

## **ACC-Trip to Foster Falls on April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005**

Rock Climbing at Foster Falls occurs on the cliffs which line the northernmost side of the gorge cut by the Little Gizzard Creek. The climbing is predominantly bolted "sport" routes on sandstone overhangs, arêtes, cracks, roofs, and faces. Routes are typically vertical or overhanging, blocky with roofs, averaging about 60 feet in height. There are some excellent thin face climbs and arêtes, routes are often strenuous. There is no low-angle climbing. You must lead all routes to rig top-ropes; there is no access to the top of the climbs. There are a handful of fine traditionally led routes, but Foster Falls is all about the best sport climbing routes in the Southeast.

### **Meeting location and time**

Cumberland Mall parking lot on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am in front of JCPenney's close to the crosswalk over Cobb Pkwy to Galleria Center.

### **Directions**

Drive I 75 north about 97 miles. Turn SLIGHT RIGHT onto TN-27/BAPTIST HILL RD/GRIFFITH HWY. Turn SLIGHT LEFT onto US-41 N/US-64 W/US-72 W/DIXIE HWY W/LEE HWY/TN-2 W into Jasper. Continue to follow US-41 N/US-64 W/US-72 W/DIXIE HWY W/LEE HWY. Turn RIGHT onto US-41/BETSY PACK DR/TN-150 at the second light. Continue to follow US-41/TN-150 up the mountain. 1 mile after the closed Mountain Mart turn LEFT onto GIZZARD CREEK. Stay STRAIGHT and at the barrier turn right (on the left side is the campground).

The large rock outcropping high up to your right is Castle Rock.

### **Cliff Access**

There is a well maintained access trail leading from both the campground and the day-use parking lot to an overlook of Foster Falls (cross under the power lines). From the overlook, you can get to the climbing areas by two trails - one along the top of the rim and one at the base of the cliffs.

To approach from the top, follow the trails toward the falls, cross the creek on the steel footbridge, then along the trail that skirts the cliff tops (white blazes). There is a primitive camping area (Father Johns with an outhouse) on a marked side trail. There are two marked climbers access trails (signs) that lead down from the rim of the gorge. The first will bring you to a point midway between Jimmywood and the Dihedrals. The second access trail will bring you to the base of the Rehab Slab.

There is a relatively new access trail to the base of the falls which provides more convenient access to the White Wall and the Bunkers, as well as a generally faster approach. From the main parking area, follow the trail and go left at the power lines (away from the falls). Look for a trail exiting the campground, crossing under the power lines, and then follow the steps down (sign). Cross the creek on the suspension bridge, and then follow the trail up and along the base of the cliffs. I prefer this trail as it is more scenic and seems a lot shorter.

The cliffs are divided into sections as they naturally occur. Starting at the falls, a trail leads along entire the base of the cliffs. The first section encountered is the White Wall. This is followed by the So What Area, the Crime Buttress, The Bunkers, The Dihedrals, (first rim trail intersects here) , Jimmywood, the Gutbuster Area, the Sanford Wall, the Rocket Slab, the Rehab Slab, (second rim trail intersects here) the Snatch Area, and finally, the Red Light District.

## **Facilities**

Foster Falls Campground opens April 6 and closes November 1. Phone (423-942-5759). The gates close at 10 pm. If you get late, park on the left side by the gate. Follow the street on your left and after a 5 min. walk you are in the middle of the campground where you can choose a site. The campground has about 30 sites, 3 - 4 water spigots, bathrooms/showers, trash cans. Try to avoid a site beneath one of the all night street lights. The price per site was last year 16\$ and per site are 2 small tents allowed. Alcohol is prohibited in the campground.

There is a convenient trail from the campground to the falls near the entrance. The manager makes regular patrols of the loop road in a white golf cart collecting fees every morning.

**If you have questions upfront don't hesitate to call me on my cell phone (404-921-4331). I will be out of town between March, 30<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 and can't respond. Please leave me a message and I will return your call as soon as I am back.**

Climb on

*Antje Ickinger*  
*Trip Coordinator*