

Changing the Stripes, 5.6

FA: Jason Stevens, Virgil Ash, 4.18.09

Text and Photos by Jason Stevens

Location: Maple Canyon, UT, Lower Main Canyon

Directions: Park at or near Anti-Gravity Rock (two turns in the road below Box Canyon). Cross the creek and stay left of a huge boulder and bush-whack north up the draw. The vegetation is thick and there is no trail as of 4.18.09. When you near some large boulders on your right, move right and skirt the base of the cliff. When "Heart Rock" comes into view above you, climb a shallow gully on your left to a platform roughly 30' above the trees.

Equipment: One 60M rope, 12 Quickdraws, 4 over-the-shoulder slings, locking biners for anchors. 2-3 long quickdraws will help reduce rope drag on the third pitch. A helmet is highly recommended. There are a few loose spots on the route (they will clean up with time and more ascents). Unlike the sport routes far below, the belayer cant dodge cobbles while anchored to the wall!

Other Beta: A great first route for a climber wanting to learn multi-pitch skills! All belay stations have excellent anchors and comfortable stances. The rappels are straight-forward. The route can be done with a minimum amount of gear and a single 60M rope. The route and spectacular views should be enjoyable for even seasoned, "hard-route" climbers.

There are a large number of small barrel cactus on the platform at the base of the route. It's easy to avoid them when gearing up, but be careful when you pull your rope or you might get barbs in them. They will inevitably end up embedded in your hand when you coil the rope or belay the next climb.

There is a summit register just under the anchors. Please sign and tell your story! I love to read them!

There are several projects around the right corner from this route that should be com-

pleted by 5.1.09. There are two two-pitch routes and will probably rate 5.8/9

Route Description:

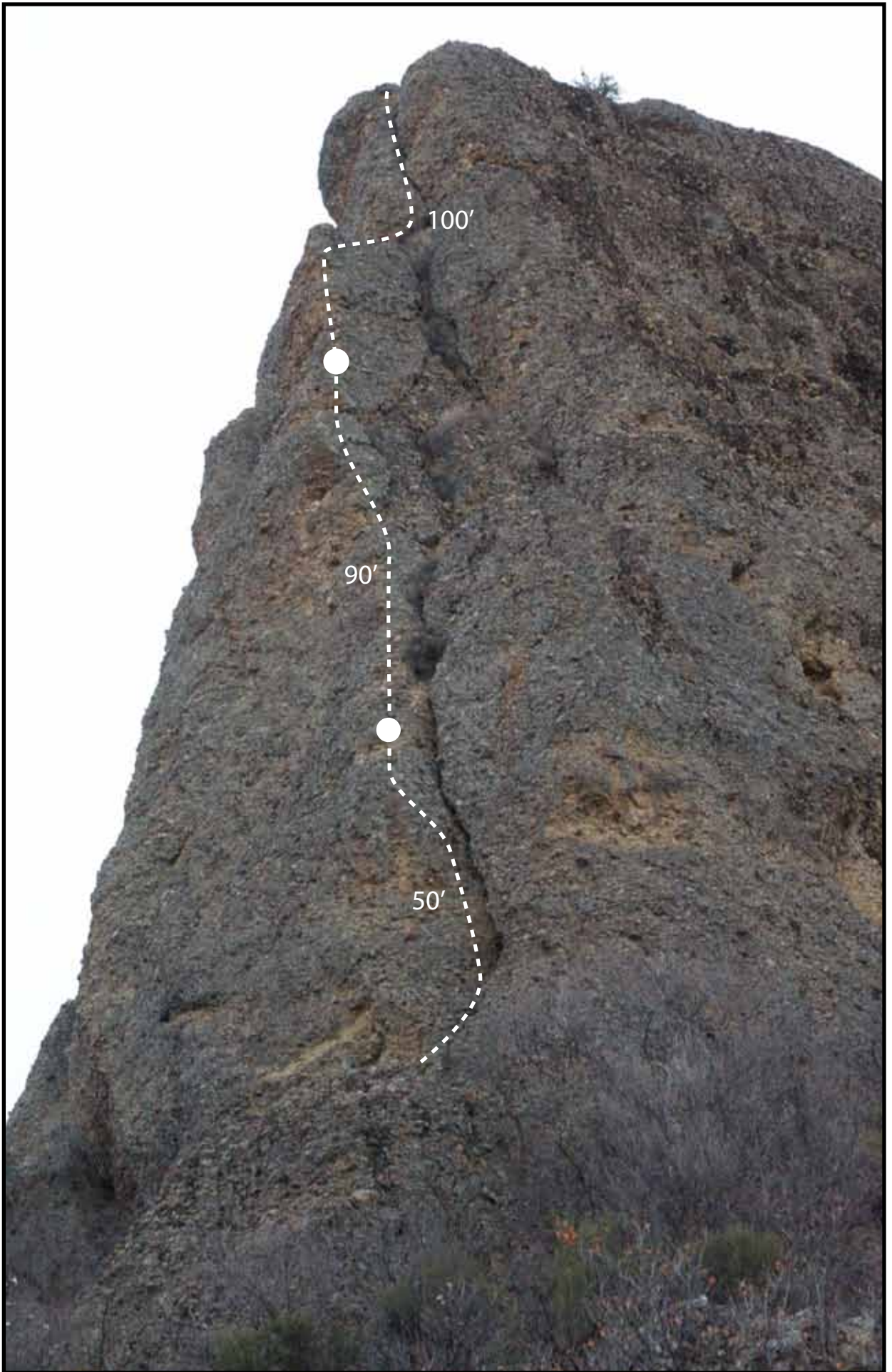
P1: on the starting platform, climb up and into a crack system. Stay left of the crack/coner (5.6) and top out on the bulge at the first anchor station (50').

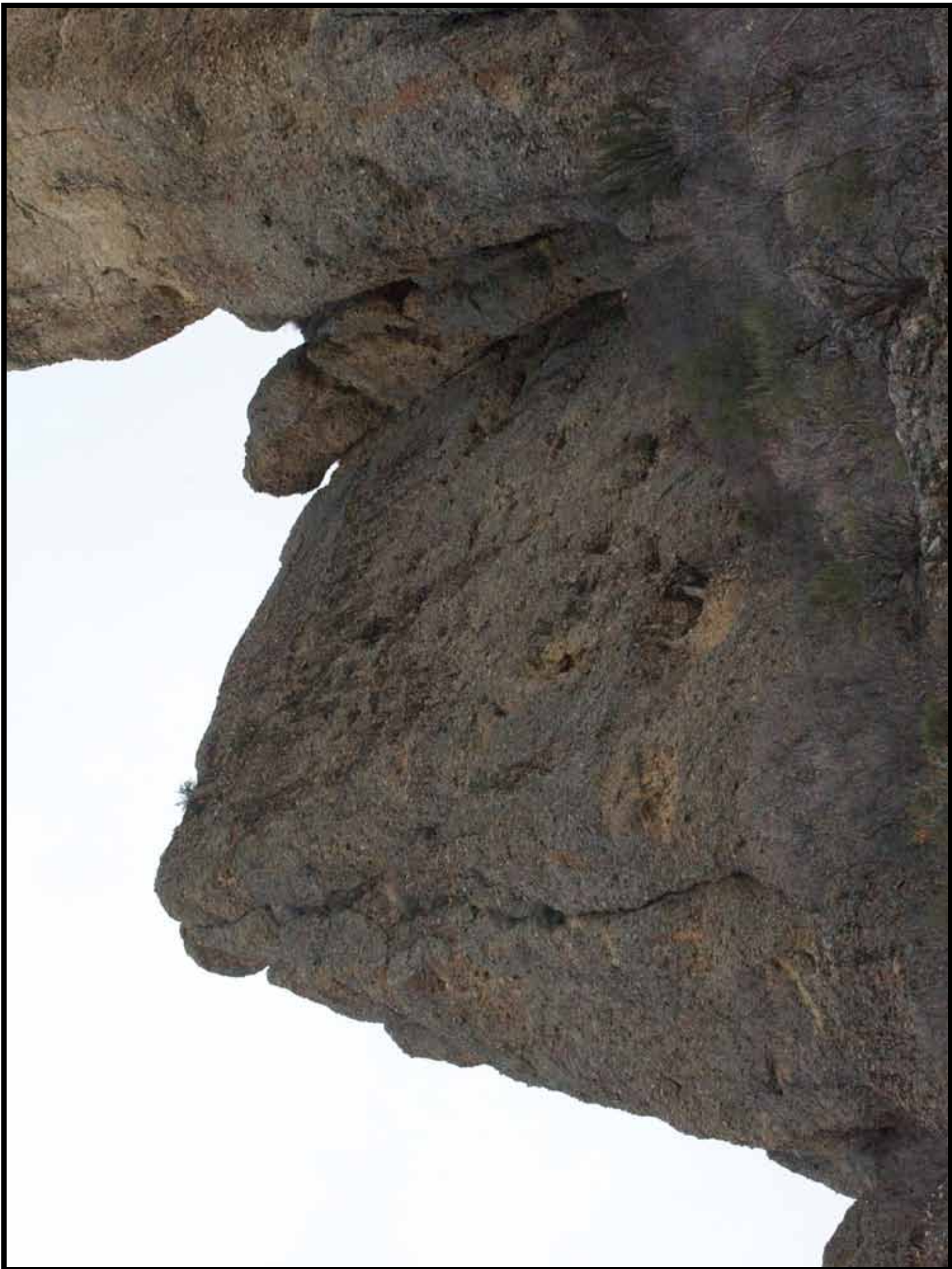
P2: Climb a long angle, faint arete to a couple of vertical steps. A short patina face leads to a couple more steps and the next anchor station (5.5).

P3: Continue up the arete, clip a long sling on the last bolt and top out on a platform. Move right to the left leaning ramp/arete a follow it up and through the slot to the summit. (5.4).



Virgil Ash approaching the second belay on the FA of Changing The Stripes







Virgil Ash near the top of the final pitch, our vehicle far below.





Virgil Ash prepping the rappel, "Heart Rock" and Sanpete Valley in the background.



The view up-canyon from the second belay station. The webbing was replaced with chains.