

Climbing Guide to Lost T2 Cliff



Arietta Climbing

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A Climbing guide to Lost T2

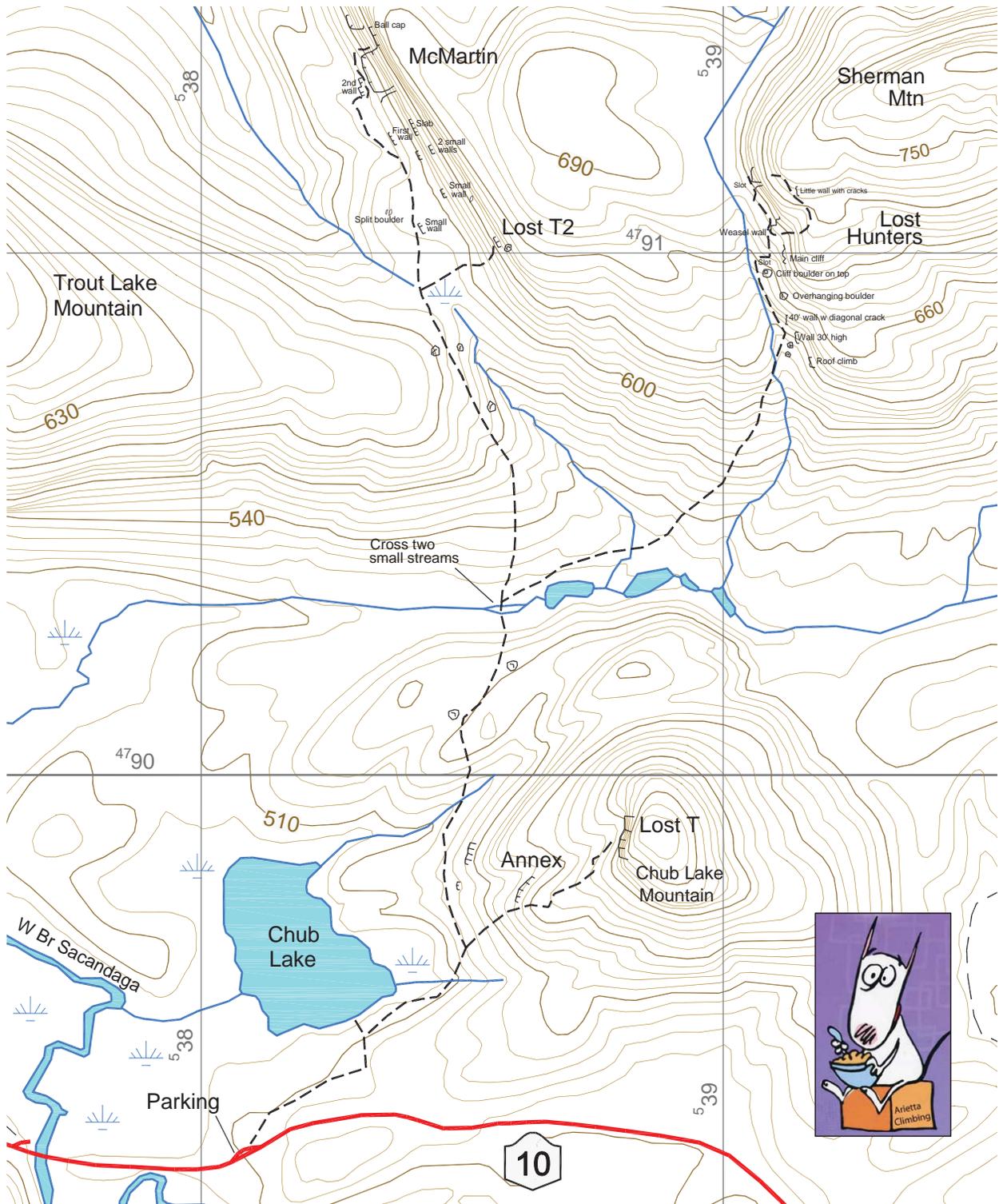
Introduction

Gary Thomann wasn't actually lost, just wandering through the woods toward the main trail on his way back from the top of McMartin cliff. It was quite a surprise to stumble onto this cliff. It is a small cliff with five nice climbs. It could actually be considered part of the McMartin system, but since it is isolated and so far south of the main McMartin cliff it was given its own name.

A map of the Lost T/McMartin/Lost Hunter area is shown on the next page. Drive north on highway 10/29A from Caroga Lake; at Pine Lake the highways split, 10 continuing north and 29A going west. The parking lot for Nine Corners is on 29A just after the split. but don't go there; from the split go 5 or 6 miles further north on 10 and just after you cross the West Branch of the Sacandaga River for the first time the road will swing left and you will drive onto the map. You may see the Arietta dog eating his cereal off to the right. You want the first parking lot on the right; if you cross the Sacandaga again there are two more parking lots, one for boat access and the second for Good Luck Lake. But by this time you have gone too far; retreat to the first lot. For general interest, just before you drive onto the map, when you are approaching one of the left turns in the highway, if you look straight ahead (north) and up a little you can see the Lost Hunters cliff.

The map includes a UTM NAD83 Zone 18 grid. The grid on the map is 1.0 km (.62 mi) square. The main elevation contours are spaced 30 m (100 ft) apart. The path (don't say trail) to Lost T2 is usually marked and fairly visible, but it is possible to get lost. You may wish to use a GPS unit; set your unit to UTM and the NAD83 datum. If asked by your unit, distances and elevation are both in meters (m). Just for reference the parking lot coordinates are 538080, 4789280 and Lost T2 is 538565, 4791020. To check your GPS, see if the reading at the parking lot agrees with what is listed here. The straight line distance to the cliff is 1.8 km (1.12 mi), although of course the trail doesn't run in a straight line. The actual hiking distance is about 2.4 km (1.5 mi). It will take about forty five minutes to walk in, few minutes less to walk out because the cliff is around 120 m (400 ft) higher than the parking lot. The hike to Lost T2 is 10 to 15 minutes shorter than to the main McMartin cliff which is further north.

The path begins at the back of the parking lot; follow it and just a couple of hundred feet before you reach Chub Lake turn right onto another trail. This will go around Chub Lake and cross a very small stream and then begin climbing. Just after climbing up about a hundred feet there is a junction, which may or may not be marked with three strips of tape. The trail northeast continues to climb up to the Annex and Lost T. For now, take the left turn. After about a kilometer you will cross a small stream. Actually the stream is split here and you will cross two small streams. After you cross the second stream there is another trail split. The trail to the right (east) goes to Lost Hunter, a mission for another day. Continue on north. The trail will climb for a while and then make a short descent. When you cross a small wet spot on a rotten log there is another junction, which should be marked with three flags on a tree. The trail continuing north goes to the main McMartin cliffs. At this junction go east; after about a hundred meters of level walking the trail will go up a short steep slope to the Lost T2 cliff.

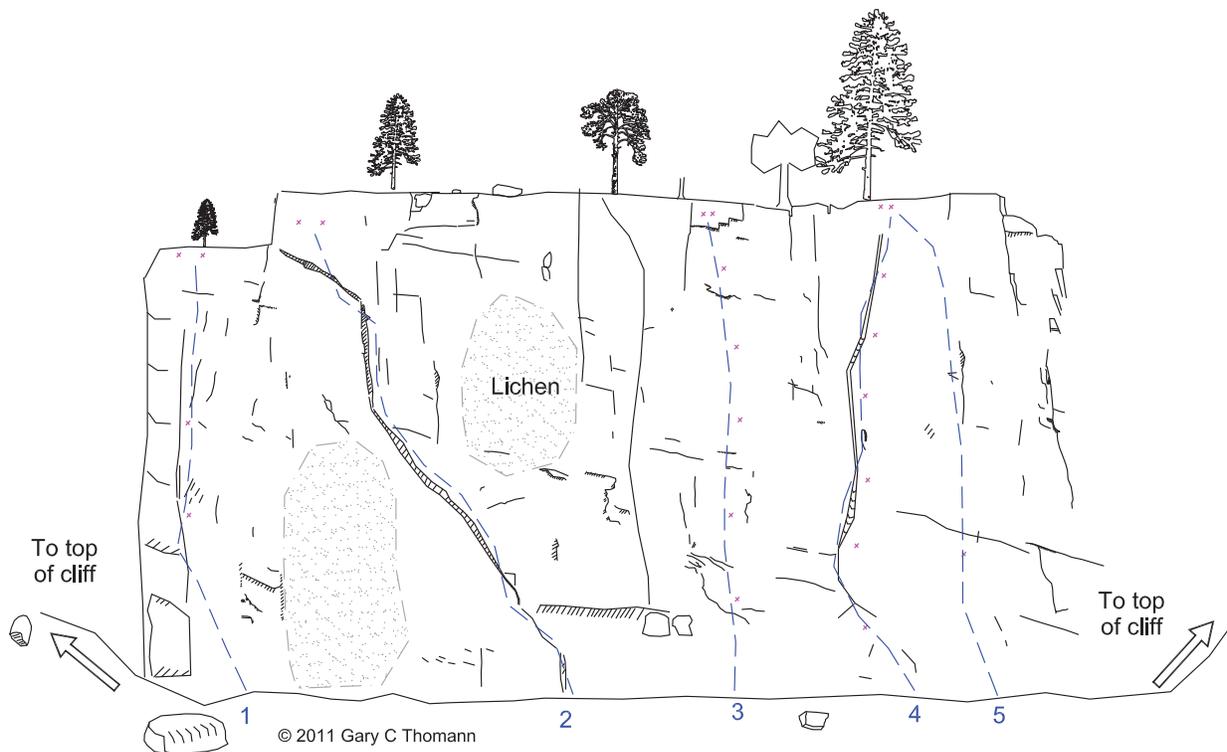


Map for the area cliffs with UTM NAD83 grid.

The Cliff

Lost T2 is a small cliff perhaps 60 ft high and something over 100 ft wide. There are presently five climbs on it; more should be possible. A rather rough cliff drawing is shown below. Because of the trees it is impossible to step away from the cliff to take a picture to help with the drawing. The area at the base of the cliff is flat and pleasant. You can get to the top of the cliff around either the left or the right. There are many trees at the top from which top ropes can be anchored. If you like boulders, there are some large ones up to the right. One of these boulders has a six foot roof about fifteen feet up. None of the boulders have been climbed yet.

The cliff was cleaned and bolted in July/August 2011 by our usual dedicated and hardy crew, Bill Griffith, Keegan Griffith, Joss (last name to be supplied), Mary Giehl, Carl (Coach) Maricle and Gary Thomann.



Rough drawing of Lost T2 cliff

Climbs

1. Cedar Dog 5.7 or 5.8 G

Cedar is a friend of the Arietta climbing dog. There is a rounded arête at the left edge of the cliff. Go up staying on or just right of the arête. Two bolts plus natural gear to clip in anchors at the top. It is a bit cumbersome to set up a top rope for this climb; better to get somebody to lead it and then top rope from the anchors.



2. welcome to america 5.10d G

Named for the two hikers from France who stumbled upon us when we were at the cliff. This climb is certainly a challenge for leaders, a crack/trough that leans left so you are never exactly in the crack. If you can lead it you are a stud (studess). Accepts plenty of gear from small cams/nuts up to about 1.5 inches. You have to get about 10 ft up the climb to where the crack begins before any gear can be placed. The photo on the cover is Bill Griffith starting to place gear where the crack begins. Climb ends at clip in anchors. Because the climb leans left it is not very easy to set up a top rope to practice. The best solution would probably be to top rope from a tree anchor that is midway between the bottom and top positions.

Try my climb!

3. Locust Posts 5.11d bolted

Bill Griffith named this one; probably got the name from some sign along the highway. An exciting climb on thin holds past 5 bolts to anchors at top. It is possible to set a top rope for this climb from trees above or by rappelling down to the anchors.

4. Airtime 5.10 bolted

You may get some too. There was much discussion amongst the working crew about whether this climb is 5.9 or 5.10. The crew climbing skills range from superb to awful. Of course the better climbers said it was 5.9 while the less talented wanted it to be 5.10. Climb it yourself and vote – send ratings to gthomann@nycap.rr.com. Muscular at the bottom, then interestingly weird moves in some depressions on the face. Six bolts to clip in anchors. Set up top ropes from trees or by rappelling to anchors.

5. Public Service 5.8 G

One bolt and the rest natural gear. Straight up the cliff and then at the top move left to the anchor for Airtime.