



**KICKING  
ACCESS**  
The Access Fund—Since 1990

# Vertical Times

ACCESS • CONSERVATION • ACTIVISM

MARCH 2000 VOL. 33

## ACCESS FUND NATIONAL TRAILS INITIATIVE COMING SOON TO A CRAG NEAR YOU

This year, the Access Fund will invest \$52,000 in its third annual National Trails Initiative. This program that began in 1998 is one of the most high-profile methods used by the Access Fund to invest critical resources back into the climbing environment.

This year is no exception. All told, 15 climbing areas will undergo improvements this year, with the \$52,000 going to make climbing areas more accessible and sustainable for future generations of climbers!

The Access Fund will be funding trail design and construction projects so that our members and other climbers can get to their favorite crags easily and with less impact. The major benefit derived from this essential work rests in the removal of erosion-prone social trails that scar the landscape and denude vegetation. Another benefit of the National Trails Initiative is the vivid reminder to land managers from local, state and federal lands that climbers care about their environment and that they are willing to invest critical financial resources (that the parks do not have) on trail projects.

Under the leadership of Jim Angell, the Fund's nationally recognized trail designer, the 2000 National Trails Initiative will span the country. Throughout the year, Jim and his tool cache will cross the nation from the state of Washington to Georgia. Volunteers will provide crucial "sweat equity" that will double the value of each



*Looking for some fun, meet some new climbing partners, get a great workout and do something good for climbing access? The Access Fund is looking for volunteer trail builders for spring National Trails Initiative projects at Sinks Canyon, Wyo.; Horsetooth Reservoir, Colo.; Shelf Road, Colo. and more. See page 12 for more details.*

of these projects.

Look for Jim and the Access Fund at the following areas: City of Boulder Mountain Parks, Colo.; Horsetooth Reservoir, Colo.; Shelf Road, Colo.; Castle Rock Ranch, Idaho; Datil/Enchanted Tower, N.M.; Gibraltar Rock, Wisc.; McConnell's Mill State Park, Pa.; Mount Yonah, Ga.; New River Gorge, W.Va.; Summerville Lake, W.Va.; Red River Gorge, Ky.; Sink's Canyon, Wyo.; Beacon Rock State Park, Wash.; and Tieton River, Wash. A complete list of dates and other contact information will be posted on the Access Fund's website at [www.accessfund.org/events/trails.htm](http://www.accessfund.org/events/trails.htm).

• See related article on pg. 12

## IT DOESN'T ALWAYS HAVE TO BE THE ROCK CLIMBERS VERSUS THE INDIANS CLIMBERS AND NATIVE AMERICANS ARE DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY ON THE SIERRA EAST SIDE

by Toni Richards

In remote Bishop, Calif., climbers are reaching out to the Native American community and a unique partnership is being formed. In some parts of the country, there seems to be a climate of distrust between Native American communities and climbers. And much to the chagrin of climbers, access has been restricted in a number of areas, which tend to be locations that are of great significance to Native Americans. These traditions require respect. But this doesn't mean that there isn't room for cooperation between climbers and Native Americans. Here's how we do it in the Owens Valley, home of some world-class climbing areas.

I started concocting a special climbing class for Native American youth when Albert Barlow—Youth Sports Coordinator for the Bishop Paiute Tribe—came to me and asked if there was a way for the kids on our reservation to go rock climbing this summer. I'm the Assistant Tribal Administrator for the Tribe and an occasional climber, and had often wondered why there are so few Indians at our local crags.

I began by calling friends and acquaintances who were professional guides to figure out how much such a class would cost. I ended up at the Bardini Foundation, talking to Tim Villanueva. Tim understood that the Bishop Tribe does not have a lot of extra money for luxuries like climbing classes for their youth. He also understood what an opportunity this was. So when

*Through it all the instructors and volunteers could not stop smiling. Nobody wanted to go home at the end of the day.* I asked him about dollars, he casually remarked "I just assumed I'd be volunteering my time."

I nearly fell over. When I recovered from the shock, we started talking dates. My next call was to James Wilson, owner of Wilson's Eastside Sports, and purveyor of climbing equipment extraordinaire. We discussed climbing shoes for the kids, because the worst climbing shoe being better than the best tennie. James offered the use of his rental shoes. Things were happening.

Then Albert came by my office and said "Wouldn't it be nice if the kids had a T-shirt they could show off to their friends once the class is over?" Which led to more phone calls. One call to Dale Bard at Black Diamond yielded a donation of harnesses and biners. Dale sent me on to John Wason at Patagonia, and bingo! 30 T-shirts were on the way!

The week before the first class, I started lining up additional adult climbers to act as volunteers and help with knot checking, belay watching, and traffic control. Now I had a half dozen organizations and at least that many individual climbers who were committed to the project. I just hoped that the kids would show up.

The first class was "ground school" consisting of rope handling, knots, and safety and was held at the Tribal gymnasium. A dozen eager 8- to 12-year-olds listened with rapt attention as Tim Villanueva and Don Lauria explained the principles of climbing, tying Swiss seat harnesses, and belaying.



The next day, we met at 9:00 a.m. to go up to Iris slab. The youngsters quickly jumped into their harness and showed remarkable facility in tying the complicated set-up. Initially, they were frightened to be up on the rock, and some ascended only five or six feet before wanting to be lowered. A couple of intrepid models climbed all 80 feet to the top of the crag

and were looking for more. At the end of the day, we had a hard time persuading them to leave.

The second day was even better. The kids raced up to the crag and eagerly grabbed the webbing to tie their harnesses. They challenged each other to see who would climb first. Nearly all made it to the top. Eight-year olds belayed nine-year olds, backed up by ten- and eleven-year olds. They held falls and lowered each other. Through it all the instructors and volunteers couldn't stop smiling. Nobody wanted to go home at the end of the second day. We finally handed out t-shirts in the parking lot.

The older kids ages 13 to 18 took the class the second week. They learned quickly and ran up and down the rock. Politeness and enthusiasm prevailed throughout the experi-



• Continued on pg. 6

### SENECA FALLS, ARIZ.

After being closed for a variety of reasons for the past three years, Seneca Falls has reopened to climbing. Seneca Falls lies on land owned by Native Americans and was originally envisioned as a fee-based recreation area for climber, bikers and paddlers, with the tribe hiring area climber to establish bolted routes there. Since Seneca Falls' reopening, paying entry fees and securing use permits has become much easier—climber can now do this at the convenience store on the way in to the park, instead of having to drive out of their way as in the past.

### JAILHOUSE ROCK, CALIF.

Jailhouse Rock is a steep sport climbing crag in the foothills of California's Tuolumne County, roughly one hour west of Yosemite. The volcanic cliff offers superlative stamina climbing in the 5.12+ to 5.14 range, and continues to be regularly visited by climber from across the country and around the world.

The Access Fund has worked to protect climber access to the cliff since the early '90s. The cliff had been owned by a family of local ranchers, but a real-estate developer attempted to subdivide 1,400 acres of the property in the mid-90s. The developer had offered climber permanent access to the cliff as part of his development. Unfortunately, the access easement never materialized, as the developer failed to attract purchasers and ultimately went bankrupt.

Roughly a year ago, a 1,200-acre parcel including the cliff, the mile-long approach, and the parking area were purchased by a businessman moving to the area from Seattle. He has begun construction of a home on

the property, and has retained local counsel to represent his interests in his interactions with the county, state, and federal government. The Access Fund has had limited interaction with his attorney, and has offered our services and resources to both the attorney and her client. At this point, it is not clear what position the owner will take on the climbing occurring on his property.

Thus, climber access to Jailhouse is more tenuous than it had previously been. The Access Fund asks that all visitors act responsibly and maintain a low profile. You can help preserve access to this special crag by:

- Never camping in the area, including in or near the parking area.
- Never lighting fires on the property (a wildfire this past summer started away from the cliff by non-climber burned a significant acreage and had substantial costs).
- Keeping the area spotless and packing out any litter you see.
- Parking only by the bridge over the reservoir (either side is acceptable, although some cars have been vandalized while parked on the cliff side).
- Not disturbing the cattle, and keeping dogs leashed while hiking to the cliff (most of the land continues to be leased to ranchers).
- Not leaving human waste near the cliff or in the talus, and packing out your toilet paper.
- Not publicizing the climbing, either with guidebooks, topos, or magazine photos and stories.

If you have questions about the status of access and negotiations, contact Tom Addison by calling 510.559.9666 or writing 727 Colusa Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530.

### BRIDAL VEIL FALLS, COLO.

The Idarado Mining Company has proposed a development for the area in the box canyon below Bridal Veil



An affordable-housing development is being considered for the box canyon below Telluride's Bridal Veil Falls.

Falls near Telluride. For the most part, the proposed development seems well thought out, providing affordable housing that blends in with the environment while maintaining access trails to the high country and Marshall Basin.

Access Fund Regional Coordinator Steve Johnson and Telluride Mountain Club President Josh Borof have seized upon the development plan as a chance to resolve several access issues around the base of Bridal Veil. For ice climbers, these issues include making the existing recreation easement permanent, opening access to the ice flows left of the main falls by installing a mandatory rappel descent below the power plant, and creating an access trail to the ice routes like Acid Bath south of the tailing ponds.

Rock climbing has also recently emerged as a summer use of Bridal Veil's box canyon. Local climbers see the Idarado proposal as a possible means to secure permanent access easements to the Falls Wall and Seal Wall areas on the south side of the box canyon, to the Ajax cliffs on the north side and to the Mine Boulder near the county road.

For more information, contact Steve Johnson at 970.728.4300.



Ken Cline

The Mega Traverse at Horsetooth's Tropics has been buried, at least for the time being.

**HORSETOOTH RESERVOIR, COLO.—TROUBLE AT THE TROPICS**

The four dams that form Northern Colorado's Horsetooth Reservoir are undergoing study in preparation for major modernization work. For climbers, this means temporary closures and other forms of inconvenience while crews operating big drill rigs do their work. The biggest impact so far has been the surprise placement of fill dirt that effectively buried the Mega Traverse at the Tropics, which lies on the side of Soldier Canyon Dam, during construction of an access road for heavy equipment. Unfortunately, we don't yet know whether the area will be permanently altered by the renovation.

The good news is that local climbers including Access Fund board member Ken Cline and the Fort Collins Climbers Coalition (FCCC) have established a constructive dialogue with the Bureau of Reclamation and the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District. We have explained climber's interests, given tours to agency representatives, and expressed our desire to support a climber friendly management plan. Because of the good will we have conveyed, drilling at Soldier Canyon Dam is currently being expedited and plans have been made to dig out the Mega Traverse as soon as this is completed in early March.

Thanks to all the climbers who attended meetings and submitted

written comments. Be prepared for some inconvenience at all Horsetooth areas during the renovation, and let's hope we don't have to fight for the Tropics.

To comment on the work at Horsetooth, contact Kara Lamb, public information coordinator for the Bureau of Reclamation at 970.667.4410; or Brian Warner at the Water Conservancy District at 970.667.2437. For more information about the Horsetooth work's impact on climbing access, call Ken Cline at 970.407.9776.

**ILLINOIS**

Eric Ulner, the Access Fund's Southern Illinois regional coordinator, and Steve Frye, the Fund's Wisconsin RC and Wisconsin Outdoor Access spokesperson, are organizing a new Illinois climbers association to promote and protect the interests of Illinois climbers. The first organizational meeting took place Saturday, Feb. 26.

The group will be named the Illinois Climbers' Association. The Association has a strong Illinois focus and will have some overlap for the Wild Iowa and Palisades areas. For more information, call Ulner at 618.995.1427.

**RED RIVER GORGE MOU SIGNING CEREMONY**

On Feb. 7, 2000, the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition (RRGCC) and the US Forest Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding during a brief, but historic ceremony attended by over 25 climbers. Before a TV news crew and an enthusiastic crowd, Ben Worthington, Forest Supervisor, and Shannon Stuart-Smith, executive director of the RRGCC and Access Fund regional coordinator, signed the agreement culminating nearly four years of negotiations. The signing ceremony was held in the headquarters of the Daniel Boone National Forest in Winchester, Ky. and jointly sponsored

by the Forest Service and the RRGCC.

A Memorandum of Understanding, or MOU, is a contract-like document that creates an official alliance with the Forest Service and provides a formal agreement to work towards common goals. Local climbers from as far away as Columbus, Ohio, made the drive to attend. RRGCC co-founder Kris Snyder made special arrangements to attend the MOU signing ceremony while visiting from Alaska.

The signing of this MOU represents a significant breakthrough for Red River Gorge climbers and the Forest Service after years of skepticism, mistrust, and alienation. Originally, the Stanton Ranger District that manages the Red River Gorge had offered their MOU version to the local climbing community as part of a rock climbing management guide in January, 1996. Soundly rejected by the local climbing community for its overemphasis on fixed anchor placement and non-existent climber input, the Forest Service's MOU version was never signed.

After the formation of the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition a year later, climbers drafted a version of their own based in large part on the Rumney Climbers Association's MOU. The RRGCC version emphasized climber involvement while still recognizing the Forest Service's authority. Climbers were willing to accept responsibility for their climbing, but in exchange wanted a more equitable relationship with the Forest Service and a greater say in the management of climbing. The key provision was that climbers shall, "assist the Forest Service in drafting, review, and approval of a rock climbing management plan." With the signing of this MOU the Forest Service and climbers had not only pledged themselves to work together, but finally to manage climbing together in their respective roles as climbers and land managers.

Thus, the signing of this MOU

actually helps repair a nasty rift opened years ago and provides the mechanism to overcome some serious differences that have lingered. With this document now in place, climbers will be involved with every step of the process of producing a comprehensive climbing management plan that will govern the entire Daniel Boone National Forest some day.

**NEW JERSEY**

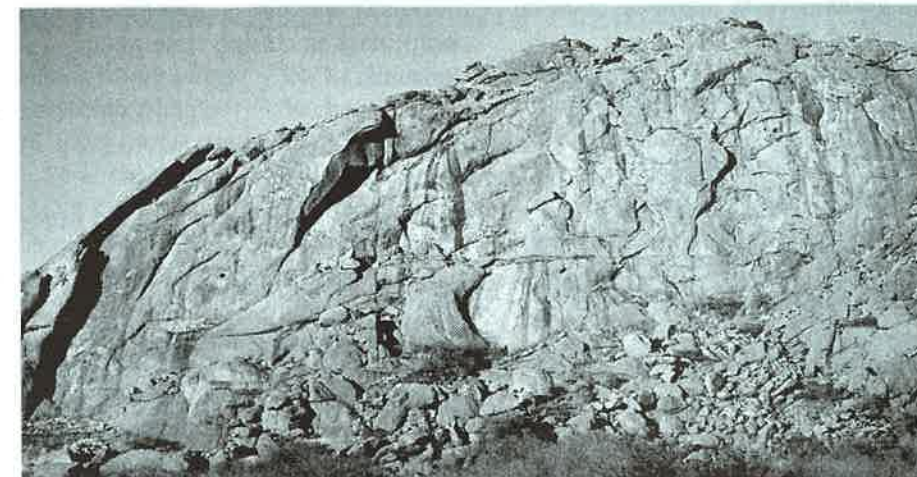
Paul Nick, the New Jersey Guidebook author, has taken the initiative to solicit interest in developing a New Jersey Climbers Coalition (NJCC). Several active NJ climbers foresee a number of potential access situations developing in the not too distant future that will require a cohesive and organized response. It's expected that the coalition will work in conjunction with Access Fund to deal with pending and future access issues.

The NJCC will be primarily internet based. If there is enough interest, Nick would like to launch the group's Web site in Mid-2000. Those interested should e-mail Nick at pnick2000@earthlink.net. In the e-mail, include your full name, address, number of years climbing and the area(s) in New Jersey of most interest/concern.

**MOUNT BALDY, OKLA.**

The Access Fund has entered into negotiations to purchase Mount Baldy, a 300-foot granite dome located near Quartz Mountain State Park in Oklahoma's Wichita Mountains.

Baldy's south face offers arguably the most extensive collection of high-quality, granite slabbin' between the Mississippi River and the Rockies. Abundant classics—like S-Wall (5.9) and Last of the Good Guys (5.10a)—provide some of the finest face climbing in the region. Well-known climber and Outside Magazine contributor Doug Robinson has referred to Baldy Point as the "Tuolumne of the



The Access Fund has entered into negotiations to purchase Mount Baldy, Oklahoma, one of the Midwest's premier climbing resources.

Midwest," a flattering compliment to Baldy's outstanding friction climbing and high quality stone.

Under the Access Fund's proposal to purchase Mount Baldy, the property and a trailhead parcel would be acquired for the purpose of conveyance to the State of Oklahoma, and then integrated as part of nearby Quartz Mountain State Park. The managing agency of the state park has already reviewed this opportunity and agreed to accept long-term ownership and management responsibilities should the Access Fund's acquisition efforts succeed.

The Fund's proposal targets the long-term protection and preservation of one of the most important climbing resources in the Midwest. Of the many tangible and measurable benefits that would result from the acquisition of Baldy Point, two distinct aspects exemplify the importance of this opportunity. First, acquisition would provide immediate protection of the area from the threat of closure or potential development due to the probable sale of the property by the current private landowner. Second, our acquisition would facilitate a subsequent transfer of ownership to an agency that will ensure the area remains open to the public, while pro-

viding for long-term preservation, stewardship, and management of this area's spectacular climbing resources.

For more information, see the Wichita Mountains Web site at [www.wichitamountains.org](http://www.wichitamountains.org), or contact Regional Coordinator Marion Hutchison at 405.364.9390 or [mariohutch@aol.com](mailto:mariohutch@aol.com).

**CONTINENTAL II RANCH, TEXAS**

Texas limestone aficionados are getting excited about the March 11 opening of Continental Ranch, an area just west of the existing Pecos River climbing. This developing climbing area covers 17 miles of canyons on the beautiful lower Pecos River, and contains the same high quality limestone found on nearby, established crags. The opening of Continental II Ranch is significant because it provides the potential for a brand new climbing area with extensive rock resources.

Currently the area is in its infancy and contains about four or five dozen routes. While Continental II Ranch is now open under an interim agreement with the private land owner, the Access Fund will be working with the Central Texas Mountaineers and other local climbers to establish a long-term access arrangement. Given the interim nature of access at present, climbers

are encouraged to minimize impacts and climb responsibly.

Continental II Ranch's setting resembles a desert oasis with the emerald-green Pecos River at the base of the climbing walls. The daily entry fee of \$15 (about the same amount charged for entry and camping at any Texas state park) will cover both climbing and camping.

**REIMERS RANCH, TEXAS**

Austin area climbers are reminded that Reimers Ranch closes when it gets dark—not at 7 or 8 p.m. Owner Mrs. Reimer recently had an episode where climbers tried to leave after the gate was locked. The climbers had to drive back to the house and notify Mrs. Reimer that they couldn't get out. Mrs. Reimer had to get out of bed at 9 p.m. to let them

out—she was not happy! Pass the word: dark is closing time at Reimers.

**NEW RIVER GORGE, W.VA.**

The New River Alliance of Climbers is a currently forming organization with the mission of preserving and promoting climber access and conserving climbing resources in the New River Gorge and surrounding area. The annual New River Climber Rendezvous scheduled for the weekend of April 22-23 will be used as the official kickoff for the Alliance.

Volunteers are needed for the following committees :

- Fixed anchors—to ensure the safe placement and maintenance of fixed anchors.

- Trails—to maintain and build trails that mitigate impacts.

- Advocacy—to advocate roclimbers' positions to governmental authorities and the local community.

- Outreach—to disseminate local climbing news to users and acquire funding to support the entire organization.

For more information about the Alliance, e-mail Dan Hague at danhague@erols.com



**Spray cont. from pg.2**

ence, never mind lots of good climbing! Our two lead guides started talking about an advanced class next year.

As I write this a week has passed since the classes ended. Kids stop me in the grocery store and introduce me to their parents. Other local business people have mentioned that they had heard about our success. The newspaper published an article on their front page. Tribal members have visited bouldering areas and have politely asked about chalk. The dialog between Native Americans and climbers has opened a little here, at least for the present.

So what does this mean for access? It's hard to say, but even this one class can increase understanding between our groups. To the Bishop Paiute, every rock has meaning. A rock can mark the place where someone's grandmother or aunt gathered pine nuts or wild grasses. Native Americans feel a strong sense of stewardship toward the land. They love and enjoy the outdoors, though their approach may be far different from that of climbers. The climber may see the land as a place to recreate and value it equally. Both appreciate the natural world, but from different perspectives.

This shared love for the outdoors can lead to a natural partnership between the two groups. However, there is ample room for conflict when climbers view a rock as

something to climb on and Native Americans view it as a sacred place. World views collide and Native Americans may regard climbers as ruthless exploiters of the land while climbers may see the Native American as an obstacle on the way to a first ascent. It doesn't have to be this way

As recent experience in Malibu Creek State Park shows [Spray, vol. 32], the Native American perspective can enhance climber experience on and around the rock. I know that classes like the one in Bishop can foster understanding. Tribes often have very limited resources for their youth sports activities, and kids are always looking for new and exciting experiences. In any case, its a great opportunity to have a heck of a lot of fun on a sunny day in an enchanting setting. The key is to respect each other's perspectives. My personal belief is that both the climber and the kids were enriched by the experience and had a good time to boot.

Toni Richards  
assistant administrator  
Bishop Paiute Tribe

*The views expressed in Spray are not necessarily those of the Access Fund.*

Meet the Access Fund

WE'RE HERE TO KEEP YOU CLIMBING

**A LETTER TO MEMBERS FROM ACCESS FUND VICE PRESIDENT PHIL POWERS**

*Editor's note: Phil Powers has been climbing since the 1970s on everything from 8,000-meter peaks to hard sport routes near his home in Lander, Wyo. He is the author of Wilderness Mountaineering and is a director at Jackson Hole Mountain Guides and Mammoth Mountaineering School.*



The Access Fund, much like the sport it protects, typically focuses on the problems immediately before us. As with the master boulderer, possessing such focus allows us to direct our energies fully at such problems, and we often succeed.

I place great faith in the current staff and board of directors at the Access Fund. They are hard-working and concerned. More importantly, our board is constantly becoming more representative of American climbing and climbers. The board contains members ranging from full-time sport and traditional climbers, to active mountaineers, to leading big-wall experts. The board also contains part-time climbers and "lifers" like me—folks who will be climbing, one way or another, until their dying day.

Philosophically, the board is also diverse. We run the spectrum from those who aggressively battle against any person or group that would harbor the slightest inclination to close a climbing area, to others who tend to dislike conflict and hope for solutions borne of long compromise and education. The Access Fund has succeeded with both tactics, and failed by both as well. I hope that in the future we can consistently find the middle ground between these extremes. As the Fund consistently provides solutions to access problems, we will be invited to the table earlier, and gain a greater influence over the policies that affect us all.

It is clear that the problems we will face in the future will become more complex; more like giant alpine faces than the boulder problems we've confronted in the past. These future challenges include the increased crowding of Wilderness lands, front-country crags and National Park summits. Land managers, faced with strong preservationist mandates and ever-decreasing budgets, will have an increasingly difficult time finding and reaching compromises with climbers.

With these challenges in mind, what attitude can we adopt, what strategy can we employ over the long haul that will cause us to be integral to the thinking behind land-management policy in the future? Perhaps we will find ourselves advocates for access not specifically limit-

ed to climbing; backcountry skiing, for example, seems to need the kind of advocacy the Fund can provide.

But we must become larger and smarter. We must grow our membership. To me, larger means continuing with a lean and efficient staff in the main office while significantly increasing the numbers and effectiveness of smaller organizations and individuals around the country. The Access Fund, larger and more well-funded, would become a greater source of financial and strategic support to those who bring their energy to bear on the local issues about which they have the most passion.

As we increase our successful participation in the development of policies that apply to climbing, we may also be able to gain influence in a broader definition of access. The day must come when the Access Fund plays a fuller role in climbing access issues and is as strong in defending more obscure climbing destinations as we currently are in defending crags.

To contact Phil Powers, e-mail him directly at phil@jhmg.com.

**Www.webmaster Www.wanted!**

Are you the kind of web-savvy, caffeine addicted, code-writing digital superman/woman we're looking for? If so, give Sally Moser a call here at the Access Fund at 888.863.6237

**HUECO TANKS: MORE CLOSURES POSSIBLE; CLIMBER ADVOCACY STRONG**

by Sam Davidson

Late last year the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) released its review of the year-old Public Use Plan for Hueco Tanks. This assessment concluded that the present management strategy—making the park into an “outdoor museum”—was basically successful but could use some adjustments.

TPWD claims that the present policy—mandatory reservations to enter the park, access to areas other than North Mountain by guided tour only—is working to protect rock art, prevent erosion, and stop graffiti. Visitation to Hueco has declined by nearly 70 percent since the management plan was adopted.

TPWD's proposed adjustments to the Hueco plan include closing the popular Dragon's Den area, eliminating all camping from the park, and levying a \$4 “reservation fee” to discourage visitors from making reservations, then failing to show up.

TPWD accepted feedback from the public on its proposed changes to the Public Use Plan, but only after climbers reminded the agency that it had promised to do so a year earlier. The Access Fund, El Paso Climbers Club, and other Texas climbing groups submitted comments.

The Access Fund argued forcefully for a complete overhaul of the climbing management strategy. We offered to pay for or subsidize training and support of seasonal climbing tour guides and volunteer rangers, trail improvements, and additional archeo-

logical surveys.

In January, Sam Davidson, Access Fund senior policy analyst, met local activists Jeff Drucker and Mike Lewis in El Paso for a short-notice meeting with TPWD officials and members of the Sunset Advisory Commission, a body charged with doing performance evaluations of state agencies (TPWD is going through a “Sunset Review” now). Our presence kept TPWD honest, and the Sunset Commission was concerned to learn about the proposed ban on camping.

Furthermore, there has been an important change in park personnel: Butch Farabee, former superintendent of Glacier National Park, is now interim park manager. The Access Fund has worked with Farabee before and hopes his appointment is a sign that TPWD is ready to get serious about managing Hueco Tanks for both its archeological and climbing values.

The Access Fund also learned that all of the effort we've put into improving the access picture at Hueco has had some effect. The State Parks Commission has been leaning on TPWD staff to work out something at Hueco which is acceptable to climbers.

The Access Fund joined local climbers in responding to the latest development at Hueco: an alternative management plan for the park developed by the Tigua Tribe. Native Americans are also dismayed at the Public Use Plan, which inhibits visits to sacred sites and free practice of their religion. The Tigua plan reflects the ongoing dialogue between climbers and Native Americans at Hueco.

The Access Fund continues to examine the internal records of TPWD to determine if the preparation of



Access Fund Regional Coordinator Dave Turner pulling down at Hueco before the restrictions.

the Public Use Plan followed proper procedure. If the agency did not, it may be necessary to respond with a legal challenge.

**BABOQUIVARI PEAK, ARIZONA**

The Bureau of Land Management is currently holding public hearings on the preparation of a Wilderness Management Plan for the Baboquivari and Coyote Domes Wilderness areas in Southern Arizona.

Baboquivari offers excellent hiking, free climbing, and the only big wall climbing in Arizona, and its first technical route was established in 1957. The Coyote Domes Wilderness contains the excellent backcountry climbing of areas such as Mendoza Canyon and the Elephant's Trunk.

The first two Wilderness Plan meetings revealed that the Tohono O'odham Nation wants as much control over these lands as possible, particularly over what they consider religious, cultural or archaeological sites or features.

**Policy Update Continued...**

Others in attendance wanted the government to retain control over the area and access to it, and wanted to continue to practice traditional recre-

We are pleased to report that the President's new budget for 2001 does raise funding for recreation. However, we must fight to keep

**MANAGEMENT PLANS OUT**

The National Park Service is preparing new general management plans for two major climbing areas: Zion National Park in Utah and Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. The Access Fund has been working with the Park Service at both of these areas and will actively contribute to these planning efforts.



According to the new management plan for Zion, most climbs would require a permit.

At Zion, a proposal would designate management zones throughout the park. Most climbing would occur in the “Pristine Zone.” The park proposes to reduce group encounters in this zone, and to require a permit for climbing. For more information, contact Darla Sidles, planning coordinator, at 435.772.0211.

At Devils Tower, the Park Service currently is accepting public comment on three “possible alternative concepts.” One would emphasize resource protection and reducing visitor congestion through possible reservations required to enter the park, and use permits for “certain activities.” Another alternative would emphasize visitor services (possible reservations and/or a shuttle system); the third would generally maintain current conditions. Impacts of climbers” is one issue to be addressed. Contact Devils Tower at 07.467.5283, ext. 12 or e-mail [eto\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:eto_planning@nps.gov).

**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

**NICKIN' ACCESS**  
 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](http://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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_

**HUECO TANKS: MORE CLOSURES POSSIBLE; CLIMBER ADVOCACY STRONG**

by Sam Davidson

Late last year the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) released its review of the year-old Public Use Plan for Hueco Tanks. This assessment concluded that the present management strategy—making the park into an “outdoor museum”—was basically successful but could use some adjustments.

TPWD claims that the present policy—mandatory reservations to enter the park, access to areas other than North Mountain by guided tour only—is working to protect rock art, prevent erosion, and stop graffiti. Visitation to Hueco has declined by nearly 70 percent since the management plan was adopted.

TPWD’s proposed adjustments to the Hueco plan include closing the popular Dragon’s Den area, eliminating all camping from the park, and levying a \$4 “reservation fee” to discourage visitors from making reservations, then failing to show up.

TPWD accepted feedback from the public on its proposed changes to the Public Use Plan, but only after climbers reminded the agency that it had promised to do so a year earlier. The Access Fund, El Paso Climbers Club, and other Texas climbing groups submitted comments.

The Access Fund argued forcefully for a complete overhaul of the climbing management strategy. We offered to pay for or subsidize training and support of seasonal climbing tour guides and volunteer rangers, trail improvements, and additional archeo-



For those u  
is a nation  
access, the  
of the clim

The thous  
businesses  
appreciat  
and form  
our climb

www



**Policy Update Continued...**

Others in attendance wanted the government to retain control over the area and access to it, and wanted to continue to practice traditional recreational activities. Most people agreed that the beliefs and religion of the Tohono O’odham should be recognized and respected within the framework of the Wilderness Plan.

The Access Fund will continue to work closely with local climbers to make sure climbing access is not compromised at these fine areas. Climbers are urged to contact Catie Fenn at the BLM Tucson Field Office at 520.722.4289 or e-mail [Catie\\_Fenn@BLM.gov](mailto:Catie_Fenn@BLM.gov). Tell Ms. Fenn you support a cooperative management strategy for Baboquivari and the Coyote Domes Wilderness areas, similar to that in place at Devils Tower National Monument, and that climbing and other existing recreational activities should be specifically allowed under the new management plan.

[Wayne Schroeter of the Arizona Mountaineering Club contributed to this article.]

**RECREATION FUNDING**

Consistent with our opposition to use fees and their role in supplementing or replacing public land management agency budgets, the Access Fund has committed to working with Congress and others in the outdoor recreation industry to boost annual funding for recreation and resource management on federal lands.

Last fall the Access Fund met with federal land managers to identify recreation funding needs. Afterwards, we co-signed a letter with the Outdoor Recreation Coalition of America, the American Hiking Society, and other groups to the Office of Management and Budget which proposed specific increases in land management agency budget line items for FY 2001.

We are pleased to report that the President’s new budget for 2001 does raise funding for recreation. However, we must fight to keep these increases in the final budget agreement with Congress.

In addition, when Congress approved the 2000 budget last December, it authorized a big increase in funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which can be used for land acquisition and resource protection. (LWCF money may help the Access Fund complete our Castle Rock Ranch, Idaho) deal, for example.) We are also supporting a bill which has now passed the House Resources Committee which would provide permanent funding for LWCF.

The debate continues over the role of use fees in funding for public lands administration. Congress will vote later this spring or this summer on whether to make the Fee Demonstration test program a permanent funding source.

The AF continues to work to stop “Fee Demo” and ensure that fees for access to public lands are minimized and distinguished from fees for facilities and services (i.e. campgrounds), which we have not opposed.

**TAKE ACTION!**

It is a crucial time for this issue, and timely action by climbers is needed. All Access Fund members are encouraged to write their congressperson and senators, asking them to vote NO on making use fees a permanent funding mechanism and to vote YES on raising land agency budgets for recreation and resource protection. Go to the government Web site <http://thomas.loc.gov/> for the names, addresses and phone numbers of your Congressional delegation, or contact Sam Davidson, senior policy analyst, at 831-770-1523 or [sam@accessfund.org](mailto:sam@accessfund.org) for assistance.

**MANAGEMENT PLANS OUT**

The National Park Service is preparing new general management plans for two major climbing areas: Zion National Park in Utah and Devils Tower National Monument in Wyoming. The Access Fund has been working with the Park Service at both of these areas and will actively contribute to these planning efforts.



According to the new management plan for Zion, most climbs would require a permit.

At Zion, a proposal would designate management zones throughout the park. Most climbing would occur in the “Pristine Zone.” The park proposes to reduce group encounters in this zone, and to require a permit for climbing. For more information, contact Darla Sidles, planning coordinator, at 435.772.0211.

At Devils Tower, the Park Service currently is accepting public comment on three “possible alternative concepts.” One would emphasize resource protection and reducing visitor congestion through possible reservations required to enter the park, and use permits for “certain activities.” Another alternative would emphasize visitor services (possible reservations and/or a shuttle system); the third would generally maintain current conditions. “Impacts of climbers” is one issue to be addressed. Contact Devils Tower at 307.467.5283, ext. 12 or e-mail [deto\\_planning@nps.gov](mailto:deto_planning@nps.gov).

### EVERYTHING YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT CLIMBING RESEARCH— BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK

by Kath Pyke

The Access Fund and North Carolina State University (NCSU) have joined together to create a publication that for the first time pulls together all studies, research, reports, and articles on climber effects on natural resources. *Climbing and Natural Resources Management* contains more than 150 citations of published, unpublished or internal agency documents and popular articles. The publication is designed to serve anyone carrying out literature searches, and assist resource professionals and researchers with additional information sources in their development of research methods and management approaches.

Copies will be available from the Access Fund after publication in March 2000. There will be no charge to those in education and land management roles, but additional copies will cost \$10 including postage.

*Climbing and Natural Resources Management* will give instructions on how to obtain hard-to-get documents, and lists items that are not identified through conventional literature searches. The project was carried out during 1999 by Kath Pyke (Access Fund) and Aram Attarian (NCSU).

For more information, e-mail [kath@accessfund.org](mailto:kath@accessfund.org) or call 303.545.6772 ext.104.

### 1999 CONSERVATION REPORT

Besides the common love climbers share for our natural environment, the Access Fund employs a full-time staff biologist and operates an extensive conservation program for a very simple reason: preserving the climbing environment today is the key to access tomorrow.

Here are the highlights of what

the Fund's conservation program accomplished last year:

1-Revised and updated Access Fund database listing more than 90 raptor-based climbing restrictions nationwide; published this information in newsletter and on Web site.

2-Created annotated bibliography with North Carolina State University on research studies about climbing and environmental impacts as a resource for professionals.

3-Made presentations at Congress '99 Carrying Capacity Conference at Aspen, Colo. on climber and natural resource interactions and management.

4-Provided comments to guidebook authors requesting access and conservation information.

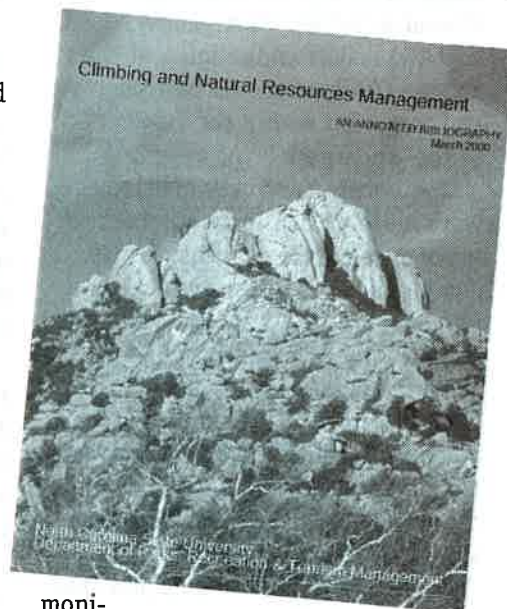
5-Provided responses to academic debate on climbers' effects on natural resources to the science journals *Science*, *Nature*, *Bioscience* and *American Science*, as well as to *Climbing* magazine.

6-Submitted comments on how the removal of the peregrine falcon from the Endangered Species List might affect raptor restrictions on climbing access.

7-Cochise Stronghold, Ariz.—Facilitated Forest Service and Southern Arizona Climbers Coalition efforts to better monitor peregrine falcons. As a result, raptor restrictions were lifted early at Cochise Dome, Lower Squaretop, Squaretop and Waterfall Dome.

8-Joshua Tree, Calif.—Partnered with Park Service and California Native Plant society to fund study on climbing impacts on desert vegetation. A major goal of the study is to develop a trails network to protect desert vegetation from trampling.

9-Sierra East Side, Calif.—Worked with CRAG, the local climbers group, and BLM at Happy Boulders on raptor



monitoring and resource protection efforts.

10-Boulder Canyon, Colo.—Provided grant funding for signs with information on raptor restrictions in cooperation with Colorado Division of Wildlife.

11-Boise, Idaho—Assisted Boise Climbers Alliance with the production of a guidance document on climbing and cliff nesting raptors for the Black Cliffs.

12-Shaman Cave, Nev.—Worked with US Fish and Wildlife Service to analyze wildlife issues at Shaman Cave and to get agreement on climbing access at other nearby crags.

13-Spring Mountains, Nev.—Provided a \$10,000 grant for interpretive signs and brochures to protect environment at Trail Canyon, Fletcher Canyon and Robbers Roost.

14-Linville Gorge, N.C.—Worked with Carolina Climbers Coalition to support a visitor use study to gather data on climber visitation.

15-Cumberland Plateau, Tenn.—Provided partial funding for study to provide base-line information on climbing impacts to cliff-edge soils.

### COUNTERSPRAY: REMOVABLE BOLTS MAY BE THE ANSWER

I am surprised and concerned to read Mr. Hutchison's negative view of the hole-wedge/cam concept [Spray, Vol. 31]. I'm extrapolating here, but I think Marion made his comments because a lot of people must have waved this new device under his nose and claimed "Our problems are solved!"

That could get a little old, considering that not only the device, but the concept, too, are not perfect. But let's face it—half of pioneering new things is expanding on existing ideas and running with that until someone figures out something better. Hemp rope is far from perfect for modern climbing standards, but when it was developed it was the best tool available. What I'm leading to is the fact that while the hole-wedge/cam products on the market now, such as the Climb Tech Removable Bolts and the Nick O' Times, are not THE answer, with some tweaking they could be another answer to our very moral, political and old fixed anchor debate. Why put RBs down? These devices work and are a notch cleaner than the other options we have.

When I first saw a prototype hole-wedge, I toyed with it and daydreamed about the possibilities and options it might bring. Two years later, Removable Bolts (RBs) were produced and I got my chance to try them out on a new line at Mount Charleston, Nev., an alpine limestone area. We started off with two good pitches, but the pitches above turned out to be loose. In the 370+ feet we did establish, we used cams, nuts and 12 small holes for RBs. We did use bolts for the belay/rap stations, but our experience soon led us to agree that RBs could have been used for the anchors, too.

I don't believe Marion Hutchison has actually seen a real manufactured slot for a nut placement, but I have. Why the negative and ridiculous comparison between such slots and RB holes? A manufactured nut slot is typically about half to three-quarters of an inch wide by two inches tall. These slots leave scars that are ridiculous compared even to the visual impact of a bolt and hanger.

An RB hole is five-sixteenths to a half-inch wide by one-and-quarter-inches deep. Also, for those of you inexperienced with drilling or bolting, a bolt hole is drilled perpendicular to the immediate surface so the hanger lays flat. These holes can collect water and with time can corrode metal.

An RB requires a down-angled placement hole that doesn't collect anything except spider webs. Yes, one still must make a hole and the holes are harder to see than a hanger, but this is a good way to do away with unsightly

fixed anchors.

Where RBs will best serve is up for grabs. I think they will best be used for backcountry/alpine trad climbing. But by far this device, its concept and all the people involved get my applause for trying—and in this case succeeding—in making changes for the better or at least giving us options.

David Tidwell

Mammoth Lakes, Calif.

### COUNTERSPRAY: NOT ALL AID ROUTES CAN BE SUSTAINABLE

Chris McNamara's March 1999 Spray article's opening statement ("The day of the Yosemite big wall nailup is dead") makes a good point: the era of the traditional Yosemite big wall is fading. Hopefully no one will disagree with his belief that routes should be climbed hammerless when possible. However, the article's conclusions about what constitutes a good or bad first ascent advocates a retreat from greatness rather than a positive step forward in climbing ethics.

What is a good big wall first ascent? To McNamara, it is a sustainable route, one that requires little rock destruction on first and subsequent ascents (for example, long camming cracks connected, if necessary, by short ladders of beefy bolts.) Such a definition is comfortable if your specialty is breaking big wall speed records rather than pushing the limits of hard aid. Unfortunately, the inescapable ramification of this notion is that there shouldn't be a grade VI wall on El Capitan! Why? Because there is no El Cap route that, when first done, was anything close to being sustainable.

The reason that Yosemite's great hard-man walls like Pacific Ocean Wall are going hammerless is not because of ingenuity and modern aid racks; it's because these routes have been fixed to the point that the original experience, commitment, and greatness are gone. Contrary to the opinion of some, it is a sad day when such a route sprouts so many fixed heads and pins that it goes hammerless, because this marks the route's final passage from its origins as a classic test piece to the graveyard of just another casual clip up.

The point is that nearly all hard aid big walls, such as those of El Capitan, cannot be put up as sustainable routes. The notion that "sustainability" should be the criterion for judging the quality of a new route is misguided. Our focus should be on preserving all types of climbing—including hard, technical aid so that future generations can choose from the same set of climbing experiences available to us.

• Continued on pg. 14

## NATIONAL TRAILS INITIATIVE REPORT CARD

### SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS 1990-1999

<b>Total length of trails designed and/or built</b>	<b>80,400 lineal feet (15+ miles)</b>
<b>Total value of trail work and kiosks</b>	<b>\$361,670</b>
<b>Volunteer hours that supported this work</b>	<b>23,500 hours</b>
<b>Number of climbing areas where we've worked</b>	<b>35</b>

### YEARLY ANALYSIS

Year	Project Locations	Trail built/restored	Value
1990	Joshua Tree, Calif.	2,000 lineal feet	\$3,000
1991	City of Rocks, Idaho; Peshastin Pinnacles, Wash., Dinosaur Mt., Colo.	10,500 lineal feet	\$50,250
1992	Yosemite, Calif.; Mississippi Palisades, Ill.	2,300 lineal feet	\$6,125
1993	Eldorado Canyon State Park, Colo., Unaweep Canyon, Colo.; Castle Rock Canyon, Wash.	7,000 lineal feet	\$31,500
1994	City of Rocks, Idaho; Ragged3d Mt., Conn.	1,800 lineal feet	\$8,200
1995	Seneca Rocks, W. Va.; Sunset Rocks, Tenn.; New River Gorge, W. Va.; Little Si, Wash.	2,500 lineal feet	\$22,525
1996	Golden Cliffs, Colo.; Seneca Rocks, W. Va.; Frenchman Coulee, Wash.; City of Rocks, Idaho; Crader Rock, Md.; Reimer's Ranch, Texas; Backbone State Park, Iowa	4,100 lineal feet	\$29,720
1997	Wichita Wildlife Refuge, Okla.; Society Turn Crag, Colo.; Red Rocks, Nev.; Exit 38, Wash.; Little Si, Wash.; Le Petite Verdon, Ariz.; Williamson Rock, Calif.	13,800 lineal feet	\$56,900
1998	Mt. Yonah, Ga.; Little Si, Wash.; Frenchman's Coulee, Wash.; Wichita Wildlife Refuge, Okla.; New River Gorge, W. Va.; Red River Gorge, Ky.; Golden Cliffs Preserve, Colo.; Sam's Throne, Ark.; Coopers Rock, W. Va.; Sinks Canyon, Wyo.	17,000 lineal feet	\$67,925
1999	Exit 38, Wash.; Crow Hill, Mass.; Black Hills, S.D.; Red River Gorge, Ky.; New River Gorge, W. Va.; Cedar Bluff, Ill.; Shelf Road, Colo.; Sinks Canyon, Wyo.	19,400 lineal feet	\$85,525

## SPRING TRAIL PROJECTS COMING UP

We're not resting on our laurels—i.e. the 76,000 feet of trail worth \$336,500—that we built last decade. No way we're stopping now.

This spring, we're planning three more trail builds at climbing areas that will create trails that are easy to use and that will help preserve fragile soils and plants.

We're looking for a few good volunteers—if you've got a spare day this spring, consider lending a hand to help out your local climbing area.

Believe it or not, Access Fund trail projects can be a lot of fun. You'll get to meet a bunch of potential climbing partners and get a chance to score swag like water bottles, energy bars and raffle items.

•Tieton River Cliffs (The Bend), Wash.—4 days of trail building, April 8-9, 22 (Earth Day)-23. Replace and restore social trails, rock walls and eroded staging areas. Contact Andy Fitz at 253.761.7866 or fitlan@seanet.com.

•Shelf Road, Colo.—2-day trail project, April 29-30. Help us complete the new Cactus Cliff/Gym trail started last November. Contact Rick Thompson at 303.545.6772 ext. 105 or rick@accessfund.org.

•Wichita Wildlife Refuge, Okla.—2 days of trail work at the Narrows, May 13-14. Contact Marion Hutchison at 405.364.9390 or mariohutch@aol.com.



The Fund's Sally Moser bonded with Hans Florine for the 3-legged race at the OR show.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR INTERNATIONAL OUTDOOR FEST

Scheduled for Aug. 24-27, 2000 in Aspen, Colorado, the International Outdoor Festival is a sports and cultural festival that will bring together the industry, consumers and world class athletes. The Access Fund will conduct a trail clean up and will benefit through a silent auction. For more on the IOF, check out [www.outdoorfestival.com](http://www.outdoorfestival.com).

## ACCESS FUND GETS TIED UP AT OR

The Access Fund came out in full force at

January's Outdoor Retailer Show in Salt Lake City to celebrate our 10th anniversary. We started our Kickin' Access campaign at the climbing wall with a three-legged climbing race and birthday party complete with cake and a keg. Climbers such as Conrad Anker, Mia Axon, Pete Takeda, Steph Davis, Hans Florine and Chris Bloch tied themselves together and climbed, all in the name of access. (Or was it the free beer?)

## Calendar

### March

3/8 Snowbird, UT—Mike Libeck expedition slide show, Cliff Sports, 303.761.7070

3/9 Logan, UT—Mike Libeck expedition slide show, Outdoor Recreation, 435.797.3264

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

3/11 Chicago, IL—60th Anniversary Dinner, Chicago Mountaineering Club, Alex Andrews, 773.871.4034

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

3/11 Berkeley, CA—Bouldering series, Berkeley Ironworks, Chris Bloch, <TK>

3/15 Englewood, CO—Mike Libeck expedition slide show, Mountain Miser, 303.761.7070

3/16 Boulder, CO—Mike Libeck expedition slide show, Neptune Mountaineering, 303.499.8866

3/18 Aspen, CO—Climbing comp., Red Brick Recreation Center, Chad Denning, 970.920.5140

3/22 Fort Collins, CO—Mike Libeck expedition slide show, The Mountain Shop, 970.493.5720

3/23 Colorado Springs, CO—Mike Libeck expedition slide show, Mountain Chalet, 719.633.0732

3/25 Cincinnati, OH—Eastern Bouldering Series Championship Comp, Climb Time of Cincinnati, Scott Rennak, 513.891.4850

3/25 Enchanted Rock, TX—Trail Project, Meet at Crescent Park Lot, Central Texas Climbers Coalition, Michael Lewis, 210.695.3046

3/25 Atlanta, GA—8th Annual Sandrock Hoe-Down, Southeastern Climbers Coalition, Brad McLeod, 404.329.1519

3/25 Spokane, WA—6th Annual Fall Climbing Festival, Wild Walls, Brett Jessen, 509.455.9596

3/25 Flagstaff, AZ—Fingers of Fury Comp, Vertical Relief Rock Gym, 520.556.9909

3/29 Albuquerque, NM—Mike Libeck expedition slide show, Mountains & Rivers, 505.268.4876

3/30 Santa Fe, NM—Mike Libeck expedition slide show, Active Endeavors, 505.984.8221

3/31 Taos, NM—Mike Libeck expedition slide show, Mudd-n-Flood, 505.751.9100

### April

4/1 Gunnison, CO—Boulder in the Valley comp, Wilderness Pursuits, Annie and Ben, 970.943.7051

4/1 Harrisonburg, VA—The Reach Out Climb, University Recreation at James Madison U., Guy deBrun, 540.568.8725

4/1 Lincoln, NE—3rd Annual Flatland Climbing Competition, NU Climbing Club, Andrew Fuller, 402.472.4777

4/1 Fairfield, NJ—The Unveiling Bouldering Comp, New Jersey Rock Gym, Chris Schnaitmann, 973.439.9860

4/7 Obed, TN—Paddling & Climbing Weekend, Frank Harvey, 865.986.6618

4/8 College Station, TX—Aggie Pumpfest 2000, Texas A&M University, Chris Burnett, 409.862.1999

4/8 Allendale, MI—Youth & Adult Indoor Climbing Competition, Grand Valley State University, Christopher Durverny, 616.895.6611

4/8 Grand Canyon, AZ—Village Clean-Up, sponsored by N. AZ Grotto, 520.282.5550

4/14 Scottsdale, AZ—17th Annual Phoenix Bouldering Contest, 17th Phoenix Bouldering Contest, Jim Waugh, jnw@primenet.com, 480-775-9874

4/15 Athens, GA—Shaking Rock Bouldering comp, Charbon's Outfitters, Jason 706.789.2394, 706.548.7225

4/19 Fort Collins, CO—3rd Annual Adventure Photography Slide show, Dan Bailey, dhbailey@yahoo.com, 970.493.5720

4/21 Unity, ME—4th Annual Earth Day Climbing Competition, Unity College Mountaineering Club, Matt Shove, 207.948.3131 x. 273

4/27 Corral Cliffs, FL—Hans Florine slide show, 954-321-9898

4/29 Atlanta, GA—Foster Falls Climber Hoe-Down, Southeastern Climbers Coalition, Brad McLeod, 404.329.1519

4/29 Jacks Canyon, AZ—service day, Kerry Nodal, 520.525.7863

Late April—Hans Florine slide show, Rocks & Ropes, Tucson, AZ 520-882-5924

### May

5/1 Collinsville, AL—Griffin Falls Trail Day, Southeastern Climbers Coalition, Brad McLeod, 404.329.1519

## Events

**These events raised at least \$300 or gained 15 new members for the Access Fund. Many thanks!**

**\$2,496 Ouray Ice Fest**

**\$1,387 Abby Watkins slide show**  
Skinny Skis, Jackson, Wyo.

**\$975 7th Annual Forearm Frenzy**  
Sun & Ski Sports

**\$656 Tommy Caldwell-Big Stone video party**  
Neptune Mountaineering Boulder, Colo.

**\$530 Michigan Ice Climbing Festival**  
Down Wind Sports, Marquette, Mich.

**\$500 5th Annual Schist & Shout**  
Rumney Climbers Association, Plymouth, N.H.

**\$465 Eastern Bouldering Series**  
Climb Time of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

**\$445 Boulder Blast VI**  
Rockreation-Salt Lake City, Utah

**\$410 Crankin' in the Millennium**  
Rocknasium

**\$405 Mike Libeck slide show**  
Alta Ski Resort, Utah

**\$378 Jimmy Chin Slide show**  
Jackson, Wyo.

**\$350 3rd Annual Fall Onsite**  
Aztec Adventures, San Diego, Calif.

**\$315 Mike Libeck slide show**  
Black Diamond Equipment, Ltd., Salt Lake City, Utah



**Letters cont. from pg. 11**

Preserving hard aid requires commitment to leaving routes in the condition they were found. This involves removing one's aid placements (especially copperheads), not hammering in redundant placements to lessen the chance of long falls, and avoiding the urge to enhance placements (especially hook flakes). Ironically, it is the admired quest for speed ascents which fosters the trashing of hard aid routes we bemoan. This occurs through the fixing of seemingly endless strings of gear that could be removed given time and effort. Certainly not every head can or, in some cases, should be removed. But every new fixed piece moves the climb closer to the grave. The once notorious Hook or Book pitch on the Sea of Dreams serves as a tragic example of aid climbers not preserving the rock. Once a death pitch, the crux hooking section is now reasonably well protected by redundant, bomber, chiseled heads and a massively modified claw placement.

The efforts of those who care about preserving diverse types of climbing experiences are better spent encouraging aid climbers to preserve what we have

rather than prematurely declaring the day of the Yosemite nail-up dead.

For the record, The March 1999 Spray article cites Ring of Fire (Mark Smith and Richard Jensen, El Capitan, 1997) as the sole and paradigm example of first ascensionists seeking hollow glory to put up unsustainable routes. According to the article, we (the first ascensionists) "incredibly . . . believed that by . . . drilling hundreds of bat hook holes and chiseled heads [we] were putting up a natural line." To the contrary, we have never believed the ludicrous idea that drilling and chiseling makes a route more natural. Moreover, we deny the claims of "drilling and chiseling" attributed to the route. Ring of Fire has 106 bat hooks, 31 anchor bolts, no chiseled heads, 122 hooks, and 30 slung horns in 2,210 feet. This is 1 percent less drilling and 15 percent more hooking per foot than the nearby Sea of Dreams (170 holes and 131 hooks in 2,710 feet).

*Mark Smith  
Portland, Ore.*

**Tick List cont. from back page**

climbing area in a way that is not listed on the TICK LIST, tell us about it—everything counts!

**Can I really make a difference with the TICK LIST?**

The Access Fund will spend a year recording all of the important things climbers do on behalf of access and conservation. If enough of us achieve 10 goals, we'll have the ability to hold up the climbing community as a model steward of our climbing resources. With enough climbers committing to Leave No Trace practices as well as packing out a little trash, you will see noticeable differences in the way your climbing area looks. If enough people commit to just 10 ticks on the list, we can better negotiate for climbing access with public land managers and private land owners, and can gain unparalleled political leverage.

**Sure, I'll feel good about myself, but can I WIN AMAZING OUTDOOR GEAR?**

Satisfaction is an essential, though intangible, motivator. Winning great gear, on the other hand, can go a long way to motivate just about anyone. In the

second half of 2000, the Access Fund will complete four drawings from the pool of TICK LISTs sent to the national office.

**That's right—you can have up to FOUR CHANCES TO WIN!**

The drawing deadlines are: July 1, Sept. 1, Nov. 1 and Dec. 31. The sooner you enter, the more chances you'll have to win! The earlier you complete your TICK LIST, the more drawings you can be eligible for. The gear we'll be giving away comes from the gamut of Access Fund Corporate Partners (see page 15) and includes: racks, tents, ropes, climbing shoes, sleeping bags, stoves and loads more. Winners will be notified after each drawing and will be listed on our Web site at [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org).

**Why Now?**

The TICK LIST is part of Kickin' Access—the Access Fund's 10th anniversary celebration. And now that we've surpassed 10,000 members, it's time to shoot for 100,000 actions and make climbers' voices heard everywhere.

TO ALL WHO'VE HELPED US ACHIEVE OUR MISSION

Thank you

A very special thanks to Tom Jones, our volunteer Webmaster from Black Diamond Equipment for the past year. Tom's expertise helped take our home page at [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org) to the next level by making it much easier to navigate, and by creating a way to become a member online.

**Climbing comps:** Climb North, Bob Value, Elaine Jewart, John Pellow, Troy Conklin, Robert Bruemner, Jim Shimberg, Nate Smith, Superior Gym, Andy Eggleston, Scott Rennak, Adventure Rock, Eric Olsen, Bill Thompson, Squirrel Schlosser and Mark Leffler, Univ. of Delaware, Fred Bohm

**Hosting or giving a slide show:** Patagonia-Seattle, Armando Menocal, Tommy Caldwell, Drew Bedford, Gary Neptune, Fred Barth, Abby Watkins, Teton Rock Gym, Snow King Resort, Cloudveil, Exum Mountain Guides, Jackson Hole Mountain Guides, Lifelink, Portland Rock Gym, Gary Rall, Mike Libecki, Hoback Sports, Jimmy Chin, Hernando Pardo, Jason "Singer" Smith, The North Face—Boulder

**Festivals, demos, and membership promos:** University of Wyoming-RLOAP, Sue Ei, Liquid Moon Sports, David Mesicek, Jeff Lowe and Teri Ebel, Missoula Rock Gym, Kara Shapiro, Jimmy Pinjuv, Steve Porcella

**For just being awesome:** Black Diamond Equipment, Climbing Magazine, Colleen Graham, Paula Stepp, Entreprise, Conrad Anker, Royal Robbins, New Belgium Brewery, Allen Sanderson, Eric Hobday, Deborah, Michael Kennedy, Rob Raker, Phil Powers, Armando Menocal, Dale Bard

**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

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p><b>Diamond Partners \$20,000+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Black Diamond Equipment</li> <li>•Bibler/Scarpa</li> <li>•Climbing</li> <li>•Galyan's</li> <li>•REI</li> <li>•Rock &amp; Ice</li> <li>•The North Face/A5</li> </ul> <p><b>Platinum Plus Partner \$15,000+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Hothouse Design &amp; Advertising</li> <li>•Omega Pacific</li> <li>•PowerBar</li> </ul> <p><b>Platinum Partners \$10,000+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Eagle Creek</li> </ul> <p><b>Gold Plus Partner \$7,500+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Clif Bar</li> <li>•Patagonia</li> <li>•Polartec/Malden Mills</li> </ul> <p><b>Gold Partners \$5,000+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Campmor</li> <li>•Five.Ten</li> <li>•La Sportiva</li> <li>•Lowe Alpine Systems</li> <li>•Mammut</li> <li>•Nalgene</li> <li>•Petzl America</li> <li>•Trango USA &amp; Stonewear Designs</li> </ul> <p><b>Silver Partners 2,500+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Advanced Base Camp</li> <li>•Bison Belts</li> <li>•BlueWater</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Boreal</li> <li>•Boulder Rock Club</li> <li>•Climb High</li> <li>•Corplan</li> <li>•Crazy Creek Products</li> <li>•Entre Prises, USA</li> <li>•Falcon Publishing</li> <li>•Metolius</li> <li>•MSR</li> <li>•Maxim Ropes</li> <li>•PrAna</li> <li>•Weathered Stone</li> </ul> <p><b>Major Partners 1,000+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Arc'teryx</li> <li>•Cascade Designs</li> <li>•Charlet Moser/Wild Country USA</li> <li>•Cordless</li> <li>•Gregory Mountain Products</li> <li>•Hi-Tec Sports</li> <li>•Marmot</li> <li>•Mercer Capital Group</li> <li>•Misty Mountain Threadworks</li> <li>•Mountain Gear</li> <li>•Mountain Hardwear</li> <li>•Outdoor Research</li> <li>•Phoenix Rock Gym</li> <li>•PMI</li> <li>•PüR</li> <li>•Royal Robbins</li> <li>•Sport Chalet</li> <li>•Sterling Rope</li> <li>•Yates Gear</li> </ul> | <p><b>Contributing Partners \$500+</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Alpine Ascents International</li> <li>•American Ref-fuel</li> <li>•Bearing Images</li> <li>•Cloudveil Mountain Works</li> <li>•Excalibur DMM</li> <li>•Free West Rock Guides</li> <li>•Gravity Kills Company</li> <li>•Greischar Dungan Architects</li> <li>•Jagged Edge Mountaineering</li> <li>•Joshua Tree Rock Climbing School</li> <li>•Megalith Mountain Sports</li> <li>•Moonstone</li> <li>•Mountain Madness</li> <li>•Mountain Tools</li> <li>•MountainWoman.com</li> <li>•Nicos</li> <li>•Planet Outdoors.com</li> <li>•Rope Gun</li> <li>•Seattle Manufacturing Corporation</li> <li>•Sierra Designs</li> <li>•Stone Age</li> <li>•Sun &amp; Ski Sports</li> <li>•Ushba Mountain Works</li> <li>•TellurideGear.com</li> <li>•Verve</li> </ul> <p><b>Media Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Apex</li> <li>•Blue</li> <li>•Elevation</li> <li>•Indoor Gym Climber</li> </ul> |
|--|--|--|

## THE BIG STORY:

Access Fund National Trails Initiative set to kick off this spring . . . . . p.1

## SPRAY:

It doesn't have to be climbers vs. Native Americans . . . . . p.2

## AREA REPORTS:

The beta on access in your region .p. 3

## MEET THE ACCESS FUND:

A letter from Phil Powers, Access Fund vice president . . . . . p. 7

## POLICY UPDATE:

Hueco, Babo, recreation funding, management plans . . . . . p. 8

## CONSERVATION UPDATE:

Biology bibliography out, annual report . . . . . p. 10

## LETTERS:

Our members cut loose . . . . . p. 11

## TRAIL UPDATE:

1999 wrap-up, 2000 schedule . . . p. 12

## HOT PROJECTS AND EVENTS:

Fun Access Fund events and projects in your area . . . . . p.13

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**

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: March 1, 2000. Volume #32. Price: \$25/yr. Editorial Director: Sally Moser;

Editor: Don Silver;

Policy Analyst: Sam Davidson.

Exceeds 50 percent recycled content



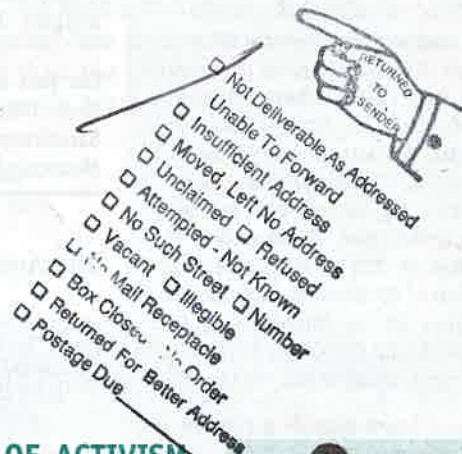
The Access Fund, PO Box 17010  
Boulder, CO 80308

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 112  
Boulder, CO



LEDA BREWER  
103 VAGNEUR LN  
BASALT CO 81621-9100



## COMMIT RANDOM ACTS OF ACTIVISM

SCORE COOL GEAR AND BETTER ACCESS WITH THE TICK LIST INSIDE

### What's the Tick List?

The TICK LIST, found at the center of this newsletter, is a compilation of simple things you, your climbing partners and friends can do to help preserve climbing access in 2000. The TICK LIST will help you be more politically, socially and environmentally active to preserve climbing's future.



### You bet we did the math!

If 10,000 climbers commit just 10 simple, random acts of activism this year, the net result of 100,000 actions will thunder across the country. This is the most forward-thinking, preventative measure that the climbing community, as a whole, can take to support the sport.

### What do I do with the TICK LIST?

Choose 10 of the 14 listed actions, commit your random deeds, mark them down and send the tick list to the Access Fund office (mailing info is on the tick list). If you have been active on behalf of your

• Continued on pg. 14