



AAC Publications

Tokopah Valley: 1,000 Piece Meal Deal, Knotfest

California, Sequoia National Park

In July, Neal Harder, Sebastian Thau, and I established a nearly 1,000' route on the east side of Lower Tokopah Dome. 1,000 Piece Meal Deal (5.10d) climbs a direct line to the summit and is to the right of previously established routes. The first, primarily bolt-protected, slab pitch gains access to a plethora of compact chicken heads (a.k.a. nuggets). This scenic climb was my son Sebastian's (age 15) first backcountry first ascent.

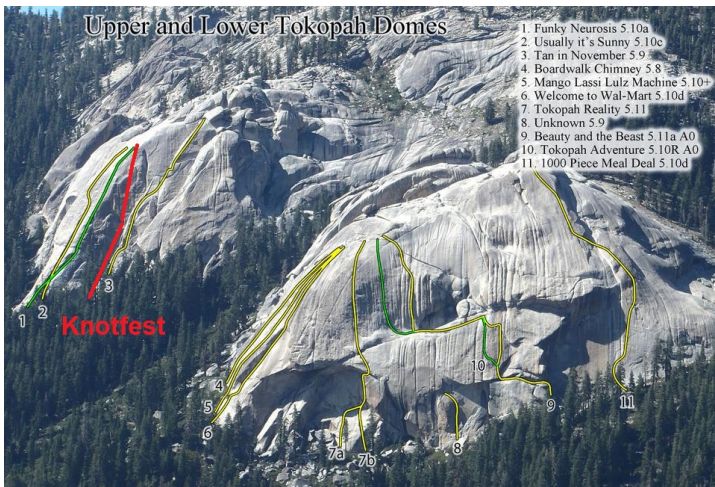
– Brandon Thau

Editor's Note: Maxim Belyakov Vitaliy and Musiyenko also completed a new route on the left side of neighboring Santa Cruz Dome—Knotfest (III 5.11a). Two pitches in a prominent chimney system (5.10) took them to a steep, left-leaning flare, which led to an overhang (5.11a) and onto incredible knobs and chicken heads that are slingable for protection. Two more pitches of similar featured terrain led to the top.

Images



Fifteen-year-old Sebastian Thau enjoying the plethora of chicken “nuggets” during the first ascent of 1,000 Piece Meal Deal (ca 1,000', 5.10d) on Lower Tokopah Dome in Sequoia National Park.



Santa Cruz Dome and Lower Tokopah Dome in the Tokopah Valley of Sequoia National Park, showing the two new routes completed in 2018, and other previously established lines.

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