



A GUIDE TO
SPIRE ROCK

Mark Webster & Jim Phillips



GETTING THERE

Spire Rock is located at Sprinker Recreation Center in South Tacoma (WA), just East of McChord Airforce Base.

Spire Rock is a Pierce County Parks and Recreation facility. For official information about Spire visit this website: <http://www.co.pierce.wa.us/PC/services/recreate/spirerock.htm>

If that address doesn't work, google: "spire rock sprinker".



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Spire Rock was built by volunteers who spent many long hours working on the project. Although many people and organizations put time and material into Spire Rock, Wayne Cooke was the main man behind every phase of planning, organizing and construction. Without his perseverance we would still be driving to Camp Long or climbing local buildings. Thanks Wayne!

The most commonly asked question around Spire Rock is "How hard is it?" referring to the difficulty of a route. This book was written to answer that question and to give some examples of routes and their difficulties.

No effort has been made to describe the specific moves needed to complete a route. It is more interesting and rewarding if you figure the route out for yourself. The routes were rated by a number of active climbers who have climbed in many different areas across the United States.

Ratings are for routes tried on sight, without coaching and are not applicable when climbed with a tight top rope. Because of the compact nature of a constructed rock such as Spire, the ratings of most routes can be changed by just using different holds or techniques. Remember that these routes are not exactly the same as one finds in the mountains. On real rock, there are complicating factors such as exposure, lack of protection, weather and dehydration (to name a few) that may make any given move seem much harder than here at Spire Rock.

WARNING! Climbing is a dangerous sport and may injure or kill you. If you need to be totally safe, go back to your TV. If you want to learn to climb safe, take a class or find a mentor. Anyone using information from this book does so at their own risk.

Acknowledgements

Thanks to: Jim Phillips for the text from the first edition of this book; Larry Trudeau and Max for the information on, and the demonstrations of the boulder traverses; Vladi Cederman and Kyle Smith for helping with, and posing for the photography; the Tacoma Mountaineers for the training and the friends; www.edgeworkscimbing.com for a place to climb indoors when it's raining at Spire.

Climb safe! Mark Webster, www.websterart.com





Larry Trudeau on The Rack



Larry Trudeau on The Archway



Andy demonstrates anchor techniques to a class of Tacoma Mountaineers

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The X's Traverse

On the North side of Spire you can find a series of X marks on the rocks that are about as far as you can reach apart. The idea is to hand traverse using only the rocks marked with an X. The feet can be placed anywhere. Also you are supposed to alternate hands. In other words, if you start on the West end of the North side with right hand on the first rock with an X and the left hand on the second rock with an X, the right hand then goes to the third rock with an X and so on all across the North face. The X marked rocks are all about eye level. The route can be done from West to East or East to West. It can also be traversed in the same directions but starting with the opposite hand which then gives you a total of four different routes to traverse. Thanks to Larry Trudeau for explaining and demonstrating the **X's Traverse**.

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