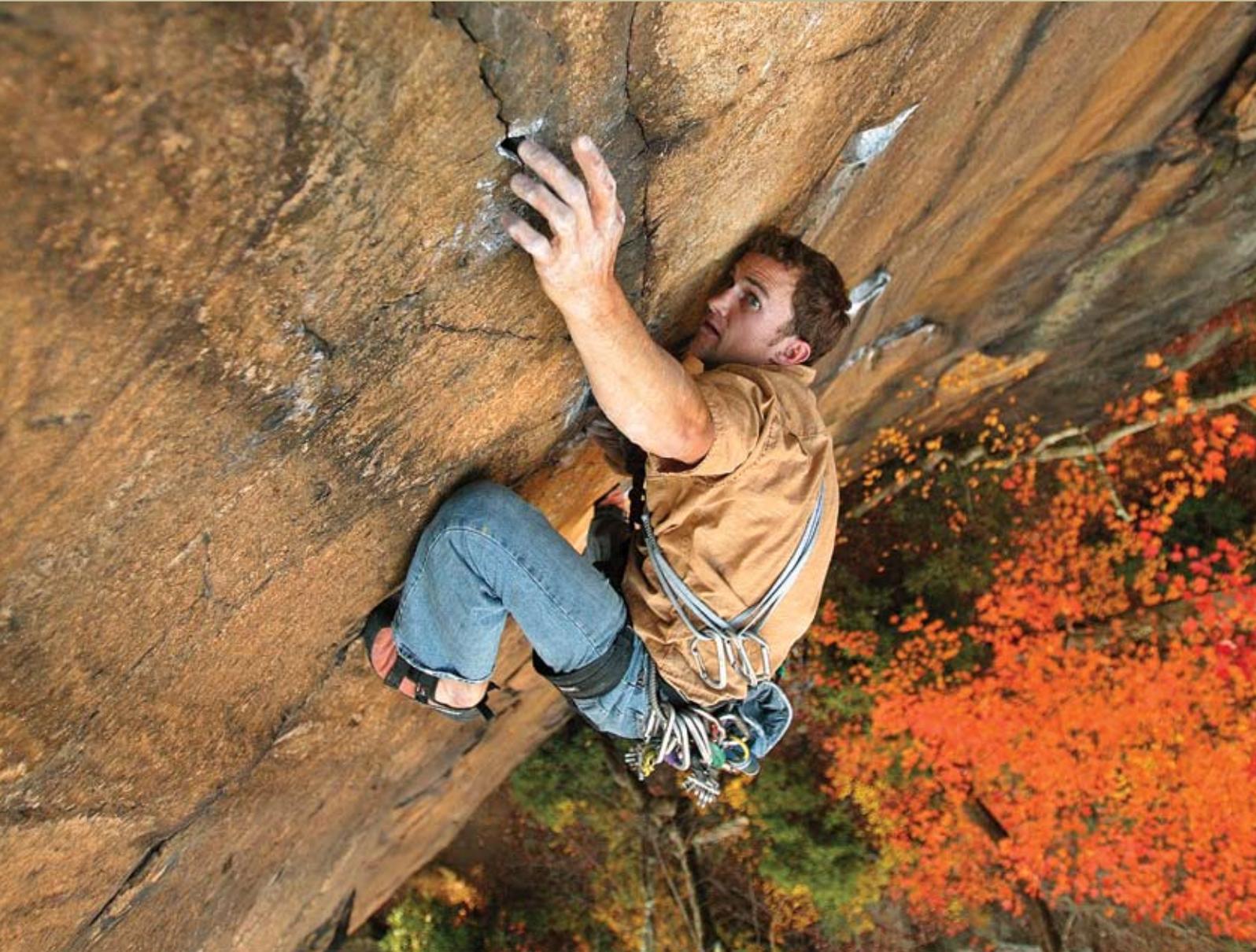


VERTICAL **TIMES**

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE ACCESS FUND



Laurel Knob

Never heard of it? You better take a look inside. pg. 10

Hook Up Your Partner

with an AF Holiday Gift Pack. pg. 15

What Do EuroMan, Goat, Pretty Boy,

Cheater, Teapot, and Ant all have in common? pg. 8

VOLUME 67 | DECEMBER 2005



Getting Around To It.

According to the recent Access Fund Membership Survey, the number one reason people don't sign up as an Access Fund member is "because they haven't gotten around to it."

What does it take to get around to becoming a member of an organization that tirelessly advocates on your behalf – on issues that affect everything from access at your local crag to a national policy that touches every climber across the country?

How about the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2005 between the Access Fund, its Affiliates and the Bureau of Land Management, that ensures a cooperative relationship on the local, regional, and national level?

The over \$100,000 granted to local climbing organizations and advocates in 2005 for land acquisitions, bear boxes, toilets, and trail projects?

Maybe another record year for Adopt-a-Crag in 2005, the national initiative where climbers give back to their favorite climbing areas through clean-ups, trail and restoration projects?

Perhaps the ongoing "David and Goliath" story of the Access Fund, Arizona Mountaineering Club, and the Friends of Queen Creek at the table with a multi-national, billion dollar mining corporation for continued climbing access at Oak Flat/ Queen Creek, Arizona?

What about the continued focus to provide the climbing community with tools to address local issues and to create a sense of a national climbing community in which a victory in one part of the country is felt and shared as a victory for climbers everywhere?

Or... to view the exhaustive-you might want to set aside a weekend-list, check out <http://accessfund.org/pdf/reportcards/2005report.pdf>.

The greatest limitation that keeps the Access Fund from casting an even larger and more powerful net is not having the support of every single climber. We ask that you overcome the one thing that is keeping you from becoming or renewing your membership- getting around to it.

Holiday Tidings and Boundless Ascents, Your climbing family at the Access Fund



WE CHALLENGE YOU TO BECOME A MEMBER

It's quick and painless- the future of climbing depends on you. If you are already a member, consider stepping up with an additional donation and talk to others about becoming a member.

You can pledge your support at any level with a one time annual contribution or become a monthly donor for as little as \$5/month.

ROCK IS FINITE KEEP ACCESS INFINITE

Accessfund.org/support

Vertical Times December 2005 / Vol. 67

The Access Fund is a national non-profit organization dedicated to keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment. Vertical Times is the membership newsletter of the Access Fund published six times a year in February, April, June, August, October, and December. Printed with 100% soy based inks on 10% recycled fiber paper.

ACCESS FUND 2005 Sharp End Awards

Because of space constraints, we are not able to say all that we'd like to say about these outstanding, dedicated volunteers. Please visit our website to learn more about these amazing individuals. <http://www.accessfund.org/display/page/PR/31>

Each year the Access Fund recognizes individuals and businesses that volunteer their efforts and shine above the rest in their commitment and work on behalf of the American climbing community for preserving climbing access and the climbing environment. This year's awards and recipients are:

Sharp End: For leadership and activism in preserving climbing access and the climbing environment.

John Anderson

John is the founder of Access New Jersey, a statewide climbing advocacy group.

Bennett Barthelemy

Founder, organizer and leader of the Bigfoot Country Climbers Association in Northern California.

Keith Daellenbach

Keith is a director with the Madrone Wall Preservation Committee, Portland Oregon.

Mike Lanza

Mike is a director with the Boise Climbers Alliance, a climbing advocacy group based in Boise, Idaho.

Metolius

For their contributions of staff time, resources and financial support of our advocacy work.

Patagonia

For their exemplary support and advocacy.

Chris Sharma, Josh and Brett Lowell

For their leadership and dedication to the boulderProject.

Land Manager Of The Year: Given to a professional resource manager who has demonstrated a commitment to preserving climbing opportunities and a progressive approach to public lands management.

Lincoln Else, Climbing Ranger Yosemite National Park

For his coordination of a bear box grant, instrumental outreach efforts between the NPS in Yosemite and the climbing community and spearheading the country's largest Adopt-a-Crag this fall.

Reese Martin Memorial Award Regional

Coordinator Of The Year: For leadership and activism in preserving climbing access and the climbing environment, and specifically for their volunteer work as an Access Fund representative.

Sean Cobourn

For his significant efforts in the purchase of private lands to open access to climbing and protect these climbing resources from development and permanent closure.

The Bebie Leadership Award: Presented to America's outstanding activist(s) for the cause of preserving climbing access and the climbing environment.

Curt Shannon

For his dedication and determination in negotiations for preserving access to Oak Flat and Queen Creek, Arizona.

Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award:

Presented periodically to individuals who have demonstrated remarkable commitment to the cause of preserving climbing access and the climbing environment, and who have contributed substantially to the progress of the Access Fund over many years.

David Rosenstein

For 15 years of leadership and vision on behalf of the climbing community on the local level and national level including past Access Fund Board President

Above & Beyond Awards:

For volunteerism and support in preserving climbing access and the climbing environment.

Dave Gentry

For selfless devotion on a myriad of tasks at the National Office, many of which would go undone without his help.

Roger Linfield

For his years of service as a volunteer on projects such as the Raptor Manual and appeal letters as well as his personal investment in the mission.



ACTION ALERT

Urge your Senators to Block the Sale of Our Public Lands
Your call to Congress could save your public lands.

access. In the early hours of November 18, by a vote of 217-215, the U.S. House of Representatives approved the budget reconciliation bill. This bill contains provisions that allow land speculators and multi-national mining and energy corporations to take ownership of millions of acres of national forests, parks and other public lands as a means to reduce the federal deficit and “reform” the 1872 Mining Law at the same time. Once sold, these public lands—which belong to the American people and are enjoyed by millions of private recreational users each year—become private, potentially fencing out climbers and the millions of recreational enthusiasts that regularly use them. For specific bill language, go to <http://thomas.loc.gov> and reference H.R. 4241.

What this means for climbers is that we could lose access to any climbing area located on or next to any existing mining claim, including the access trails to your favorite crag at places like Oak Flat; Grand Canyon; Indian Creek; Canyonlands NP; Little Cottonwood Canyon; Darrington, WA; Tensleep Canyon, WY; Telluride, CO; Boulder Canyon, CO; Bishop, CA; Mt. Charleston, NV; and the Black Hills, SD.

“This is a loss for the millions of Americans who recreate on western public lands,” said Access Fund policy director Jason Keith. “This land grab means that climbers, mountain bikers and hikers could lose the free and open access to the unspoiled forests and backcountry that they currently enjoy.”

Now What?

The bill now moves to conference committee where selected individuals from the US House and Senate will decide on the final budget reconciliation bill. The Senate version of the budget bill does not have this privatization provision, and thus it is crucial that we call our US Senators and urge them to prevent these mining “reform” provisions from becoming law. At press time, the representation on this committee is not yet decided, and thus the whole Senate is our lobbying target until the conferees have been decided.

Call both of your US Senators (go to <http://www.visi.com/juan/congress/> to find your Senators) today and stress the following points:

If passed, this law would allow mining companies to purchase mining claims even if they are within a protected area such as national parks or wilderness areas. As much as 20 million acres out of 270 million acres of public land could be sold off.

This mining “reform” proposal has not received adequate public debate. Rather than being slipped through Congress in a budget reconciliation bill, a decision of this magnitude and consequence should receive public hearings in the relevant resource committees.

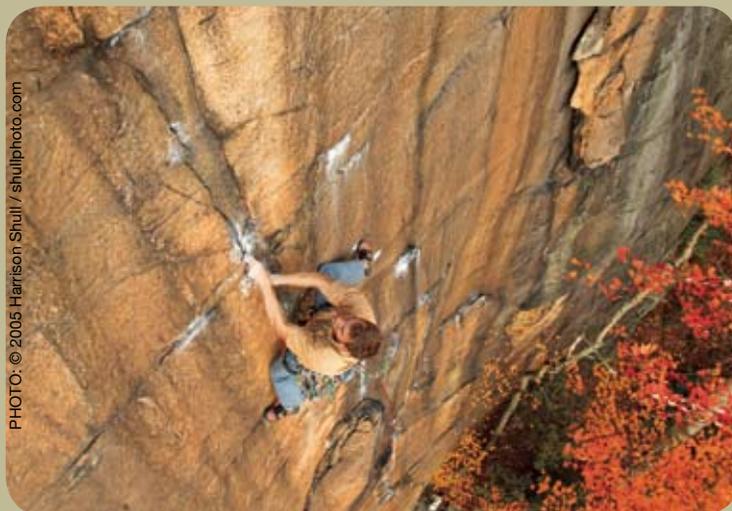
If this provision is approved, any land speculator or corporation could buy our public lands for as low as \$1,000 per acre and use them for any purpose without public input from the user groups that frequent these special places.

Please oppose the mining “reform” provisions in the Budget Reconciliation Bill (H.R. 4241).

Access Fund Meets with Congress and Copper Company to Secure Access to Oak Flat and Queen Creek Canyon, Arizona

In October Access Fund policy director Jason Keith and Friends of Queen Creek (FoQC) member Curt Shannon met with congressional officials and representatives of Resolution Copper Company (RCC) to discuss the future of bouldering access at Oak Flat and Queen Creek, Arizona.

At the meeting in Phoenix on October 12, the AF and FoQC discussed the potential for a recreational use license at Oak Flat with RCC and their contractors the Western Land Group who have been working towards a land exchange bill (see <http://accessfund.org/display/page/AA/14>) that would transfer this popular bouldering area to mining interests. Also discussed at this meeting, which was attended by several staff members from the offices of US Senators Kyle and McCain and Representative Renzi, was providing for continued public access to the popular climbing areas known as Atlantis and The Pond, which are currently owned outright by RCC. At press time the AF just received a draft of the license proposal from RCC and we hope to secure a favorable agreement in the next few months.



2005 Adopt-a-Crag Wrap Up

The Access Fund recognizes everyone who contributed to the success of the 6th Annual Adopt-a-Crag as climbers across the country gathered at their favorite crags and boulders for trail construction, litter clean-ups, and visual impact mitigation.

Adopt-a-Crag 2005 was once again a banner year with **3,800 individuals** logging over **20,000 volunteer hours** at **111 scheduled events** in 35 states, Canada, and Puerto Rico. Through Adopt-a-Crag 2005, the climbing community contributed **over \$300,000.00* of volunteer time** to conserve our valuable climbing areas.

Adopt-a-Crag is a national commitment by the climbing community to natural resource stewardship and volunteerism, and would not be possible without the generous support of its sponsors. **Title Sponsor Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), Presenting Sponsor GORE-TEX® Products, and Contributing Sponsor CLIF Bar** provided key financial backing, allowing the Access Fund to provide each Adopt-a-Crag event with volunteer gifts and clean-up materials, and to present three awards for exemplary events.

The Access Fund and REI are proud to present the Adopt-a-Crag of the Year Award to Greg Sievers, the American Alpine Club (AAC)- Central Rockies Section, and all the Lumpy Trail Day volunteers. This is the 5th consecutive year the AAC hosted the Lumpy Trail Days at Lumpy Ridge in Rocky Mountain National Park. On October 15th, 63 volunteers including Park Service employees collaborated in the spirit of activism and stewardship to improve the popular climber access trail to the Twin Owls. The result of the day-long project was a complete “face lift” of over 500 vertical feet of extremely rugged mountainous trail. Over 133 wood and rock steps and seven drains were installed to help check storm runoff and control erosion.

Sievers sums up the spirit of the event:

“When we met for our lunch break, I was wondering if our volunteers knew that the person they were working next to could have been an Everest Summiteer, 5.13 climber, former VP of the Alpine Club, or Park ranger. But for 8 hours, we were all trail crew volunteers giving back to our favorite crag, Lumpy Ridge. Projects like these afford us the interaction of all ages of climbers and help the local communities to get involved, realize our ‘user group’ exists and that we are willing to maintain a positive image with our land use managers...Another huge part of this

particular project is the growth in the affiliation of the Access Fund and the American Alpine Club. The most important values of these 2 organizations are: we really need to maintain access to our climbing areas, as well as maintain a historic record of our predecessors, current events and still setting precedent for the future.”

We, at the Access Fund, couldn’t agree more!

The Access Fund and GORE-TEX® Products present the Adopt-a-Crag Stewardship Award to the Western Massachusetts Climbers’ Coalition (WMCC) for their efforts in two successful Adopt-a-Crag initiatives this fall. Kicking off the fall work schedule was some impressive work by 20 volunteers at Chapel Ledge on September 24th. The WMCC coordinated with the property owners, the Trustees of Reservations, and offered materials and the work force to move rocks and logs, haul gravel, and accomplish 4 trail improvement projects at this heavily used area. The WMCC then turned around the next weekend and joined with the Friends of East Mountain to construct and install a new kiosk near the trailhead, pick-up litter from the forested hillside, and complete some additional trail improvement projects. According to Jedd Hall of the Friends of East Mountain, “many landowners who abut the property volunteered in the clean-up and trail work. This is an excellent avenue for establishing a good dialogue with the town and neighbors!”

The Access Fund and CLIF Bar present the Adopt-a-Crag Conservation Award to Lincoln Else, Ken Yager, Yosemite Climbing Association, Yosemite National Park, and the over 600 Yosemite Facelift volunteers for displaying tremendous levels of activism and stewardship. The second annual “Yosemite Facelift” event, on September 22-25th saw participants of all ages and of varied backgrounds. “We cleaned roadways, campgrounds, lodging areas, parking lots, former construction areas, and river corridors. By the end of the fourth day we had gathered 7,655 lbs. of garbage!” stated Facelift organizer Ken Yager, “We look forward to the Yosemite Facelift growing every year.”

**The Independent Sector www.independetsector.org in 2004 cites \$17.55 per hour as the monetary value of volunteer time.*



Deanne Buck, Programs Director
As the coordinator of Adopt-a-Crag on the national level, I am awed by the tremendous effort and time local organizers give to their local climbing area and community. When late-November rolls around and most Adopt-a-Crags have occurred for the year, I take time to reread the evaluations, newspaper clippings, and to look over the pictures again. The synergy of over 100 Adopt-a-Crags underscores the communal energy of rock climbers.

The success of Adopt-a-Crag is not just in the number of volunteers who participated or the number of volunteer hours donated. The true success of Adopt-a-Crag is evidenced in the hard work that the organizers and volunteers complete on behalf of the entire climbing community.

"This was our most successful event ever! We surpassed our expectations by a long shot. You make it easy for us as land managers to coordinate the event."

Brian Hatfield, National Park Service, Devils Tower Adopt-a-Crag, Wyoming

"... had everything that (the late) John (Bronaugh) would have liked: trail building; new routes, the ring of drills echoing down the hollow, community, and best of all, folks coming out and taking ownership ...".

Hugh Loeffler, Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition, 1st Annual John Bronaugh & Alex Yeakley Adopt-a-Crag Day, Kentucky

"The park service said they had never had so many volunteers. People came from all over NJ, some traveling over an hour. The turnout was great and it really helped to strengthen the relationship between the climbing community and the park system. If I were going to try and improve the system, I would take it back a bit further and let people know that having an AaC event is easy. I think more people would have them if they knew about the amount of support they would receive."

Dave Dendler, Somerset County Park System, Adopt-a-Boulder, New Jersey

"I never imagined 35 people could accomplish so much in a weekend!"

Elaina Smith, New River Alliance of Climbers, New River Gorge Adopt-a-Crag, West Virginia

"We have maintained a beautiful little crag and maintained good relations with the owner. The hard work of the SCC and our volunteers has allowed this privately owned crag to remain open despite the continual trashing it receives by local non-climbers."

Jeremy Boydston, Southeastern Climbers Coalition, Griffin Falls AaC, Alabama



Adopt-a-Crag 2005 *Thanks for Making it Possible*



"This event is now an institution in the local climbing community--people seem to eagerly anticipate the event and participate enthusiastically."

Matthew Fienup, Earthworks LLC, Crag Clean-Up at Lizard's Mouth, California

"The area in general is becoming very popular. Since the crag is located on private land, it's especially important for climbers to be visibly active in maintaining the area. This year's event was a big step forward in cleaning up the area and identifying primary trail patterns to the different sectors of the crag."

Louie Anderson, Riverside Rock Quarry AaC, California

"We sparked interest in the stewardship of Meadow Crag among many different folks and user groups in the Bend area."

Robert Speik, Traditional Mountaineering, Meadow Climbing Clean-Up, Oregon

"This year we worked closely with the managers of the State Forest. They donated their dump truck so that we could get 4 loads of mulch for the project. We had 4 different projects going on at one time. This was a rock and roll restoration (roll for mountain bikers) so we had groups of people working with a professional trail crew on Sat and Sun--building a new trail in the Forest."

Greg Corio, WVU-Adventure WV, Cooper Rocks Adopt-a-Crag, West Virginia



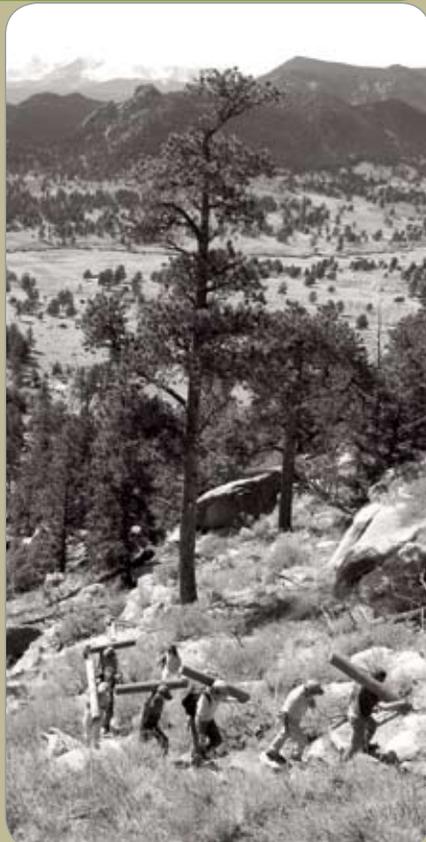
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Five More Feet

Ray Purcell

Southern Sierra Climbers Association

"I dug into the rucksack of my soul and found that it was just an empty husk." Said the gentleman with the silver gray beard and the penetrating eyes as he stood before the projection screen with the black and white image of El Capitan in Yosemite.

We huddled on the deck of the Ponderosa Lodge and hung desperately onto each of Royal Robbins words as he recounted his arduous and suspenseful solo ascent of the Muir Wall in 1968. Two thousand feet above the floor of Yosemite Valley, with one thousand feet left to climb, Robbins recounted that he was spiritually bankrupt. "Defeat comes easy." He said as he decided to rappel off the climb. "But the next morning I decided to climb just five more feet." The history of Robbins' life is rich far beyond that single achievement. A life of boldness and audacity.

After Royal's presentation we trundled up to the top of Dome Rock to spend the night. That night I was caught between two thoughts, like the opposing sides of a granite chimney. On one side the Southern Sierra Climbers Association (SSCA), now almost ten years old. On the other side Robbins' mantra "...just five more feet." It's certainly not that the SSCA's achievements compare to Robbins' phenomenal solo effort on the Muir Wall. Our accomplishments lie in the contrast. Over the past ten-years we have become the most ardent supporter of climbing access, community, and stewardship in the Southern Sierra because the goals that we have envisioned and worked for together as a membership.

The next day Matt Schutz, who has served diligently as President of the SSCA for the past two years, formally resigned in order to continue his education in Natural Resources at the University of California Davis. Duly elected was Eric McGee who will serve the next two-year term. During this time of both transition and celebration the Board of Directors has dedicated itself to grassroots advocacy of both the climbing resource in the Southern Sierra and its membership. To this end we have committed to further build our relationship with the Access Fund as an Affiliate. Pursuing the mission of the SSCA is a process of both new visions and reevaluating old assumptions. This is a process that, like the heritage of climbing itself, is the product of the efforts of those who have preceded us and whose spirit will urge current leaders to climb

"...just five more feet."

Leave No Goat Behind . . .Climbing In Connecticut And Beyond

Deanne Buck, Programs Director and EuroMan aka Paul Maresca

As was reported in Vertical Times #66, Deanne Buck embarked on a 10-day road-trip for access, conservation, and community in the Northeast. The trip was an opportunity for the Access Fund to visit with and get to know the climbers who are working on the ground level (or, if you will, the grassroots) to keep all of us climbing at our favorite local, regional, and national climbing gems. At her first stop Deanne was warmly welcomed by the board members of the Ragged Mountain Foundation and the climbing community of central Connecticut, including Connecticut Climbers and Mountaineers (CCM).

The CCM formed a year ago to provide a climbing and social forum for climbers in the Northeast. Their charter is simple, climb often, have lots of fun, and create a friendly social atmosphere. Weekly climbing activities, weekend trips, major expeditions, and frequent epics at Sax's Pizza in Plainville. are open to all from the neophyte to the hardcore; the only requirement is a belief that the fun should not stop when the ropes are coiled. While the CCM is not actively involved in climbing related issues (although it has been rumored that many CCMers are also on the board of the Ragged Mountain Foundation) their high rate of participation and social interaction enable them to unite the climbing community to support such organizations that do.

CCM General Information

Website: <http://www.ctclimbers.com>

Motto: "Leave no goat behind"

Founding Fathers and Executive Members: EuroMan, Goat, Pretty Boy, Cheater, Teapot, Ant.



PHOTO: © 2005 John Evans



Happenings in the Adirondacks

Colin Loher

Raptors

Climbers and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (DEC) Division of Wildlife have met over the past few years to discuss the Peregrine conservation program and resulting closure of climbing areas. While climbers unanimously support the goals of the program and respect the closures, questions have been raised as to the data, science, effectiveness and fairness of a pre-emptive "full-closure" policy. DEC representatives hinted at the potential in the future for 'stepped' openings as nesting sites are positively identified, but have also made it clear that their agency's mandate for conservation trumps all other uses.

This year, local climbers stepped forward to volunteer with the identification and monitoring process. The closures and monitoring are clouded by fears of poaching, thus making public notification of actual nesting sites a concern. However, climbers are looking at this as an on-going issue, with interested local climbers educating themselves about management strategies in place elsewhere, organizing to present a climbers' management plan, and waiting to see how and if the closures affect the success of the birds. Perhaps an inevitable consequence of this new management strategy, there has been a notable concentration of climbing activity at the few 'open' cliffs like the Spider's Web, as well as more climbers venturing onto the less well-traveled cliffs like Chapel Pond Gully Cliff.

Unit Management Plan Update

Not much has happened as the result of the hotly debated Giant and Dix Mountain Wilderness Areas Unit Management Plans finalized and published in April 2004. Most notable in the UMP process has been the acknowledgment of erosion, soil compaction and the impacts of larger groups at popular sites. Most of the informal climbers' trails are also now recognized as class 2-3 trails. Ed Palen reports discussing an 'Adopt-A-Cliff' style program, whereby individuals and groups can adopt a cliff and sign an agreement giving them responsibility and sanction to perform trail maintenance, erosion control, litter removal and user education. This is a new proposal that would empower the climbing community to self-manage our favorite resources.

Silver Lake Mountain Access

An existing lease agreement related to hunting cabins affects access to and the use of a recreation easement on Silver Lake Mt. until Earth Day 2009. For more information on this or any climbing news in the Adirondacks contact Jesse Williams at jesse@adkmts.com.

Your Comments Make A Difference!

Deadline Is December 15th.

Thomson Ling, Maryland, RC

Draft Management Plan Could Seriously Limit Climbing Opportunities in Great Falls Park, Virginia.

The National Park Service has released a draft General Management Plan (GMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Great Falls Park* and is currently accepting public comments until December 15. Anyone who has ever climbed at Great Falls is encouraged to send comments to Audrey Calhoun, Superintendent, George Washington Memorial Parkway, GWMP-superintendent@nps.gov, with a copy to greatfallsaccess@gmail.com.

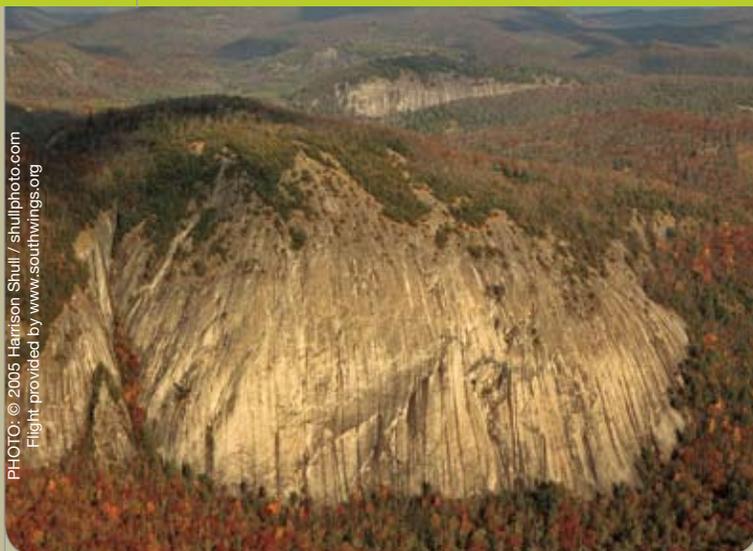
The plan evaluates two alternatives for the park. The park's preferred alternative (B), as written, would severely and unnecessarily restrict climbing in the park by making some popular climbing areas off-limits, forcing climbers to use a limited number of fixed anchors installed by the park, and possibly requiring climbers to compete for a limited number of climbing permits. The climbing community is concerned that the draft GMP, specifically the preferred alternative, was created on an unscientifically-substantiated belief that climbers, who are one of the smallest and most environmentally conscious group of park visitors, have a serious impact on the park's resources and must be regulated.

Based on public input during the comment period, the park will prepare a Final GMP/EIS where they will either select Alternative A or B as the preferred course of action, modify the alternative based on comments received, or explore additional alternatives. For more information, please email greatfallsaccess@gmail.com, or visit www.friendsofgreatfalls.com

*Great Falls is the closest climbing area to Washington DC and is an important regional climbing resource. Many climbing organizations in the DC Metro area have come together create a unified voice on behalf of the climbing community under the umbrella of the Friends of Great Falls (www.friendsofgreatfalls.com) This coalition includes representatives from Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, the Blue Ridge Section of the American Alpine Club, DC Outdoor Rock Climbers, Sheclimbs, Sportrock, and the Access Fund.



PHOTO: © 2005 Harrison Shull / shullphoto.com
Flight provided by www.southwings.org



Contract Signed to Purchase Laurel Knob, North Carolina

Sean Cobourn, South Carolina RC.

The Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC) is proud to announce that they have a signed contract to purchase the tallest cliff in the Eastern US, the legendary Laurel Knob in Cashiers, NC. This 1200ft granite behemoth has never been legally open to climbing. There are an estimated 40 multi-pitch lines there, the most famous being The Fathom, 5.10.

The CCC has begun a fund raising campaign to raise the \$250,000 needed for closing in December. The Access Fund has granted the project \$10,000 for which we are grateful. To help in the purchase of Laurel Knob by making a donation or join the CCC please visit at: www.carolinaclimbers.org.

Overshadowed by the Laurel purchase, but still important, is the contract the CCC signed last month to purchase a 24 acre tract of land at Rumbling Bald, NC. This strip of land crosses the ridge “road” and may hold the key to slowing development in this area. As you may recall, Rumbling Bald is destined to become part of the newly authorized Hickory Nut Gorge State Park, which the CCC was instrumental in lobbying for earlier this year.

As of November 15th the survey is in progress as is the environmental phase one study. We are working on financing and still hope to close by end of year. We are exploring the possibility of taking on a partner for the acquisition, namely the Carolina Mountain Land Conservancy. They would help with funding but we would have a perpetual climbing easement.

Daniel Boone National Forest and Red River Gorge, KY

Bill Strachan, President Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition

The Daniel Boone National Forest determined that the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) process for the Red River Gorge to be an undertaking with the potential to affect historic properties under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). As a result a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was drafted between the Forest Service, the Kentucky Heritage Council, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In its draft form the MOA, on which the RRGCC provided comments, specifically mentions the pending Military Wall Cliffline Protection and Restoration Project. The RRGCC and the Access Fund requested that their involvement in the MOA entail more than comments and that both organizations become signatories to the MOA regarding the management of resources within the Red River Gorge. The next step will be a meeting between all parties. More information about the undertaking and a copy of the draft MOA can be viewed on the DBNF website at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/lac/>.

Minnesota Climbers Work for More Climbing Access

Kaija Webster, Minnesota RC

Robinson Park in Sandstone, Minnesota has long been an unofficial destination for rock, ice and mixed climbers in the Great Lakes region. Local climbers including Jeff Engel, Nic Beltrante and Tony Vavricka have made great strides in working with park and city officials to allow climbing in the park by opening a dialog with the managers and organizing climbers for volunteer service days. Their advocacy has helped the Park change its stance from ‘no climbing allowed’ to clearing brush from cliff bases, planning for fixed anchor placements and farming ice from their pump station. A ground-breaking first Sandstone Ice Festival is scheduled for December 10-11, 2006. Nice work!

Open Space Bond Passes to Create a New Park: Reimers

John Myrick, Central Texas Mountaineers

Great News! The Travis County parks and open space bonds passed November 8th with a 66% margin. According to Travis Co. Parks Director Charles Bergh, if everything goes as planned, Reimer’s could be operating as a county park by the time Vertical Times 67 goes to press! Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time and energy to help make this happen (including everyone who voted in the election).



Oregon Update: Save Madrone Wall

Kellie Rice, Oregon RC and Keith Daellenbach, MWPC
Good progress is being made towards the preservation of Madrone Wall, located close to Portland Metro area. It is anticipated that the Parks Advisory Board will make a formal recommendation to the Clackamas County Commissioners endorsing the preservation of and access to the area, which was closed to public access by the County in 1997 as part of a quarry plan. The Commissioners are then expected to review the recommendation and make a final decision by early in 2006. Public input and support of the reopening of this great resource is still important. You can find a copy of a sample petition letter along with Clackamas County contact information on the homepage of the MWPC website at www.savemadrone.org. In addition, it is important to observe and abide by the "No Trespassing" ordinance until this process is finalized. Thank you to all who have contributed and wrote in the past, together we will re-open another great climbing resource.

Mt. Hood Wilderness Areas

Tony Holmes, Oregon RC
Mt. Hood has never had a reputation of solid rock nor easy access, but hidden amongst the canopies of Douglas fir and Cedar are scores of Andosite and Basalt formations holding classic lines and backcountry adventures to rival any on the west coast. Frenche's Dome is the most popular of these crags, containing a high concentration of quality sport lines from 5.6- 5.13.

However, erosion is an ever-present force on the belay platforms and approach trails. Thanks to a \$6,000 grant

from the Access Fund and another \$54,000 from the USFS, renovation will be done to address the area's heavy use and insure an enjoyable experience for generations to come. According to Mary-Ellen Fitzgerald of the USFS, ground breaking on this collaborative project will begin by spring of 2006.

Southern California Fixed Anchor Ban Dropped

Last year the Access Fund issued an action alert to climbers and drafted comments for revisions to a forest plan revision in the San Bernardino National Forest in Southern California that proposed to ban fixed anchors in wilderness. With a major assist from Randy Vogel and other southern California locals, climbers succeeded in removing the proposed ban from the final plan. In September, the San Bernardino National Forest announced that two sentences in the draft plan "proposing a ban on fixed anchor bolts for rock climbing caused a deluge of comments from the climbing community, including climbers in Switzerland and Australia! After further study and coordination, the Forest chose to drop the proposed standard and tier to forthcoming Forest Service fixed anchor national direction. Rock climbing is suitable in all zones." The Access Fund continues to work with US Forest Service officials in Washington, DC regarding a national policy that could be finalized next year which acknowledges the legitimacy of new fixed anchor placements in designated wilderness areas.

Tucson Climber Acquitted In Illegal Bolting Trial

In Early November Access Fund policy director Jason Keith traveled to Tucson, Arizona to assist in a trial defending local climber Chris Craig from a flawed prosecution charging him with illegal bolting on US Forest Service Land on Mount Lemmon.

Local Tucson attorney Scott McNamara skillfully presented a case that convinced the court that the charge should be dismissed. The Access Fund viewed this case as potentially precedent-setting if a federal court determined that fixed anchors were illegal even on general US Forest land. In Tucson, the prosecuting attorney and US Forest Service witnesses confirmed in testimony that it is not illegal to place new, hand drilled, fixed anchors on public land.

The Access Fund will continue to oppose local field-level interpretations of federal land management policy to ensure consistency and fairness in climbing management policy.



PHOTO: © 2005 Nathan Welton



SPOTLIGHT:

MAKING YOUR MONEY WALK THE TALK

You did it again. You renewed your Access Fund membership! Why? Just curious – was it the grant your local crag got from the AF this year? Was it Timmy O’Neil on the microphone? Was it because you know that we all share the same backyard? Was it because you realized you spend more on your cable bill than protecting your passion of climbing? Was it because you want your kids to cruise the same pure granite lines that you cruise?

Well, from the bottom of the climbing community’s guts, we thank you.

Now what? You gave your money and you’re off to the crag? Good, that’s what you should do but you’re an AFer now and we want you to get the most out of your membership!

Spotlighter asks:

- Read E-News every month and Vertical Times every other month. It’s filled with all sorts of important tidbits from across the country.
- Support the Corporate and Community Partners that support the Access Fund. These businesses give their money to support you. If you support them, they will be able to support you even more.
- Get involved in local issues- participate or organize an Adopt-a-Crag and join the thousands of volunteers who contribute over \$300,000 in volunteer hours annually.
- Hook up with your Local Climbing Organization. Know who your Regional Coordinator is.
- Practice what you preach and preach what you practice. Show and talk to others what it means to be a real climber.
- When it’s time to renew your membership, do it when you receive your first renewal postcard and think about joining securely online. It cuts down on mailing costs and puts more of your contribution to work.

Your backyard is our backyard and there are countless issues around the country that require financial resources that you make possible by becoming a member.

We know what it takes to step up and contribute your hard earned money and you have our promise that we will do everything we can to make your contribution work as hard as possible to keep your climbing areas open and conserve the climbing environment.

L8tr,
Spotlighter

AF Photographer Harrison Shull

About Harrison

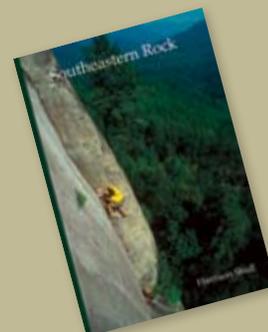
After 20 years of climbing, photographing, and new-routing in the Appalachians, I am still as excited about this wonderful region as I was many years ago. Folks think I am crazy when I say it, but the best cragging in the US lies in the Southeast. It may not be as big or as high as other places, but for quality cragging at places like Twall, Looking Glass, Whitesides, Red River, New River, Seneca, Old Rag, and many others the Southeast simply cannot be beat.

I got my start in photography as a climbing photographer in 1993 and have spent what seems like an eternity climbing the wonderful granite of North Carolina, the sandstone of Kentucky and Tennessee, and the exposed quartzite fins of West Virginia all while toting cameras around to document the wealth of climbing here in the Southeast. The last several years I have been diversifying my photography into broader markets and exploring new opportunities to pursue as a photographer.

I call Asheville, North Carolina home with the East’s highest mountains right out my backdoor. The offering of world-class mountain biking, climbing, paddling, fishing, trail running, backpacking is simply stunning. In addition to documenting these more traditional outdoor pursuits, much of my time these days is spent flying an ultralight-trike aircraft, basically a powered hang-glider. The experience is like nothing else and offers me a unique “low and slow” perspective on many of the areas that I like to visit and photograph.

Learn more at: www.shullphoto.com

Holiday Special Fundraiser for Laurel Knob
For all books ordered before Dec 25, 2005, Shull will donate \$10 per book to the Carolina Climbers Coalition to be used for the purchase of Laurel Knob. Be sure to mention this promotion when you order.





SURVEY THANKS & ROPE WINNERS

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Access Fund 2005 Online Survey! 1,216 climbers from across the U.S. completed the survey (a 23% overall response!) The two lucky winners of the MAXIM ropes were:

Ben Smith of Sonoma, CA
(member since 2000)

Stan Schoonover of Waynesboro, PA
(member since 1995)

Your participation is appreciated and will assure our energy and resources are allocated properly to reflect the values and priorities of the greater climbing community. Providing us with your feedback is a direct and meaningful way for you to stand up for your interests as a climber.

Keep an eye out for the results of the survey in upcoming Vertical Times newsletters and AF E-News.

Events

To streamline the events process, the AF has created a new page on the website under the EVENTS tab where interested people or groups can complete a webform for their event. If your event qualifies, membership materials and goodies may be sent. All events the AF is involved with will be included on the event schedule. The deadline for event registration is one month prior to the event. To register an event, visit: accessfund.org/events/index.php/

Thanks

Timmy O'Neil for helping out on the wag bag movement.
Scott McNamara for defending climber privileges on public land.

Larry Gustafson for his tireless legal assistance in the Cave Rock case.

Corrections

We want to thank Dan Patitucci for supplying us with great photography. We missed creditng him for his image of taped climber's hands on pg. 6 of Vertical Times #66. Thanks Dan!



PHOTO: John Evans © 2005 Access Fund

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Please consider the important contribution these partners make to your climbing future.

They support the Access Fund and you. We encourage you to support them.

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Mammut USA — 1991

MSR/Therm-a-Rest — 1995

New England Ropes - Maxim — 1992

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The Spot Bouldering Gym — 2003

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Weathered Stone — 1999

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BlueWater — 1992

Falgon Guides — 1998

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New Belgium Brewing Co. — 2000

Sterling Rope — 1994

Touchstone Climbing Inc. — 1998

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Amedeus Consulting Group — 2004

Asolo — 2003

bluetrope consulting — 2003

CAMP USA — 2004

Cloudveil — 1998

Crazy Creek Products — 1992

Gripped: The Climbing Magazine — 2004

Low Alpine Systems — 1991

Montrail — 2002

Phoenix Rock Gym — 1997

Planet Climbing Gyms — 2004

Redpoint, Inc. — 2000

Rock and Snow, Inc. — 2003

Schwartz Communications, Inc. — 2003

SuperTopo.com — 2003

Thule — 2003

Yates Gear — 1993

CONTRIBUTING — \$500+

Advanced Base Camp — 1992

Adventure Guide Pakistan — 2005

Alpine Ascents International — 1998

Anker Climbing Equipment — 2003

Avery Brewing Company — 1998

AZ on the Rocks — 2003

Bearing Images — 2000

Climbing Rope Bracelets — 2005

ClimbingBoulder.com — 2001

Eagle Creek — 2005

Excalibur DMM/Wild Country

Red Chili USA — 1995

Extreme Engineering — 2004

Five Ten — 2004

Flannel Design — 2001

Fox Mountain Guides &

Climbing School — 2005

Higher Ground Roasters — 2003

Julbo — 2005

JustRopes.com — 2004

Kind Coffee — 2003

Kristin Carpenter

Public Relations — 2003

Matrosch Inc.- AustriAlpinUSA — 2005

Moonstone Mountain Equipment — 2003

Mountain Tools — 1991

Mountaineers Books — 1992

Mountainsmith — 2003

NEIce.com — 2005

Nemo Equipment — 2005

Nicros — 1997

Osprey — 2003

Pacific Edge Climbing Gym — 1995

PMI — 1991

Portland Rock Gym — 2005

Real Cheap Sports — 2003

Saltic Climbing/Trekking — 2003

Sherrill Tree & Climbing Supply — 2005

Sickle Climbing — 2001

Stone Age Climbing — 1997

Stone Moves — 2005

Tom K. Michael, D.D.S., P.S. — 2000

Travel Country Outdoors — 2002

MEDIA PARTNERS

Alpinist — 2003

Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine — 1997

Camp4.com — 2002

Coreyography — 2002

Dan Bailey Photography — 2002

DrTopo.com — 2003

GetBeta.com — 2004

Integrity 7 Productions — 2004

Lenticular Pictures — 2005

Michael Clark Photography — 2004

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Second Chance Films — 2004

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THIS MONTH'S FEATURED PARTNER

Editor's Note: Each edition we will highlight a partner that has gone above and beyond in keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment.



It's hard to go into an outdoor store today and not find prAna's mark. This specialty brand launched 13 years ago out of a garage and now helps set the standard for active outdoor and lifestyle clothing with a presence in over 900 retailers in North America.

As hard as prAna works to produce high quality clothing, they work equally as hard to make the world a better place "promoting balance and harmony between our inner and outer worlds". Case in point, their Natural Power Commitment where prAna offsets the electrical energy usage of their headquarters, retailers, and homes of employees with green-e energy.

prAna has supported the Access Fund at a high level since 1995 and continues to increase their level of support for the AF mission and programs. As an example, this year prAna flew Chris Sharma to shoot a promo spot for the boulderProject and has played a key role in helping shape the boulderProject.

On behalf of the climbing community and the greater outdoor community, we tip our hats to the work that prAna does to keep climbing areas open and conserve the climbing environment.

find out more at www.pрана.com



GIVE THE GIFT OF ACCESS!

Hook up your climbing partner, niece, or neighbor kid this holiday season with an Access Fund Gift Pack!

STANDARD AF GIFT PACK = \$40.00 (\$64.85 retail value)

- 1 Liter Nalgene Bottle filled with:
- One-year AF Membership
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DELUXE AF GIFT PACK = \$60.00 (\$84.85 retail value)

AF T Shirt + Standard Gift Pack

To order: <https://www.accessfund.org/secure/giving.php> or call Kerry toll-free at 888-8-MEMBER (888-863-6237) x106.



PHOTOS: © Randy Levensaler 2005 The Access Fund

Combined Federal Campaign

Are you a federal employee? Did you know you could donate to The Access Fund through the federal government's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC)?

Federal employees, including federal civilians, military personnel, and U.S. Postal Service workers, can now donate to AF through the federal government's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). The CFC is a charitable fundraising program where you give to the Access Fund through automatic payroll deductions.

If you are a federal employee, please look for the Access Fund (agency # 2361) in the official CFC listing of eligible donors. You can also make your contribution on-line by going to: www.conservenow.org, click on Search for a Charity, type in the Access Fund and make your contribution there. If you have additional questions on these programs please contact Whitney Self at whitney@accessfund.org.



your climbing future

- \$35
- \$50*
- \$100**
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\$250 **Contributors of \$250 or more are eligible for the Summit Club.**

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The Access Fund is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

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*At \$50 or more, we'd like to send you our Access Fund T-Shirt. Please circle your T-Shirt style/size: Men's T Women's T S M L XL no, thanks.

**At \$100 or more, you qualify for a gift as part of the Access Fund MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM (please visit <http://www.accessfund.org/support/mip.php>)

I have written a check, made payable to the Access Fund.

Please charge my (circle one): Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX

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Signature _____ Phone _____

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Save paper, printing, & mailing costs! I'd like to receive AF news and updates electronically, and hold delivery of the printed *Vertical Times* newsletter to my home. My current email is:

E-mail: _____

NOTE: The Access Fund occasionally lends its mailing list to organizations involved in issues you may also find of interest. If you wish NOT to have your name exchanged, please check here. Thank you.

Local Climbing Organizations and Affiliates

A local climbing organization (LCO) is an organization, association, or access committee working primarily or exclusively to keep climbing areas open, conserve the climbing environment, and promote responsible climbing. LCOs are the liaison between the climbing community and their local land managers and land owners. Affiliates (*) are LCOs who have joined the Access Fund Affiliate Program. If you are an LCO listed below and not an Access Fund Affiliate, please contact Deanne Buck, grassroots coordinator, at 303-545-6772 x112 or deanne@accessfund.org

AL Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	CT Ragged Mountain Foundation*	NC Boone Climbers Coalition* Carolina Climbers Coalition* Pisgah Climbers Association* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	SC Carolina Climbers Coalition* Pisgah Climbers Association* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*
AR Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	GA Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	NH Rumney Climbers Association*	SD Black Hills Climbers Coalition*
AZ Arizona Mountaineering Club* Friends of Queen Creek* Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition* Prescott Climbers Coalition* Tucson Climbers Association*	IA Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition*	NJ Access NJ*	TN Southeastern Climbers Coalition*
CA Bigfoot Country Climbers' Association* Bouldering Group* Cragmont Climbing Club Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition* Friends of Joshua Tree* Friends of Pinnacles San Diego Alliance of Climbers* San Diego Climbers Coalition* Southern Sierra Climbers Association*	ID Boise Climbers Alliance* Kootenai Climbers*	NM CRAG-New Mexico*	TX Central Texas Mountaineers* Climbers of Hueco Tanks* Texas Mountaineers
IL Illinois Climbers Association	IL Illinois Climbers Association	NY Gunks Climbers Coalition*	UT Friends of Indian Creek Salt Lake Climbers Alliance*
KY Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	MA Appalachian Mountain Club Boston Chapter* Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition*	OH Ohio Climbers Association*	VA Friends of Great Falls
MI Grand Ledges Climbers Coalition	MI Grand Ledges Climbers Coalition	OK Chandler Park Climbers Coalition* Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition*	VT CRAG-VT*
MN Minnesota Climbers Association*	MN Minnesota Climbers Association*	OR AAC - Oregon Section, Access Committee* Mazamas Smith Rock Group*	WA Washington Climbers Coalition*
MO Climbers Alliance of Mid-Missouri* Kansas City Climbing Club*	MO Climbers Alliance of Mid-Missouri* Kansas City Climbing Club*	PA Lancaster Climbing Club - Access Project* Pennsylvania Alliance of Climbers*	WI Wisconsin Outdoor Access*
MT Southwest Montana Climbers Coalition	MT Southwest Montana Climbers Coalition		WV Coopers Rock Regional Climbing Coalition* New River Alliance of Climbers* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*



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