortable with a big runout before the first bolt. 3 bolts to anchors.
62. ★★ **Made in the Shade** aka **Butter Balls** 5.9+ Last route on the right side. Short but pumpy. Originally named for a tree at the base which is now gone. 5 bolts to anchors.