

# Vertical Times

ACCESS • CONSERVATION • ACTIVISM



JANUARY 2000 VOL. 32

## CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF CLIMBING ACTIVISM PICKING ACCESS SINCE 1990

by Sally Moser, executive director

In December of 1987, I climbed Levitation 29, a classic nine-pitch route at Red Rocks near Las Vegas, Nevada. The current Oak Creek campground at Red Rocks didn't exist, and we drove down a dirt road and camped close to the climb. No one else was around. The temperature was comfortable, although the short amount of daylight dictated that we forgo the last pitch and start rappelling.

Descending the approach slabs in the dark was my least favorite part of the day, and probably the most dangerous aspect of the outing.

The next day at the Showboat Hotel near downtown, I attended my first Access Fund meeting. But the Access Fund had not quite assumed its current form then—it was the Access Committee of the American Alpine Club, the Fund's forerunner. Chaired by the inimitable Armando Menocal, populated by activists such as Randy Vogel, Al Rubin, Michael Clifford, Rick Accomazzo, Michael Jimmerson, Allen Sanderson and Jim Angell, the committee dealt with use limits on Mount St. Helens, the closure of Rat Creek Boulder in Icicle Canyon and the acquisition of Peshastin Pinnacles in Washington, and access issues in Tonto National Forest, Ariz. These were the burning issues for climbers at the time.

From then on, due to my position as a climbing magazine editor, as well as because of my personal interest, I kept up with the committee's work. As the number of climbers radically increased, so did the workload and variety of issues that the committee was asked to



*The Access Fund in December, 1990.*  
Standing, left to right: Jim McCarthy, Jane Goldcamp, Michael Jimmerson, Sally Moser, Allen Sanderson, Al Rubin, Ron Olevsky, Randy Vogel, Sam Davidson, John Juraschek. Seated, left to right: Paul Diefenderfer, Laura Potter, Jim Angell, Mike Clifford, Armando Menocal, and an unidentified attendee.

take on. Soon the committee had one and then two part-time employees, and gained an independent account for funding. Finally, when it became evident that the committee needed to expand its operations in order to cope with the many challenges facing the climbing community, the Access Fund became an independent organization in December of 1990.

Ten years later, the climbing world has changed radically. The number of climbers in this country has doubled or tripled. Many of the climbing areas featured in the magazines today were unknown or unexplored a decade ago, and the hottest climbers on the current scene are rarely out of high school.

The Access Fund has changed as well. From its original 15 or so activists, the Fund has evolved into a thriving organization with nearly 11,000 members, a \$1 million budget, a 24-member board of directors, an activist network of 40 regional coordinators and hundreds of volunteers. The Access Fund

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## MALIBU CREEK STATE PARK CLEANUP: Lessons learned, booty earned

by S. Charles Lenhoff

In 1998, while hiking in Malibu Creek State Park, my wife and I kept passing rusted metal pipes, tires, and other forms of trash. But just as temperatures soared into the 100s, we ran into a beautiful pond with crystal clear water and little fish and filled our water bottles—a booty find.

We made our way to the Ghetto area, all the while passing beer bottles, fast food wrappings and cigarette butts. We climbed at the Ghetto area and then at the Planet-Of-The-Apes Wall. It was a pretty cool experience, except all that damn trash just kept nagging at me. It was like an itch that lasts for months, festering.

In November 1998, I sent the park superintendent a letter about the trash. No reply. Another letter in February 1999 finally netted a call from one of the rangers. He suggested a meeting to discuss a clean-up.

About this time it hit me to call my local Access Fund representative, Reese Martin. We got together and then met with Supervising Park Ranger Terry Brann and Ranger Christy Craig in March, 1999. The meeting was pleasant, and it turned out that Ranger Brann has done a bit of climbing. The clean-up plan then took a dramatic turn when Ranger Brann suggested combining it with the Park's 25th anniversary party.

The next step was to get an event permit. At this point, my relationship with Brann started to take shape. We spoke often and found confidence and trust in each other—another form of booty.

We then formed a committee of Martin, Jody Brender, Page Ostrow and myself. My responsibility was to raise money. Initially, our budget was \$16,000 and I thought we could get it from one person.

**Booty doesn't have to be pro found at a crag—it can be virtually any form of reward.**

Wrong! Lesson learned: it's easier to get 10 people to give \$500 each than one person to give \$5,000. To date, \$12,330 has been raised by donations from people like *Titanic* director James Cameron, singer Pat Boone, ABC television, Universal Studios, Fox and Showtime.

Booty, booty, booty!

Next I hired Ian Marsden, a talented artist with a cool website: Ian Marsden @ [www.marsdencartoons.com](http://www.marsdencartoons.com).

He nailed the first draft, but then things became complicated. Lesson learned: keep the artwork simple, use only three primary colors, and make sure you see the final draft before printing.

Brann recruited the Sheriff Department's Mountain Rescue Unit to use the event as a training exercise for their 50-plus reserve deputies, and the Access Fund came through for us with nine boxes of water bottles, Clif Bars, T-shirts, posters, banners, and raffle



Malibu Creek cleanup organizer S. Charles Lenhoff and Malibu Creek Park Superintendent Terry Brann

items. More booty from the home office in Colorado.

Jody Bender at Patagonia recruited volunteers and raffle items and also got me through several cruxes. Her friendship and support was pure booty.

Three weeks prior to the event, Brann introduced me to Lynette Falk, a staffer who coordinates the Park's film permits, weddings, etc. She can fix any problem with a phone call. I hope to remain friends with Lynette and her husband John for life. More booty!

As the event drew closer, John Reardin at The Sport Chalet became an important leader. John's leadership and climbing skills are impeccable, and he rigged a Z-pulley and hauling system in the gorge to get all the heavy trash out of the gorge. Six tons of heavy metal booty was removed during the event! Mountain Rescue used their Zodiac boat to transport the booty to the Gorge's south end.

The Fiesta after the clean-up had a lighter than expected turnout, but our number one priority was to clean up the Park. Another lesson learned: estimate volunteers and participants at 50 percent of what you first expect.

The party had a Park rededication ceremony, raffle, climbing lecture, self rescue demo, and two great bands. Team leaders were rewarded with food and the satisfaction of doing something worthwhile. Park supervisors also gave speeches and awards, happy that the spotlight shown on their wonderful park. Another highlight was having the Chumash Indians bless the park in a traditional sage burning ceremony. The ceremony was very moving. Another lesson: recruit the local Indian tribe to give more meaning to your cause.

In the group photos taken of the Access Fund volunteers and Park Rangers, we looked like a big, happy family. We knew the event was a success for the Park and for the Access Fund when Park District Superintendent Russ Guiney introduced me to Daniel Preece, the executive director of People for Parks. Preece said "I used to chase the climbers away and now would appreciate their help!"

*Editor's note: besides the amazing work they did to clean up the Malibu Creek State Park, the organizers raised \$2,176 for the Access Fund, and also donated \$2,176 to the Park. Many thanks!*

## UPDATE ON FOREST SERVICE NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING

by Sam Davidson

Once again, climbers have proven they are a force to be reckoned with. In October 1999, the US Forest Service issued a notice proposing to form a special advisory committee to help the agency develop national policy for climbing and use of fixed anchors in Wilderness areas. This proposal, part of a "negotiated rulemaking," was broadly endorsed by climbers and environmentalists.

However, concerns remain about the composition of the rulemaking committee and the Forest Service's

**The Forest Service received more than 1,000 comments from climbers on the negotiated rulemaking**

willingness to adopt the recommendations of this committee.

The Access Fund posted a bulletin urging climbers to write the Forest Service and question the appointment of unaffiliated individuals to

the committee, to point out the need to have key groups like the American Safe Climbing Association on the committee, and to ask for reassurance from the Forest Service that it is, in fact, committed to the outcome of the negotiated rulemaking.

The response has been phenomenal: the Forest Service received over 1,000 comments from climbers! The agency also received letters from Congress calling for a fair rulemaking process and good faith involvement by the Forest Service.

In recent talks with Forest Service officials, the Access Fund was assured the agency shares our hope that the negotiated rulemaking will provide a broadly-acceptable resolution to the fixed anchor issue. We believe the Forest Service does want the process to succeed. However, there is still a very real possibility the agency could agree with the recommendations of the rulemaking committee yet not be able to use them as the basis for national policy due to

obstinate agency attorneys, who previously said that "all use" of any type of fixed anchor is prohibited under the 1964 Wilderness Act and that the Forest Service had no discretionary authority to manage this use.

Ironically, attorneys for other federal Wilderness management agencies interpret the Wilderness Act to allow fixed anchors. Only the Forest Service's attorneys have chosen to read the Wilderness Act so narrowly.

The Forest Service will issue another notice, perhaps as early as January 2000, announcing the membership of the rulemaking committee and a schedule for meetings. The Access Fund hopes and expects the agency will heed the comments it received concerning the make-up of the committee. The Access Fund also expects the Forest Service to issue a public statement indicating that their attorneys now read sufficient flexibility in the Wilderness Act to allow for a policy which permits some use of fixed anchors in Wilderness.

Climbers and other Wilderness advocates will need to respond again, in writing, to the Forest Service, as the negotiated rulemaking nears completion. Contact Sam Davidson, senior policy analyst, for more information: 831-770-1523, or [sam@accessfund.org](mailto:sam@accessfund.org).

## HUECO TANKS PLAN REVIEW

In December, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) released a draft of its belated one-year review of the Public Use Plan (PUP) for Hueco Tanks State Historical Park near El Paso. The Access Fund immediately called for the agency to make good on its pledge to accept public comment on the PUP as part of the review process.

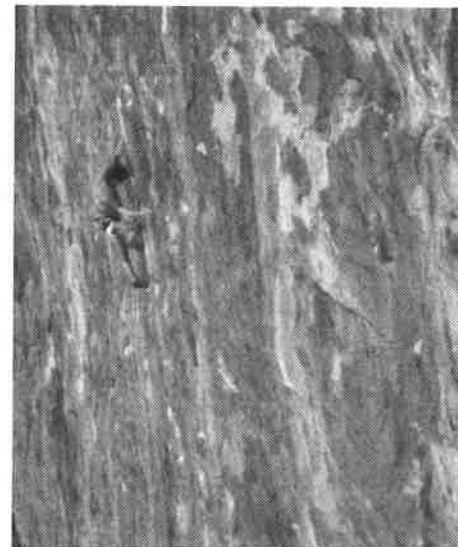
"TPWD's internal review of the Hueco management plan reflects the agency's bias against climbing," said Access Fund Action Committee chair Eric Hobday, a resident of Dallas. "There is still no acknowledgment

that Hueco Tanks is one of the world's best climbing areas. TPWD refuses to look at alternative strategies which would improve access for climbers yet still protect the park's ecological and archeological values."

The review concludes that restrictions on unguided access to most parts of the park, mandatory visitor orientation and other management controls are working to protect the site's natural and cultural resources, but suggests some fine tuning.

Among the changes proposed are the elimination of all overnight camping, closure of two additional areas and assessment of a \$4/person reservation fee. TPWD also recommends that visitors be allowed to bring pets and bicycles into the park under some circumstances.

TPWD would increase the required liability insurance for climbing guide services to \$500,000, and proposes to allow "escorts" for reserved climbing tours to climb themselves, so long as they keep track of where the tour participants are. The new \$4 reservation fee is supposed to discourage people (mostly climbers) from reserving park visits, then failing to show up on the day of



Chip Chase climbing during better times on Tarts of Horsham, Hueco Tanks.

## Policy Update Continued...

their reservation.

The Access Fund urges climbers to write to TPWD commenting on the "success" of the Hueco Tanks management plan so far. We recommend that climbers respectfully remind the agency just how important Hueco Tanks is as a climbing resource, and pledge support for a more partnership-oriented management approach. We should encourage the agency to look at important bouldering sites outside of North Mountain to determine if restrictions could be eased on a case-by-case basis.

Comments should be sent to Walt Dabney, Director, State Parks Division, Texas Parks & Wildlife Department, 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744-3291. You may be able to comment via TPWD's Web site, at [www.tpwd.state.tx.us](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us).

### "STRONG AND LASTING PROTECTION" FOR ROADLESS AREAS

In October the US Forest Service took the first step toward establishing permanent protection for non-wilderness roadless areas in our national forests. President Clinton directed the agency to protect some 60 million acres of forest lands from development, logging, motorized vehicle use and other road-dependent activities.

The Access Fund provided comments to the Forest Service on its roadless areas proposal. We are generally in favor of this initiative, since new road building is the single greatest threat to the many natural and aesthetic values climbers find in backcountry settings.

Specifically, the Forest Service proposed a two-part process to protect non-wilderness roadless areas (RAs). First, the agency would act immediately to protect already inventoried RAs, by (a) prohibiting new road building and reconstruction; (b) prohibiting both roads and commercial timber harvest; or (c) allowing only activities that contribute to maintaining or enhancing the ecological values of roadless areas.

Second, the agency would provide "additional direction" on management of inventoried RAs and on evaluating whether and how to protect uninventoried roadless areas. New policies would not take effect immediately, but would be implemented gradually through the forest management planning process.

The most significant weakness in the Forest Service's proposal is that controversial decisions—particularly those regarding uninventoried RAs—could simply be deferred to local forest planning. Many environmentalists worry that the timber and off-highway vehicle lobbies will successfully pressure local forest managers to delay or stop efforts to change the way roadless areas are managed. Moreover, any issues and decisions assigned to the forest planning process could take years, even decades, to be resolved.

There are good scientific, as well as aesthetic, reasons to act now to protect roadless areas. At the same time, existing roads should not be closed without compelling scientific rational and

adequate opportunity for public comment.

There will be other opportunities to comment on the Forest Service's roadless areas policy. For more information, contact Access Fund Senior Policy Analyst Sam Davidson at 831-770-1523 or e-mail [sam@accessfund.org](mailto:sam@accessfund.org).

### CLARK MOUNTAIN Considered in Revised Management Plan

The National Park Service is developing a supplement to the proposed General Management Plan for Mojave National Preserve in southern California, near the border with Nevada and Arizona.

Based on comments submitted by the Access Fund earlier this year, the Park Service wants to take a more pro-active approach to managing the Clark Mountain area. Clark Mountain offers an unusual, high-quality backcountry sport climbing experience.

The climbs at Clark Mountain are within designated Wilderness, so the use of power drills is prohibited there. The Access Fund will work with the Park Service to address other issues, such as the presence of desert bighorn sheep in the area.

For more information, contact Access Fund staff members Sam Davidson ([sam@accessfund.org](mailto:sam@accessfund.org)) or Kath Pyke ([kath@accessfund.org](mailto:kath@accessfund.org)).

#### Becoming an Access Fund

## MONTHLY Climbing Partner

- Is easy
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- Is the way to get a free Access Fund baseball cap and T-shirt for joining

With as little as \$10 dollars a month drawn directly from your checking account or credit card, you can join or renew as a Monthly Climbing Partner. You can extend or stop the pledge at any time with a simple phone call to the Access Fund office.

Call us at 888-8MEMBER or visit [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org) for more information

# Conservation

## update

### SPRING (RAPTOR SEASON) ALMOST HERE Checklist of climbing areas with seasonal restrictions to protect raptors

by Kath Pyke

On what started out as a beautiful spring day, you're starting to feel really confused. First, you and your partner felt a sense of disbelief that you had the entire crag to yourselves. Then came the dive bombing by an angry peregrine falcon that had you cowering at the

belly. And now you find yourself getting lectured by a weary backcountry ranger for unwittingly climbing in an area that has been restricted to protect cliff-nesting raptors.

How could you have avoided this situation? Easy. Every spring the Access Fund publishes this update so that climbers have information on which areas may have some form of closure to protect cliff-nesting raptors. We have not broken down this list on an exhaustive, crag by crag basis, because dates and details can change, even within the circulation time of this newsletter. However, we have listed the general areas slated for closures and how to find more information.

To get the latest information, ALWAYS check signs or brochures at parking lots, trailheads and approach routes. Birds can shift nest sites, so restrictions can be lifted early!

If you need detailed information BEFORE visiting an area, CHECK THE ACCESS FUND WEB SITE, which names individual cliffs affected, or CALL the agency contact number listed. (Note: some agencies have better staffing arrangements to respond to your inquiries than others!)

#### THE SITES

**Note: The sites listed were subject to some form of restriction in the past three years. However, in some areas birds could have shifted sites, or not nested in a particular year, so a closure may**

#### Which raptors?

Wildlife protection efforts are targeted at the cliff-nesting raptors including peregrine falcons, prairie falcons and golden eagles, which are protected under state and federal laws.

#### When?

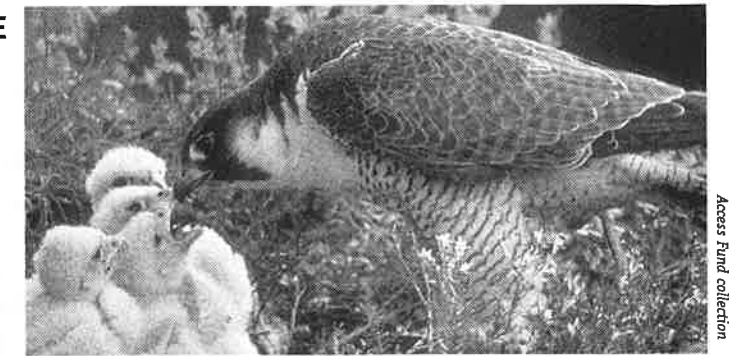
Restrictions run from early spring through to mid summer when birds are raising their young. Typically this is from February to August, but may be earlier or later depending on climate, elevation or the type of raptor.

#### Why?

Seasonal wildlife closures give our cliff wildlife the protection it needs at its most vulnerable time. With climber support, such arrangements demonstrate that climbing can coexist with wildlife protection efforts.

#### And thanks!

Thanks in advance for your support in protecting cliff-nesting raptors during their most vulnerable time.



*A peregrine falcon feeds its young. Cooperation by climbers has helped these raptors make a comeback.*

**have been lifted entirely. The Access Fund Web site at [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org) gives more detail on each area, but always remember to check for signs at the crag for the latest update.**

#### Arizona

- Cochise Stronghold: 1 restriction. Call 520.364.3468
- Granite Mountain: 1 restriction. Call 520.445.7253
- Thumb Butte: 1 restriction. Call 520.445.7253
- Mount Lemmon: 4 restrictions. Call 520.749.8700

#### California

- Corte Madera, San Diego area: 1 restriction Call 619.673.6180
- Joshua Tree: 2 restrictions. Call 760.367.5568
- Lover's Leap: 1 restriction. Call 916.644.2324
- Pinnacles National Monument: 5 restrictions. Call 408.389.4485
- Yosemite: 4 restrictions (Note: no restrictions on Half Dome or El Cap): Call 209.372.0767

#### Colorado

- Black Canyon of the Gunnison, Painted Wall: 1 restriction. Call 970.249 1914
- City of Boulder Open Space, The Matron, Mickey Mouse Wall: 2 restrictions. Call 303.441.4060 ext. 420
- City of Boulder Mountain Parks: 8 restrictions incl. The Third Flatiron, Call 303.441 4060 ext. 420
- Eagle Rock, Boulder Canyon: 1 restriction. Call 303.291 7142
- Colorado National Monument: 1 restriction. Call 970.858.3617
- Eldorado Canyon State Park: 3 restrictions. Call 303.494.3943
- Garden of the Gods: 1 restriction. Call 719.634.6666
- Lover's Leap/Mt. Lindo: 1 restriction. Call 303.271.5986
- Lumpy Ridge: 5 restrictions. Call 970.586.1206
- Medicine Bow/Routt National Forest: 2 restrictions. Call 970.638 4516
- South Platte, Cathedral Spires: 1 restriction. Call 303.838 5860
- Unaweep Canyon: 1 restriction. Call 970.244 3000 or 970.248 7175

#### Idaho

- City of Rocks: 1 restriction. Call 208.824 5519
- Black Cliffs, Boise: 2 restrictions Call 208.465 8465

#### Maine

- Acadia National Park: 3 restrictions. Call 207.288 3338

## Conservation Update Continued...

### New Hampshire

-Cannon Cliff and The Eaglet, Cathedral Ledge, Eagle Cliff, Franconia, Frankenstein Cliff, Harts, Holts Ledge, Lyme, Mt. Webster, Mt. Willard, Painted Walls and Square Ledge, Albany, Rattlesnake Mountain (main cliff), Rummey, Whitehorse Ledge and Square Ledge. Call 603.224.9909 ext. 317 for restrictions at all New Hampshire areas.

### New Mexico

-Sandia Mountains: 4 restrictions. Call 505.281.3304 for information

### New York

-Adirondack State Park: 6 restrictions. Call 518.891 4050

-Shawangunks, Millbrook Wall: 1 restriction. Call 914.255 0919

### North Carolina

-Whitesides Mountain: 1 restriction

-Linville Gorge: 1 restriction

-Looking Glass Rock: 1 restriction Call 828.652.2144 for all N. Carolina restrictions.

### Oregon

-Smith Rock State Park: 3 restrictions. Call 541.548.7501

-Eagle/Rattlesnake Rocks, Acker Rock, Umpqua National Forest: 2 restrictions. Call 541.957 3471

-Rabbit Ears & Rattlesnake, Rogue River Ntl Forest: 1 restriction. Call 503.560 3475

-Jurassic Park, near Roseburg: 1 restriction. Call 541.957.3471

### Utah

-Zion National Park and Kolob Canyon: 5 restrictions. Call 801.772.3256

-Airport Tower, Canyonlands National Park. 1 restriction. Call 435.259 4351

### Vermont

10 restrictions including: Deer Leap & Bristol Cliffs. Call 802.241.3717 for all Vermont restrictions

### Washington

-Beacon Rock State Park: 1 restriction. Call 509.427.8265.

-Royal Columns, Oakcreek Wildlife Recreation Area: 1 restriction. Call 509.653.2390

### Wyoming

-Devils Tower: 1 restriction Call 307.467.5283

-Garnet Canyon: 1 restriction. Call 307.739.3488

## BE SMART ABOUT RAPTORS

**1. Keep informed**—Check signs and brochures on site for latest updates. Read up in the Access Fund spring newsletter. Go to our web site at [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org) for details on cliff closures, agency contacts and background information on climbing and wildlife protection programs.

**2. Tell us if we've got it wrong**—The Access Fund needs your feedback to work with managers. With over 90 wildlife restrictions on Access Fund files, it's a big task to keep our records up to date. If you have concerns about a closure arrangement or see information that is misleading or out of date, call Kath Pyke

at the Boulder office at 888.863.6237 ext. 104 or e-mail [kath@accessfund.org](mailto:kath@accessfund.org).

**3. Get involved**—If your local crag has a raptor restriction, you can help resource managers with raptor monitoring, wording for signs or brochures, identifying the best places to put wildlife signs, and providing observations on raptor sightings or unusual behavior. Sometimes climbers have assisted managers on raptor banding projects, where climbing skills are required to access cliff edges. Contact the biologist or park manager listed for your area and ask about volunteer opportunities.

## DOING THE RIGHT THING

by Don Silver

So you've found a great new crag. The potential routes look spectacular, and you think that the area will be popular.

But you don't want the cliff and its surroundings to get hammered. You don't want 20 little social trails going to different routes when one good trail will suffice. You don't want people trampling the cool plants at the base of the crag. You don't want folks disturbing the areas where you spotted arrowheads on the way up to the cliff. In short, you want to Do the Right Thing.

So you build a trail that protects the plants, keeps people away from archeological sites, and focuses foot traffic. You pry rocks, sculpt switchbacks and create stairs. You create belay terraces so climbers don't erode the hillside.

And then the local land manager writes you a ticket and smacks you with a \$1,500 fine.

"No way," you say. "Couldn't happen."

Except that it did. Last summer, the above scenario played out at a new crag that has just begun to receive publicity in the national magazines. A prominent

young climber who saw the potential for visionary routes at the cliff endeavored to Do the Right Thing—he built a proper trail to minimize impacts. And then got nailed.

Why? Because regulations limit what local, state and national land managers can and cannot do with respect to modifying the environment they oversee. Rules, in fact, force managers themselves to cut through several layers of red tape—often including environmental impact analyses—before they can even move their own projects forward.

For these reasons, land managers are often forced to look at unauthorized improvements to public lands as vandalism. The same rules limit what climbers can do, even if the intention is to preserve an area.

The solution to this problem is easy, however. Be proactive. Get specific approval for your project from the agency that manages the area you're interested in ahead of time. Most land managers are really psyched when a major user group approaches them with a way to manage and reduce user impacts at their area.

## Area reports

### JACKS CANYON, ARIZ.

Over the past six months, northern Arizona activists Kerry Nodal and Titiana Shostak-Kinker have worked to establish a link between the US Forest Service and the local climbing community, through which concerns and issues about climbing at Jacks Canyon can be exchanged. A number of issues have already been identified where improved climber awareness could result in significantly reduced impacts. As a result, there is a lot

of work that needs to be done.

Human waste ranks high on this list. In the area adjacent to the camping/parking site at Jacks, improperly disposed of toilet paper and human waste litter the ground. This unsanitary condition can easily be avoided if climbers simply follow Leave No Trace principles by digging a "cat hole," properly burying their waste, and packing-out the toilet paper in a zip-lock bag. Options are being evaluated for placement of a toilet facility near the trailhead parking area. Until that time, however, climbers are reminded of the importance of practicing Leave No Trace principles.

Recently, the heavily rutted access road into the camping/parking area was graciously filled-in and regraded by the Arizona Department of Transportation. They did a wonderful job—many thanks for their support.

The Forest Service has again stated they do not want to see further expansion of routes in Jack's Canyon. If you're considering putting up new climbs, or for more information about this issue, contact Henry Brill at 520.354.2216 or 520.477.2255.

### TAKE ACTION!

Stay tuned for the announcement of a volunteer work day being planned for April 2000. Your help will be needed! For more beta, call Nodal at 520.774.7863 or Shostak-Kinker at 520.443.9650.

### PINNACLE PEAK, ARIZ.

After five long years, Pinnacle Peak finally belongs to the city of Scottsdale, Ariz. The papers were signed and the transfer became official on Nov. 12, thanks to Access Fund board member Paul Diefenderfer, the Friends of Pinnacle Peak and everyone else who took time to e-mail, write and call the city council and the media. Without the public pressure these people and groups created, Pinnacle Peak may have remained off limits forever.

Pinnacle Peak still faces two more hurdles before the park can be opened to the public. First, Scottsdale needs to either purchase three acres of State Trust land for a parking area, or, if that doesn't work out, the city must commit to putting the parking lot on existing park property. Second, Scottsdale needs to design and build the trailhead facilities (parking lot, gate, rest rooms, etc.) While all this is going on, the Friends of Pinnacle Peak will be building an access trail to the AMC boulder and the summit area.

### TAKE ACTION!

Please send an email to Scottsdale's mayor and council. Tell them you are happy that the peak once again belongs to the public. Also ask them to fast track the trailhead facilities so the public can enjoy Pinnacle Peak ASAP.

Mayor Sam Campana—[samcam@ci.scottsdale.az.us](mailto:samcam@ci.scottsdale.az.us)

Cynthia Lukas—[clukas@ci.scottsdale.az.us](mailto:clukas@ci.scottsdale.az.us)

Mary Manross—[mmanross@ci.scottsdale.az.us](mailto:mmanross@ci.scottsdale.az.us)

Robert Pettycrew—[rpettycrew@ci.scottsdale.az.us](mailto:rpettycrew@ci.scottsdale.az.us)

Dennis Robbins—[drobbins@ci.scottsdale.az.us](mailto:d Robbins@ci.scottsdale.az.us)

Richard Thomas—[rthomas@ci.scottsdale.az.us](mailto:rthomas@ci.scottsdale.az.us)

George Zraket—[gzraket@ci.scottsdale.az.us](mailto:gzraket@ci.scottsdale.az.us)

### JOSHUA TREE, CALIF.

Recently many Associated Press (AP) news outlets incorrectly reported that fixed safety anchors used by climbers have been banned in Joshua Tree National Park. The AP story inaccurately reported the bolt ban as part of a story on the recent release of the final Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan for Joshua Tree National Park. The AP story inaccurately reported the bolt ban as part of a story on the recent release of the final Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan for Joshua Tree National Park. The AP story was based on a single report filed by a former AP writer for the Riverside (Calif.) Press-Enterprise.

The AP report also misrepresented the results of unprecedented negotiations and agreements between climbers and environmental groups. The Management Plan to be implemented at Joshua Tree is a hard-fought compromise worked out by the Access Fund, Friends of Joshua Tree, The Wilderness Society, the National Parks and Conservation Association and has been adopted with some changes by Joshua Tree Superintendent Ernest Quintana.

Contrary to the AP report, the Access Fund believes that the new Joshua Tree plan represents a very progressive approach to climbing management, and especially to the issue of fixed anchor use in wilderness. During negotiations with the NPS and environmental groups, the Access Fund agreed that some parts of the Park should remain free of fixed climbing anchors. This fixed anchor free zone will protect 75 percent of the Park, but this 75 percent portion does not include any known climbing areas except the Coxcomb Mountains, about which little is known, even by Joshua Tree guidebook authors. At most, there may be a few dozen



Contrary to newspaper reports, climbing and the use of fixed anchors are alive and well at Joshua Tree.

routes in the Coxcombs with fixed anchors.

- replace aging and unsafe bolts throughout the Park, even in its Wilderness zones, without a permit;
- place new bolts in Wilderness areas through a permit system;
- place bolts in non-Wilderness areas after advising the Park Service of their intent prior to the activity.

## BOULDER CANYON, COLORADO

The effort to farm ice in Boulder Canyon continues to make headway as the Boulder Ice Climbers Coalition (BICC) negotiates with the City of Boulder, the County of Boulder, the US Forest Service, the Colorado Department of Transportation and Public



*Boulder ice farmers are making progress with several agencies to create ice routes in Boulder Canyon.*

Service Company. "BICC's board of directors believes that we can successfully work out the issues with each of those entities," says BICC Vice President Jim Ghiselli. Ghiselli is also a lawyer and Access Fund regional coordinator. BICC's biggest cause for optimism is the proposed sale of the pipeline that causes Boulder Canyon's historic ice flows near Castle Rock and that was tapped in 1997 to create climbs on Vampire Rock and Black Widow Slab. The City of Boulder is exploring the purchase of the pipeline from Public Service Company (PSCo.), a move that will reduce the number of players BICC must work with. BICC will apply to lease approximately three acre-feet of water per year from the city to farm ice if and when the sale takes place. "At some point we will have to go before city council to do this lease," Ghiselli says, "but our contacts with the council have let us know that they think BICC is a group whose interests need to be addressed."

In the meantime, concerns that PSCo. may make major repairs to the pipeline that could eliminate the historic Castle Rock flows are probably unfounded, given that PSCo. is unlikely to make improvements while they attempt to sell the water delivery system to the City of Boulder.

### TAKE ACTION!

To help BICC's work to create ice climbs in Boulder Canyon, log on to their Web site at <http://www.boulderice.org/> and become a member, or call Ghiselli at 720.406.5320.

## CITY OF ROCKS, IDAHO

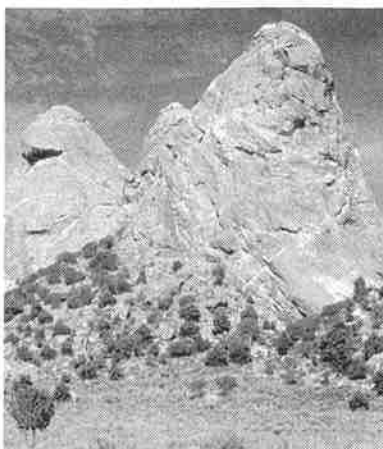
In December, the Access Fund appeared in court to present its case against the National Park Service's closure of the Twin Sisters formation at City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho. The Park Service

closed the Twin Sisters to climbing on the grounds that climbers on the formation prevented others from appreciating its significance as a landmark of the historic California Trail. Appearing before a federal judge in Pocatello, Idaho, the Access Fund argued that there was no rational basis for the closure, that the closure violated the Park Service's own regulations requiring it to use the least intrusive management methods possible, and to explain why less restrictive measures would not suffice. The Access Fund also argued that the Park Service failed to adequately consider the effects of the closure on the climbing experience at the Reserve in its environmental study.

The NPS "temporarily" closed Twin Sisters to climbing in 1993 while it prepared a study of climbing impacts to the historical values of the formation. That study showed that climbers had no significant impact on any of the formation's natural resources and were barely perceptible from the emigrant trail. Nevertheless, in 1998 the NPS issued a climbing management plan for the reserve which permanently closed the Twin Sisters to climbing and all active recreational use. The Access Fund filed suit in the federal district court in Idaho later that year challenging the closure.

In the December hearing, the Access Fund was represented by attorneys Jim Hooper, Paul Minault and Murray Feldman. After an hour and a half of oral argument, judge Mikel Williams said he would take the matter under consideration. Access Fund Regional Coordinator and attorney Paul Minault, who has doggedly fought the NPS over the Twin Sisters issue through the planning process and in administrative appeals since 1994, was cautiously optimistic of a positive decision from the court. "We have a strong case and we presented it very forcefully to a judge with a reputation for thorough consideration of the issues and fairness in his decisions," Minault said.

Minault also had the highest praise for the other members of the Access Fund Twin Sisters "dream team." Speaking of Jim Hooper, the Denver climber and trial attorney who served as lead litigation counsel for the lawsuit, Minault said: "Jim is very sharp. He did a terrific job distilling the case down to its fundamentals and then demonstrating to the judge how the Park service failed to meet the legal standards necessary to implement a closure of this sort. He had the judge's full attention."



*Access Fund attorneys are cautiously optimistic about a positive court decision on Twin Sisters, City of Rocks, ID.*

Minault also praised Boise attorney Murray Feldman, who volunteered to assist the Access Fund as local counsel, even though he isn't a climber. "Murray has rendered invaluable assistance in helping us with filings and scheduling, and his infectious good humor helped us get through all the meetings and conference calls necessary to pull off an endeavor like this," Minault said. "Boise climbers ought to open an account for Murray at his favorite watering hole and make sure he never sees the bill."

The court will now take several months to write an opinion and come to a decision on the matter. While we think we have a very strong case, we urge all climbers to burn a joss stick for Twin Sisters access. With luck, we may be back on it next spring.

## DRAPERS BLUFF, ILL.

Climbing was banned on the cliffs lying on the publicly owned portion of Drapers Bluff managed by Ferne Clyff State Park in November. Climbing on the cliffs privately owned by Access Fund Regional Coordinator



*Ulner collection*

*While most of Drapers Bluff is still open, the state of Illinois has closed some of the crags it owns at Drapers it owns to climbing.*

Eric Ulner is still open through signing in at the entrance kiosk.

"The cliffs the state manages are seldom used," Ulner says, "but they have a lot of potential for the future." The state-park-controlled area of Drapers lacks official parking, access trails, and emergency vehicle access, which may have led to the state's decision to ban climbing there. However, Illinois State Parks (ISP) has not chosen to prohibit hiking and hunting on the site.

A warning: "The state doesn't really have any plans to post the closure at their part of Drapers," Ulner says. "They expect climbers to find the information from a kiosk at Cedar Bluff, which is about a mile away." Despite the lack of on-site posting, ISP plans to enforce the climbing ban.

Ironically, the closure comes just as relations between Illinois State Parks and climbers appeared to be on the upswing after more than 60 Access Fund volunteers built 900 feet of new trail this past fall at Cedar Bluff.

### TAKE ACTION

To get involved in Illinois access issues or for more information, call Ulner at 618.995.1427.

## RED RIVER GORGE, KY

Regional Coordinator Shannon Stuart-Smith reports progress after early talks with Natural Bridge Kentucky State Resort Park to keep the Red's Pocket Wall open to climbing. (The State Park is in the process of purchasing the land that Pocket Wall is located on.) The Kentucky State Resort Park had indicated there would be an automatic closure to protect plants and animals from climbing activity on the rest of the park once the property was acquired, but "Now they may be willing to consider leaving it open," Stuart-Smith says. "If they do, it will be the first time the state will allow climbing on any state park property."

Recent positive negotiations over the Long Wall give another reason for optimism at the Red. Long Wall lies on US Forest

Service (USFS) land, and the USFS had been considering the wall for complete closure due to sensitive resource sites found in the area. Stuart-Smith and the Red River Climbers Coalition became very concerned and began talking with the USFS about different approaches to protect the area and still allow for climbing. As a result, a voluntary restriction agreement will be implemented. Under the agreement, sensitive areas will be signed, and climbers will agree to stay out of them. Other parts of the wall, including area classic Rock Wars, will remain open.

Climbers are encouraged to honor the voluntarily restricted areas at Long Wall, as the USFS will continue to monitor the voluntary restriction's success at preserving the sites. Climbers' cooperation in obeying the restrictions will help ensure the preservation of long-term access to most of Long Wall.

## RUMBLING BALD, NC

Campers bivying in and around the parking lot for Rumbling Bald have recently begun to jeopardize access to the climbing area. Both the parking and the climbing at Rumbling Bald lie on private land, and while the landowner allows climbing, he does not allow camping. Continued camping in the parking area could endanger long-term climbing access to the cliff.

Also, a series of automobile break-ins has occurred at the Rumbling Bald parking area. Climbers are warned to remove all valuables from cars before embarking for the crags.

## COOPERS ROCK, WV

Recently we've received reports of bouldering occurring in the closed Overlook area of Coopers Rock. This area is clearly posted "Off Limits." Given the tenuous nature of access in the past at Coopers Rock, climbers are reminded to obey this restriction—getting caught in these closed areas can endanger access to the hundreds of other boulder problems and the more than 450 routes that remain open.



## WISCONSIN

Wisconsin Outdoor Access (WOA) is continuing to work on climbing access for Devils Lake and Gibraltar Rock. With the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, WOA is examining a project to rebuild the trail to Devils Lake's Old Sandstone area. A trail project in partnership with the Friends of Devils Lake (an outdoor advocacy group for the state park) is currently slated for the spring of 2000. The new Devils Lake ranger and state trails chair, along with the president of the Friends of Devils Lake, are in complete agreement in respect

to moving the Balanced Rock Trail away from the cliff base at Old Sandstone. The Friends group and the state will provide matching funds and additional people power for this first WOA initiative. The Access Fund has redirected a \$1,500 grant and a small bevy of booty for some lucky trail-building participants.

At Gibraltar Rock, WOA is looking into performing a comprehensive environmental impact statement (EIS) to provide some hard scientific data on the impacts climbing has actually had at the area. "We'll have to offer a lot to get Gibraltar reopened," says Steve Frye, the Access Fund's regional coordinator for Wisconsin. "There has been a lot of discussion on our listserv lately on how to proceed there. The EIS will be just part of the process."

With the upcoming January release of its first newsletter and T-shirt, WOA con-

tinues to gather momentum. Joint Access Fund/WOA benefits have been held at gyms across Wisconsin, including the gala event at Adventure Rock in Brookfield, Wisc. that featured a Bobbi Bensman slide show, a dyno competition and a speed comp. WOA also recently produced what Frye calls a "counter erection;" an educational pop-up display of Wisconsin with hard-man logo creator Eric Zschieshe pumping up the western edge of the state with a slight foothold near the LaCrosse sandstone bluffs and a very marginal handhold on the Willow River Overhang. Tear cards are provided for immediate membership enrollment.

For more information, see WOA's Web site at [www.climbingcentral.com/WOA/WOA.html](http://www.climbingcentral.com/WOA/WOA.html).

## Elvis Makes Me Climb

Continued from pg. 16

minimum-impact practices.

When asked about the most effective way to inform the climbing community about crag access, restrictions and closures, respondents ranked notice boards at climbing sites most helpful, followed by Access Fund materials such as the newsletter *Vertical Times* and our Web site at [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org). Postings at local retailers and climbing gyms were also named as helpful tools, as well as guidebook information pages.

The verdict is still out on the Fee Demonstration Program and issues surrounding public user fees by federal agencies. About 23 percent of our members polled thought that the funds from fees should only support the activities they were collected from. Slightly fewer respondents felt that funds could be collected for improvements at a specific parks or area, but not to pay for personnel and facilities dedicated to collecting more fees. Less than 20 percent of those surveyed believe that user fees are a form of double taxation.

Adventure, an unspoiled natural environment and climbing in a wilderness setting were listed almost equally when asked

about values associated with climbing in wilderness. Solitude was also listed as an important factor when traveling into wilderness.

Access Fund members spent more days trad climbing in the last year than any other type of climbing. Bouldering appears to be picking up steam, and our membership logged a substantial number of days at climbing gyms around the country.

Respondents who voted in the last presidential election totaled 83 percent, and nine out of 10 members are willing to write Congress about issues facing the climbing community. Many cited the regional and national action alerts the Access Fund distributes when issues need written attention from the climbing community as the most effective way to instigate letter-writing.

Great thanks to the 100 of you who took the time to participate, and especially to Charley Anderson and other volunteers who handled the many pages of data associated with the survey.

The rope recipient chosen at random from the 100 surveys received was a very gracious Pat Bolan, an engineering graduate student from Minneapolis, who does most of his climbing at Devil's Lake in Wisconsin.

## GET YOUR GRANT IDEAS IN SOON

Take a minute or two right now, kick back and daydream. Think about what you would do to enhance the climbing experience at your local crag. What amenities—such as better trails, parking areas, toilets, information kiosks—would compliment your home area's awesome climbing?



An Access Fund grant paid for this new toilet at the Owens River Gorge.

OK, done dreaming? Now let's talk reality, as in, the Access Fund can make your dreams a reality. As in we've got more than \$130,000 allocated for our

Climbing Preservation Grants for 2000.

How do you get started in our grants process? Begin by calling (888.863.6237 ext. 105) or e-mailing ([rick@accessfund.org](mailto:rick@accessfund.org)) Access and Acquisitions Director Rick Thompson. Rico will guide you through the process, give advice on how to make your application attractive to our Board of Directors, and provide construction advice for facilities and trails.

Two deadlines are coming up for applications for Climbing Preservation Grants. We must receive your application for grants to be released in early March by Jan. 14. For grants to be released in mid-April, we need your application by March 1.

Successful grants further our mission and partner with local agencies and land managers, and remember that most of our projects are community-based and occur on publicly owned land.

## Celebrating 10 Years Cont. from pg.1

initiates access and environmental programs all over the United States, in major areas like Yosemite and locally important crags like Presque Isle in Michigan. We represent your interests before land managers at every level of government.

And because of your willingness to join us in actively working to protect climbing freedoms and the climbing environment, the climbing community is now a political force to be reckoned with. In response to the Access Fund's recent Climbers Alert regarding the use of fixed anchors in Wilderness, the Forest Service received more than 1,000 letters and e-mails. In 10 short years, the Access Fund has kept hundreds of climbing areas open, spent more than \$1,000,000 on conservation projects, and has put climbers on the political map.

Becoming the leading climber advocacy organization in the United States was accomplished by pushing the limits. The success of the Access Fund would not have been possible without your increased political activism, financial support and involvement. To maintain this standard of leadership and effectiveness, we must keep pushing the limits.

As always, the Access Fund needs your help to take this effort to the next level. In recognition and celebration of our first

ten years, the Access Fund is asking every member of the climbing community to perform 10 actions in support of our vertical world. Our goal is to generate 100,000 actions during 2000 to help preserve and protect the environment we know and love like nobody else. Throughout this anniversary year, you will see our "Kicking Access Since 1990" campaign and we urge you to join in. In the next issues of *Vertical Times*, *Climbing* and *Rock and Ice*, you'll receive a tick list to record your 10 actions. Fill out your action tick list and send it in to be eligible for some great prizes, including ropes, racks, tents and other pump-a-delic gear from our corporate partners.

These days, you can't drive down the dirt road to climb Levitation 29, and after you hike in, there will probably be a party or two on the route. But thanks in part to the Access Fund's involvement with management planning at Red Rocks, you still have the opportunity to experience some of the finest sandstone in the country, as well as have an epic descent in the dark.

We were there at Red Rocks when climbers needed us. And with your help, the Access Fund will continue to preserve and protect our climbing freedoms in the year 2000 and beyond.

## REGIONAL COORDINATOR UPDATE

Our Regional Coordinator (RC) network is growing by leaps and bounds, which is good news for climbers, because RCs are the Access Fund's first line of defense for keeping climbing areas open. RCs are trained experts in access issues and are the Fund's principal liaisons to local climbing areas across the country. To reach your RC, consult your Member Handbook or use the contact information below.

The Fund would like to extend a welcome and thanks to these new RCs for volunteering their time to preserve access:

**Steve Porcella, Montana**  
406.363.0387 or  
[sporcella@niaid.nih.gov](mailto:sporcella@niaid.nih.gov)

**Bob Value, Appalachian North**  
724.776.4918 or [bobv512@nauti-com.net](mailto:bobv512@nauti-com.net)

**Brian Pletta, New Mexico**  
505.341.2016

## The kids are alright

**My name is Elizabeth Fortunato, and I'm a 10th-grade, 15-year-old student living in Wilmington, Del.** After having seeing an Access Fund fundraiser, my family and I decided to become members of your community. My entire family enjoys the outdoors, but it's me and my twin sister Kathryn in particular who love to climb.

We are interested in becoming more active members of the Access Fund. We were hoping that you could provide us with some information on how to help out with the Access Fund either in Delaware's quarry or perhaps in Pennsylvania.

*Elizabeth Fortunato-Wilmington, Del.*

To get involved in Delaware, call Access Fund Regional Coordinator (RC) Dusty Wissmath at 717.328.9400 ext. 131; in Pennsylvania call RC Bob Value at 724.776.4918. —Ed.

## To the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife:

I am a 14-year-old boy who lives in Spokane, Wash. I have been climbing for three years. I was hoping to go to Hueco Tanks and climb someday. I have heard the stories of people who go down there, and they say they love it.

Since you closed most of Hueco Tanks, you made all the climbers and hikers mad. You also hurt businesses in the area. Last and most important, you have fenced off a big part of the history of this country. The younger generation of kids growing up now will not get to know about the park's history.

Instead of closure, I think that maybe you could just put fences around the places that you want to persevere. Please reopen Hueco Tanks to the public.

*Alex Bertouicci-Spokane, WA*

## More on Hueco

**I am an El Paso local and have been climbing at Hueco Tanks for 18 years.** Since the time of my last visit to the park I also enjoyed the birth of a beautiful little girl, Jordan Nicole. It was my daughter that made me believe that the generations to come should have the same opportunities to enjoy the park as I had.

I do believe that there does have to be some sort of control and limitations to prevent erosion of the park's natural resources, but other methods have already been successfully developed in other state and national parks. I agree with daily limitations in regards to the number of people allowed in, however I do not agree with limiting areas within the park.

There are places in those rocks that have become sacred to us, just as they were sacred to the Native Americans before us. These rocks have been here for millions of years and will be here after the TWPDP has long since become a faint memory. The only ones

who are cheated are those of us unfortunate enough to have existed in this generation and maybe a few generations to follow. I am not willing to accept this as my fate.

*Daniel Contreras—via the Internet*

**This is in response to your recent letter regarding a one-year-mark review of the Public Use Plan for Hueco Tanks State Historical Park.** Staff review of the park's conditions and the success of the implementation of the plan has been underway since late summer. The annual review report is currently being put into a draft format for public review.

The next step in the process of this annual review is to provide interested groups and individuals the opportunity for review and written comment. An extensive mailing of the annual review report will hopefully be initiated by mid-November, with a Jan. 1, 2000 target for ending the review period. This mailing will go to members of the original Public Use Plan working group, as well as to other groups and individuals who have expressed interest in the park.

I think we all agree that there are probably a few adjustments to the Public Use Plan that may be appropriate. We look forward to receiving the comments and ideas of you and the Access Fund.

*Walt Dabney—Director, State Parks Division, Texas Parks & Wildlife*

## Castle Rock Ranch redux

**I am writing to voice my thoughts on the newly acquired Castle Rock Ranch.** Extensive development only leads to extensive problems unless land managers and the recreational groups have the limitations, money and control to educate the recreational users.

I do not believe that Castle Rock should be bolted into submission and turned into a sport area. I have nothing against sport climbing and I love to clip bolts like the next person, but I love the tranquility of alpine climbs and surroundings without 10 other rope teams right next to me, all fighting for the same top rope/rap anchors. I would like to see Castle Rock developed in an "alpine manner" (similar to the Needles of SD)—ground up, no power drills. Hanging on hooks and heads to drill is probably okay (though I am not familiar with the rock strata of the area), and cracks shouldn't be bolted. Solid rap or belay anchors should be installed to prevent unsightly and unsafe slings. Education should be done through e-mail, slide shows, climbing organizations and groups, climbing mags, site kiosks, etc.

By eliminating the use of power drills on rappel and with the proper message spread by all recreation users of this area, route development may naturally be limited and done in a manner which creates excellent classic climbs.

*Mark Hartmann*

## Hot Projects and Events

**On Sunday, Nov. 14** Ragged Mountain Foundation volunteers spent a few hours cleaning up trash from the base of the Chin cliff at Sleeping Giant State Park. Although suffering from sections of loose rock, the Chin contains some enjoyable routes put up by the likes of Fritz Weissner, Jim Adair, John Reppy and Sam Streibert. The cliff faces east and gets great early morning sun. Recommended routes include Weissner's Rib (5.6), Yvette (5.9), Frenchman's Cap (5.9), Defender (5.11), Bolted (5.9) and Rhadamanthus (5.10). There is even a 600-foot right to left traverse of the cliff, the Warehouse Run (5.7), put up in 1934.

Six volunteers scoured the base of the cliff and the scree slope below, removing years of accumulated trash. The scenic viewpoints along the Quinnipiac Trail, which runs over the top of the cliff, are often used as launching points for bottles, cans and other trash by less-considerate park visitors.

After the clean-up the volunteers enjoyed some climbing in newly improved surroundings. Thanks to all who helped out: Mike Stokes, Eric Tishler, Jeff Cretella, Sean Whalley, Jim Whalley and Jeff Sargeant.

**On Nov. 11,** Deadpoint Press, Vertical Hold and Nomad Ventures got together for "San Diego Rocks and Rolls Toward 2000." The event consisted of a pizza dinner, raffles, a slide show by Dave Kennedy and a book signing. Special thanks to sponsors Mountain Hardware, The North Face, Progressive Outdoor Footwear, Prana, Climb A Rock, Paisley Close and the Climbing Doctor. The event raised \$1,228.50 and nine members for the Access Fund.

## Nation Wide

### January

1/15/00 Keene Valley, NY 4th Annual Adirondack Mountaineering Festival, The Mountaineer, Vinny McClelland 518.576.2281

1/21/00 Golden, CO Colorado Outward Bound event, AMC Mountaineering Center, Trish Gumina 303.831.6967

1/22/00 Logan, UT ASCF Climbing Competition, Adventure Sports Rock Gym, Jared Toone 435.752.8152

1/29/00 Salt Lake City, UT Boulder Blast VI, Rockreation, Nathan Smith 801.278.7473

1/29/00 Pewaukee, WI 1st Annual Quick on the Draw Competition, Adventure Rock, Inc., Eric Olsen 414.790.6800

1/29/00 North Tonawanda, NY Eastern Bouldering Series, Niagara Climbing Center, Rhonda McGuire 716.695.1248

### February

2/4/00 Davis, CA Crankin in the Millennium, Rocknasium Squirrel, Mark 530.757.2902

2/12/00 Saint Paul, MN 7th Annual Passin' for Flashin', Vertical Endeavors, Jason Noble 612.776.1430

2/19/00 Dayton, OH Eastern Bouldering Series, Urban Krag Climbing Center, Karl Williamson 937.224.5724

2/24/00 Jackson, WY Armando Menocal: Cuba Libre slide show, Teton Mountaineering 307.733.3595

### March

3/4/00 Longwood, FL Eastern Bouldering Series Regional Comp, Aiguille Rock Climbing, Scott Hasson 407.332.1429

3/10/00 Oaks, PA Banff Mountain Film Festival, Philadelphia Rock Gym, John DiCuollo 610.666.7673

3/11/00 Nashua, NH Eastern Bouldering Series Regional Comp, Boulder Morty's, Ken Silber 603.886.6789

## P. Events Pinnacle

### TOP 15 EVENTS FROM 1999!!!

\$5,118 **Climb Smart 3** Adventure 16 - San Diego, CA

\$2,336.25 **6th Annual International Climbers Festival**- Lander, WY

\$2,176.07 **Malibu Creek State Park Clean-Up**- Malibu, CA

\$2,060 **Pocatello Pump** Idaho State University- Pocatello, ID

\$1,703.01 **Boreal, La Sportiva, Scarpa, and Five Ten Shoe Demo** - Adventure Rock, Inc Pewaukee, WI

\$1,535 **6th Annual Hound Ears Bouldering Comp** - Hound Ears, NC

\$1,326 **Ouray Ice Festival** - Ouray, CO

\$1,228.50 **San Diego Rocks & Rolls Toward 2000** - Vertical Hold & Dave Kennedy - San Diego, CA

\$1,222 **Adrian and Alan Burgess Slide Show** University of Utah Climbing Club-Salt Lake City, UT

\$1,155 **Climbing Comp** - Stone Works Climbing Gym, Inc - Carrollton, TX

\$1,135 **Midwest Bouldering Tour**

\$1,000 **Month-long Matching Donation Campaign** -Touchtone, Inc., CA

\$990 **2nd Annual Adventure Photography Slide Show** -Dan Bailey- Fort Collins, CO

\$931 **The Roads to Everest** - Jeff Rhoads Slide Show - Peccadillo, ID

\$852 **Fat Crack Fest & Vedauwoo Clean-up** - Laramie, WY

### COMMUNITY PARTNER 1999 AWARDS

Person who gave the most AF benefit slide shows- **Mike Libeck** - 25 shows which raised \$4612 and 139 new members!

Most successful donation jar program-**Praire Walls**

Held the most fundraising events in 1999- **Arizona Mountaineering Club**- 4

Planned the most trail projects- **Ron Felton** of Mokelumne Adventure Co.-5

Most interesting thing at an event- Someone donated \$500 for a rock from Everest during Jeff Rhoads slide show benefit for the Access Fund.

### Meet Regional Coordinator Steve Frye

by Nicholas Browne

Steve Frye is the Wisconsin Regional Coordinator for the Access Fund and also a representative for Wisconsin Outdoor Access (WOA), an all-volunteer organization formed in the spring of 1999 to represent climbers in Wisconsin.

Frye, 43, of Jefferson, Wis., has a unique climbing lifestyle—he works as a long-haul trucker, driving about 120,000 miles per year. Which means that he's always on a road trip, sampling the crags and gyms that lie along his route. For instance, Frye showed up at the Fund's Fall Rendezvous at the New River Gorge with his truck filled with cheese for a delivery. "I figure I've put in nearly 3 million miles over 20 years," Frye says, "and I haven't hurt anything, but I have hit a tree or two along the way."

Frye also has a unique climbing predilection. "I prefer dicey face climbing," he says. "I like it run out and thin. You can usually muscle up a crack climb and place lots of pro, and you can usually work until you get good enough to do hard sport climbs, but on thin faces you're always climbing just on a wing and a prayer!"

Access Fund member Nicholas Browne recently caught up with Frye for the following interview.

**Browne:** Who are the folks that formed the WOA and what are the goals of the WOA?

**Frye:** We are climbers that are interested in protecting our resources and climbing areas. As for our goals, they cover both an education and conservation agenda, while we strive to enhance the climbing experience for everyone in the Midwest. These goals will be achieved through close cooperation with the Wisconsin DNR; through coalition building with other outdoor recreational groups; and through trail projects that can be completed with increased funding from programs like the Friends of Devil's Lake State Park and the Access Fund. In short, we are here to build a cohesive relationship with all parties involved. This effort is not limited to Wisconsin. It will include projects in Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, and Illinois. Even now, the effort to secure the 120-foot sandstone cliffs of Gibraltar, and a plethora of other areas not popularly known, is well under way.

**Browne:** Now that the WDNR has finalized its recommendations for a climbing policy, what is the next area of concern for climbing access in Wisconsin?

**Frye:** At the forefront of our concerns are Wisconsin State Natural

Area designations, and the possibility for blanket closures of those areas without due cause, and at the expense of the outdoor recreational community. Climbing must not be singled out and used as a scapegoat for multiple population impacts and pressures. Fair and workable solutions can be arrived at without eliminating climbing areas.

**Browne:** The WDNR finalized its recommendations for a climbing policy in May, but there was no indication of whether the "sandstone" areas at Devil's Lake would be reopened to climbing. Will the WOA become involved in the process of reopening climbing in the "sandstone" areas?

**Frye:** We have definite plans for involvement in the sandstone areas. This is a key access problem that we face in the State of Wisconsin. Once the statewide master plan for climbing has been established, we will have a reference point from which to begin the recovery of our lost climbing areas.

**Browne:** Gibraltar Rock, Wisconsin's tallest sandstone formation, was closed to climbing in 1996 by Columbia County officials. What are the WOA's plans to work on reopening climbing at Gibraltar Rock?

**Frye:** As Gibraltar Rock falls under the Wisconsin State Natural Area regulations, once again, we have to wait for the WDNR climbing plan. However, we look forward to working with our partners in the environmental, recreational and business communities, along with the State legislative bodies, all of whom have a vested interest in returning Gibraltar to its "Crown Jewel of the Midwest" status.

**Browne:** OK, I'm convinced that I should become involved with the WOA to protect climbing access in Wisconsin. How do I join?

**Frye:** Check out WOA's web site: [www.climbingcentral.com/WOA/WOA.html](http://www.climbingcentral.com/WOA/WOA.html). Please spread the word and join WOA today!



Wisconsin Regional Coordinator Steve Frye: long-haul trucker, thin face aficionado.

- President**  
Michael Kennedy, CO Former Owner and Editor of Climbing
- Vice President**  
Phil Powers, WY Jackson Hole Mt. Guides
- Secretary**  
Becky Hall, CO The Nature Conservancy
- Treasurer**  
Rob Raker, CO Filmmaker
- Board of Directors**  
Conrad Anker, CO-The North Face  
Chris Archer, CO-Attorney  
Mia Axon, WY-The Nature Conservancy  
Jeff Bowman, MA-Malden Mills Industries  
Truly Bracken, GA-Attorney  
Ken Cline, CO-Computer Consultant  
Scott Cosgrove, CA-Mountain Guide  
Russ Clune, NY-Black Diamond Equipment  
Malcolm Daly, CO-Great Trango Holdings  
Paul Diefenderfer, AZ-Phoenix Rock Gym  
Andy Fitz, WA-Asst. Attorney General  
Charlotte Fox, CO-High Altitude Climber  
Mark Kroese, WA-Technology Consultant  
Larry Gustafson, TX-Attorney  
Eric Hobday, TX-Wichita Mts Climbers Coal.  
Goose Kearse, NC-Misty Mt. Threadworks  
Bob Margulis, WA-The Cordada Group, Inc.  
Reese Martin, CO-Sempra Energy  
Chris McNamara, CA-Amer. Safe Climbing Assn.
- Honorary Board Member & Founder**  
Armando Menocal, WY  
Human Rights & Environmental Advocate
- Executive Director**  
Sally Moser . . . . . sally@accessfund.org
- Senior Policy Analyst**  
Sam Davidson . . . . . sam@accessfund.org
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- Climbing comps:** Family YMCA, OKC Rocks, Aaron Gibson, Jerel Cowan, Planet Granite, Kris Hulvey, Stone Age Climbing Gym, Beauchamp Jewelers, Bryan Pletta, Lance Hadfield, Central Sierra Climbers Co. Cam Donnahoo, Karsten Klint, Upper Limits, Pam & Chris Schmick, Jennifer Hawbaker, Texas Rock Gym, Russell Adams, Cleveland Rock Gym, Lindy McCartney, Wendy Atkinson, Boulders Climbing Gym, Sammuell Johnson, ClimbMax!, Rutgers University, Jeff Holt
- Hosting or giving a slide show:** Sierra Mountaineer Reno & Truckee, Vertex Climbing Center, Rocknasiau, California Outfitters, Turtle Mountain Sports, Great Pacific Iron Works, Sport Chalet, Summit Hut, Babbits Backcountry, Great Basin Outdoors, Adventure 16- Solano Beach & Tarzana, Any Mountain- San Francisco, Berkeley, Cupertino, Urban Krag, Karl Williamson, Bobbi Bensman, Brian McCray, John DiCuollo, Summit Hut, Phoenix Rock Gym, UC Santa Cruz, Kittredge Sports
- Festivals, demos, and membership promos:** Vertical Hold, Dave Kennedy, Nomad Ventures, Paisley Close, Climb-A-Rock, Progressive Outdoor, YMCA Prescott, Dief, Dana Caracciolo, Earth Treks, Dusty Wissmath, Scott Heidtman, Arizona Mountaineering Club, Sue Goins, Adventure Rock, Eric Olsen, Barrel Mountaineering, Joel Lee, Chris Naumann,
- Trail projects or clean-ups:** Cedar Bluffs Trail Crew, Eric Ulner, Charles Lenhoff, Lenhoff & Lenhoff, Todd Pierson, Black Hills Climbers Coalition, Shannon Stuart-Smith, John Bronaugh, Entire Shelf Road Trail Crew
- Volunteers:** Russ Dubiel, Fran Allison, Justin Young, Tripp Collins (network genius)
- For just being awesome:** Prairie Walls, Footsloggers, Bob Cenk, R.I.M. Club, Climb High, EMS: Danbury, Monroeville, Pittsburgh, Colorado Mountain Club, Bob Value

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The Access Fund is a national, non-profit 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 and signage, and scientific research on climbers' impact on birds of prey and cliff-dwelling plants.

For more information

**CALL US AT: 303-545-6772**

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## WHY DO YOU CLIMB? ELVIS MAKES ME DO IT, MEMBER SAYS

by Susy Levin, development director

Have you ever attempted to put into words what it feels like to climb, tried to articulate to someone why you do it?

We asked a group of Access Fund members that question recently and learned from one California man that Elvis told him to climb in a dream. Another man assured us that "chicks dig it," while several seemed fixated on groping the heaps of shiny hardware. But more often than not, these climbers cited a combination of the physical and mental challenge, spending time in a natural setting and the unique camaraderie climbing affords.

In September, the Access Fund surveyed a fifth of our membership at random on issues ranging from the Fee Demonstration Program to personal values associated with Wilderness climbing.

We asked questions to help direct programs and identify common threads among climbers about the climbing experience. As a bonus, we received enough text to rival any of Tolstoy's epics. These are the highlights.

Preserving access to climbing areas was overwhelmingly selected as the most valued aspect of the Access Fund's work. Policy work including partnership with land management agencies on climbing management plans was second, followed by conservation projects such as clean-ups, scientific research and climber education on



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