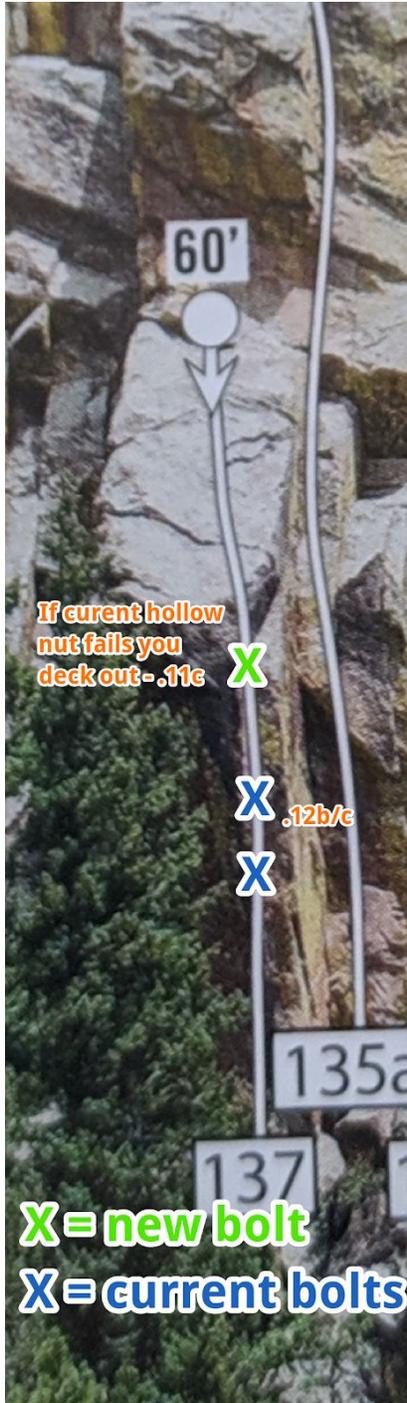


Retro Bolt Application

May 29, 2019

HyperSpace Roundup, West Ridge Pony Express Area



Picture 1: Hyperspace Roundup overview. Photo credit Steve Levin *Eldorado Canyon A Climbing Guide, 2nd Edition*



Picture 2: Hyperspace Roundup. Rope on bolt one. Draw on bolt two. Draw on fixed nut above bolt two.



Picture 3: New bolt location

History

Hyperspace Roundup .12b/c mixed sport/trad route

FA - Mike Brooks, rope solo, 1982 (5.7 A2)

FFA - Charlie Fowler and Joe Huggins, 1986. Established ground up with the following gear:

1. Fixed bashie - piece one
2. Fixed pin - piece two
3. Fixed nut - piece three

Two bolt anchor was part of the FFA to facilitate easy lower off as there is no second pitch and it dead ends on blank wall.

The bashie and pin were eventually replaced sometime after the FFA with two bolts by an unknown climber prior to ACE fixed hardware process came into existence in the early '90s. The fixed nut remained in place for decades but was removed in the last few years. Both editions of *Eldorado Canyon A Climbing Guide* by Steve Levin (2009/2013) note the gear as "RPs, 2 bolts, fixed wire, 2-bolt anchor." The nut sits between two hollow flakes. Flakes have a hollow sound when struck and the nut is difficult to seat correctly (i.e., DMM HB alloy offset 9 red nut). If the nut were to fail a ground fall is highly likely.

Information from Applicant

The original intent of the FFA was not a bold "do or die" route. The bolt for nut replacement is meant to bring the routes original intent back into scope which was a reasonably safe climb for the grade that you would not get injured on but that kept you on your toes. FFA team was not aware that the nut placement was in suspect rock. It's possible the rock has degraded over the years due to weathering.

Since the removal of fixed nut/wire recently one successful lead was made with the nut pre-placed. However, other recent leaders competent at the grade and style have thrown in the towel on further lead attempts concerned that if the pre-placed nut blows they would likely be seriously injured or worse. Fixed nuts have come and gone during Eldorado's climbing history however in this particular case it seems the community is loathe to replace the nut as the placement has become suspect of breaking.

Application

Proposal is to place a bolt in the vicinity of the historical fixed nut placement.

Charlie Fowler is deceased. Joe Huggins was contacted and approves of the addition of the bolt saying "Charlie would have been all in for the bolt. We never meant for this to be a death route. We climbed it ground up but made it as safe as we could within reason."

Factors For

1. Does the proposed addition of fixed hardware alter the routes technical difficulty?
No. The route has been lead with the nut in situ since the FA. There are no known ascents without the nut in situ.
1. Does the proposed addition of fixed hardware alter the route psychology?
Yes. Clipping the bolt will not elicit the same mental edge as clipping a so-so fixed nut.
1. Does the proposed addition of fixed hardware alter neighboring routes?
No.
1. Does the FFA party (Add FFA party) agree with the proposed addition of fixed hardware?
Yes. Joe Huggins approves. Joe's partner for the FFA was Charlie Fowler who is deceased. Joe is of a strong opinion that Charlie would have wholeheartedly approved the addition of the proposed bolt.

Factors Against

1. Can any of the proposed fixed hardware additions instead be protected with natural protection?
Yes. However, the pseudo crack/flake where the crux nut placement is made is of dubious quality as the rock emits a hollow sound when struck.

Neutral Factors

1. Is any of the fixed hardware a piton(s) being replaced by a bolt?
No. Bolt for fixed nut replacement.