

Section 6: Mt. Doom / Mt. Yamnuska, 2011 Spring Update

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Mt. Doom the forgotten sector on the backside of Yamnuska has like much of the rest of Yamnuska undergone a bit of a renaissance with two new routes pushed since the Yamnuska Rock guide. The first out of the gates in 2008 was the significant extension of the climb **135) Backseat Driver** for a fuller alpine rock experience by two old veterans on Yamnuska Choc Quinn and Alan Derbyshire. Then during the early spring of 2010 Brandon Pullan and Matt Roy pushed a moderate traditional line called **137) Back to Basics** 5.9. The third addition was the rediscovery of the **136) Wind Ridge Route** 5.6 route by Alan Derbyshire and Choc Quinn which most likely dates back to the late sixties or early seventies when this valley was under much more scrutiny than today by climbers.

135) Backseat Driver * 5.9/A1 390 m

Lower section P1:- P4: Chris Perry & Bruce Keller, 1974

Upper continuation P5: - P11: Alan Derbyshire & Choc Quinn, 2008

In the Summer of 2008 this forgotten route on Mount Doom the east facing cliff line on the backside of Mt. Yamnuska was finally pushed to the top by Choc Quinn and Alan Derbyshire two grizzled veterans of the Yam scene. Together they added several new pitches and this climb is reported to be a worthwhile “adventure” for those seeking a bigger day employing the old school traditional ethic.

Thanks goes out to Alan Derbyshire for submitting this updated information.

Gear: This climb requires that all belays must be assembled. Thus along with a “Standard Rack”, make sure to include a double set of cams to 4”, a small selection of knife blades & baby angle pitons along with double ropes techniques.

To start: Climb up directly below the obvious upper chimney. See pages **327 & 328** in **Yamnuska Rock** for the description on how to access this climb.

P1: 5.7, 30 m. Climb up to a ledge below the obvious steep crack. Fixed pin.

P2: 5.9, 30 m. Climb the crack, difficult at the start. Belay below a roof.

P3: 5.9, 15 m. Step down and make some awkward moves left. Arrange a belay below the left end of a large overhang.

P4: 5.9/A1, 40 m. Climb the crack on the left side of the overhang past some old, fixed pins. Angle up and right, as the rock quality improves, to a belay in the main groove.

P5: 5.8, 40 m. Follow the groove, past a fixed pin, to a belay in the chimney, above.

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Note: It's possible to walk off left on a wide ledge, at this point. Also of note, about half way along the wide exit ledge, pictured in **Yamnuska Rock** on **page 326**, it's possible to reach the start of the route by making two 50 m. rappels from trees, as per the descent description, below.)

P6: 5.8, 50m. Climb the chimney to a level area.

P7: 5.4, 25m. Continue up to a belay below a steep wall.

P8: 5.8, 40 m. Climb to just above a band of loose rock. Traverse left, climb up to a ledge, and then back right above the last belay.

Make some delicate moves right across the wall to easier ground. Note: From here, several alternative finishes seem possible. We choose more or less the most direct. Belay above in a recess below a small left-facing corner.

P9: 5.7, 40 m. Climb up and left into a scree gully. Belay at a tree.

P10: 5.7, 50 m. Step back down the scree for a few metres, then climb the wall on the right to a series of ledges.

P11: 5.7, 30 m. Climb the wall above to the top of the ridge.

Descent: Continue up the ridge to the top of Mt. Doom. Descend the south side of the ridge for about 10 m. to a ledge with a tree, directly below the summit. Two 50 metre ropes just make it to the base of the cliff. Windy Gap is just above to the right (south).

To return to the start of the climb: Descend the gully on the east side of Windy Gap. It's possible to make some rappels from trees and one large chockstone. At a steep section lower down, traverse north to the lower end of a treed ledge. Two 50 m. rappels from trees take you to the base of the cliff.

To continue to the top of Yamnuska: For an even bigger day after completing Backseat Driver, follow the description for the Yamnuska, North Ridge Route detailed below for the full meal alpine rock extravaganza.

136) Wind Ridge Route * 5.6, 110 m

First Ascent Unknown

This climb was repeated in 2008 by Alan Derbyshire and Choc Quinn and the details and name come from their ascent.

To start: From the top of Windy Gap about 15 m. to the right, along the south wall.

P1: 5.6, 45 m. Climb up and right, passing a fixed piton, to a slab that angles up and left.

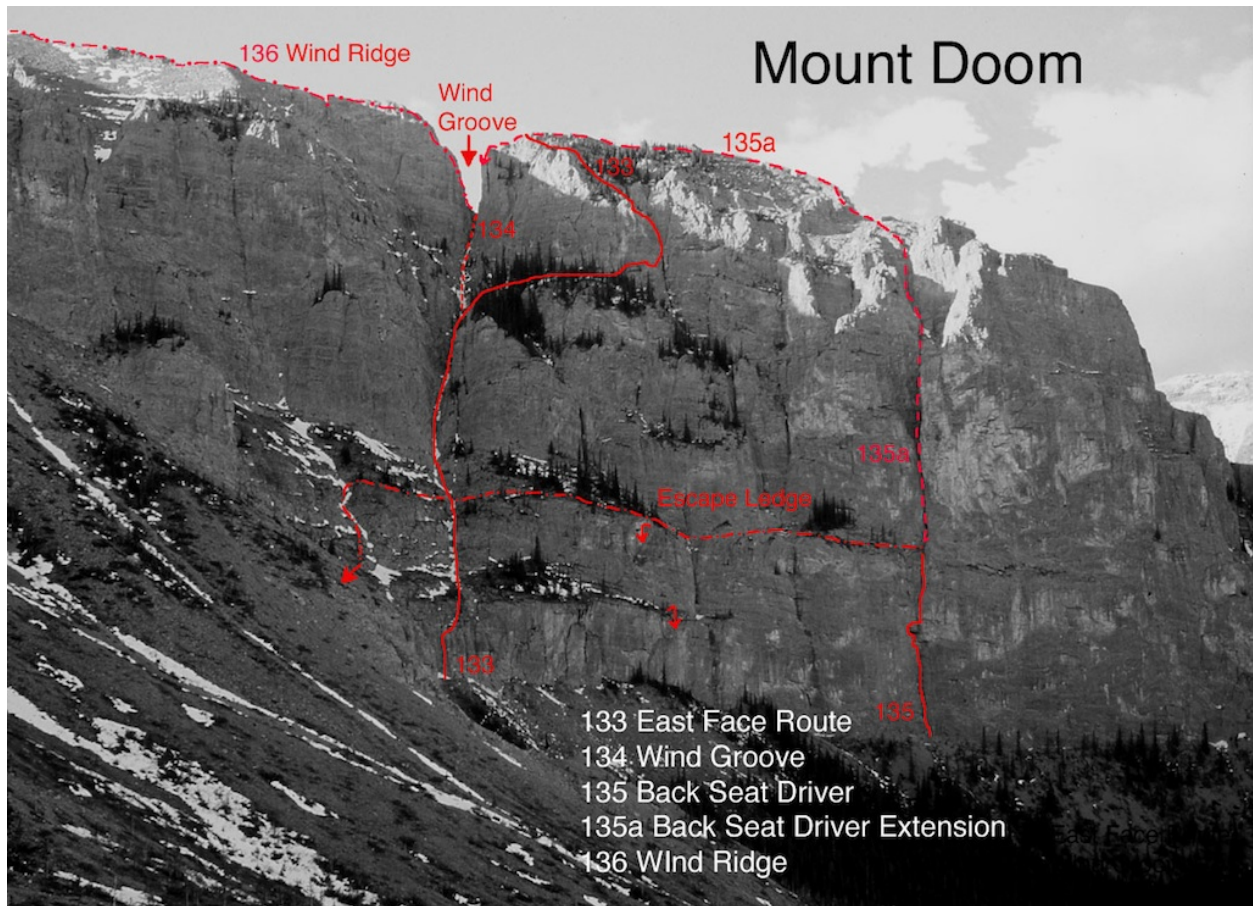
P2: 5.6, 35 m. Climb the slab.

P3: 5.6, 30 m. Climb the steep, broken rock above to the ridge. Continue south along the ridge to the summit of Yamnuska.

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Note: A notch in the ridge, about half way to the summit, will need to be negotiated.



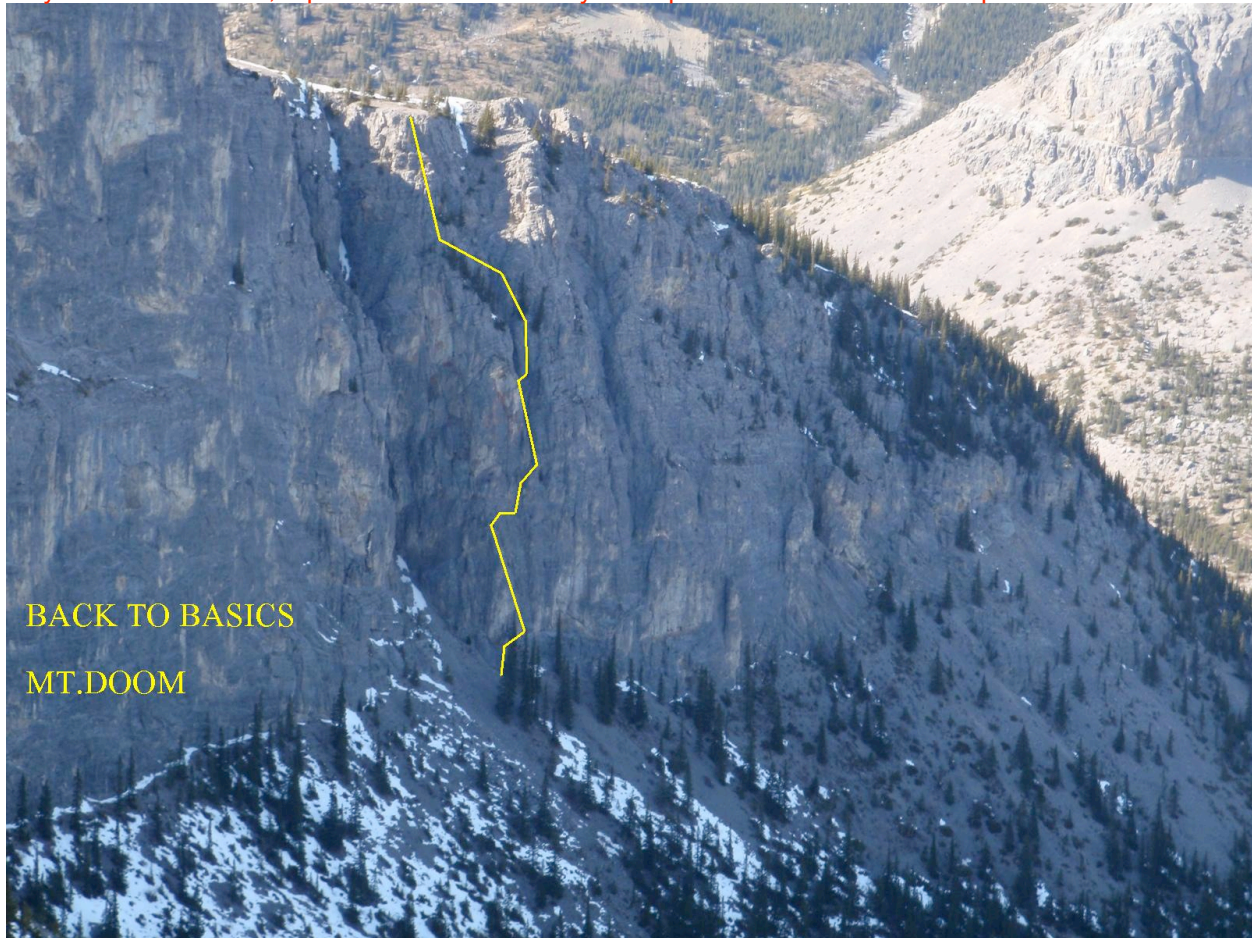
137) **Back to Basics** 5.9, 170 m

Brandon Pullan & Matt Roy, April 2010

Mt. Doom has not witnessed a new route for nearly 40 years over the past two years there have been two new additions to this forgotten northeast facing aspect of Mt. Yamnuska. The small sector on the north end of the wall had never been climbed, so the team of Brandon Pullan and Matt Roy decided to add this traditional route, which climbs mostly over what they described as run out, easier, loose, terrain with the odd sections of steeper crux climbing, which are generally well protected. The route was established ground up, no bolts or pins all free. Sounds like an “Old School” classic. The first ascent party walked off to the right into the CMC Valley to descend.

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Mt. Doom and the climb 137) *Back to Basics* 5.9, 170 m is detailed by the yellow line. Cliff Photo: Brandon Pullan

Approach: As for the East End of Yamnuska as you reach the wall drop down onto the back side and make a beeline across the large scree bowl to reach this generally east facing wall, about 1 hour and 20 minutes from the Yamnuska parking lot using the East Ridge Trail to approach.

Gear: Single rack to 3.5 inches, 70 m rope.

P1: 5.9, 50 m. Start at the base of the left-hand rib of the small north wall on its east face of mt. doom. Spiral around on large blocks to a steep face with good cracks, pass this crux and head up an easy crack to a tree.

P2: 5.8, 25 m. Traverse right on good holds to the base of a steep crack, climb its left side and make an awkward traverse right to a ledge, drop down into a chimney, great gear for belay.

P3: 5.7, 30 m. Up the chimney, head right on a slab and up to a tree.

P4: 5.6, 70 m. Head out right and up thru a funky groove with jugs out onto easier ground to the top.

Descent: Walk off into the CMC Valley to the north (climbers right).