

Vertical Times

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ACCESS • CONSERVATION • ACTIVISM

STATE REJECTS ACCESS FUND OFFER OF \$100,000; FINAL DECISION CLOSES MORE CLIMBING AT HUECO TANKS

All hope for a short-term improvement in climbing access to Hueco Tanks State Historical Park near El Paso, Texas was dashed in June when the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) issued its Final Review of the park's Public Use Plan. It rejected two formal proposals from the Access Fund to provide \$100,000 for trail building, resource protection, archeological surveys, climber education and the volunteer tour guides program.

TPWD concluded its use plan by closing the most popular bouldering areas in the Dragon's Den. Also, it refused to apply the access policy for North Mountain (no tour guide required) to other limited sites in the park on a trial basis, as the Access Fund and local climbers had suggested.

The \$100,000 offer to Hueco Tanks has never before been publicized. At no other time have we committed this level of funding for any climbing area. The dollar amount epitomizes our belief that Hueco Tanks is one of the most unique and important climbing areas on the planet.

This unprecedented proposal was intended to demonstrate to TPWD that climbers are serious about working cooperatively to protect and enjoy Hueco Tanks. We are prepared to "put our money where our mouth is" to support the park.

TPWD has consistently said that restrictions on climbing at Hueco could not be eased because of problems related to the lack of good trails, erosion, the displacement of vegetation and threats to known and unidentified archeological resources. The Access Fund recognized the legitimacy of these concerns and the budget limitations of TPWD. The \$100,000 grant would have provided funding to address all of these concerns and more.

In rejecting our grant offer, TPWD said it could not treat climbers differently than any other user group. Perhaps the agency thought that taking climbers money would work against the concept of managing the park as an "outdoor museum," - their stated goal.

Other changes were made to the Public Use Plan such as

the following: limited camping (organized groups only) will be allowed at the park; dogs and bicycles will be allowed on developed trails at Hueco; the "cap" on visitation to North Mountain will be raised from 50 to 70 people at one time; and a \$4 per person fee will be charged when you call to make reservations (to discourage climbers from making multiple reservations and then not showing up).

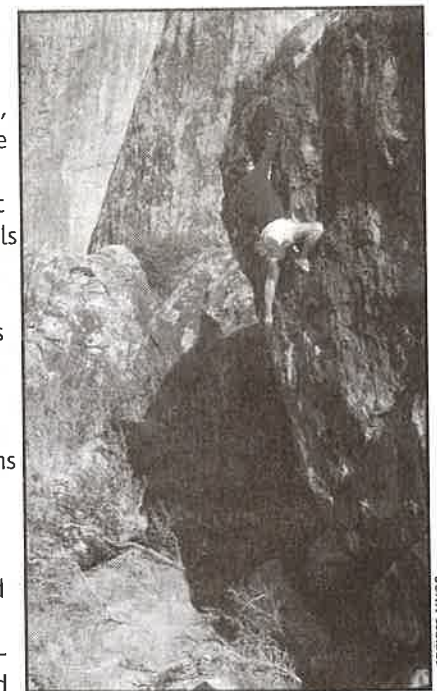
Furthermore, the revised Public Use Plan strikes as a serious loss of climbing access to one of the world's best and most unusual climbing areas.

The Access Fund has been trying for nearly ten years to work cooperatively with TPWD and improve relations between the agency and climbers. Our legal research into internal TPWD documents revealed the agency has long considered climbers to be an undesirable element at Hueco. The senior staff formally recommended that climbing should be prohibited, and that the former state parks director was being too friendly to climbers.

Without the Access Fund, the staunch work of the El Paso Climbers Club and Texas climbers, Hueco Tanks might have been closed entirely to climbing. But the latest decision by TPWD reveals what little effect our efforts have had to restore unguided access to prime bouldering areas in the park.

The Access Fund believes that restrictions on climbing at Hueco Tanks are more severe than necessary to protect historic values and natural resources. We have advocated for reasonable, resource-based decisions regarding climbing access, and urged for education

• continued on page 14



John Heisel

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department rejected the Access Fund's recent offer of \$100,000 for improvements at Hueco Tanks

The Hammerless Revolution, by Charlie Fowler

I find it extremely ironic that while climbers rally to save a campground in Yosemite, they continue to destroy the climbs there. I'm reminded of this sad fact by the cover photo recent *Climbing* magazine #196 depicting Access Fund board member, Chris MacNamara, nailing one of the finest routes in America, a route that goes clean.

I'm embarrassed to say that I started climbing before The Shield had even been done. Back then, there were few climbers and we protected everything with pitons. It wasn't long before the best climbers of the day, like Royal Robbins and Yvon Chouinard, proved that you could bash, bolt and hook your way up any rock wall, anywhere. Realizing that this was a dead-end, these visionary climbers started the Hammerless Revolution that swept through the free climbing world. Despite strong resistance at first, the climbing community eventually came around. Standards shot up and much of the climbing experience was preserved. Unfortunately, aid climbers just didn't get it. I didn't get it, either - I continued to nail routes to "murder the impossible" as Reinhold Messner so succinctly put it. I really enjoyed nailing, too, but now I accept the fact that it's inappropriate in most places. I am extremely reluctant to do it anymore. Today, there's little excuse for such retrograde behavior: we have the tools, we have the techniques. We just need a new attitude.

The Shield is just a small bit of vertical real estate. Unfortunately, what happens up there happens many places climbers seem bent on getting up something and saying they've done it, style (and the rock) be damned. Several years ago, I climbed the Nose about a month after Eve Tallman organized a group that cleaned it up. It was totally trashed. I've been ashamed to admit that I'm a climber ever since. The Nose is one of the world's most renowned routes-historic and of the highest quality, yet climbers wasted no time in turning it into a vertical outhouse and garbage dump.

The climbing community can make some positive changes: We must urge land managers to ban hammer aid. It will happen someday in Yosemite, you can bet on it. If history is any indication, aid standards will rise too.

For now, if you can't do a route hammerless that has been done so, don't do it. Nailing a route that has been done clean is particularly offensive, worse than adding a bolt to a route that has been done without. This goes way beyond an issue of style - climbers need to reduce their impacts, not compound them.

The future of aid climbing is clean. Instead of spraying about new-wave this or new-wave that, aid climbers should take the tools they now have or invent new ones and push the limits of hammerless ascents. On El Cap the potential for new adventures is vast. With our current arsenal of toys, many El Cap routes will go clean right now. Aid climbing is, after all, a contrived game. We need to take the next step and relegate all hammered anchors as the technique of last resort.

The climbing community, individually or collectively needs to change it's behavior. We need to genuinely practice what we

preach. We need to take a firm, hard line stance against actions that threaten our sport and NOT just talk about it. We should have zero tolerance for trashing a route. If we don't take a stand, the government will, and we're not gonna like that at all. Surely, we will never eliminate all impacts from climbing.

Finally, members of the Access Fund (like climbers everywhere) need to set a better example. We cannot simultaneously argue for the preservation of climbing areas while we are destroying them. The Access Fund has done a fine job in the past dealing with conflicting interests. Balancing the ambitions of climbers with the need for change is the next challenge. The problems we face are complex, there are no easy answers but I do believe we will make more progress by encouraging open and honest debates. Need a reality check? Look at a calendar-it's the year 2000, and the sixties are over. It's a brave new world, see ya out there.

Chris MacNamara's Response to Fowler

What you and Xavier did on the first clean ascent of the Shield was amazing. I think it was a major breakthrough in hammerless climbing and continues to inspire hammerless ascents to this day. Personally, your first clean ascent of the Shield inspired me to make the first clean ascent of the North America Wall and the first solo hammerless one-day ascent of the Zodiac. I have included hammerless ratings for the Shield in my new guidebook to Yosemite big walls that premiered in July. I do not apologize for nailing on the Shield. Just as I don't expect every climber who now does the NA Wall to do it clean as I did, I don't think that you can expect that everyone who now climbs the Shield has to do it clean. What you CAN expect, and what I tell people verbally and in my writing, is that people should do routes as hammerless as they can and should not go up on a route if they are going to have to nail the shit out of it. For me, climbing The Shield as cleanly as I could meant placing about 20 pitons, most of which were only given one light tap so I could quickly back-clean them. I know that these pitons with a few light taps does not significantly changing the rock, so I don't apologize for doing it.

It should be noted that on the cover of *Climbing* I am hand placing a piton (which is why I have the funny expression!). The caption that climbing puts on the cover is misleading.

I understand your concern about hammering a route that goes clean on the cover of a national magazine. I agree it would be better to show somebody nailing a hammer route, but it was not my decision. The editors at *Climbing* chose the photo.



The debate of clean verses hammer aid continues in Yosemite

Access Fund Co.

The opinions in Spray are not necessarily those of the Access Fund

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING: PROGRESSES SLOW AND DIFFICULT

The fight over fixed anchors in the Wilderness is in a critical phase. After nearly two years of delay, the US Forest Service's negotiated rulemaking on fixed anchors has begun. After two meetings of the rulemaking committee the Access Fund can say only this: we are working harder than ever before, and the opponents of fixed anchors are thus far uninterested in compromise. After four days of meetings, committee members have only been able to agree on a few points.

There will be at least one more meeting of the rulemaking committee, at the end of August. The Access Fund, working closely with the American Alpine Club, the American Mountain Guides Association, the Mountaineers and other interest groups on the committee, has advanced a proposal that hopefully will support new national policy. This proposal would provide for the regulation of new bolts placed in circumstances other than self-rescue.

As the Access Fund works for a reasonable solution to the issue of fixed anchor use in Wilderness, one thing has

become crystal clear. The opponents of fixed anchors do not care whether climbing is eliminated as a Wilderness use, and they do not want to debate the issue on a rational basis. We will continue to represent climbers with the strongest possible advocacy as the negotiated rulemaking concludes, and we invite our members to write us with feedback on this issue. Send e-mail comments to info@accessfund.org, or call Sam Davidson, senior policy analyst, at 831-770-1523. For more information on the meetings and Davidson's complete report, click *Action Alerts* on our website at www.accessfund.org.

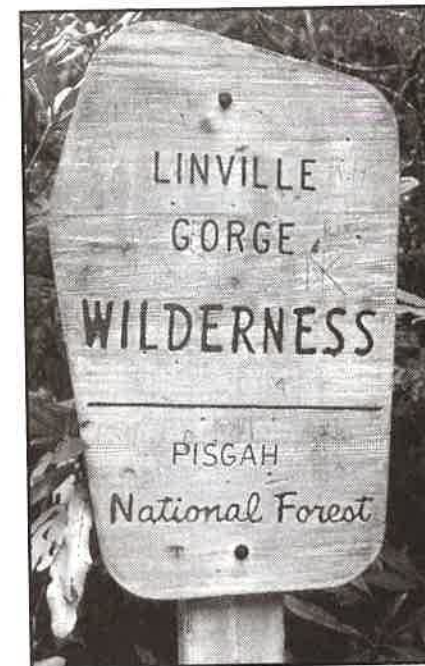
NEW BILL WOULD MAKE USE FEES PERMANENT; ACTION NEEDED NOW

The debate over use fees in public lands is heating up. There have been major demonstrations around the country to protest new use fees and the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (Fee Demo). Presently, the land management agencies have allied with political conservatives to attempt to raise existing use fees, impose additional fees and add more employees to collect the fees.

The Access Fund believes that use fees are a regressive way to raise money for public lands stewardship. Moreover, we are concerned that use fees will reduce funding towards our public lands.

We are not opposed to fees that support facilities such as campgrounds and entry into certain national parks. The Access Fund is actively working to prevent Fee Demo and a permanent fee program. This would cause the National Park Service, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and US Fish & Wildlife Service to operate as for-profit businesses rather than as land stewards devoted to resource protection and public enjoyment of the land.

Take Action. Climbers can help by writing short letters to key members of



Harrison Shull

Climbing at Linville Gorge will be affected if the Forest Service approves regulations for new bolts in wilderness areas

Congress. Tell Congress you want your income taxes to provide adequate funding for public lands administration, and that you do not support a permanent use fees program in this era of prosperity.

Write to:

The Hon. Slade Gorton, Chair, Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Room 131 Dirksen Building, US Senate, Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Ralph Regula, Chair, House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Room B-308 Rayburn Building, US House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.



The Access Fund and other organizations have been meeting to negotiate regulations on new bolts placed in Wilderness Areas



MIDWEST

QUARTZ MOUNTAIN, OKLAHOMA

The Access Fund is in the final stages of completing the previously announced acquisition of Baldy Point (Quartz Mountain) in Oklahoma. This regionally important area hosts some of the finest granite climbing opportunities between the Mississippi and the Rockies.

On July 1, the Access Fund signed a letter of intent to purchase the property and recently acquired an important easement for right-of-way on the access road to the cliffs. A formal purchase agreement is now being prepared, with final closing on the acquisition to hopefully occur in October.

Once the purchase is complete, Baldy Point will become part of Quartz Mountain State Park and will be managed as a primitive recreation area for climbing, hiking and nature viewing. Kris Marek, director of planning and development for the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, believes the addition of Baldy Point to the state park will be a valuable one. "Climbing access to the area should actually be improved," said Marek. There is a proposal for improvements such as new

signs, parking and sanitary facilities. Marek is looking forward to the completion of the acquisition, which will be the first climbing area of this quality in the Oklahoma State Park system. "It has been a pleasure working with everyone at the Access Fund," she said, "they have really come up with some creative ideas."

According to Bruce Divis, park manager for Quartz Mountain State Park, "The Access Fund shares the same concept of preservation as the State Parks system. They preserve instead of destroy land that they acquire." Divis also confirmed that climbing access would not be affected by the acquisition.

To support the Access Fund's efforts, the Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition has raised more than \$16,000 in pledges from the local climbing community.

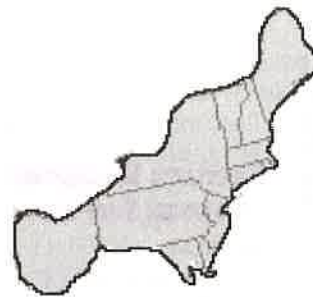
You can find out more about the Baldy Point Acquisition by visiting the WMCC's Baldy Point Website at <http://members.aol.com/BaldyPoint>, or by e-mailing Oklahoma Regional Coordinator Marion Hutchison at BaldyPoint@aol.com.

GIBRALTER ROCK, WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Outdoor Access completed the Balanced Rock Trail and is planning to work on the Down Tree Trail in September. Down Tree is a non-designated use trail by Gill's Nose and Britain's Crack. On Adopt-a-Crag day volunteers will work on Jim Angell's trail plan and attempt to stabilize the cliff top environment at many of Gibraltar's cliffs.

"Climbers in Wisconsin are getting more respect and credibility since the Access Fund started supporting them," according to Wisconsin Regional Coordinator Frye, who reported a positive response from the Department of Natural Resources in Wisconsin.

Frye and other volunteers are continuing to work with people around the state and organizations such as Wisconsin Outdoor Access.



NORTHEAST

CATHOLE PASS, CONNECTICUT

The Planning Commission of Meriden approved the construction of 36 condos, which would level and destroy the 100-foot-tall rubble pile of Cathole Mountain, adjacent to Cathole Pass. The Planning Director is opposed to this action, and the city has filed a court case against the Planning Commission. Also the adjoining property owners at Cathole Pass have filed a case. "Cathole Pass has a few spectacular routes," said Leslie Brown, former Access Fund regional coordinator in Connecticut, speaking of its 100 climbs.

The decision to level Cathole Mountain violates the ordinance concerning excavation and the State Ridge Protection Bill. A court hearing is planned within the next month regarding this issue which could continue for years, according to Lata Krishnar, assistant planning director of Meriden.

At present, there is no access issue at Cathole Pass, but blasting could make the nearby cliffs unstable. "If you get houses too close to the rock, access problems will occur," said Brown.

Presently there is a power plant proposal for another piece of land also adjacent to Cathole Pass. If passed, local climbers hope that good faith will permanently preserve the cliff and its trail. A power plant would create the least amount of impact to the cliffs and hopefully ensure access to climbing.

The Ragged Mountain Foundation will work to prevent the destruction of Cathole Pass. Please do your part to help preserve Cathole Pass by calling the City of Meriden Planning

Department at (203) 630-4081 and expressing your concern over the trail and cliff.



SOUTHEAST

RED RIVER GORGE, KENTUCKY

"It is a wonderful combination of local and national organizations," said Shannon Stuart-Smith, Access Fund Regional Coordinator of Kentucky, referring to the Red River Gorge Climbing Coalitions collaboration with the Access Fund. Recently with the backing of the Access Fund, the RRGCC coordinated with the Daniel Boone Forest Service and pledged to support an excavation at the *Thirsting Skull* cave on October 7. If it is determined that climbing does not create a significant impact to the archaeological site then climbing will be preserved there.

Since July 24 Stuart-Smith and Cecil Ison, forest archaeologist, have met with officials from the USFS in an ongoing examination of all 1400 established routes at the Red River Gorge. By serving as interpreter of climbing topos and guides, Stuart-Smith has been touring different climbs in the Daniel Boone National Forest of the RRG. "We are keeping them honest," said Stuart-Smith, "by having our own climbing representative at the sites for data collection."

Other "Red" alerts in Kentucky include the National Trails Initiative Trail Project on September 7 to enhance the Long Wall trail, and *Campfire Brigade* on September 9, Adopt-a-Crag Day, when climbers will remove fire pits from numerous cliffs at the RRG such as the

Military Wall, Left Flank and Roadside crags. Thank you Donnie Richardson, Cecil Ison, Shannon Stuart-Smith and other volunteers in Kentucky for your tremendous support of the Access Fund and climbing at the Red!!!

MOSS ROCK PRESERVE, ALABAMA

The Hoover City Council has passed a proposal in July to build a road through



Photo: Carl Samples

This newly built staircase at the Bridge Buttress is one example of \$30,000 invested by the Access Fund for improvements at the New River Gorge in West Virginia

the Moss Rock Preserve. During construction, it is probable that the boulders will be inaccessible by climbers. "The road will create a sliver of land with a subdivision on one side and the road on the other," according to Alabama climber, Jake Slaney. Rick Thompson of the Access Fund has been communicating with climbers in Alabama. Unfortunately advocacy and communication with land managers did not happen soon enough and the road was approved.

MOORE'S WALL, NORTH CAROLINA

On June 29, Tim Fisher, Dudley Hammon, Tony McGee and Sean Barb met with officials at Hanging Rock State Park in North Carolina. The climbers discussed climbing access and future work-

ing relations between climbers and park managers with a ranger, biologist and the park's superintendent, Tommy Wagoner. Wagoner believes that climbers are one of the park's most valued user-groups and asked that climbers abide by a few rules. In return, he ensured the climbers he would keep them informed and work to minimize conflicts with "young and zealous" rangers. "Your Climbers and Raptors book is invaluable," said Barb, "and gave the park management and local climbers a common framework for discussion."

NEW RIVER GORGE, WEST VIRGINIA

Climbers enjoyed renovations, supported by the Access Fund, at the Bridge Buttress this summer. The erosion work, renovated trail and stout staircase have eased impact at the roadside trad crag. The Access Fund has invested over \$30,000 in improvements and has helped build 4,000 feet of trails since the 1995 Endless Wall ladder project.



WEST

WILD IRIS, WYOMING

On July 2, 2000 numerous climbers volunteered at the International Climbers' Festival to build trail at Wild Iris. The project completed 450 volunteer hours devoted to the area equal to \$4,000 worth of work! General improvements, including water bars, were made to existing approach trails. Also volunteers worked on the stabilization of the cliff's bases and restoration at OK Corral and Main Wall.

• continued on next page

Area Reports Continued...



Larry Brumwell, OCC Climbers and Forest Service staff at Hidden Forest Cave Entrance, OR discussing climbing and protection of cave resource values

Enchanted Tower, New Mexico

Access to the Enchanted Tower in Datil, NM is being threatened due to people driving with excessive speed on the private ranch road. There is no public right of way on this road, we are depending on the good will of the landowner to provide continued access through the ranch. The rancher recently installed a gate across the road in an effort to slow people down. This gate is currently chained, but not locked. Please be considerate of the landowner's property rights, drive SLOW and close the gate behind you. For the current status on the Enchanted Tower contact Bryan Pletta at Stone Age Climbing Gym, (505) 341-2016.

LAVA TUBE CAVES, OREGON

On June 19 and 20, the Access Fund met with the Deschutes National Forest and local climber representatives to discuss how climbers are affecting cave resource values. Under proposed management actions in the EA scoping document, climbing would be permanently restricted in the 3 cave entrances where it takes place, through bans on use of hand drying agents and removal of fixed anchors. For more information see the AAC Oregon Section web site at

<http://ors.alpineclub.org/AAC/lavalink.html>.

As a follow up to these meetings, the Access Fund called for a more detailed analysis of climber effects versus other recreational effects on resource values. Also, it submitted suggestions for an alternative management direction that would allow for some climbing, but within prescribed guidelines and to a site specific code of practice. In addition, the new climbing group, Oregon Climbers Coalition, has been established to assist communications with the Forest Service and the local climbing community (Contact: Chairman, Larry Brumwell, E-mail: larry@inclimb.com. The Deschutes will release the Road 18 Caves Environmental Assessment for public comment in August 2000.

BOX CANYON, IDAHO

Earlier this year the Bureau of Land Management removed 30+ bolted routes from the area. Since it is a Wilderness Study Area, guidelines prohibit fixed anchor placements. The Access Fund met with the Boise Climbers' Coalition in July to discuss concerns and evaluate alternate methods to manage existing

climbing routes. A meeting has been scheduled for climbers and land managers to meet on-site at Box Canyon and determine if the area qualifies as a Wilderness Study Area. The BLM has agreed not to remove any more routes at this time and has asked that no additional climbs be established until a decision is made.

PINNACLE PEAK, ARIZONA

The upper climber's trails are almost complete after sweat-drenched days in the trenches of the Arizona heat. Kudos to volunteers and members of the Arizona Mountaineering Club who spearheaded the effort. The lower trails will be done during the Access Fund Adopt-a-Crag event on September 9.

BOULDER, COLORADO

Effective August 1, 2000, the Redgarden Wall in Eldorado Canyon is completely open to climbing again. During the raptor season, three young birds successfully fledged from their nest thanks to climbers' avoidance!



Raptor season ends as climbs across the country are reopened. Three raptor chicks like this one hatched this summer on the Redgarden Wall in Eldorado Canyon, CO.

Courtesy of the National Audubon Society of New Hampshire

Meet the Access Fund

WE'RE HERE TO KEEP YOU CLIMBING

MEET THE PUBLICATIONS DIRECTOR

by Biff Farrell

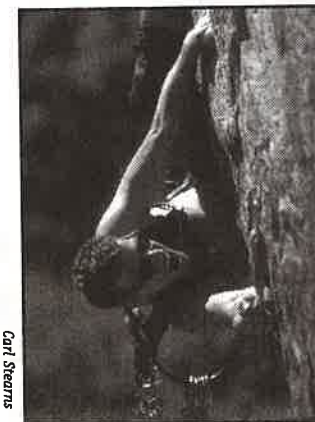
I've known John Heisel since the fourth grade. At Eagle's Nest Camp in North Carolina, Heisel had his first taste of rock climbing. He tied in and laced up his trusty Converse Chuck Taylors. John became a climber, and his life would never be the same again.

He survived the days of high school climbing – the camless rack and Tennessee sandbags dried the wetness from behind his ears. Heisel took his first winger off *Golden Locks*, a solid 5.8 crack. As he impersonated Elvis high above his last stopper, he belched a primordial moan and took flight.

His "true" education began at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. There he blended with the Rhododendrons and became a Boulder Toad. In 1994, he became the "Cover Boy" of *Climbing* magazine #147 after John Sherman passed through town while writing his book on bouldering in America.

After completing his English degree, Heisel submerged himself in a year of kayaking and working on the Nantahala River in North Carolina. He then returned to ASU and attended graduate school studying Instructional Media. In 1997, he crossed the Mississippi for an internship at *Climbing* magazine and wrote a Players article on John Rosholt, professional gambler. Regardless of his fascination with the Rockies, he completed graduate school, but returned to the rocky state two years later.

Following employment at The American Alpine Club, Heisel began at the Access Fund in May and is presently cruxing between the *Vertical Times*, Access Fund website and an electronic newsletter to premiere in September. Away from the keyboard, he escapes to the many cuticle shredding finger-cracks flanking Boulder. "Trad is rad!" said Heisel, who prefers Camelots over coldshuts. He can be reached at john@accessfund.org or 303-545-6775, ext. 103.



John Heisel, publications director, prepares to go overboard on the Castaway, Ship Rock, NC

MEET THE ACCESS AND ACQUISITIONS DIRECTOR

by John Heisel

The wind whipped with a bundle of bad weather as Shawn Tierney and his climbing partner approached the double corniced Harvard route on Mount Huntington, Alaska. "Anyone who would attempt it is insane," Tierney had always heard of the route first climbed in the sixties. Regardless of their hunger for the summit, they turned back.

"It taught me a lot about having humility," said Tierney, "which can go a long way in the mountains."

Since his epic attempt of the Harvard route, the newly hired Access and Acquisitions Director of the Access Fund has embarked on numerous adventures, yet his greatest perhaps will be replacing Rick Thompson. "It is going to be a tall order to fill Rick's shoes," said Tierney who has lived in Boulder, Colorado since 1998 teaching and guiding for the Colorado Mountain School. "I am looking forward to the challenge."

Tierney grew up in Minnesota and enjoys many forms of climbing including: big walls, ice, alpine, mountaineering and even sport climbing in small doses. "I am a trad climber at heart," said Tierney who has been on expeditions to South America, Alaska and the Himalayan Mountains. Prior to living in Colorado, he worked as the Outdoor Programs Director at the University of California, Berkeley.

He has been an Access Fund Member for numerous years and is eager to have a voice in how our public lands are managed. Tierney sees the climbing community as being richly diverse and iconoclastic. "Nobody will represent our concerns except ourselves," he said, "These issues are not going to go away but will become more important in the future." He hopes to explore new ways that climbers can minimize impacts and work cooperatively with land managers.

For Tierney climbing is about connecting with magical places and other people. "It is about making choices, managing risks and living with the consequence of those choices." Tierney stepped into Thompson's shoes in August to "connect" with the Access Fund as we cruise into the twenty-first century. Welcome aboard, Shawn! He can be reached at shawn@accessfund.org or 303-545-6772, ext. 105.



Shawn Tierney, access and acquisitions director, savoring blue skies on the Fonrouge in Guillaumet, Patagonia

Shawn Tierney collection

EXTREME SQUIRRELS

By the time readers scan this page, Access Fund staffer, Kath Pyke, will have returned from a month-long cliff survey project in search of the four-foot Himalayan Woolly Flying Squirrel.

Formerly thought extinct until its rediscovery by Peter Zahler in 1996, Kath heads up a team of climbers on a World Conservation Society and University of Massachusetts-funded project.

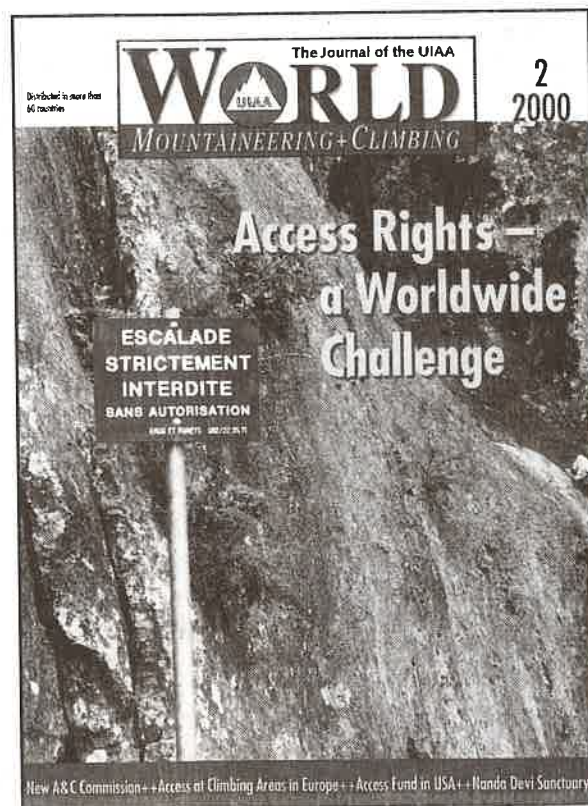
The team will work out of mountain areas in Northern Pakistan to establish baseline information about the distribution and behavior of this endangered animal. Known to be nocturnal, the squirrel is believed to rest in caves along the cliff faces during the day. The climbing team will contribute to Peter Zahler's long-term work preparing a species protection plan in consultation with local communities.

ACCESS PRIVILEGES – A WORLDWIDE CHALLENGE

The Access Fund was pleased to have a two-page article about the conservation and resource work of this organization published in the UIAA World Mountaineering and Climbing Journal. The UIAA (The International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation) is the world's only international climbing organization, comprised of 80 member associations from 60 countries. In 1999 the UIAA established

the Access and Conservation Commission, which aims to assist the UIAA and its member associations "to secure the freedom to practice mountaineering and climbing in ways which are sensitive to relevant environmental, social and legal considerations."

Issue No 2 is devoted entirely to articles on the access and conservation work of mountaineering organizations worldwide. Copies can be obtained from the UIAA Editor, Ernst Hasse – Email: Ernst.hasse@T-online.de or for further information about the work of the UIAA see their web site: <http://www.mountaineering.org>



The Access Fund was featured in the UIAA World Mountaineering and Climbing Journal. The issue was devoted entirely to articles on access and conservation. The UIAA Access and Conservation Commission aims "to secure the freedom to practice mountaineering and climbing in ways which are sensitive to relevant environmental social and legal considerations."

CLIMBING PRESERVATION GRANTS 2000 – FINAL CYCLE

On July 22nd the Access Fund Board of Directors approved the following grants:

- \$10,000 to the Southern Sierra Climbers Association for installation of a vault toilet at the Needles, in partnership with Sequoia National Forest.
- \$3,396 to the University of New Hampshire Outdoor Education Program for impact mitigation efforts at Pawtuckaway State Park, New Hampshire.
- \$500 to North East Charter School for

Resource Update Continued...

education signage at Main Wall, office.

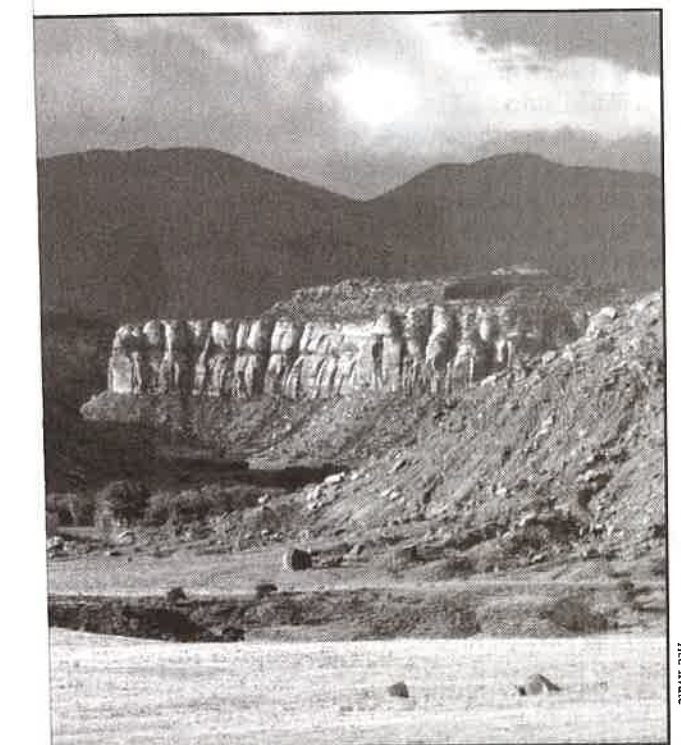
How can we help you keep climbing

Last year, the Access Fund worked to preserve the environs of Yosemite's Camp 4, campaigned successfully against the Forest Service's proposed ban on fixed anchors in Wilderness areas, fought to reopen the Twin Sisters formation at Idaho's City of Rocks, and brokered a deal to purchase Castle Rock Ranch, a previously off-limits climbing area outside the City of Rocks.



activists Send Clear message to the US Forest Service: protect our forests
Lead, Emediacy Web Marketing

1000 citizens sent electronic message to US Forest Service Chief in October this summer urging him



Access Fund Conservation Grants Program
\$100,000 to The Nature Conservancy as part of the BLM Indian Creek
Wilderness Recreation Plan

The Forest Service is now deciding upon a management plan for 60 million acres of roadless forests, just 30 percent of the National Forest System - still wild and roadless but unprotected from logging, mining and road building.

The fight to protect our last remaining wild places is not over. The Forest Service will now review the tide of public concern that has flooded into its offices and deliver a revised plan to

President Clinton.

The campaign is nearing the crucial last steps. President Clinton will make a final decision about the fate of our forests before he leaves office. He needs to hear that America wants its forests saved.

You can help by sending an e-postcard to President Clinton at www.ourforests.org. It will take less than a minute, but will help save our forests for future generations.

The Access Fund has started the following grant cycles, September 15, 2000 or January 7, 2001.

Funds for grants are limited, so applicants should be aware that the Grants Program could be committed for 2001 after the review cycle in January.

For a copy of the Access Fund revised grant guidelines (posted in May, 2000) click on our web site at www.access-fund.org/Programs.htm, fill out the form and mail it to Kath Pyke in the Boulder

office to permanently protect our National Forests. The postcards demonstrate the public's overwhelming support for more genuine forest protection and contributed to the total one million letters supporting forest protection received by the US Forest Service. This number of public comments is nearly four times the previous record for public comments received by a federal agency about a public policy initiative.

EXTREME SQUIRRELS

By the time readers scan this page, Access Fund staffer, Kath Pyke, will have returned from a month-long cliff survey project in search of the four-foot Himalayan Woolly Flying Squirrel.

Formerly thought extinct until its rediscovery by Peter Zahler in 1996, Kath heads up a team of climbers on a World Conservation Society and University of Massachusetts-funded project.

The team will work out of mountain areas in Northern Pakistan to establish baseline information about the distribution and behavior of this endangered animal. Known to be nocturnal, the squirrel is believed to rest in caves along the cliff faces during the day. The climbing team will contribute to Peter Zahler's long-term work preparing a species protection plan in consultation with local communities.

ACCESS PRIVILEGES – A WORLDWIDE CHALLENGE

The Access Fund was pleased to have a two-page article about the conservation and resource work of this organization published in the UIAA World Mountaineering and Climbing Journal. The UIAA (The International Mountaineering and Climbing Federation) is the world's only international climbing organization, comprised of 80 member associations from 60 countries. In 1999 the UIAA established

the Access and Conservation Commission, which aims to assist the UIAA and its member associations secure the freedom to practice mountaineering and climbing in ways which are sensitive to relevant environmental, social and legal considerations.

Issue No 2 is devoted entirely to articles on the access and conservation work of mountaineering organizations worldwide. Copies can be obtained from the UIAA Editor, Ernst Hasse, Ernst.hasse@T-online.de or by email. For more information about the work of the UIAA see their web site: <http://www.mountaineering.org>



The Access Fund was featured in the UIAA World Mountaineering and Climbing Journal. The issue was devoted entirely to articles on access and conservation. The UIAA Access and Conservation Commission aims "to secure the freedom to practice mountaineering and climbing in ways which are sensitive to relevant environmental, social and legal considerations."

CLIMBING PRESERVATION GRANTS 2000 – FINAL CYCLE



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of the UIAA

Resource Update Continued...

education signage at Main Wall, Mocanaqua, PA, in partnership with the Earth Conservancy.

- \$5,000 to The Nature Conservancy (who are coordinating funds) as a contribution to the BLM Indian Creek Corridor Recreation Plan due to be started in the Fall of 2000.

office.

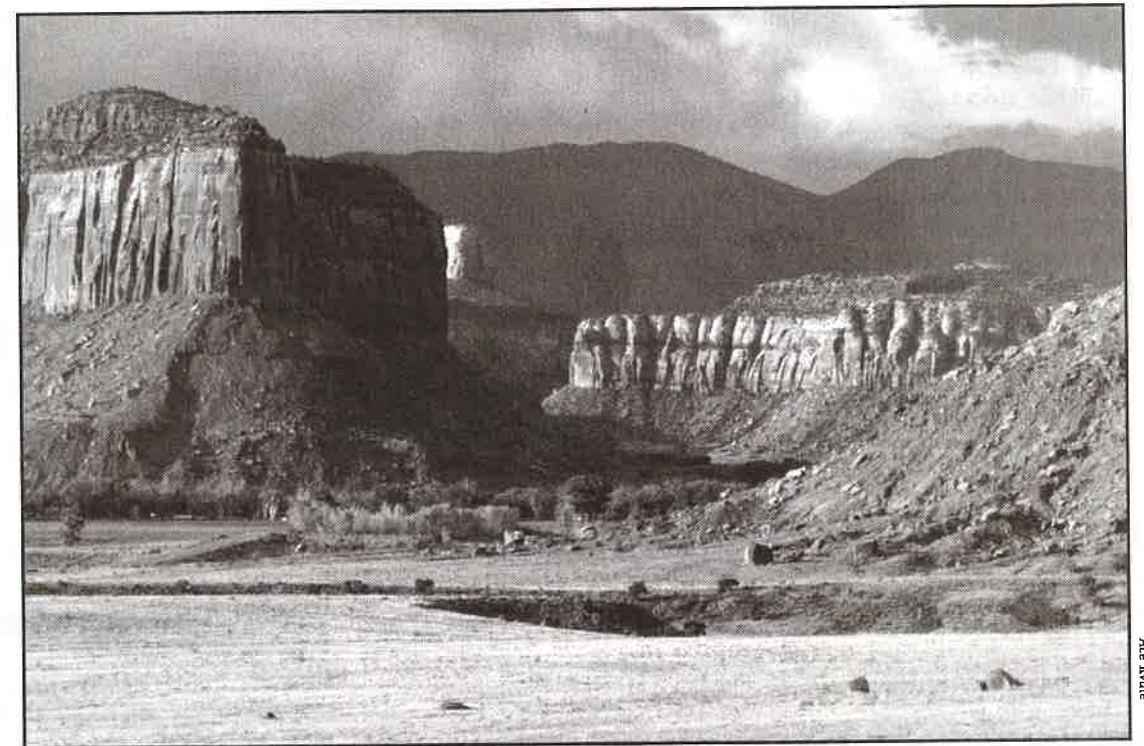
Internet Activists Send Clear Message to the US Forest Service: Save Our Forests

by Kelly O'Neal, Emediacy Web Marketing Manager

Over 180,000 citizens sent electronic postcards to US Forest Service Chief Mike Dombeck this summer urging him

The Forest Service is now deciding upon a management plan for 60 million acres of roadless forests, just 30 percent of the National Forest System - still wild and roadless but unprotected from logging, mining and road building.

The fight to protect our last remaining wild places is not over. The Forest Service will now review the tide of public concern that has flooded into its offices and deliver a revised plan to



Ace Knute

GRANTS FOR 2001

Applicants are encouraged to apply to the Access Fund for either of the following grant cycles, September 15, 2000 or January 7, 2001.

Funds for grants are limited, so applicants should be aware that the Grants Program could be committed for 2001 after the review cycle in January.

For a copy of the Access Fund revised grant guidelines (posted in May, 2000) click on our web site at www.access-fund.org/Programs.htm, fill out the form and mail it to Kath Pyke in the Boulder

The Access Fund Conservation Grants Program donated \$5,000 to The Nature Conservancy as a contribution to the BLM Indian Creek Corridor Recreation Plan

to permanently protect our National Forests. The postcards demonstrate the public's overwhelming support for more genuine forest protection and contributed to the total one million letters supporting forest protection received by the US Forest Service. This number of public comments is nearly four times the previous record for public comments received by a federal agency about a public policy initiative.

President Clinton.

The campaign is nearing the crucial last steps. President Clinton will make a final decision about the fate of our forests before he leaves office. He needs to hear that America wants its forests saved.

You can help by sending an e-postcard to President Clinton at www.ourforests.org. It will take less than a minute, but will help save our forests for future generations.

TIPS FOR THE GIVING
by Gregory W. Kennedy

You give to the Access Fund for a variety of reasons. These reasons may range from gratitude for surviving your latest climbing epic, pressure from your climbing partner, belief in the Access Fund's work, a desire to be remembered after you are gone, protecting the cliffs, and finally, tax savings.

When most people think of charitable giving, they usually consider volunteering their time or making a cash donation. Rather than cash, you may want to consider giving away a growing asset such as common stocks. If this is an option for you, consider the following: the capital gains tax is a voluntary tax—you only pay it if you sell an appreciated asset; and the estate tax is involuntary—it's due nine months after death regardless. One philanthropic way to avoid both these taxes is to give highly appreciated securities to the Access Fund.

The Access Fund is a 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt organization. When you give stocks to the Access Fund, there is no tax on their appreciation. You have also removed this asset and all future appreciation from your taxable estate. Finally, you receive a current income tax deduction for the contribution.

Sometimes donors hold stocks that they are comfortable with and ones they expect to have continued success with in the future. They also plan to make a charitable gift for the year in cash. One variation on charitable giving is to make a gift of the favored stock and replace the position with cash. This effectively removes the past appreciation by giving the replacement stock a kind of "stepped up" cost basis. Charities are broken down into two types, 50 percent charities and 30 percent charities. The percentage refers to the maximum percentage of adjusted gross income (AGI) that may be claimed as a charitable deduction by a donor in any one year. Fifty percent

• continued on next page

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Hook up your belay partner with the 20-ounce El Cupitan Mug (\$15) for early morning java or tea



For later in the evening, the Access Fund O'Piner (\$8) is an essential tool for twelve ounce curls



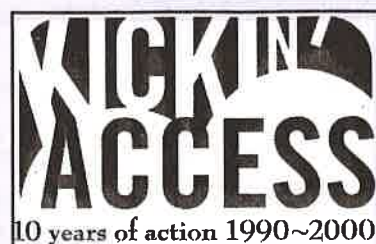
Style out at the crags with an Access Fund t-shirt (\$20) or baseball hat (\$15)

Finally, purge your anxiety while training your digits with the Access Fund Hand Strengthener (\$7)



To order call the Access Fund at 888-863-6237

Have a Wonderful FALL from all of us at the Access Fund!



"TIPS..." CONTINUED

charities include churches, schools, hospitals, endowment funds for public universities, and state and local governments. Special rules apply to other types of private charities.

Gifts of capital gain property, such as stocks, are subject to further limitations. To qualify as a donation of capital gain property the item must qualify for capital gains treatment (e.g. property held for investment) and must have been held for more than one year. Gifts of capital gain property to 50 percent charities are limited to 30 percent of AGI. Donations of capital gains property are generally valued at the fair market value at the time of the donation.

Gifts of appreciated securities can also play important parts in more sophisticated charitable giving techniques, such as charitable remainder trusts. If you are considering such strategies and would like to maximize the benefits of your gift, talk to a financial planner to explore your alternatives.

Gregg Kennedy, the Access Fund's account representative, is First Vice President of Investments with Salomon Smith Barney, 10303 E. Dry Creek Road, Suite 400, Englewood, CO 80112. Call him at 1-800-965-3028 or 303-925-9615 for more information.

TICK LIST FEVER

The Access Fund has collect thousands of actions from the TICK LISTS mailed to our National Office.

We are giving away great gear from the North Face like: tents, sleeping bags and packs. The big winners of the July Drawing were:

- Jana Thompson, Broomfield, CO
- Randy Taylor, Winston-Salem, NC
- James Oyler, Murrieta, CA

We are doing drawings throughout the second half of 2000 for great gear from Black Diamond, Omega Pacific, The North Face, Metolius and more.

USE THIS MUSCLE

SAVE CLIMBING ACCESS WITH 100,000 ACTIONS! All you have to do is commit to 10.

win
gear and other great prizes

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The Access Fund • Since 1990

100,000 ACTIONS—DO IT OR LOSE IT!

You bet I floated 10 of the 14 actions:

- Answered the question: The Access Fund is (A) an investment firm, (B) an internet service provider, (C) national climbers organization
- Packed out a bag of trash for a climbing area **where:** _____
- Said hello to the land manager at my local crag **where:** _____
- Committed to Leave No Trace—minimum-impact climbing practices
- Read up and am committed to be informed about the areas where I climb
- Joined or renewed my membership to Access Fund
- Called or wrote a Senator or Congressperson about a climbing issue **who:** _____
- Volunteered for a climbing area clean-up **where:** _____
- Called my Access Fund Regional Coordinator to be put on the resource list (see www.accessfund.org)
- Volunteered for a trail project **where:** _____
- Participated in ADOPT-A-CRAG day in September, 2000 **where:** _____
- Rallied a friend to join the Access Fund **who:** _____
- Talked to or wrote a ranger or land manager about a climbing issue **who:** _____
- Properly disposed of my waste (100 steps from the trail, six inches deep)

Fill out just 10 of the 14 on the list and Send it to: Access Fund Action Tick List, PO Box 17010, Boulder, CO 80308 (One entry per person; you'll be eligible for amazing gear and prizes all year long!) www.accessfund.org • 1-888-863-6237

The sooner you enter the more chances you have to win! ENTER BY JULY 1—AND YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR 4 DRAWINGS, ENTER BY SEPT. 1—AND YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR 3, ENTER BY NOV. 1—AND YOU'RE ELIGIBLE FOR 2, ENTER BY DEC. 31—LAST CHANCE!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TEL _____

E-MAIL _____

Complete this TICK LIST and mail it to the address below to enter:
The Access Fund
P.O. Box 17010, Boulder, CO 80308

WELCOME!

The following individuals and groups contributed to the Access Fund with a donation of \$500 or more during the second quarter of 2000. Your support is extremely important and appreciated. Thank you all very much!

Jim Angell
John Burbidge
Bill Cosgrove
Dan Crouse
Jim Curl
Friends of Penitente
David Goeddel
Larry Gustafson
Robert Koehnen
Sandy Mailliard
Thomas Riihimaki
Tony Scott
Susan Sosin

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

In issue #34 of the Vertical Times, the hours for the shuttle in Zion National Park are wrong. It is actually 6:30 to 11 p.m. Also, the correct phone number for the Zion Lodge is (435)-772-3256.

Issue # 35 misprinted the Access Fund toll-free phone number on page 10. The correct number is (888) 863-6237.

Top Ten Ways to UPGRADE your Access Fund membership throughout this year

1. Join the **MONTHLY CLIMBING PARTNER** program, the easiest and most convenient way to upgrade your annual membership. You'll receive a complimentary Access Fund hat and T-shirt, too.
 2. **RENEW** your membership at a greater level than the previous year.
 3. Donate stock to the Access Fund and receive exceptional tax advantages. Call the Access Fund to find out more about this and other **PLANNED GIVING** programs.
 4. Find out if the company you work for has a **MATCHING GIFTS PROGRAM**. Usually there is a simple, one-page form that needs to be filled out and sent to the Access Fund.
 5. Buy a **GIFT MEMBERSHIP** for your climbing partner or someone else that isn't already an Access Fund member.
 6. Purchase gear from **CORPORATE PARTNERS** of the Access Fund by clicking to www.accessfund.org/gear.htm.
 7. Purchase Access Fund t-shirts, coffee mugs, embroidered hats, water bottles, hand strengtheners, and piton bottle openers. You can see this **MERCHANDISE** and more on the Access Fund's website - www.accessfund.org.
 8. **VOLUNTEER** your time and energy and represent the Access Fund at an organized conservation project.
 9. Participate in Access Fund **EVENTS**. An outstanding opportunity to contribute more to the organization and your chance to win fantastic prizes!
 10. Convince your **PARENTS** to support the organization that helps keep you climbing. They don't have to be climbers and they'll enjoy helping keep areas open so that you can get out there!
- If you have any questions about these upgrade opportunities or your individual membership, please call the Access Fund at 888-863-6237.

Events

Access Bash/Climb-a-thon - Boulder, CO

On September 30 join the Access Fund, the Boulder Rock Club, La Sportiva and Mountain Sports for a fundraising extravaganza. The Boulder Rock Club will host a climb-a-thon to benefit the Access Fund. Participate in the climb-a-thon

by gaining pledges for each vertical foot climbed or pay a \$30 door fee. Included in the door fee/minimum pledge is a one-year Access Fund membership, raffle tickets (everyone will win something), food, music, booths, climbing for one day and beer. Check out the Access Fund web site for more info at www.accessfund.org or call Heather at (303).545.6772 ext.100.



Calendar

September

9/14 - **Salt Lake City, UT** - Adrian Burgess, Cameron Lawson and special guest slide show, Advanced Base Camp/Liberty Mountain, Matt Sherry, 800 366-2666
9/16 **Pocatello, ID** - Pocatello Pump, Idaho State University, Peter Joyce, 208 236-3912
9/16 - **Enchanted Rock Trail Build, TX** - meet at 8am at the Crescent parking area, Central Texas Climbing Committee, Mike Lewis, 210-695-3046
9/18 - **Ashland, OR** - Kurt Smith Slide Show (tentative), Ashland Outdoor Store, 541 488-1202
9/20 - **Santa Clara, CA** - Kurt Smith slide show, Western Mountaineering, 408 984-7611
9/22 - **Costa Mesa, CA** - Kurt Smith slide show, Rockreation, 714 540-4678
9/22 - **Los Angeles, CA** - Kurt Smith slide show - Rockreation - 310 207-9755
9/26 - **Costa Mesa, CA** - Kurt Smith slide show, Rockreation, 714 540-4678
9/28 - **San Diego, CA** - Kurt Smith slide show, Natural History Museum
9/29 - **Denver, CO** - Dan Bailey slide show, REI and Backbone Media, 303 756-3100
9/30 - **Driggs, ID** - Adopt-A-Crag-Practice Rocks in Teton Canyon, Scott McGee, 801-971-5055
9/30 - **Joshua Tree, CA** - Climb Smart 4, Adventure 16, Teresa Hukari & Jim O'Brien, 619 283-2362 x 103

October

10/7 - **Bishop, CA** - Eastside Fall Rendevous, Wilson's Eastside Sports, James Wilson and Mick Ryan, 619 8737520
10/7 - **Banner Elk, NC** - 7th Annual Hound Ears Bouldering Comp, Misty Mountain Threadworks, Goose Kearse, 828 963-6688
10/7 - **Las Vegas, NV** - Kurt Smith Slide Show, Desert Rock Sports/ Powerhouse

Rock Gym, Mike & Tim, Ward, 702-254-1143
10/11 - **Phoenix, AZ** - Kurt Smith Slide show, Arizona Mountaineering Club, Sue Goins, 480-699-1437
10/12 - **Tucson, AZ** - Kurt Smith slide show, Summit Hut, 520 325-1554
10/13 - **Denver, CO** - Pete Takeda: AF slide show series, REI/Backbone Media, 303 756-3100
10/14 - **Enchanted Rock Trail Build, TX** - meet at 8am at the Crescent parking area, Central Texas Climbing Committee, Mike Lewis, 210-695-3046
10/16 - **Albuquerque, NM** - Kurt Smith slide show, Stone Age Climbing Gym, Inc, 505-341-2016
10/18 - **Arlington, TX** - Kurt Smith slide show, Dyno-Rock, (817) 461-3966
10/20 - **Boulder, CO** - BCS: Boulder Climbing Series, Boulder Rock Club, 303-447-2804
10/21 & 10/22 **Arlington, TX**, Granite Gripper- Kurt Smith slide show, Texas Mountaineers, Michael Lewis 210-695-3046
November
11/1 - **Carrollton, TX** - Kurt Smith Slide show, Exposure Indoor Rock Climbing, 214-732-0307
11/17 - **Boulder, CO** - BCS: Boulder Climbing Series, Boulder Rock Club, 303-447-2804
11/17 - **Denver, CO** - Dave Sheldon: AF slide show series, REI/Backbone Media, 303-756-3100
11/18 - **Bloomington, IL** - 7th Annual Hangdog Jamboree, Upper Limits, Jennifer Hawbaker, 800 964-7814
11/18 - **Enchanted Rock Trail Build, TX**-meet at 8am at the Crescent parking area, Central Texas Climbing Committee, Mike Lewis, 210-695-3046

Events Pinnacle

These events were the top fundraising or membership building events for the Access Fund this summer. Thanks to all who volunteered, organized or participated.

International Climbers Festival, Lander, WY

Bouldering comp and silent auction, Portland Rock Gym - Portland, OR

Seattle Bouldering Challenge, Stone Gardens - Seattle, WA

Gregory Crouch slide show, Great Pacific Iron Works, Ventura, CA

Armando Menocal Cuba slide show, Patagonia - San Francisco, CA

Hans Florine auction www.speedclimb.com

Armando Menocal Cuba slide show, Patagonia - Santa Monica, CA

Steve Schneider Slide Show, Desert Rock Sports - Las Vegas, NV

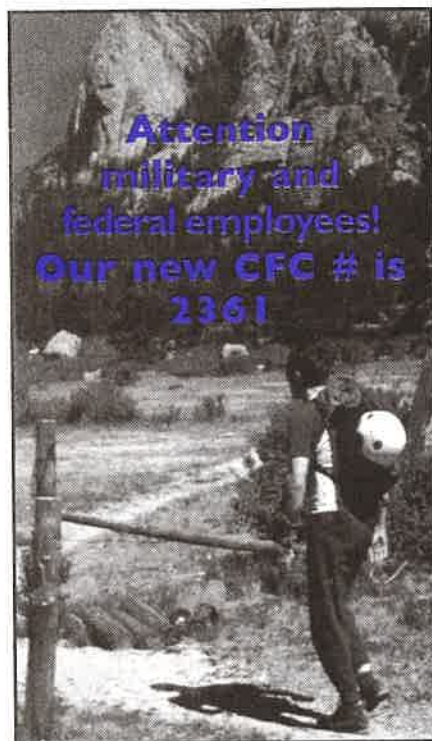
ACCESS FUND ANNOUNCES NEW CORPORATE PARTNERS

The Access Fund's community of Corporate Partners continues to expand. This summer, the Access Fund is pleased to announce new Major Partnerships with **Altrec.com**, **American Bouldering Series**, and **New Belgium Brewing Company**. **Altrec.com** is an online resource where you can choose an activity and learn more about it, buy gear and learn from the pros. The American Bouldering Series is a national tour of climbing competitions to benefit the Access Fund; look for a complete schedule at www.rockcomps.com/abs. New Belgium produces a variety of micro-brewed beverages from its facility in Fort Collins, Colorado and supports "environmentally groovy" projects throughout its nine-state territory.

New Contributing Partners include **Soma Entertainment**, **Xdogs.com**, and **ZuluSports.com**. Soma Entertainment produces *West Coast Pimp*, a video featuring many of California's finest bouldering areas. Xdogs.com is an e-commerce site that is "equipping you to live a life without limits". ZuluSports.com is a comprehensive online resource of information and services for adventure and outdoor sports enthusiasts including coverage of mountain biking, skiing, snowboarding, whitewater rafting, hiking, climbing, kayaking, scuba diving, surfing, windsurfing, hang gliding, paragliding, skydiving, snowshoeing and adventure racing.

"These joint promotional partnerships will benefit all parties," said Jon Balousek, vice president of marketing at ZuluSports.com." The Access Fund

appreciates all of its Corporate Partners and encourages all Access Fund members, friends and families to support each of them. A full roster can be found on page 15 of this issue of *Vertical Times*.



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HUECO UPDATE FROM PAGE 1

urged for education rather than law enforcement. This emphasis is working well at other climbing areas with historic and cultural importance, such as Devils Tower and Red Rocks. However, TPWD has ignored these examples, been inflexible about alternatives to broad-based closures, and concluded that Hueco Tanks should be managed as an outdoor museum.

It is no secret the Access Fund has been evaluating the prospect of filing a lawsuit over the Public Use Plan for Hueco Tanks, though even a favorable outcome to a lawsuit would not ensure positive changes to climbing access. At best, the courts could force TPWD to redo the Public Use Plan to correct any mistakes they made initially. Local climbers were not supportive of a lawsuit initially. They believed that it would give TPWD an excuse to become even more adversarial. Our analysis suggested that the costs would outweigh any benefits, so we have chosen not to file a lawsuit at this time.

The Access Fund remains willing to negotiate with TPWD, but unless a more progressive management strategy is employed at Hueco Tanks, we will discontinue the substantial resources that we have offered Hueco previously. TPWD has proven they would rather not have climbers at Hueco Tanks and that their agenda is to close the park to all but guided tours. Further, they do not deal with the public in good faith.

While the Access Fund will continue to monitor the situation at Hueco and support rational land management there, we are pessimistic for TPWD to ever consider climbing as a primary value at Hueco Tanks. We think climbers will prefer that we are focusing our resources on places and issues where we can truly make a difference.

TPWD says climbers are welcome at Hueco Tanks. The phone number to make reservations for the park is 915-857-1135. We encourage climbers to visit Hueco Tanks and form their own opinions. To discuss your experience at the park, write State Parks Director Walt Dabney, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744. Or call Dabney at 512-389-4874.

TO ALL WHO'VE HELPED US ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

Thank you

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- Vice President**
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John Heisel john@accessfund.org
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Heather Clark . . . heather@accessfund.org
- Office Manager**
Kerry Cowan kerry@accessfund.org
- Conservation Chair**
Pat Jodice

Climbing Comps: Texas A&M University, Atlanta Rocks!, Martin Tull, Gary Rall

Hosting or giving a slide show: Michael Kennedy, Armando Menocal, Ted Savage, Ed Viesturs, Jared Ogden, Wichita Mountains Climbers Co.

Trail projects and clean ups: Southeast Climbers Coalition, Brad McLeod, Wisconsin Outdoor Access, Steve Frye, Michael Lewis, Central Texas Climbers Coalition, Summit Canyon Mountaineering, Bryan Gall, Flatirons Climbing Council, Dave Turner, Christian Griffith, Mike Moelter, Mike Brown, Ted Vedugo, Pablo Perez, Alex Hudson, Earl Carver, Doug Corpman.

For just being awesome! Hans Florine, Michael Kennedy, Chris and Linda Archer, Prairie Walls, Jana Elliot, Tom Elliot, Backbone Media- Nate, Penn and Len, Cascades Mountaineers, Bob Speik, Cecily Buck, Mark Kroese, Bob Margulis and JCCA.

2000 CORPORATE PARTNERS

The Access Fund sends great thanks to industry members and like-minded businesses who are partnering with us this year.

P L E A S E S U P P O R T T H E M

- Diamond Partners \$20,000+**
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 - Galyan's
 - REI
 - Rock & Ice
 - The North Face/A5
- Platinum Plus Partners \$15,000+**
- Hothouse Design & Advertising
 - Omega Pacific Mountaineering
- Gold Plus Partners \$7,500+**
- Eagle Creek
 - Patagonia
 - Polartec/Malden Mills
- Gold Partners \$5,000+**
- Campmor
 - Five.Ten
 - La Sportiva
 - Lowe Alpine Systems
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 - Nicros
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 - Ropegun
 - Seattle Manufacturing Corporation
 - Sickle Climbing
 - Sierra Designs
 - Soma Entertainment
 - Stone Age Climbing
 - Sun & Ski Sports
 - TellurideGear.com
 - Ushba Mountain Works
 - Verve
 - xdogs.com
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- Media Partners**
- Apex
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The Hammerless Revolutionp.2

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TIPS FOR THE GIVING

Donating stocks to charitiesp. 10

HOT PROJECTS AND EVENTS:

Sizzling Fall events near youp.13

The Access Fund is a national, nonprofit dedicated to keeping climbing areas open & conserving the climbing environment. Since its incorporation in 1990, the Access Fund has provided more than \$1 million for climbing conservation and education across the US.

We've paid for land purchases, climbers' campgrounds, educational brochures, toilets signs, and scientific research on climbers' impact on birds of prey and cliff-dwelling plants. For more information call us at:

303-545-6772

click on our website:

www.accessfund.org

or write:

**P.O. Box 17010, Boulder, CO
80308**

Vertical Times is the membership newsletter of the Access Fund and is published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September and November. Authorizing organization: the Access Fund, 2475 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80304. This issue date: September 1, 2000. Volume #36. Price: \$30/yr.

Editorial Director: Sally Moser;

Editor: John Heisel;

Policy Analyst: Sam Davidson.

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ACCESS FUND FACILITATES REOPENING OF THE CAT SLAB, CO

Effective immediately, the highly popular Cat Slab in Clear Creek Canyon, near Denver, is re-open to climbing. This popular area was closed earlier this year when a climbing fatality at the site raised the landowner's concerns over potential liability lawsuits

Through direct discussions with the landowner, Rick Thompson and the Access Fund were able to ease liability concerns and reestablish climbing access to the area.

When climbing at the Slab please

maintain a low profile, and if the landowner stops by to chat be sure to thank him for supporting climbing. Be aware that the property remains for sale, so there may be future access threats should a new owner not be supportive of climbing.

The Access Fund is currently looking at different methods to preserve long-term access. For more information contact Shawn Tierney, national access director, at shawn@accessfund.org or 303-545-6772, ext. 105.