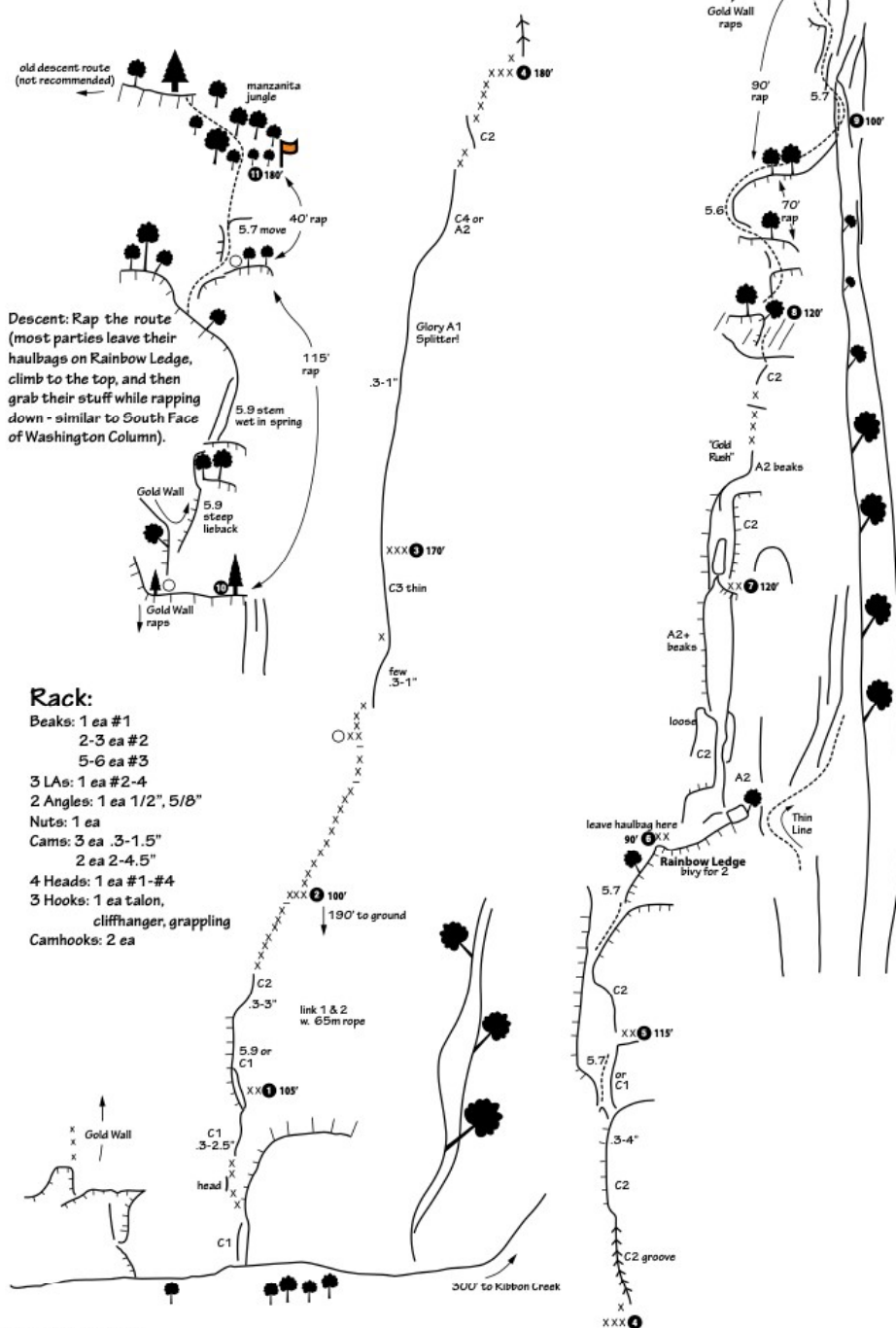


# Laughing at the Void VI 5.7 C4 or A2+

FA: May 2000 - Jerry, Sigrid, & Lynnea Anderson  
 Gold Rush Finish: March 2011 - Erik Sloan, Ryan Baker



Descent: Rap the route (most parties leave their haulbags on Rainbow Ledge, climb to the top, and then grab their stuff while rappelling down - similar to South Face of Washington Column).

- Rack:**
- Beaks: 1 ea #1
  - 2-3 ea #2
  - 5-6 ea #3
  - 3 LAs: 1 ea #2-4
  - 2 Angles: 1 ea 1/2", 5/8"
  - Nuts: 1 ea
  - Cams: 3 ea .3-1.5"
  - 2 ea 2-4.5"
  - 4 Heads: 1 ea #1-#4
  - 3 Hooks: 1 ea talon, cliffhanger, grappling
  - Camhooks: 2 ea

**Laughing at the Void** is characterized by perfect splitter cracks interspersed with a couple bolt ladders. The climbing is always moderate, the ledge is decent for two, and the mist from the nearby falls is rarely more than pleasant. This is the best beginner nailing route because it is short, and the cracks are in the middle of the wall not tucked in a corner. Laughing at the Void is a little harder than Skull Queen, and is a logical next step after climbing The Prow.

**Plan:** Hike up with a light pack your first time to dial in the trail - easy once you know where to go, but steep! Ribbon Fall is one of the first waterfalls to dry up each year, so often by mid-May there is just water running down the wall. So if you plan it right, you can have all your water already right near the base! To get water, hike a couple hundred feet over to the creek.

Most parties fix two pitches and sleep at the base, then climb to Rainbow Ledge on day two. The route above is more challenging, so if you are a total beginner it might be best to rappel from Rainbow your first time.

**The Elements:** Laughing at the Void is in full sun most of the day, though it does benefit from the mist of Ribbon Fall in spring, making it a little more cool. Retreat by rappelling the route.

**FA History:** Jerry and Sigrid Anderson are the original (OG) pioneer fixed anchor stewards of Yosemite. Jerry recalls replacing the original bolts on the South Face of the Column. "They came out just by pulling on the quickdraw!"

For this route, which they climbed with their daughter Lynnea, they put in only the best bolts available: stainless 3/8" bolts on the bolt ladders as well as at the anchors. Incredibly, all were drilled by hand (ouch!)

They climbed during a stormy spring, and drilling all those bomber bolts took a lot of time. "We were living up there on the wall for at least a week," recalls Jerry, "just hanging out having a good family vacation."

The Andersons climbed a nearby free route above Rainbow Ledge, which is dirty and of lower quality. My friend Ryan and I added the direct finish in 2011. The direct finish is good, but is a little bit harder and adventurous.

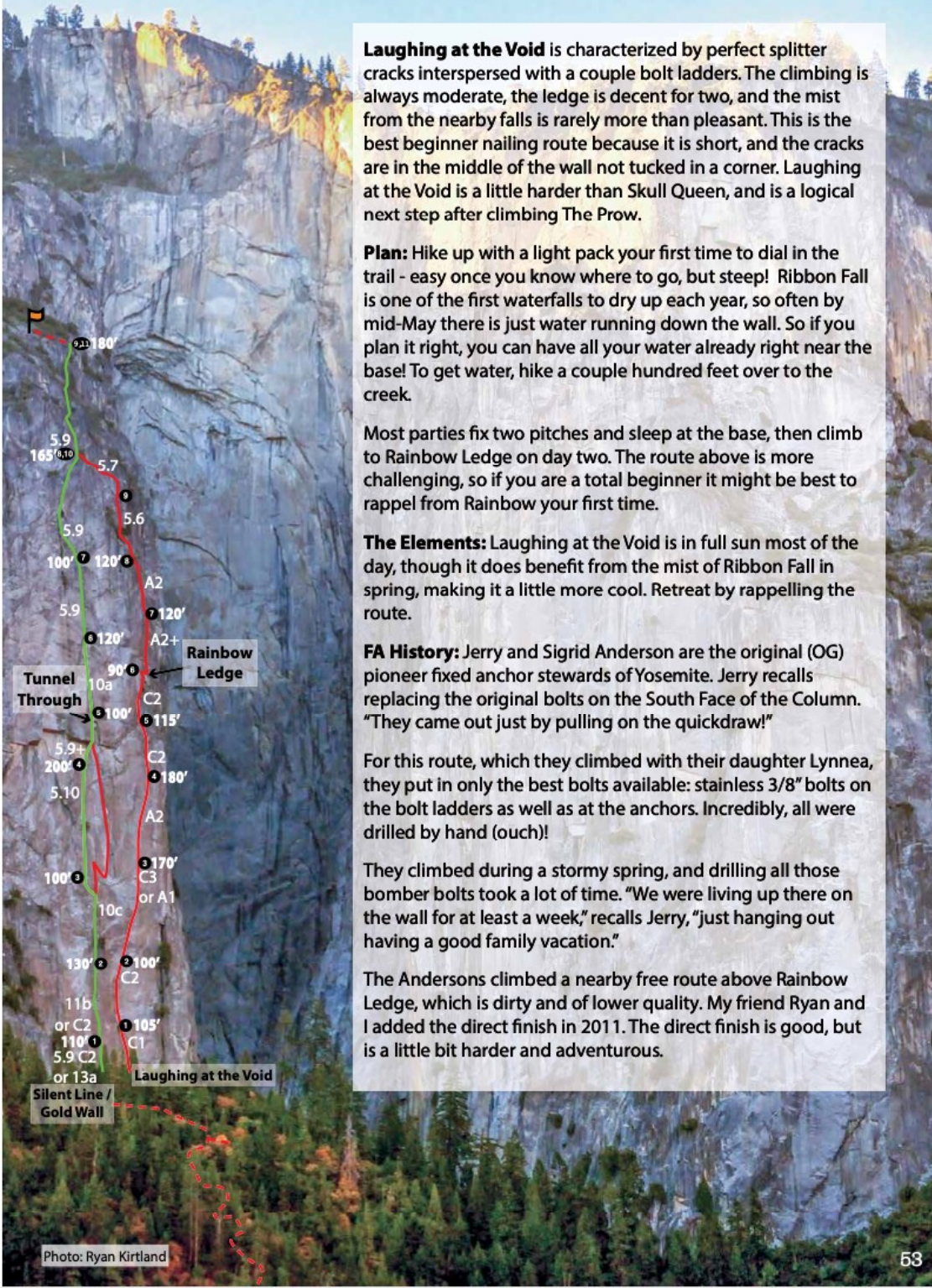


Photo: Ryan Kirtland