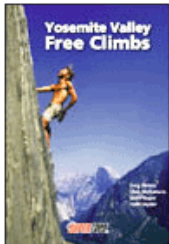


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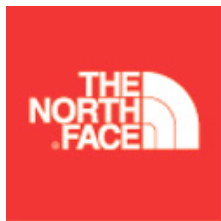
Saturday, July 11, 2009

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John Bachar timeline 1957-2009

Jul 8, 2009, 06:47pm PT



Topic Author:
[Clint Cummins](#)

Trad climber
From: SF Bay area, CA

John Bachar timeline

1957 - born
 1971 - started climbing - Stoney Point - age 14 - bouldered with Bob Kamps
 1973? - set record for his high school in the pole vault
 1974 - FFA of Black Harlot's Layaway 5.11d (Taquitz) w/ Tobin Sorenson
 1974 - FA of Short But Thin 5.11b w/ Tobin Sorenson
 1974 - FFA of Rixon's Pinnacle South Face 5.11d w/ Tobin Sorenson
 1975 - FFA of Free Blast w/ Kauk, Bridwell, Long, Worrall and Graham
 1975 - FFA of Astroman w/ Ron Kauk and John Long
 1975 - FFA of Hot Line 5.12a w/ Ron Kauk - first recognized 5.12 in Yosemite
 1970s - 5th or 6th ascent of The Shield; 3rd ascent of Tangerine Trip
 1975? - free solo of Double Cross 5.8 w/ John Long
 1975? - 3rd ascent of Naked Edge 5.11b w/ Tobin Sorenson w/ some falls
 1975 - FFA(except for UCLA) of Tips 5.11d A0 w/ Ron Kauk
 1976 - dropped out of school after one year - wanted to become the best climber in the world
 1976 - FA of Gait of Power 5.11d w/ Ron Kauk
 1976? - Colorado bouldering tour with John Long and John Gill
 1976 - free solo New Dimensions 5.11a
 1976 - elbow tendinitis - unable to climb as hard as before (probably recurred in later years)
 1977 - Yosemite plane crash scavenging - bought a car
 1977+ - guided in Estes Park CO for Fantasy Ridge
 1977 - FFA of D7 on the Diamond onsight w/ Richard Harrison
 1978 - FA of Caliente 5.12b - Suicide - possibly the hardest pure face climb in CA at that time
 1978 - second ascent of Midnight Lightning, after working with Kauk on the FA
 1978 - FFA of D1 on the Diamond w/ Bill Westbay
 1978 - FFA of The Wisdom 5.11d - Eldorado
 1978 - FFA of West Owl Direct aka Silly Putty 5.11+ R - Estes Park
 1978 - Nose speed record - 15 hours w/ Mike Lechinski
<http://www.speedclimb.com/yosemite/thenose.htm>
 1979 - solo groundfall from Clever Lever 5.12a - swung further out than expected without rope drag
 1979 - free solo Nabisco Wall - Waverley Wafer 5.10c - Butterballs 5.11a - Butterfingers 5.11a
 1980 - close call during onsight free solo of The Moratorium 5.11b - (was rated 5.10d) - wanted to downclimb but unable - gave up onsight 5.11 solos after this
 1980 - FA of Chasin' The Trane; Frankenjura - first 5.13 in Europe
 1980? - 7-Up commercial with Bridwell - \$30k
 1980? - featured on That's Incredible (TV show) - clip: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03udLvtNR6Y>
 1981 - started playing saxophone - self-taught
 1981 - FA of Black Magic 5.11c R - Tuolumne w/ Alan Bartlett (June)
 1981 - FA of Goldfinger 5.12a - Tuolumne (July)
 1981 - FA of Body and Soul 5.12 R - Tuolumne w/ Mike Lechinski (July)
 1981 - FA of Bachar-Yerian 5.11c R - Tuolumne w/ Dave Yerian (August)
 1981 - issued \$10,000 challenge for anyone to follow him on a day of soloing in Tuolumne Meadows - no takers
 1982 - started distributing Fires for Boreal (Spain) - after Miguel Angel Gallego gave him a pair - \$65k/year
 1982 - FA of Movement in Camouflage 5.10d R - Tuolumne
 1982? - FFA of Bombs Over Tokyo 5.12b/d? R - Tuolumne
 1982 - FA of Tunnel Vision 5.12d
 1982 - FA of Moongerms 5.11d w/ Werner Braun
 1982 - free soloing in Joshua Tree - Hot Rocks, Spider Line, Leave it to Beaver, More Monkey than Funkey, Baby Apes
 1982 - married Brenda Lugo
 1983 - Rolling Stone article (28 April) - "Valley boys" by Trip Gabriel - transcription: http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=244379
 1983 - Gillette shaving commercial - \$38k
 1983 - FA of The Promise 5.11b R w/ Dale Bard
 1984 - FA of The Believer 5.12a
 1984 - Life Magazine article (September) - "The ultimate dare - solo rock climbers in Yosemite, John Bachar, Ron Kauk"
 1985 - FAs of The Kid 5.11b R, The Pinhead 5.10c R, and Here's Johnny 5.10d R - Tuolumne w/ Kurt Smith
 1985 - free solo Father Figure 5.13a - Joshua Tree
 1986 - FA of The Phantom 5.13a R
 1986 - Nose speed record - 10:05 w/ Peter Croft
 1986 - linked The Nose and Half Dome NW Face in 14 hours w/ Peter Croft
 1988 - punch incident at Camp 4 parking lot after Cottage Dome project was rap bolted and bolts chopped on Arch Rock
 1990 - separated from Brenda Lugo
 1990 - Foresta house burned down in forest fire - after building permit hassles, sold land and moved to Mammoth Lakes
 1996 - son Tyrus Bachar born with Val
 2000 - stopped working for Boreal
 2003 - formed Acopa International LLC with Dario Piana and Steve Karafa
 2006 - car accident where Steve Karafa died; Bachar fractured 5 neck vertebrae; had intermittent weakness in one hand/arm
 2009 - died in soloing fall near Mammoth Lakes; CA

single best source: "Being Bachar", Rock and Ice #166
<http://www.rockandice.com/inthemag.php?id=10&type=featart>

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I constructed this because I felt the obituaries which have appeared so far have focused on his free soloing, to the neglect of his many other climbing achievements. This probably contains some errors and omissions [I will edit].

Mike Graham's memorial thread for John Bachar:
http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=896012

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Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 06:55pm PT

Author:
[Jaybro](#)

Thanks Clint, earlier today i was thinking that we needed something like this. Probably a few corrections to come, like the 1984 Life™ magazine article. Prolly more, but they are just details.

Social climber
 From: Wolf City, Wyoming

Really nice work, Clint!

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 06:59pm PT

Author:
[HighDesertDJ](#)

It's so nuts what he was doing after climbing only 4 years. Amazing.

Trad climber
 From: Arid-zona

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 07:08pm PT

Author:
[B I Ø T C H](#)

Didn't he have more FAs after '90 ? (Owens Gorge, Clark Canyon etc) I'd like to see more climbing details for those last years in the timeline .

Boulder climber
 From: the ground up

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 07:09pm PT

Author:
[Jaybro](#)

he wasn't like the rest of us...

Social climber
 From: Wolf City, Wyoming

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 07:14pm PT

Author:
[steelmnkey](#)

That's awesome Clint. I was thinking something like that would be cool to see. What a run!!!

climber
 From: Vision man...ya gotta have vision...

Four years... yeah...you have to figure he gloriously found what he was meant to do on this earth. We should all be so lucky.

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 07:33pm PT

Author:
[rick d](#)

clint- the essence of shaving commercial, that's incredible, and all the rest of the pop culture stuff too!

climber
 From: tucson, az

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 07:35pm PT

Author:
[wildone](#)

You should insert that on Jan 2007, he met me in Joshua Tree, and we chatted. Influenced me, for sure.

climber
 From: GHOST TOWN

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 07:40pm PT

Author:
[tom woods](#)

He put up some great routes on the Eastside too. There's one up at Dexter Canyon that I've always been interested in. The usual Bachar stuff, a few bolts and likely sandbagged.

Gym climber
 From: Bishop, CA

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 08:11pm PT

Author:
[Tarbuster](#)

I always thought Moongermes, Love Supreme, Body & Soul were among the coolest looking Bachar routes.

climber
 From: right here, right now

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 08:13pm PT

Author:
[Jaybro](#)

What about the 7-up commercial?

Social climber
 From: Wolf City, Wyoming

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 08:15pm PT

Author:
[chez](#)

Sandbagging yes, but Bachar knew how to grade routes, an art that is being mistreated these days.

Social climber
 From: chicago ill

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 08:20pm PT

Author:
[Tarbuster](#)

"Before I climb 10,000 feeties, I ALWAYS eat my Wheaties!"

climber
 From: right here, right now

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 08:28pm PT

How can we improve SuperTopo? Got feedback?



[Let us know!](#)

Author: [chez](#) I had you pegged as a Wheaties man! Would look good on the box too.

Social climber
From: chicago ill

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 08:41pm PT

Author: [Tarbuster](#) But they gave the commercial to Bachar.
WHY ???

climber
From: right here, right now

I was in the try outs, along with a host of gay guys wearing woodsman like costumes, but like with corduroy short shorts & flannel, trying to look like climbers.

Largo must've been doing the screening, cuz he tells me later:
"Ho man, you should lay off the PIPE before auditions."

I had Pink Eye, for real.
No way to cover that up.

So they gave it to BACHAR fer chrissakes.
(prolly a good call)

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 08:46pm PT

Author: [Ed Hartouni](#) a more complete Yosemite FA and FFA list?

Trad climber
From: Livermore, CA

Short but Thin 5.11b **FA** 1974 Tobin Sorenson, *John Bachar*
Rixon's Pinnacle, South Face 5.8 A2 **FA** 1948 Chuck Wilts, Ellen Wilts; 5.11d **FFA** 1974 Tobin Sorenson, *John Bachar*
Pinky Paralysis 5.11c **FA** 1975 *John Bachar*, Jim Bridwell
Preface 5.11b **FA** 1975 *John Bachar*, Tobin Sorenson
Tips **FA** 1975 *John Bachar*, Ron Kauk; 5.12a **FFA** 1985 Jonny Woodward, Ron Kauk
Short but Thick 5.11a **FA** 1975 Kevin Worrall, *John Bachar*, Ed Barry
Free Blast 5.11b **FA** 1975 Jim Bridwell, John Long, Kevin Worrall, Mike Graham, *John Bachar*, Ron Kauk
Washington Column, East Face (Astroman) 5.9 A3 **FA** 1959 Warren Harding, Glen Denny, Chuck Pratt; 5.11c **FFA** 1975 *John Bachar*, John Long, Ron Kauk
Hotline **FA** 1973 Jim Bridwell, Mark Chapman; 5.12a **FFA** 1975 Ron Kauk, *John Bachar*
Gait of Power 5.11d **FA** 1976 Ron Kauk, *John Bachar*
666 5.12c **FA** 1980 Dave Schultz, *John Bachar*
Le Bachar 5.11b **FA** 1982 *John Bachar*, Mike Lichlinski, Mari Gingery
Moongerms 5.11d **FA** 1982 *John Bachar*, Werner Braun
Tunnel Vision 5.12d **FA** 1982 *John Bachar*
Isotope 5.11d **FA** 1983 *John Bachar*, Dimitri Barton, Ron Kauk, Werner Braun
Omakara 5.12b **FA** 1983 *John Bachar*
The Promise 5.11b **FA** 1983 *John Bachar*, Dimitri Barton
The Believer 5.12a **FA** 1984 *John Bachar*
Inchworm 5.11b **FA** 1984 *John Bachar*, Rick Cashner
Nightmare Continuation 5.11d **FA** 1984 *John Bachar*, Rick Cashner
Fasten Your Seat Belts 5.10d **FA** 1985 *John Bachar*, Rick Cashner
Free Ride 5.10a **FA** 1985 *John Bachar*, Rick Cashner
Headhunter 5.10- **FA** 1985 *John Bachar*, Rick Cashner
Opposition 5.11d **FA** 1985 *John Bachar*, Werner Braun
Dale's Pin Job 5.13 **FA** 1986 *John Bachar*
Phantom 5.13a **FA** 1986 *John Bachar*
The Remnant, Center Route 5.12a **FA** 1986 *John Bachar*
John's Ring Job (Bachar's Ring Job) 5.11d **FA** 1989 *John Bachar*, Ron Kauk

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 09:08pm PT

Author: [WBraun](#) Tips First ascent was Charlie Porter on aid solo.

climber
From:

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 09:17pm PT

Author: [The Warbler](#) Moongerms is an amazing looking route that I bet next to nobody who posts here has ever seen.

climber
From: the edge of America

One of the Valley's most badass looking finger cracks.
How was that route, Werner?

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 09:21pm PT

Author: [Ed Hartouni](#) early JT FAs

Trad climber
From: Livermore, CA

Candelabra F10 1972, John Bachar, Oliver Moon
Left Ski Track Direct F12 1973, John Long, John Bachar
That F11 1974, Mike Graham, John Bachar
Deep Throat F9 1975, John Bachar, Tobin Sorenson, Bill Antel, Craig Parsley
Spiderman F10 1975, John Long, John Bachar
Hands Down F12 1976, John Bachar
Sympathy to the Devil F10 1976, John Bachar
Desert Song F12 1977, John Bachar
Goldenbush Corner F12 1977, John Bachar

Only 1 Suicide FA?

Flakes of Wrath, 5.10+, 1975, John Bachar, Gib Lewis, Wilson, John Long, Eriksson, Tobin Sorenson

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 09:24pm PT

Author: [Sewellymon](#) '80 or '81- John Bachar and Mike Lechlinski set then-current speed record of The Nose. 12 hours climbed old school (pitch by pitch/ no simul/ no short fixing).

climber
From:in a single wide.....

(edit- Clint wrote down-thread that Hans site says 15 hr in '78? pretty sure i am right, tho it was almost 30 yrs ago and brain cells are fleeing by the millions....)

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 09:25pm PT

Author: [Ed Hartouni](#) Jaybro's got my Tuolumne Guide, so I don't have a way of listing those FAs right now.

Trad climber
From: Livermore, CA

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 09:26pm PT

Author: [neebee](#) hey there say, clint... this will especially nice for his son...

Social climber
From: calif/texas

very nice...
say, thanks for sharing here...

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 09:34pm PT

Author: [Walleye](#) "'80 or '81- John Bachar and Mike Lechliniski set then-current speed record of The Nose. 12 hours climbed old school (pitch by pitch/ no simul/ no short fixing)."

climber
From: A hard right down Big Tujunga Canyon

Really???? I had no idea about this. That is awesome.. Another testament to John's abilities (and Lechliniski's). In reality, a half of a day to do the Nose, even today, is a not-so-un-awesome accomplishment. Keep it going guys. TESTIFY!

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 09:36pm PT

Author: [Mighty Hiker](#) John had elbow/tendinitis problems at least as early as 1976. When I met him in the Valley that autumn, he was laid up from it, and couldn't go climbing. He wouldn't even do Bishop's Terrace. He played a lot of chess that year.

Social climber
From: Vancouver, B.C.

At the time, I'd never heard of tendinitis, so it stuck in my memory.

Perhaps he had intermittent or chronic tendinitis, like so many climbers?

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 09:39pm PT

Author: [dickcilley](#) 666,.12c is a Skip Guerin route.

Social climber
From: Wisteria Ln.

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 09:54pm PT

Author: [Clint Cummins](#) Thanks for all the corrections and updates!! Especially the Nose speed record(s), which I finally found on Hans' site after looking earlier. (Hans has it at 15 hours in 1978 for Bachar and Lechliniski; maybe they did it again in 12 hours in 1980/81?) I'm off to the Valley; will return in a few days and hope to find more corrections when I get back (will add Joshua Tree FAs to the list, too). John did a lot! (we knew that, and we also know that a simple list misses a lot of the details, but it's a start) :-)

Trad climber
From: SF Bay area, CA

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 10:33pm PT

Author: [Mighty Hiker](#) What and when was John's first route in the Valley? That is, climb with a rope?

Social climber
From: Vancouver, B.C.

Edit: Clint, your excerpt doesn't seem to mention John's first Valley climb, but does mention his first at Tahquitz. I wonder who the friend's sister's boyfriend who'd been on Everest was?

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 10:48pm PT

Author: [Clint Cummins](#) Anders,

Trad climber
From: SF Bay area, CA

From the "Being Bachar" article linked:

Bachar grew up in Westchester, California, best known as the home of LAX. He read Maurice Herzog's Annapurna and The White Spider by Heinrich Harrer and was instantly sold on climbing despite knowing virtually nothing about the sport. A high-school buddy, Mike Ransom, who pole vaulted on the track team with Bachar, had a sister who was dating a guy who had climbed Everest, elevating him to hero status for Bachar and Ransom.

"We asked to see his gear," says Bachar, "but he wouldn't even talk to us."

Bachar and Ransom bouldered at L.A.'s Stoney Point, then hit Joshua Tree or Tahquitz on weekends. "We did Mike's Books (5.6) with helmets and everything," says Bachar. "Total newbies." At Josh, Bachar met Mike Graham, Tobin Sorenson and Dean "Bullwinkle" Fidelman. "Those guys were way serious about climbing," Bachar recalls, "going to Yosemite during spring break and hanging there all summer."

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 10:51pm PT

Author: [Mungeclimber](#) From Marty's Owens River Guidebook:

Trad climber
From: sorry, just posting out loud.

Me So Horny 12 FA Bachar, Cashner 89
Skin Tight 12c FA Bachar 89
Malcolm X 12b FA Erik Eriksson, Bachar, Bill McChesney 92
Stardate 5.9 FA Bachar 91 (I suspect solo FA since bolts were Strassman's?)
Vulcan Jock Itch FA 10a Bachar 92 (same?)
Pick Pocket 11a FA Bachar, Cashner 88 (which, btw, is a stellar route!)

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 8, 2009, 11:32pm PT

Author: [Karl Baba](#) Nice work Clint.

Trad climber
From: Yosemite, Ca

You offer so many unique contributions to the community.

Ed too. Thanks for the spheres where you collect and organize important (or merely interesting) data

Peace

Karl

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 12:37am PT

Author: Thanks Clint. This provides another perspective and scale to who John was.
[Fletcher](#)

Eric

Trad climber
 From: the end of the world as we
 know it, & I feel fine.

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 07:34am PT

Author: List I chucked together quickly the other day...
[steelmkey](#)

climber
 From: Vision man...ya gotta
 have vision...

Bachar-Yerian (5.11c), Tuolumne
 Ummagumma (V7), Stoney Point
 Caliente (12c), Suicide
 The Chameleon (12b R), Sentinel, JT
 So High (V5 R), JTree
 Tips (5.11 A0), Yosemite
 Skin Tight (12c), ORG
 Malcolm X (12b), ORG
 Pumping Monzonite (V7), JTree
 Hotline (12a), Yosemite
 Astroman (11c), Yosemite
 Pick Pocket (11a), ORG
 Driving South (11d), Mt. Woodson
 Hearing My Train A Comin' (11c/d C1), Mt. Woodson
 Flakes of Wrath (10c R), Suicide
 Leave It To Beaver (12a), JTree
 JBMFP (V5), JTree
 All Washed Up (V6 R), JTree
 Stem Gem (V4), JTree
 Big Moe (11a/b R), JTree
 Baby Apes (12c), JTree
 More Monkey Than Funky (11b), JTree
 Planet X (V6 R), JTree
 Slashface (V3), JTree
 Hot Rocks (11b), JTree
 Desert Song (11b R), JTree
 Gunsmoke (V3), JTree
 Bebop Tango (11a), JTree
 The Wisdom (11d R), Eldorado Canyon
 FFA D7 (5.11), Diamond, Long's Peak
 FFA D1 (12a), Diamond, Long's Peak

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 07:42am PT

Author: Thanks for the list. Jesus. What a prolific career. I didn't know about JB's historic ascents of the
[Rankin](#) Diamond.

climber
 From: North Carolina

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 09:42am PT

Author: when was that iconic solo picture of the gift in red rocks taken?
[nate23](#)

Trad climber
 From: c-ville, virginia

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 10:13am PT

Author: There's a powerful biography to be written here, not just about the climbs but the life that
[Chiloe](#) connected them, all the way to the end.

Trad climber
 From: Lee, NH
 More than one author will try; I hope at least one does it justice.

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 10:17am PT

Author: Don't forget:
[Brian in SLC](#)

Social climber
 From: Salt Lake City, UT

"Chasin' the Train" and "Gill Swing" in Frankenjura from his 1981 trip there.
 Both rated "IX" on the UIAA scale in the current guidebook (and the spelling is correct to boot).
 About 5.12d.
 Can't recall the name of the route in the Verdon Gorge.
 -Brian

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 10:33am PT

Author: I hope Largo will consider writing John's bio. He's got a lot of writing mojo recent years, and he
[DR](#) was there for some of the big chapters.

Trad climber
 From: Santa Cruz

I was feeling grateful the other day for Michael Reardon's nice video about John. Besides the
 footage you expected, it was intriguing to see his father and what he had to say.
 How about a CD of John cranking on the sax? I never got to hear him play...

And: a big thanks to Clint and Ed and Dave for the timelines. Hard to wrap my head around all
 that John did.

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 10:44am PT

Author: You could probably cut and paste a pretty sweet biography just from this site in a couple of
[tom woods](#) hours time.

Gym climber
From: Bishop, CA

Bachar put up classics and when it came to bolts he made a statement. Those routes still speak.

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 11:21am PT

Author:
[Nate Smith](#)

John put up 5 climbs in Frankenjura in 1981:

climber
From: Salt Lake City, UT

Metamorphose 8+ or 5.12a/b
Strohdach 9- or 5.12b/c (Super popular) Was just out there last month.
Chasin the Trane 9 or 5.12d
Sonderprüfung (Toehook) 8+ or 5.12a/b
Gill Swing 9- or 5.12b/c

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 11:49am PT

Author:
[can't say](#)

I was there when he did the FA of Acid Crack. Simply amazing to me at the time

Social climber
From: Pasadena CA

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 12:36pm PT

Author:
[Sewellymon](#)

I thought the guy who wrote the NY Times obit did a credible job (apart from using the word "daredevil")and I emailed him a brief kudos. He wrote back saying he had a deadline/ virtually no time to pull the info together about something/ somebody he knew nothing about. All the more impressive IMO

climber
From:in a single wide.....

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/07/09/sports/09bachar.html>

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 12:50pm PT

Author:
[Scared Silly](#)

Swelly, thanks for the link. That was a very descent obit by the writer.

Trad climber
From: UT

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 01:24pm PT

Author:
[Tarbuster](#)

Definitely need that Tuolumne FA list as a standalone document.

climber
From: right here, right now

I have the Reid & Falkenstein book sitting here; but no way I'm going to attempt to feed that information through my voice-activated cheese grater. Ha.

I imagine you guys & gals with the OCR(?)
Or whatever that fancy software is, will stitch that together in a wee bit here...

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 01:42pm PT

Author:
[aldude](#)

What an awesome resume - a few notes :

climber
From: Monument Manor

The only route John ever rated 5.13 was Bombs Over Tokyo. Unrepeated !!

Chameleon on The Sentinel in Josh was established by Paul Borne (ground up, onsight of course). John had toproped the route and when Paul asked if he could lead it John said " just do it in good style ". John toproped a lot of new routes but always considered the onsight lead the prouder accomplishment and would defer to aspiring leaders of his topropes - such as Blackout in Tuolumne to Kurt Smith.

John was a master stance driller and many of his FAs such as Johnny Rock and The Believer were testaments to this now dying art. John had the first Bosch Bulldog I had ever seen and used it only from one handed stances. Routes done in this style included Bulldog Arete 12a @ The Lions Den and One Armed Bandit 11c @ The Peanut Gallery In Tuolumne. The latter was the only FA I shared with John... imagine our dismay when this killer route (the first one on the wall)was pronounced " too short " and summarily chopped !

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 01:56pm PT

Author:
[lostinshanghai](#)

Social climber
 From: someplace



May 1977. Can not recall but he said something about this and climbing were related.

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 02:03pm PT

Author:
[dfrost7](#)

For me, he will always be the James Brown of climbing.

"I got soul, and I'm super-bad"

Social climber
 From:

I can not absorb this. Rest in peace dear John.

Laurie

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 02:06pm PT

Author:
[looking sketchy there...](#)

As the above begins to show, John's legacy is far more than just a bold and groundbreaking free-soloist. John's FAs and FFAs of routes and boulder problems is more than impressive. During the 1970s and early 1980s his roped ascents were remarkable.

Social climber
 From: Latitute 33

But even beyond his climbing resume, John brought a new sensibility to rock climbing and in the process changed the direction of the "sport." John was a superb athlete and one of the early proponents of specialized training for climbing. I remember him telling me that climbers had barely begun to explore the limits of difficulty and that compared to Olympic level gymnasts, climbers were (at the time) weak and unsophisticated.

He spent a lot of time devising training regiments and the results were more than apparent -- both in John's climbing and in the acceptance of training as part of serious climbing.

Clint's List should include:

The FFA (TR) and subsequent lead of Leave It To Beaver in 1978. Later, John would use the route for training, doing laps on his "Bachar Ladder" strung to the side of the route, between laps on the climb. An impressive, powerful and influential image considering 5.12 was cutting edge at the time.

The Beaver was iconic of the new generation of serious climbers and as much as any route, on most European climber's must do list.

Acid Crack was and remains an impressive FA and lead. Moonbeam Crack and Baby Apes are just a few other seminal routes at Josh that as much as anything made Joshua Tree a destination crag.

I've posted this in John's memorial thread, but I was fortunate enough to be able to shoot John's first lead of Acid Crack. The control of John's movement is difficult to describe.



First Lead of Acid Crack, Joshua Tree

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 02:09pm PT

Author:
[navblk4](#)

Clint thanks,
are you sure that's not tales of power?

climber
From: Constitutional, states

Also thank's for noting Caliente its a beautiful line but I had to yoyo shorter 5.12a-5.12b prior to a free TR. I could not remember the name of that smooth sole wall route.

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 02:12pm PT

Author:
[navblk4](#)

Swellymom,
I thought the article was well written also, however I do not believe John was driving the vehicle.

climber
From: Constitutional, states

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 02:17pm PT

Author:
[tolman_paul](#)

It would be interesting to also add the various tv shorts about John. I have a copy of a video of him soloing oz. That's actually how I'd gotten into correspondence with John as he said he'd be trying for years to get a copy of that as his had burned up in the fire and nobody he knew had a copy and apparently the studio couldn't find the original. So I had it converted to dvd and sent it to him. There was a short bit of him playing his sax in the meadows at the end, but unfortunately my monther had taped over that bit.

Trad climber
From: Anchorage, AK

I'll have to post it up on youtube.

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 02:19pm PT

Author:
[Walleye](#)

Aldude

Didn't John rate the "Phantom" 13a??

climber
From: A hard right down Big Tujunga Canyon

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 02:27pm PT

Author:
[Jaybro](#)

Lost, was that a 'Great moment in baseball'?

Social climber
From: Wolf City, Wyoming

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 02:29pm PT

Author: [Tarbuster](#) FA of Equinox, JT, on TR?
Sole Fusion 12a, JT circa '83, a real beauty & early ground up (how else?) Bosch? route.
(um, as I recall...saw the bolts go in, so ...might be true)

climber
From: right here, right now

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 02:56pm PT

Author: [aldude](#) Walter....John in his typical 2 letter grade sandbag style thought the Phantom 12d X and had to
siege to get the critical #5 crux stopper and then test it from the ground. I doubt this route has
ever been redpointed.

climber
From: Monument Manor

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 03:04pm PT

Author: [Jaybro](#) I'm with you on that, Sewlly, a few misplaced details, but a well done piece that gets to the heart
of it.

Social climber
From: Wolf City, Wyoming

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 03:14pm PT

Author: [Gilberto](#) John Bachar 2009 --

Social climber
From: La Crescenta, CA

John, free of his 51 years old body will now climb forever. Free as always.
Wherever you touch stone you will fill his presence, and if you don't, listen close for the jazzy
saxophone sounds blowing in the wind...

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 03:31pm PT

Author: [Studly](#) Someone earlier suggested a book about the life of John Bachar. Seems like there is one guy
that would fit the bill to write that book. John Long, who not only has the climbing gift but the
ability to put it into words.

Trad climber
From: WA

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 05:20pm PT

Author: [Ottawa Doug](#) Thanks to all of you for the amazing history/bio.

Social climber
From: Ottawa, Canada

Cheers,
Doug

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 05:40pm PT

Author: [Ed Hartouni](#) lostinshanghai

Trad climber
From: Livermore, CA

check this thread:
http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=478749&msg=478996#msg478996
and the story of *Pinky Paralysis*
http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=478749&msg=478863#msg478863
which refers to the story told here:
http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=359309&msg=359408#msg359408
probably not if the picture was 1977, the story took place in 1975...

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 05:51pm PT

Author: [Ed Hartouni](#) wierdly, I still half expect John to post up here and correct the errors in our history... but that
won't happen...

Trad climber
From: Livermore, CA

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 08:06pm PT

Author: [Mighty Hiker](#) The other recent threads about John, for cross-referencing:

Social climber
From: Vancouver, B.C.

John Bachar – In Memory of a Great Man (1957 – 2009):
http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=896012
My dad, a great man.....will be missed.: http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=896157
Very bad free solo accident at Dike Wall: http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=895790
John Bachar Memorial Fund, For Tyrus.: http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=896423
Is there a gathering planned for John Bachar yet?:
http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=897042
Thank You, Friends of John Bachar: http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=898719
I thought it might be helpful to have references on this thread.

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 08:22pm PT

Author: [Ed Hartouni](#) early Tuolumne FAs

Trad climber
From: Livermore, CA

Black Magic 5.11d FA 6/1981, John Bachar, Alan Bartlett
Gold Finger 5.12a FA 7/1981, John Bachar
Body and Soul 5.12 FA 7/1981, John Bachar, Mike Lechlinski
Start Bouldering 5.11 FA 7/1981, John Bachar, Mike Lechlinski

Lechlini Flake 5.11a **FA** 7/1981, Mike Lechlini, John Bachar
You Asked For It 5.10 **FA** 7/1981, John Bachar, Ron Peers
Bachar-Yerian 5.10d **FA** 8/1981, John Bachar, Dave Yerian
Cheat Stone 5.10 **FA** 1981, John Bachar, Mike Lechlini, Dave Yerian

Steep Thrills 5.11a **FA** 6/1982, John Bachar, Alan Bartlett
Hurricane Betsy 5.11d **FA** 7/1982, John Bachar
Tune Up 5.10a **FA** 7/1982, John Bachar, Ron Kauk
Inner Vision 5.10b **FA** 8/1982, John Bachar
Movement in Camouflage 5.10c **FA** 1982, John Bachar

(from *Rock Climbs of Tuolumne Meadows* Reid & Falkenstein © 1983)

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 9, 2009, 08:40pm PT

Author: Another short but cool FA is "Shaft of the Penetrater" at the knobby wall.
[Remuus](#)

Trad climber
 From: Cali then; Tetons now

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 10, 2009, 06:27am PT

Author: bump
[Rankin](#)

climber
 From: North Carolina

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 10, 2009, 09:03am PT

Author: I was waiting until Ed listed up the full JB list in Tuolumne, but I wanted to ask people about some obscure stuff.
[Greg Barnes](#)

climber
 From:

- someone told me that Latin Lady (5.10a R/X on Low Profile, the streak just left of Black Widow) is a JB route - it says "unknown" in the FA index - anyone know?
- is there a JB free solo FA between Darth Vader's Revenge and Sh#t Hooks or somewhere right in there?
- did the project Battlefield of the Galactic Giants (or Battlefield of the Cosmic Giants, name?) go to the huge ledge at the base of Lechlini Flake/You Asked For It and was incomplete higher, or was it a project whose first pitch was incomplete? I remember seeing one bolt about 100' off the deck, I think it was a 3/8" hex-head (probably Diamond Taper) with a Leeper hanger.
- for way obscure stuff, no idea if it is related to JB or not, but near Johnny Rock: a little left of Beyond a Shadow of Doubt is a steep flake to leftward traverse to steep section, with a big slab above. No idea if this is a complete line or a project. There is one fixed bong and a single visible bolt (looks like 1/4" plus Leeper), probably 70+ feet up. Definitely would be a 2-pitch route, but may be really runout, not sure on p1 anchor.

Just FYI on Johnny Rock - the bolt is an original beefy 3/8" JB taper eye bolt, like the ones on the bottom of Peace and the ones that used to be on Grenade Launcher, so it should be bomber.

Also just FYI, the bolts on Swinger (5.11+ R/X, JB and Kauk) are still 1/4", we replaced the Lechlini Flake anchor but didn't go higher. I would assume that the Black Magic (5.11c R/X) bolts are also bad.

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 10, 2009, 09:08am PT

Author: "Bachars Revenge" is the black streak just right of the Darth Vader roof. 5.10a. You can actually put some pieces in step over and lead it that way. Often did that while guiding. Soloed it once, when I was on a training run for some other knob action years ago, and that is where Rick Cashner broke a knob and took a bad tumbling fall that would have been were he not so thickly built.
[Maysho](#)

climber
 From: Truckee, CA

Peter

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 10, 2009, 11:08pm PT

Author: Bump for John.
[dfrost7](#)

Social climber
 From:

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 11, 2009, 12:56am PT

Author: Werner, I remember doing some scary Bacher thing on Elephant rock, a thin crack with bad pro above a ledge, only been done a few times. Do you know the name?
[coz](#)

Trad climber
 From: California

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 11, 2009, 01:11am PT

Author: I will see Ed atonorrow, and give him his meadows guidebook back so he can make a peritent list, someone remind me, it I forget!
[Jaybro](#)

Social climber
 From: Wolf City, Wyoming

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 11, 2009, 08:13am PT

Author: Sounds like Moongerms, Coz.
[The Warbler](#)

climber
 From: the edge of America

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 11, 2009, 08:22am PT

Author: I remember there is a pretty good photo of Moongerms, with Gullich.
[Tarbuster](#)

climber
From: right here, right now

Not exactly the photo of the climb which comes to mind,
(I think there's another one which is a better portrait of the climb itself)
But I searched the Internet and found these guys talking about it here:

http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=375380&tn=80



Photo, previously posted by Walleye,
from p.40 of Gullich's book Sportklettern Heute

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 11, 2009, 10:05am PT

Author:
[Largo](#)

As impressive as many of his first ascents was John's many first flash ascents of routes that were massively friggid, yo-yoed and hang-dogged on the FA. In many cases, his were the first legitimate ascents of the countless routes he got the second on.

Sport climber
From: Venice, Ca

Two important ones (of many) were flash ascents of the Cringe and a route down at Suicide called Tar and Feathers. Both routes are in the 12a range. Tar and Feathers leans and takes piss poor wires in the back of a paper thin, tips lieback flake. This was before TCUs. When I did this climb I lowered off like five times and bounce tested the wired nuts I placed, and half of them ripped out. The idea the JB just slotted those trash nuts and pushed them over tipped, 11d/12a liebacking, is shocking. The Cringe is just a big arm burner and back then, JB could jam to Pluto and back and not draw a pump.

Another thing he often did out at Josh - and which I joined him on occasion - was to on-sight free solo climbs up to low end 5.10. People solo amazing things these days but little of it is on sight. Bachar was a master of on-sighting, and was especially good out at Josh, where we grew up on stuff like So High, White Rastafarian, and Slashface. Man, even 5.8 climbs became electrifying on the on-sight solo, especially if a few grainy face moves were involved. We mainly stayed with the cracks - stuff you could possibly reverse. I got haired out a thousand times. JB never lost his cool. On Billabong, Intersection Rock, I almost grabbed his leg on the grainy face moves on the first pitch.

And then there was all the highball bouldering, without crash pads, remember. You just couldn't fall. We did that stuff all over Colorado and California and it was always so exciting. JB almost always was first to do the problems because he was the best. I remember taking him on a tour of Roubidoux around 1976, right in the hayday. I took him to Joe Brown boulder (upwards of 40 feet tall), to Autopilot, down the Smooth Soul Wall (again, nearing 40 feet tall), and over to the Circle Crack and JB on sight soloed all of these things. It was remarkable.

So many memories . . .

JL

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 11, 2009, 07:42pm PT

Author:
[Mighty Hiker](#)

(Bumped for Clint.)

Social climber
From: Vancouver, B.C.

It looks like John's birthdate was March 23rd, 1957.
http://www.supertopo.com/climbing/thread.html?topic_id=563237

The link, a birthday thread started by someone who would know, is dated March 24th 2008. In it, John indicates that his birthday was in fact the previous day, the 23rd. Although he may have just been being disingenuous, playing a joke, avoiding attention, or just being John.

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 11, 2009, 08:56pm PT

Author:
[eKat](#)

I'm just gonna say this once, Clint, (thank you, by the way) . . .

Trad climber
From: BITD2

On that timeline you need to highlight every day, every week, every year, and every decade with a bright RED LINE that goes directly into my heart.

ThatLittleBachStar was hardwired right into my very soul.

YES! It is possible to love somebody THAT much without having known them in the carnal sense.

My hope is that many of my TacoBrethren knew MyLittleBachStar the way I did.

I hope you knew his:

Brilliance

Generosity

Honor

Charm

Shyness

YES!

Shyness

MyLittleBachStar was shy

MyLittleBachStar was a dichotomy

For all of you out there who spewed disrespect for him, you need to know that he was confident and shy at the same time.

The day I met MyLittleBachStar I KNEW there was more to him than met the eye

I saw through the mystique

We knew we knew

Over the years I have been MyLittleBachStar's biggest defender

Know MyLittleBachStar as I have known him

He owes nobody!

MyLittleBachStar shines through the fog of misunderstanding

MyLittleBachStar smiles

MyLittleBachStar always said he loved me

In that sweet, innocent knowing kind of way

MyLittleBachStar knows. . .

I keep his magic alive.

ox

Kath

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 11, 2009, 09:13pm PT

Author:
[dogtown](#)

Correction Clint. Caliente 5.12b? it's 12C maybe 12D. Just for the records.

Bruce.

climber
From: Cheyenne,Wyoming

Re: **John Bachar timeline 1957-2009**

Jul 11, 2009, 09:56pm PT

Author:
[shipoopi](#)

al dude, isn't bombs over tokyo rated 12c. it has had at least a second ascent, by myself.
shipoopi

Big Wall climber
From: oakland

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