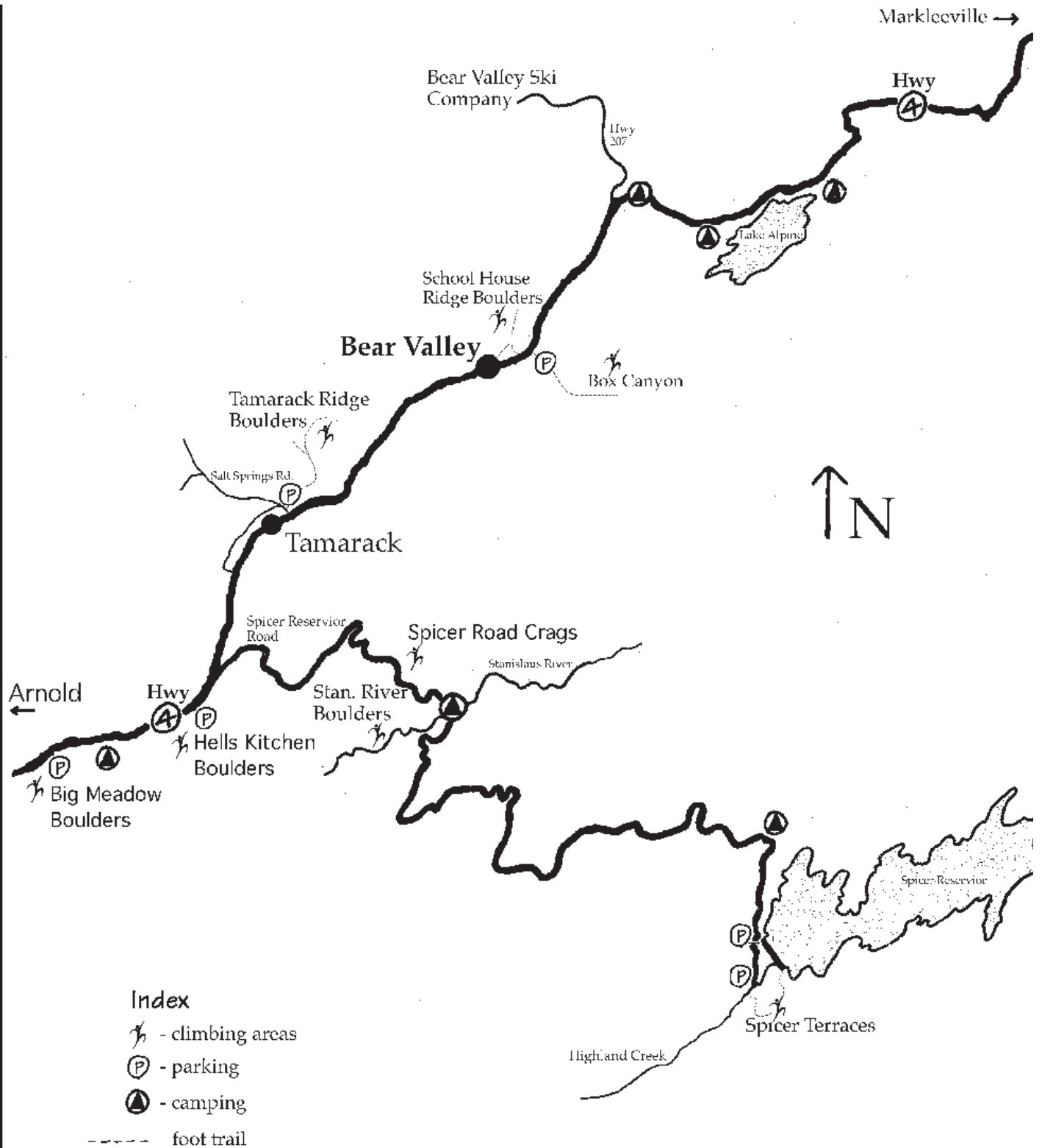




BEAR VALLEY AREA ROCK CLIMBING SAMPLER



BEAR VALLEY requires a pioneering spirit of adventure! The following is only a sampling of some of the areas frequented by local climbers. This guide is far from exhaustive and is brief. First ascents are not a phenomenon of the past, so don't let this guide limit you.

CRAGS in the immediate Bear Valley (BV) area are usually shorter than 50m. For big granite, head to Calaveras Dome 1 hour northwest via 4x4 roads.

BOX CANYON may be one of the best beginner/intermediate crags in the Sierra. The 70-100 foot climbs are characterized by moderate crack and face climbing ranging from 5.5-5.9. A few harder testpieces can also be found. The longest climb has two anchors bolts, but gear is required to set other anchors. Approach: Park at the dirt pullout 0.4 mi. east of the BV junction. Cross the stream and follow a vague trail downstream. Shortly before the creek jogs westward follow the foot trail left into the forest. The main cliff is on your left.

SPICER ROAD CRAGS are scattered along the northeast side of the Spicer Reservoir Road. A few of the more notable features are as follows (all mileage are from the Spicer Res. Road/Hwy. 4 junction): 0.8 mi. a few 30 ft. overhanging direct aid problems are visible (A2-3); 2.3 mi. takes you near a set of twin cracks (5.10); and 2.4 mi. brings you to a west facing buttress with two cracks (5.9-10).

SPICER TERRACES, with its 3 main tiers of mostly steep cracks ranging from 5.7-5.11, offers a good burning pump. From delicate stemming problems on Venus Flytrap (5.9) to powerful moves on Gastric Disaster (5.11+), the numerous 40-60 foot climbs will keep you busy all day. Natural protection to 3.5" is needed to set some anchors. Approach: Scenic - park near the top of the dam and take the dirt road across the dam to the spillway to the dynamite wall (sporting 2 bolted top ropes) courtesy of the damn engineers. The majority of the climbing can be found a short distance above and beyond.

BOULDERING is a specialty of the area. A boulder pad is strongly recommended.

SCHOOL HOUSE BOULDERS offers moderate slab problems to more challenging edging and pockets. Either climb the hill behind the Community Center in BV or park at the Box Canyon pullout and walk 100 yds. west down Hwy. 4 until adjacent with the large perched boulder. Venture north staying slightly west of the ridge line.

TAMARACK BOULDERS is a climbers playground offering moderate to difficult crack and face climbing. Beware of the Scary Monster. Park at the Hwy. 4/Salt Springs Rd junc. 2.3 mi. west of BV and follow the slabs uphill to the obvious boulders. Most problems can be found south of the power lines.

HELLS KITCHEN is an area favorite with steep, clean climbing. Don't be fooled by the lazy approach. The Kitchen is home to the original Scary Monster problem. Park at the Hells Kitchen vista point 3.5 mi. west of the BV junction and follow the tourist foot trail. Most boulders are within a stone's throw of the car.

BIG MEADOW has two large boulders, one w/a bolted top rope anchor. Look for the dynamic problem with a running start on the west end of the big one. Park at the Big Meadow Picnic Area, head south crossing the creek, then bear right. Keep your eyes peeled for the native American grinding stones.

STANISLAUS RIVER BOULDERS offer steep face climbing unlike any other in the region. Walk 15 min. downstream from the Stan. Riv. Campground (2.8 mi. down the Spicer Rd) until reaching the waterslide.

This Bear Valley Rock Climbing sampler is brought to you by Mountain Adventure Seminars (MAS). We specialize in unique mountain adventures in California and beyond. Full, half, and multiple day rock climbing classes are available for individuals, groups, and families. For more detailed information please feel free to contact us or visit our website. Thank you.

