

Love Lost –Climbing Guide

May 2021: This guide is based on information provided by PAUL VENUTI in 2005.

It is unknown if use of the parking area noted below is still allowed. It would pay to ask, and if not, be prepared to go elsewhere. Like Love Crag....

Disclaimer

Climbing is dangerous, period. All of the routes described herein [as of 2005] are new. While the routes were cleaned when put up, loose rock, rockfall and early ascents will undoubtedly continue to further clean the lines.

The information contained in this guide is fully, absolutely and without exception not warranted to be in any way shape or form correct, accurate, precise or complete.

Directions

Love Lost is a small crag near the Blue Ridge Parkway and near Love Crag

From the intersection of the Blue Ridge Mountain Parkway and 814 south in the sleepy town of Love, Virginia, take 814 south about ½ mile to a level dirt parking area on the right just past a driveway. Cross the road and head northwest for a few yards on an old road and then pick up and follow a level, unmaintained trail towards Love Rock. Just before reaching Love Rock, drop down and into an area with a set of large boulders. Step across and squeeze through a slot between the boulders and follow the inobvious trail another several hundred yards north. The trail descends slightly the last hundred yards or so to Love Lost. The approach takes about 15 minutes.

From the west end of Richmond, Virginia the driving distance is about 100 miles and takes about 1 hr 30 min. When the Parkway is closed in winter due to snow/ice, take 814 from Highway 64 through Sherando Lake, which is nearly as convenient as the Parkway itself.

NOTE: The parking area is on private property. Please respect the landowner's rights and his gracious hospitality by putting any trash in the trash bag he leaves on the bush, or better yet, take all the trash with you when you leave and leave him a new trash bag!

Some Geodata

Location	Latitude	Longitude
Love Lost - The Crag	N 37 52.523'	W 79 00.909'
Parking Area	N 3752.532'	W 79 01.193'
Point 007 (gully/wall)	N 37 52.511'	W 79 00.922'

History

This group of crags was initially developed during the early part of 2005 by Richmond climbers Chris Mattson, Scott Robinson, Doug Critcher and Paul Venuti.

Seasons

Love Lost lies on a south-facing slope at about 2500 ft elevation. This generally makes for comfortable conditions during transition seasons, but hot in the summer and cold during cloudy winter days.

Climbs – Listed from Left to Right (See topo)

All routes at **Love Lost** can be climbed using a standard length climbing rope (even shorter in some cases) and a standard rack.

Numbers correspond to top.

1 Love Heist 5.11

Paul Venuti and Scott Robinson 179 01.193'

Pro: Small to large cams with a few wired stoppers.

Start on the southern terrace in the dark fractured rock and head up the broken rock (zig-sag crack) and left and through the slot behind the large pedestal to its top. From the top of the pedestal climb the obvious short west-facing, right leaning crack to its top then up through some vegetation to the top of the crag.

2 Stolen Love is Sweet 5.9/5.10a

Aaron Hoody, Scott Robinson and Paul Venuti

Pro: Mostly med to large cams with a few wired stoppers.

Climb the first section of **Love Heist** to the top of the large pedestal. From the top of the pedestal step past the obvious right leaning crack and continue up and left (a bit run out) onto a stance with a small tree. Make the final moves up a vertical crack to the top.

3 Project

This is the intimidating overhanging dihedral on the left (west) portion. From the southern terrace climb the crack and dihedral system up and left. From the security of the crack system, move into the upper portion of the dihedral and finish using the steep left-slanting crack/seam.

4 No Love Lost 5.12a

03/13/2005 Paul Venuti

Pro: Med cams to 2", few stoppers, draws.

Start under the overhang in a vertical broken crack system left of the main gulley/chimney system and stick clip the first bolt. Move up and left (crux) into the left slanting crack system. Following the crack system (through some vegetation) moving left and up to double bolt anchors near the rim.

You can bypass the direct start by traversing in from the far right using the same start as the next three routes, which gives the climb a more moderate rating.

Bolt 1 – stick clip

Blue HB in crack about 18" from dihedral

#6 wire Rock about 36" from dihedral

Orange TCU

#1 Camalot – just before moving up

.75 Camalot (new) in vertical higher up

Optional med wires or TCUs for finish

The next three routes share the same (stick clip) start and share the same anchors. They begin on the left side of the main gulley/chimney system. Use runners to avoid excessive drag.

5 Tombstone Love 5.10a

Scott Robinson

Pro: TCUs, wired stoppers, draws.

Stick clip a bolt that protects the initial move and then go up and left across small cracks then step across the dihedral. Move up the south-facing wall past two bolts to double bolt anchors.

6 Corner on Love 5.9

Paul Venuti

Pro: TCUs, small cams to 1.5", wired stoppers, draws

Stick clip a bolt that protects the initial move and then go up and left across small cracks and enter the dihedral. Take the dihedral to its top passing one bolt on the right wall. Traverse left and up on the hand crack to double bolt anchors.

7 Amorous Intent 5.9

Chris Mattson

Pro: TCUs, small cams to 1.5", wired stoppers, draws.

Stick clip a bolt that protects the initial move and then move up through some small cracks staying on the face/buttress passing one bolt on your left to a hand crack. Traverse left and up on the hand crack to double bolt anchors.

Tunnel of Love 5.8

Chris Mattson & Doug Critcher

Pro: Mostly large to #4 Camalot.

Start deep in the left side of the main gully/chimney system. Lieback (and stem) the left-most wide crack through a short overhanging section then follow the crack/chimney system to the top. Belay at the rappel chains.

Central Gully Crack 5.9

Chris Mattson & Paul Venuti

Pro: Mostly large to #3, 4 Camalot

Start in the central crack in the main gully/chimney system. Awkward moves up loose rock take you up to some prominent horizontal cracks, then follow the left crack/chimney system to the top. Belay at the rappel chains.

10 Right Gully Crack 5.8

Doug Critcher & Paul Venuti, 4/9/05

Pro: Mostly large to #3/4 Camalot. Start in the right crack in the main gully/chimney system. Surmount the initial bulge then follow the crack/chimney system, top out under the large chockstone. Tree belay.

11 Upper N-facing Right-Slanting Crack 5.11+/-

Paul Venuti & Doug Critcher, 4/16/05

Pro: Full range including a #5 Camalot & TCUs.

Start in the right crack in the main gully/chimney system. Move up and right using the large, narrowing crack. Complete the route using the upper section of **First Love**.

12 First Love 5.10a

03/12/2005 Paul Venuti and Chris Mattson

Pro: Variety to 3"

The first route to be done at Love Lost. Start at the base of the southern-most blocky buttress. Climb up through an easy blocky/ledgy section to gain an obvious right-slanting crack on the north-facing side. Hand traverse out the crack and around the corner to a slab. Climb the slab back towards the arête (left) and move up below the summit block. Finish by moving up and right using the right slanting crack. Avoid placing pro on the slab proper to minimize rope drag. Sling the tree for belay and stay left (west) when belaying to avoid drag.

¾" to 1" pro in blocky area (long sling)

Yellow TCU or large wire to start hand crack

#1 Camalot in hand crack

#2 or 3 Camalot or #8 Metolius in large crack at top of slab (long sling)

Blue TCU and/or med/lg wire in exit crack

13 Blocky Face 5.7

04/10/2005 Scott Robinson & Paul Venuti

Pro: Standard rack

This is the south-facing blocking face across the gully from **Stolen/Heist**. Avoid the easy climbing by staying as far right as feasible. From the top, either fight through vegetation to get down or climb a 4th class ramp and scramble over to the rap anchors on top of Lost proper.

14 From Russia with Love 5.10a

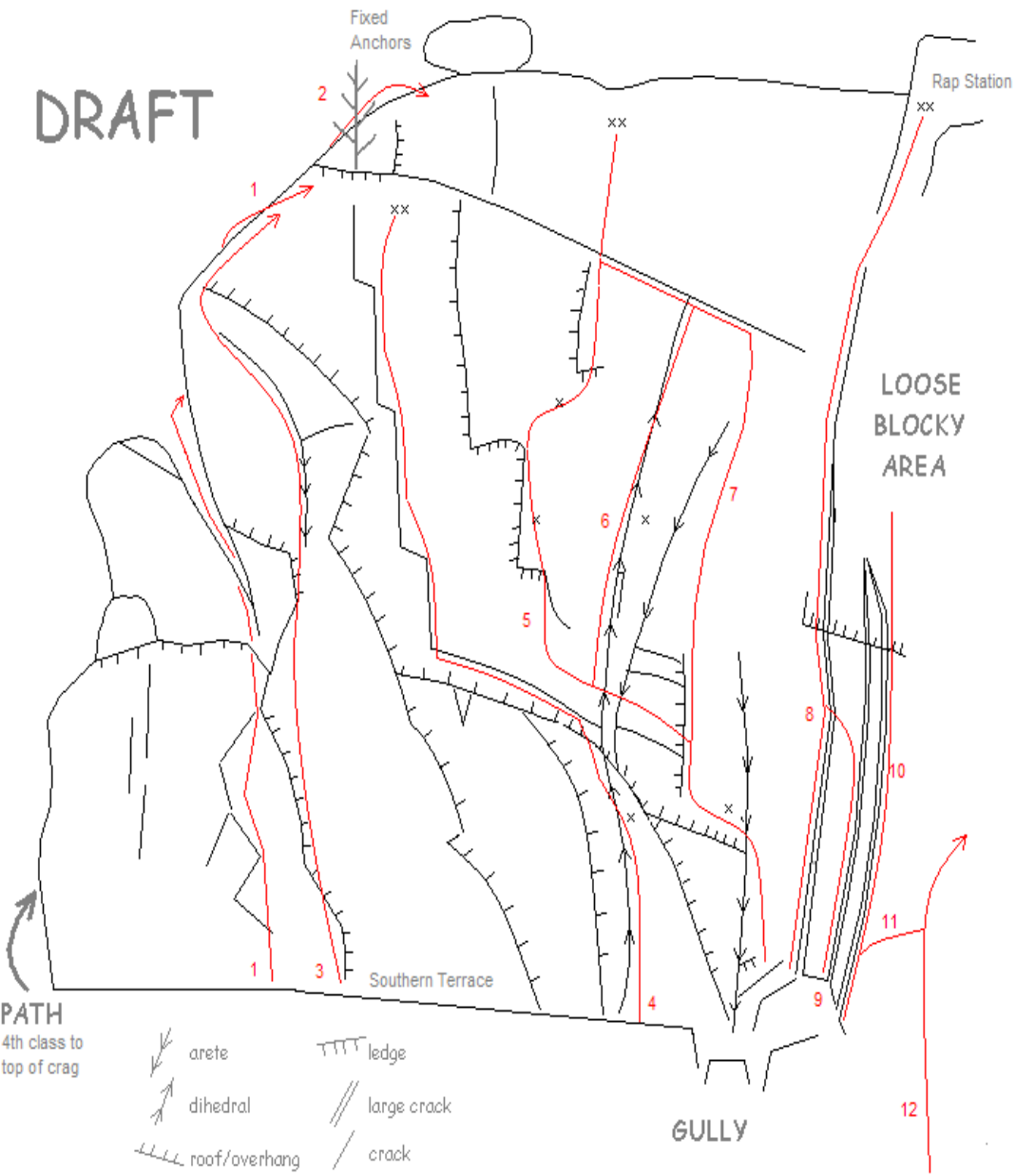
04/03/2005

Paul Venuti and Scott Robinson

Pro: 3 bolts plus anchors

About 50 yards before reaching the Love Lost crag, Leave the trail and hike up the 007 gulley for about 25 yards to a short face on the right. Clip the first bolt and use the block on the right (or forgo the block – 5.11+) to gain a shallow horizontal hand crack. Step left and follow the bolts to the top.

DRAFT



PATH
4th class to top of crag