

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.

The Carolina Climbers Coalition has reached an agreement with the owners of Sauratown, previously one of the most popular winter destinations in the NC Piedmont. Home to a number of classic trad lines and many excellent sport routes, the area has been closed for 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. If you used to climb there and haven't for the 5+ years it's been closed, welcome back it's just like your forearms remember it!

IMPORTANT! Access will ONLY be allowed from December 1 to March 31st and is 7 days a week. 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

Access is available starting at 8 AM.

Access is via Camp Hanes. Directions can be found on their web site.

When you enter the camp - drive SLOW! Respect the camp facilities and other visitors.

Parking is by the Baker Center - follow the main road past the lake and take the 1st right and park in that lot. Overflow parking if that lot fills up can be found next to cabins 1-4 and the office.

From the lot, cross the field headed towards the cliff and ropes course and pick up the mountain trail with blue signs. Follow that up the hill and take a right at the trail sign when you come to it. Follow that along on old road bed for a short distance and then look for a trail that heads up and left Â (there should be flagging marking the turn). 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 new 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.

Please fill out a waiver at the kiosk near the camping platforms

Please carpool if possible.

Dogs and other pets are not allowed.

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:

hunting or the use or discharge of firearms or explosives of any kind

firewood cutting or gathering

disturbing, gathering or removing, plants, rocks, cultural artifacts or other materials

fishing, swimming or boating

use of man made climbing platforms or walls

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** 5.12b A steep and powerful line up the overhanging prow. A few holds have broken off over the years so the grade might not be entirely accurate.



Michael Gaunce belayed by Mackenzie McBride on Channel 12

7. **Hellbound** 5.12a Overhanging route just to the right of Channel 12.

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.

8. **EZ Does it** 5.11+/R The 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- Uses the same start as EZ Does It but moves right at the first roof and up through some rotten rock.
10. **★★★ Chief Big Hold original start** 5.10+ Start is dirty and dangerous. Recommend starting from Bad Boys.
11. **★★★★ The Fugitive** 5.13a The hardest line at Sauratown. Long and steep. Crux is up high.

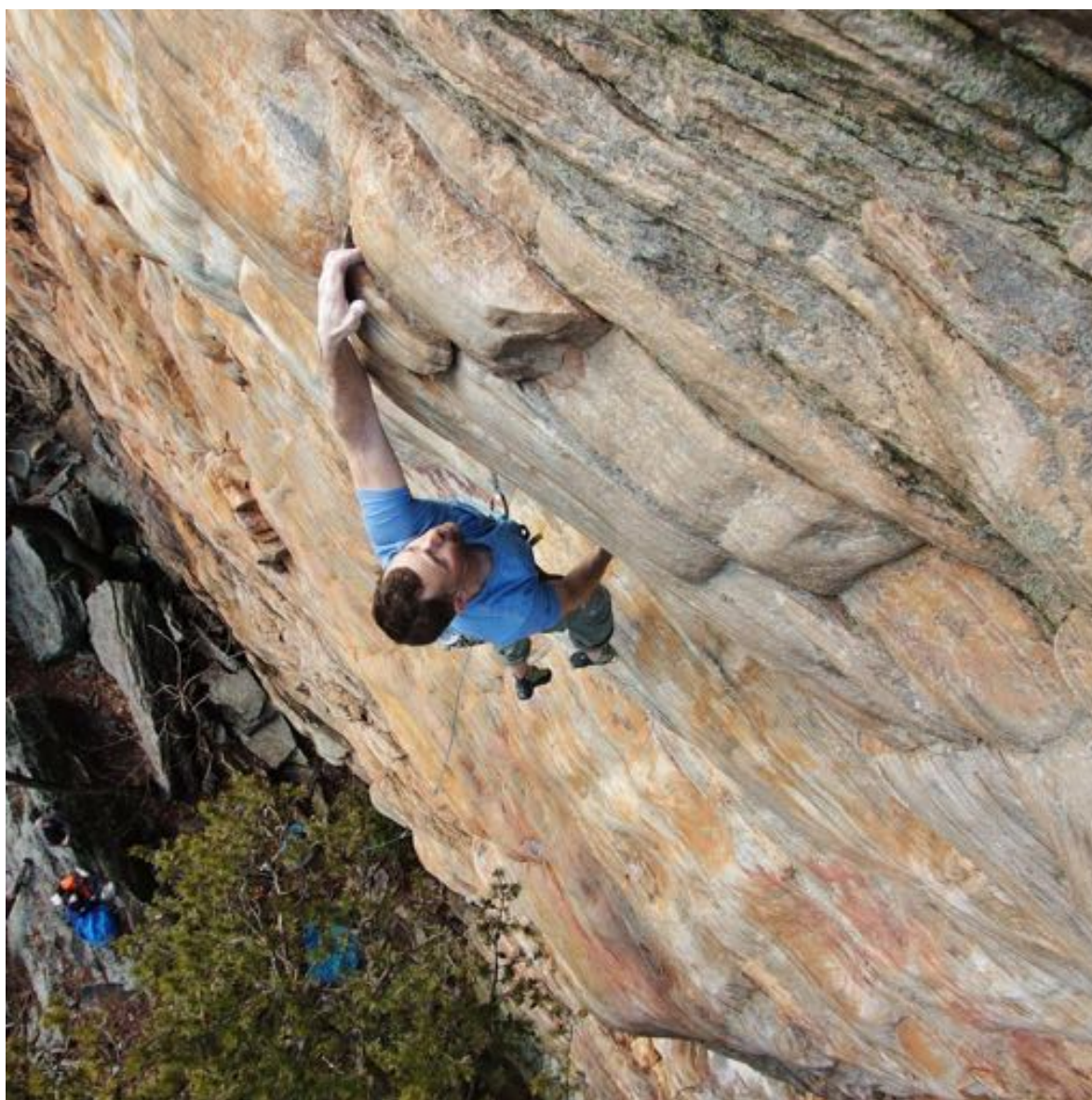


Illustration 1: Bennet Harris on The Fugitive 5.13a. Photo by Mike Nalevanko.

12. ★★★ **Chief Big Hold/Bad Boys** 5.10+/5.11 Due to the dirty and dangerous original start on CBH most parties use this line. Start on Orange Dihedral/Sourballs then climb 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.
13. ★★★★★ **Orange Dihedral** 5.10+ A tall outstanding gear line with two hard pump 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.
14. ★★★★★ **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.
15. ★★ **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.

III. The Meadows

Called the Meadows because of a flat open section near the base. The cliffline 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.

16. ★★ **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.
17. ★★★ **Old Mans Sport Rute** 5.10a A popular route that is one of the few true sport lines at Sauratown requiring no extra gear.
18. ★★ **Old Mans Brother** 5.8 Shares the anchor with Old Mans Sport Route. 4 bolts.
19. ★★ **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.
20. **Curious George** 5.10d
21. ★★ **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 and the mysteriously low first bolt. 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 station at 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 the approach trail reaches the cliff line at the Monkey Buttress.

22. ★★★★★ **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.

23. ★★★★★ **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.
24. ★★★★★ **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.

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.

25. **Unknown**
26. ★★★ **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.
27. **Unknown**
28. **Unknown** 5.11ish
29. **Unknown** wide chimney in the corner to the left of House of Cards
30. ★★ **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.

31. ★★ **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.



Illustration 2: 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.

32. ★★ **Bark like a chicken** 5.10b Bring a light rack to supplement the bolts. Crux will feel much easier for taller climbers. Shuts for anchors.
33. ★★★ **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.
34. ★★★ **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.
35. ★★★ **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.
36. ★★ **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.
37. ★★ **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.

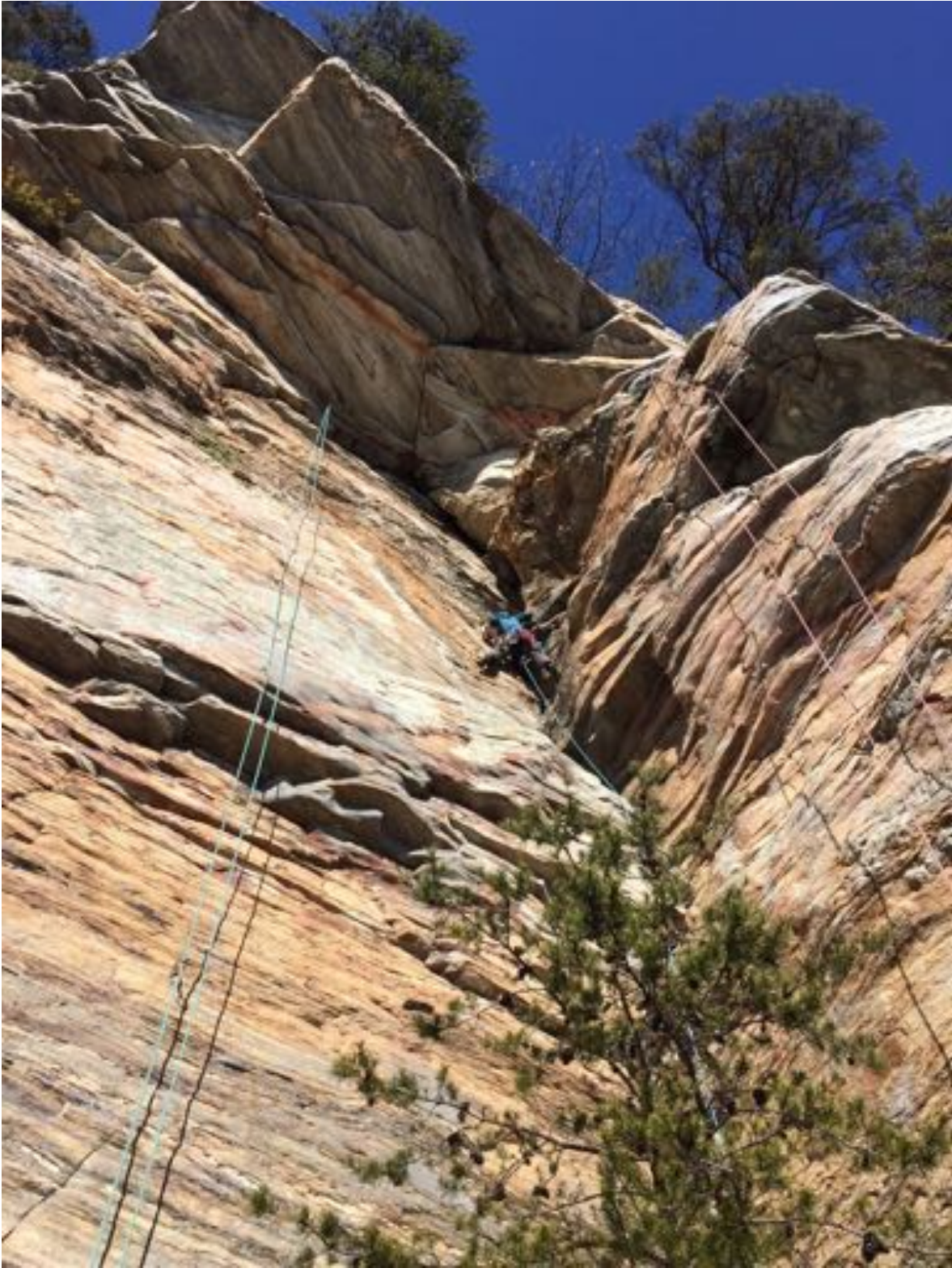


Illustration 3: Sarah Wolfe on 5.7 corner. Ropes to the left on Leisure Time and to the right on Lust in a Cheap Motel

38. ★★ **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.

39. ★★★ **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.



Illustration 4: Tim Reddy on Barbs World Extension. Photo by Emil Briggs.

VII. Party Ledge to Skin Toy Area

40. ★★★ **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.
41. ★★★ **The Amazing Joe** 5.12b FA
42. ★★★ **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.
43. ★★★ **Porters 11** 5.11d FA Porter Jarrad.
44. ★★★ **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.



Illustration 5: Katie Hughes making a big reach on I'll be Danned. Photo by Jeff Dunbar.

45. **Justice League of America** 5.12a

46. ★★★★★ **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.

47. **Jackals** 5.10d Shares first bolt with Do the right thing and then goes left.

48. **Do the right thing** 5.10+ High first bolt so a stick clip might be advisable.

49. ★★★ **Sauratown Social Club**

50. ★★★ **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.

51. ★ **Unknown** this unappetizing looking chimney is rarely done

52. ★★★★★ **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.

53. ★★★ **Steves Flying Circus aka Beware** 5.10c 4 bolts to anchors.

54. ★★ **Beerbellies** 5.10a Bring some gear unless you're comfortable with a big runout before the first bolt. 3 bolts to anchors.

55. ★★ **Made in the Shade** aka **Butter Balls** 5.9+ Last route on the right side. Short but pumpy. 5 bolts to anchors.