



## So Hot Right Now

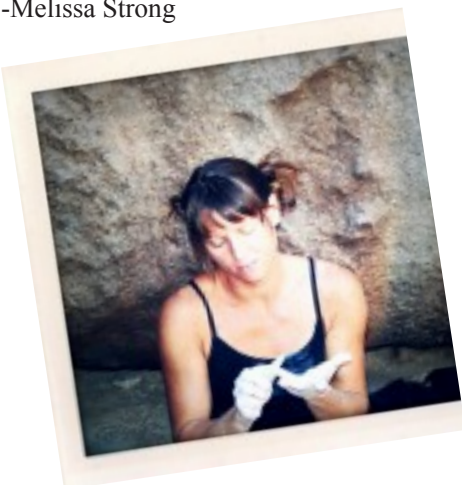
Thomasina Pidgeon is so hot right now! After coming off of a strong season in her hometown of Squamish, Thomasina hit the road this winter, splitting her time between Hueco and Joe's Valley. She sent in style: six V9's, four V10's, five V11's, a V11/12, and a V12.

Out of this impressive tick list, six of Thomasina's sends were first female ascents (FFA). Most notable may be her 3rd ascent (first female) of the Hueco V11, *The Hand*, which was dispatched second go, "It was fun but scary," recalled Thomasina. Among the other FFA's, *Sunshine* was done in one session and *Le Chinkle* was pieced together in just a few. "Chinkle was my favorite out of all of the FFAs--I really love roof climbing" Thomo says, and *Une Pointe de Bleau dans un Hueco*, another FFA, "felt like the most desperate send. I felt like I was going to fall on every move. I feel like I could repeat most of the problems except this one!"

The most personally satisfying of sends came when Thomasina settled a score she had with *Chblanke*, "I ruined a finger on it a long time ago and the crux never clicked for me." Determination and strength combined with some "sneaky beta" made it all click, "then finally the position made sense, I was so psyched to have done *Chblanke*."

Traveling with her daughter Cedar (3), Thomasina splits her time between the rocks, libraries, museums, and thrift stores, creating many interesting and educational ways to spend their time and keeping them both entertained. Still in Joe's Valley, Thomasina's tick list continues to expand. She is hoping to hit up one more spot on the way home—Leavenworth, WA—where the sending will persist.

-Melissa Strong



**Melissa Strong**

*Resolved, Growing, Candid*

"Let's go climbing!"

**Kelly McBride**

[Kellymcbride.blogspot.com](http://kellymcbride.blogspot.com)

(12 Feb 2010)

*I felt like a 1950's housewife today when I vacuumed my house in heels. They felt lonely in my closet because it is too cold to wear them outside, so I took them for a test-drive around the house.*

**Kate McGinnis**

[Katemcginnis.blogspot.com](http://katemcginnis.blogspot.com)

(15 Feb 2010)

*I still had a lot of fun at the event, but my friends that came to spectate were disappointed, not so much by the route-setting, but by the lack of beer. What kind of climbing comp is this?*

(4 April 2010)

*Much like the Taoist teaching that it is a whole lot easier to go with the bends of the stream than try to redirect its flow, climbing requires a certain yielding or cooperation with the way things are.*

**Carrie Cooper**

<http://carriecooper.blogspot.com>

(March 2010)

*Rock climbers have terrible posture. You know it, you can see it. We all look like the Hunchback of Notre Dame.*

(26 April 2010)

*At the time, the snow had yet to completely melt and the rock was dirtier than a hub cap on a four wheeler, which always makes for an exciting exit...*

**Crista Hollenberg**

<http://www.climbingreject.blogspot.com>

(13 March 2010)

*WTF is it with all these climbers trying to be Texan these days? Yeah, you with the Mexican wedding shirt, skinny jeans, and who all the sudden likes guns because you went to Hueco Tanks once, ya poser!*

(26 June 2009)

*I am a nurse now. I can hold my head high and say I am accomplished. I am no longer the dirt-bagger climber girl of days past. I am no longer Crista the guide, Crista the painter, Crista the jack of all trades, Crista the sponsored climber...*

*I am Crista Hollenberg, Registered Nurse... and the feeling is damn good!*

**Anne Skidmore**

<http://anneskidmore.blogspot.com>

(1st April 2010)

*Everyone has their weaknesses and their strengths, whether they admit to it or not. I'll start with one of my weaknesses--to continue to fire away when people take massive or sketchy whippers. I am constantly trying to override my ovarian instincts to help and support during these moments. Doh--darn ovaries!*