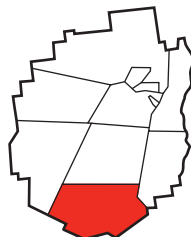


Southern Mountains

The Southern Mountains region is relatively small, confined to the Sacandaga River Valley along NY 10, and contains only six areas, two of which are bouldering. These areas have in common a similar rock composition, and the gneiss found at a few of these areas is outstanding. Hard rock has produced hard climbs, of which this region has plenty: in total, there are nine routes between 5.12a and 5.13a, and 12 problems in the V8–V11 range. The region contains lots of small mountains on state land that hint at the potential for more high-caliber cliffs and boulders in the future. Unlike the other regions, however, climbers in the Southern Mountains have yet to penetrate the remote forests of the Silver Lake Wilderness and Wilcox Lake Wild Forest in search of backcountry crags.



The southernmost climbing area in the park is the roadside bouldering at Pinnacle Pullout (26 problems), located north of Caroga Lake. A few minutes further north is the trailhead for Nine Corners, the largest bouldering area in this book (more than 135 problems). Continuing north on NY 10, you'll come to the trailheads for Lost Hunter's Cliff and Good Luck Mountain Cliff. Good Luck is a well-developed cliffband with a good selection of moderate routes and high-quality hard face and crack routes. Lost Hunter's is a sheer overhanging wall whose high-end routes are guarded by a complex approach with confusing topography. At the north end of NY 10 is Piseco Lake, with the cliffs of Panther Mountain on its north shore. Panther Mountain is a short hike and passes near the small, sheer wall of Echo Cliff, with several excellent crack lines.

SEASON

Being the southernmost region and low in elevation, this is a good place to finish out the season. The region is within the lake-effect snowbelt and can be choked with snow into April.

DIRECTIONS (map page 4)

To reach the NY 10 corridor from the south, take I-90 to Exit 28 and find your way to Gloversville, then west on NY 29A, past Caroga Lake, to the intersection with NY 10. Coming from the west, it is faster to get off I-90 at Little Falls (Exit 29A) and make your way to NY 167; follow NY 167 to Dolgeville, left onto NY 29, then east on NY 29A to NY 10.

WHERE TO STAY

There are many options for camping along NY 10. The trailheads are all on state land, and the approach trails to Nine Corners Lake and Good Luck Lake pass many campsites. The summit of Good Luck Mountain makes an excellent camping/climbing destination (provided you bring water). Campgrounds are located on Caroga Lake (518.835.4241) and Piseco Lake: Point Comfort (518.548.7586), Poplar Point (518.548.8031), Little Sand Point (518.548.7585).

AMENITIES

The city of Gloversville is 15 miles south of the NY 10 / NY 29A intersection near the trailhead to Nine Corners Lake. The village of Speculator is 12 miles east of Piseco Lake, on NY 8, and has a gas station, grocery, bank, and general store at the intersection with NY 30.

DIVERSIONS

The Northville–Placid hiking trail begins in this region, passes through the Silver Lake Wilderness, crosses NY 8 at Piseco Lake, then continues north into the West Canada Lakes Wilderness. Good swimming and sand beaches can be found at the campgrounds on Caroga Lake and Piseco Lake.

PINNACLE PULLOUT BOULDERS

Location	North of Caroga Lake, accessed from NY 10													
Quality	★													
Approach	1 min, easy													
	V0	V1	V2	V3	V4	V5	V6	V7	V8	V9	V10	V11	V12	Total
	8	6	5	4	1			2						26
Summary	Roadside boulders with a limited concentration of developed problems.													

This is a small group of roadside boulders and cliffbands accessed from a pullout near the Pinnacle Restaurant. In general, the landings are safe, and the rock quality is very good. The problems on the cliffbands are high enough that the use of a rope should be considered. Due to the easy access, southern aspect, and low elevation, these boulders enjoy a long season and are a good option when time is limited. The map of the boulders and the descriptions of the problems were adapted with permission from Justin Sanford's unpublished guidebook to the area.¹

¹ Justin Sanford, "Pinnacle Pull-off Bouldering" (typescript, Broadalbin, N.Y., 2007).

Southern Mountains

HISTORY

This area was first visited in 2004 by several of the first ascentists who were responsible for the development of the boulders at Nine Corners Lake. They climbed here without documenting their ascents. Beginning in 2006, Justin Sanford and Ken Murphy repeated most of the problems, and Sanford documented them in his unpublished guidebook to the area.

DIRECTIONS

The parking area is on the south shoulder of the combined NY 10 and NY 29A [540594,4779309](#).

From the south and east: From Caroga Lake (the intersection of NY 10 and NY 29A), follow the combined NY 29A / NY 10 north for 2.7 miles to the parking area on the left.

From the north and west: From Dolgeville, follow NY 29 north, then east on NY 29A to NY 10 at Pine Lake. Turn right and follow NY 10 south for 2.7 miles to the parking area on the right.

The boulders are across the road from the pullout. Follow a herd path northeast for 50' to the Warm-up Wall.

ACCESS

Private land exists on both sides of the documented boulders, and the only public access is described here. Although other boulders can be found nearby, they are on private land, and climbing on them requires permission from the landowner.

A. Warm-up Wall

1 Croc Bloc V0

Sit start at a ledge.

2 Double Dip V0

Sit start with your hands on the left arête and right arête.

3 Axial Point V0

Sit start at a large edge that is right of the arête. Up the arête.

4 Bloc Me V0

Sit start at blocky holds.

5 Warm-up Traverse V2

Start as for **Bloc Me**. Traverse left across the wall and finish on **Croc Bloc**.

B. Sloppy

6 Two-Step Arête V0

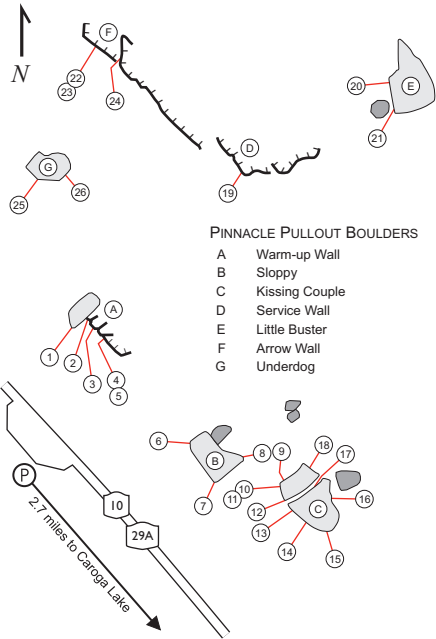
Stand start at the bulging arête.

7 Side Step V0

Stand start at the arête. Foot-traverse left along the ramp and finish on **Two-Step Arête**.

8 Sloppy V0

Stand start. Go up the slab.



C. Kissing Couple

9 Edging Forward V2

Sit start at the flake. Follow edges to the top or move up and left across the face.

10 Smooches V1

Sit start on the right side of the arête.

11 Finger Friendly V2

Start as for **Smooches**. Go right along the crack.

12 Awkward V1

Sit start at the featured arête.

13 Ass Dragger V7 ★★

Sit start beneath the roof with your hands on the sloping edge. Heel-hook out right, then go up the arête.

14 Cruisin' V1

Stand start at a finger slot 5' up.

15 Pucker Up V2

Sit start at the arête.

16 Easy Rider V2

Sit start with your hands on the ledge. Go up and right.

17 Backed-up V1

Stand start inside the chimney-slot. Move right, then go over the ceiling. The opposing boulder is off.

18 Lip Service V0

Sit start at large holds.

D. Service Wall

19 Get Some V1

Sit start at the jug beneath the overhang.

E. Little Buster

20 Spinal Tap V3

Sit start. Put your right hand on the low ledge and your left hand on the large sloping block. Move up to the arête. The ledge to the left is on.

21 Spladle V7 **

Sit start at the sloping ledge next to the arête. Traverse left and finish on **Spinal Tap**. Topping out at the large hold on the arête is V3.

F. Arrow Wall

22 Yellow Arrow Left V3 **

Sit start at the low jug. Up the face between the two yellow arrows.

23 Yellow Arrow Right V3 *

Start as for **Yellow Arrow Left**. Move up to the seam on the right and finish at the ledge with a tree.

24 Frying Pan V1 ***

Committing. Stand start at the groove that is above the slab.

G. Underdog

25 Hurdler V3

Sit start with your hands on sloping edges. Heel-hook out left and go up the arête.

26 Underdog V4

Sit start at low edges. Move right to the undercling, then finish on the arête.

Arien Carrette on **Thorazine** (V8). Photo by Scot Carpenter.

