

# Vertical Times

ACCESS • CONSERVATION • ACTIVISM

JULY 2001 VOL. 41



## ACTIVISTS SUMMIT A SMASHING SUCCESS

As part of our commitment to support grassroots activism, the Access Fund hosted a two-day conference for volunteer climbing activists in Estes Park, Colorado from May 17-19. "It was state of the art exposure to real situations and solutions, public land manager perspectives, drafted plans, local and national efforts, and Access Fund efforts and resources," according to Steve Porcella, Access Fund regional coordinator from Montana.

The conference provided a forum to discuss strategies for preserving access and conserving the climbing environment. Over 50 leading activists from Washington to North Carolina traveled to Colorado for the event. Attendees included Access Fund regional coordinators and representatives from local climber organizations such as the Southeastern Climbers Coalition, CRAG Vermont, Friends of Joshua Tree, Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition, Climbers Alliance of mid-Missouri, Southern Arizona Climbers Coalition, and the New River Alliance of Climbers. Also land managers from various agencies gave presentations. Royal Robbins, legendary first ascentionist and advocate for the climbing environment, delivered a keynote address on the importance of activism. Topics of discussion included education and outreach, climbing management plans, local climber organizations and grassroots activism, building effective relationships with land managers, wildlife and resource issues, events, fundraising, tools for land acquisitions, and preservation of climbing areas.

"The Fund's backing has been crucial in our successful effort to rescue sport climbing in Iowa from a serious threat," said Evan Fales of the Eastern Iowa Climbers' Coalition. "The Summit has provided me with ideas, contacts, and a real sense of the support we can draw upon as we work to build a solid climbing community and cooperative working relationship with the land managers in our area." It was the third Summit to be hosted by the Access Fund in its 11-year history. "It has motivated me to get back 'onto the scene' with my local organization," said Anthony Love, North Carolina activist.

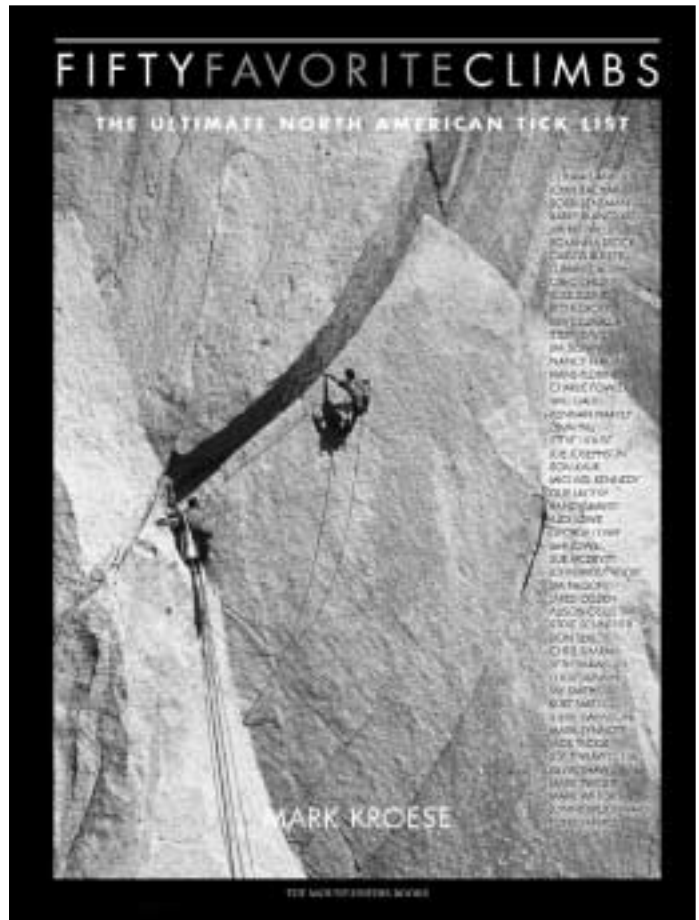


Image provided by Mountaineer's Books

**The cover for Access Fund Board Member Mark Kroese's book, *Fifty Favorite Climbs*, which will premiere in August. 25% of the proceeds from the book will benefit the Access Fund! Find out more about Mark and his book in "Meet the Access Fund" on page 7.**

# Spray

OPINIONS FROM THE CLIMBING WORLD

## NC ROOTS

BY CHAD GARNER

"I have been climbing in North Carolina for eight years. Many travels have intrigued me all over the Western Hemisphere, but no place has given me more true, heart-felt experience and self growth than

Western North Carolina. I believe, within the nature of these old and quiet hills - when you listen close and with soul - you can feel an ancient rhythm. A rhythm that transcends even the feelings we get from climbing. It is diffuse light off shimmering Hemlocks, and the fading September sunset over Mount Mitchell. It is the gentle roar of the Linville River. It is primal. It is tangible. It is real. This feeling, this rhythm is what keeps most of us living here and traveling for a lot of our climbing exploits. I believe this very rhythm brought early climbing pioneers the same enthusiasm it brings to most Carolina climbers

today. You can only feel it and understand it if you listen without an ego and without your climbing aspirations. This rhythm is what makes climbing here more special to me than any other place I have been.

In the last two or three years - all over Western N.C. from Boone to Cashiers- there have been disputes over bolting practices and first ascent ethics. It is odd to me how some people are unaware that climbing is not new to North Carolina and that the amount of rock here is very finite. There have been some inexperienced individuals and some controversial ones aspiring to do new routes in old places. This is not a letter to talk about bolting practices. New comers to climbing in NC should know that 5.4 slabs at Rumbling Bald and in Cashiers Valley -or any other place- are

• *continued on page 12*



John Heisel

*The gentle roar of the river resonates throughout the ancient Linville Gorge, nestled in the Appalachian Mountains of North Carolina. "It is primal. It is tangible. It is real," says Chad Garner.*

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

## SENATE BILL WOULD MAKE RECREATION FEES PERMANENT

Senator Graham (D-FL) introduced the National Parks Stewardship Act (S.1011) on June 11th. A major component of S.1011 aims to introduce permanent public lands access fees starting in October 2002 when the current Recreation Fee Demonstration Program ends. While this purports to be a "National Parks" bill, in reality it would dramatically and permanently alter the manner in which recreation is funded for four public lands agencies - the National Park Service, the US Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.

The bill ensures that funding (allocated by Congress for three of the four affected agencies) will continue regardless of the increased revenue generation from recreation user fees. However, the bill may not support the Forest Service. Budget allocations for this agency may be reduced by Congress as the it brings in new recreation fee income.

The Access Fund opposes public

policy that pays for public lands enjoyment and upkeep through recreational use fees rather than through the federal budget. Use fees discriminate against lower-income citizens, are a form of "double taxation," (since we are already paying for public lands through our federal income taxes), and are a regressive way to preserve and encourage public support for our natural heritage. There is enough money in the federal budget to pay for all the administrative needs of our public lands, if Congress can be convinced to adjust their spending priorities. The Access Fund does not oppose paying fees for actual facilities and services (such as campgrounds), but we cannot support a "tollgate" charge for the privilege of simple recreational activities which require little if any infrastructure. The privilege of free access to our public lands is an American tradition, which can and should be preserved.

The Access Fund will do our best to derail S.1011 -as well as monitoring further attempts to extend Fee Demo through the appropriations committees in Congress. Your voicing your opinion on this issue, whenever you can, will make the difference.



John Hessel

*Pay to Play?! If the National Parks Stewardship Act is passed then climbers such as Sam Davidson (pictured above at Red Rocks, NV) will have to continue to pay use fees to recreate on certain public lands.*

# TAKE ACTION!

Call Senator Graham (202) 224-3041. The Access Fund will also target any cosponsors of S.1011 in the Senate and try to prevent a House version of the bill from being introduced. Senator Graham will be chair of a Senate Energy & Resources subcommittee, so hearings may be scheduled later — another opportunity for a flood of protest mail from around the nation. You can also write your local paper with a letter critical of recreation fees on public lands. The timing of the bill's progress is up in the air. With enough protest, it may go nowhere, or the permanent fee provisions might be withdrawn. To see the full text of the bill on the internet, go to the website below (The fee section of the bill is section 202).

[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c107:S1011:](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c107:S1011)

WEST



**EFFORTS OF ACCESS FUND AND LOCAL CLIMBING GROUPS REFLECTED IN ROAD 18 CAVES DECISION, OR**

Since 1995, the AF has been working on climbing and access impacts in Central Oregon, especially at the unusual climbing sites known as the lava tube caves, near Bend.

On June 5, the Deschutes National Forest released the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Road 18 Caves near Bend, OR for a 30-day public comment period. Two of the cave entrances are popular bouldering and sport climbing sites. Alternative C, the preferred action of the EA, is a series of measures that reduce impacts to cave resources while maintaining some diversity of recreational experiences.

The first draft of the plan would have banned climbing and removed all fixed anchors from the climbing sites. Thanks to the work of the Access Fund, local climbers, and the Oregon section of the AAC, the revised EA allows continued climbing and bouldering at the entrances

of Hidden Forest and Skeleton Caves. However, there would be permanent restrictions on the use of chalk and other hand drying agents.

It appears the climbing community's suggestions regarding alternative management approaches to the chalk issue were not accepted. The AF and local groups made special efforts to work with the Forest Service on these unique climbing and cave management issues and will continue to work towards a solution regarding chalk use.

To view the Road 18 Caves EA along and a wealth of background information click the following link:  
<http://ors.alpineclub.org/AAC/road18ea-060601.html>.

The closing date for public comments on the Caves EA is July 5th, 2001.

**INDIAN CREEK – RECREATION PLAN UPDATE**

The Monticello Utah field office of the Bureau of Land Management reports that work on the Indian Creek recreation plan is 95% complete. The plan, which started in fall 2000, addresses impacts from increased outdoor recreation use such as camping and climbing in the Indian Creek Corridor. The area covered by the plan stretches west from Newspaper Rock to the Needles entrance of Canyonlands National Park.

Due to staff changeover, the estimated release date for the draft plan has been stepped back until October 2001. Scott Burkenfield, the new BLM recreation planner, will begin working in July to complete the project. In the past, he has served with the BLM and Forest Service, and held the position of climbing ranger for Grand Teton National Park. The Access Fund and local climbing groups will be working with the BLM over the final stages of this planning project.

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Adam Johnson, "accesses" the Sundance Buttress, Lumpy Ridge, Colorado, photo: John Heisel

**PLEASE NOTE: The Virtual Times does not replace the Vertical Times but complements it to keep you informed.**



## Area Reports Continued...



Bryan Pletta

*Volunteers maintained the trail to Enchanted Tower, New Mexico in June. An Access Fund grant supported the project and the purchase of a trailhead kiosk, materials and signage.*

### ENCHANTED TOWER, NM

The Enchanted Tower climbing area near Datil, NM is one of the premier rock climbing areas in the Southwest. Increased recreational use has resulted in trail erosion and human waste disposal problems. In addition, the road providing access to the Tower crosses private property through the Cleveland ranch. There is no legal right of way on this road; climbers depend on the generosity of the landowners for access. Due to recent problems, the ranch caretakers have installed a gate at the entrance of the road to their property. The gate is currently open and the owners have requested you leave the gate as you find it.

The New Mexico Climbers Resource and Advocacy Group (CRAG) is working with the Access Fund to improve relations with the ranch owner and the Forest Service. The Access Fund provided a grant for a kiosk, signage and trail work. Volunteers installed the trailhead kiosk on the weekend of May 5th and 6th and NM CRAG is currently developing signs for installation at the ranch gate and trailhead. On June 9th and 10th, approximately 20 volunteers participated in a trail project to rebuild 1200 feet of trail to access the Tower, Frog Prince Wall, and Pogue's Cave areas. For more information or to help with future NM CRAG projects contact AF Regional Coordinator Bryan Pletta at [SACGym@aol.com](mailto:SACGym@aol.com) or (505) 341-2016.

### CASTLE ROCK RANCH, ID

The ranch is currently closed to public access and will remain so while the National Park Service and State of Idaho Parks and Recreation finalize the details of the land swap and complete natural and cultural resource inventories and a site assessment. By spring 2002, Castle Rock should officially become a new state park open to climbing and other recreational use. • *continued on next page*

## Area Reports Continued...

### ZION NATIONAL PARK, UT

*(update provided by Allen Sanderson, AF regional coordinator)*

The May 19 trail building day in Zion was very successful. There were 20 volunteers, mainly local climbers and a few from the Wasatch Front and California. In addition there were eight rangers from the park. Trails to Moonlite Butte, Prodigal Sun, Cerberus and Ashtar Command Tower were improved. We really need climbers to pay attention to trail markers that were placed at the trailheads and along the trails. Contact the backcountry ranger's office of the Bureau of Land Management if you have any questions about trail usage.

After the work was finished volunteers had a barbecue, sponsored by Hurst Stores. A big thanks to Liberty Mountain, Timberland, Black Diamond, Falcon Publishing, Zion Natural History Association, Outdoor Outlet and Hurst's for their donations. The next trail project at Zion will be in September. Contact Cindy Purcell at Zion National Park at 435-772-0185 or Jason Hurst of Hurst's Stores 435-673-6141 for more information.

through Sunday with an optional climbing day on Monday) will be offered on July 20- 23 and August 24- 27. A 6-day program for youth (ages 16 through 19) will be offered on August 13- 18. The programs (made possible by a grant from Great Outdoors Colorado) are free, and food and most outdoor equipment will be provided. Spaces are limited. Contact RMFI at (719) 471-7736 or [rmfibox@aol.com](mailto:rmfibox@aol.com) for more information.



Engineers barge, 20+ tons of stone was placed as rip rap along the Orange Oswald shoreline where powerboat wakes have been rapidly undercutting the narrow shelf of trees and dirt.

This past weekend workers built a new trail to Central Endless. Several years ago the Park Service purchased a 50 foot wide swath of land which led from Lansing Road to the Gorge rim at the Cirque ladder in order to reroute climbers off private Nuttal LLC land. The trail, including gravel filled steps above the ladder, was virtually complete as of Sunday evening. The Park Service plans to build a new parking lot at the trail head later this year. Climbers are encouraged to begin using the new trail, which starts about 50 yards east of the existing Central Endless trail.

Thanks again to the New River Alliance of Climbers and everyone else who helped. The next trail project at the new will be August 25-26. Contact Leslie Riehl for more info at [leslieriehl@hotmail.com](mailto:leslieriehl@hotmail.com).

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED - SANGRE DE CRISTO WILDERNESS

Rocky Mountain Field Institute needs volunteers to complete an alpine restoration project at Upper South Colony Lake in the Sangre de Cristo Wilderness. The multi-day project will focus on trail work, but also includes education on the ecology and natural history of the area, as well as the opportunity to climb the 14,000ft. peaks surrounding the basin. The site is one of the finest wilderness areas in the region - climbers should note that the Colorado classics, Crestone Needle and Ellingwood Ledges are very close to the project location. Two extended weekend programs for adults (Friday

## SOUTHEAST

### NEW RIVER GORGE TRAIL PROJECT

*(report provided by Leslie Riehl, New River Alliance of Climbers)*

The New River Alliance of Climbers would like to thank all those who participated in trail work in April. Volunteer work crews polished off two trails during the project.

Although in need of a bit more finishing, the crews last weekend virtually finished the relocated Summersville trail. The new trail now skirts the two hills on either side of the Narcissus cave. In addition, and with the help of a Corps of



MARK KROESE: AF BOARD MEMBER, CLIMBER, WRITER, COMPUTER CONSULTANT, HOPELESS GENERALIST

INTERVIEW BY JOHN HEISEL

**J H :** How long have you been a member of the Access Fund board of directors?

**M K :** About two years now.

**J H :** What motivated you to volunteer your time as a board member?

**M K :** In the twenty five years that I've been climbing, I've taken a lot from the sport:

I've clipped other people's bolts, rappelled on their anchors, hiked on their trails, and so on. I'm at a point in my life where I want to put something back into the sport. Working with the Access Fund has helped me realize just how much there is to do, and I'm super-psyched to be able to contribute. It feels good.

**J H :** I heard you just finished your book *Fifty Favorite Climbs*. What's it about exactly?

**M K :** *Fifty Favorite Climbs* was inspired by *Fifty Classic Climbs of North America*, a book published shortly after I started climbing in the late '70s. I always loved that book, and hoped that Roper and Steck were going to publish a second edition someday. When I learned that they had no intention of doing so, I decided to write the book myself-but with a twist: instead of me, the author, picking the climbs, I decided to let the most accomplished climbers in North America pick them. My job was to pick 50 climbers.

**J H :** So let me get this straight, you contacted 50 elite climbers, and asked each of them what their favorite climb is?

**MK:** Exactly. I interviewed everyone from Peter Croft to Lynn Hill to Will Gadd. I even interviewed the late Alex Lowe a few weeks before he departed for Shishapangma.

**J H :** That must have been a lot of work-and fun!

**M K :** It was an awesome experience. Interviewing all of your heroes is basically a dream job. I even went climbing with some of them. The interview process was everything I hoped it would be. It really motivated me.

**J H :** And the writing? How was that?

**M K :** (Laughing) The writing was definitely not as fun as the interviewing. It took me about a year to do the writing, after about nine months of interviewing. It felt like I was 90% done with 90% to go for a long time. But I'm really happy with the way the book turned out, so it was definitely worth the effort.

**J H :** Tell us about the format.

**M K :** There are fifty chapters-one per climber. Each chapter is divided into three sections. First is the climber profile, about 300 words that introduce the reader to each climber. The bulk of each chapter is the main story, which tells you why

• *Meet the Access Fund continued on next page*



Mark Kroese collection

*Mark Kroese totally focused at Donner Summit, near Lake Tahoe.*



## Meet the Access Fund continued...



Mark Kroese collection

*Kroese summits one of his "favorite" climbs in the Wind River Range of Wyoming.*

the climber chose it as their favorite. The last part is the route description and topo. Each chapter also includes at least three color photos, most of them from big name photographers such as Galen Rowell, Gordon Wiltsie, Corey Rich and Jim Thornburg.

**J H :** And how much will it cost?

**M K :** The suggested retail price is \$32.95.

**J H :** I hear you're donating 25% of the proceeds from the book to the Access Fund. Is that true?!

**M K :** Yes. Like I said earlier, I was looking for ways to give back to the sport, and this seemed like a good way. Buying my book is yet another way to support the Access Fund. By August it'll be available in most climbing shops, as well as on the web at [www.mountaineersbooks.org](http://www.mountaineersbooks.org) or at Amazon.com

**J H :** Tell us about your philosophy for Preserving Access?

**M K :** Intellectually, the idea of preserving access to crags

for future generations has always been important to me. But I don't think it really sunk in until my son Daniel (now 13 years old), started climbing. He is part of the next generation of climbers. It would be tragic if I wasn't able to introduce him to my favorite routes in areas such as Yosemite, Joshua Tree, or Red Rocks because of a climbing closure. I'd also hate to see these areas become spoiled with litter and human waste. It's nice to be able to tell my son that these climbing areas haven't really changed in the past 25 years.

**J H :** Why do you think people should support the Access Fund?

**M K :** At the most basic level, think of it as cheap insurance for your future as a climber. We all share the responsibility to keep these climbing areas open, and clean. It takes people and money to make this happen, and the Access Fund needs both. Since most climbers are too busy to donate their time, writing a check is a good place to start.



## ACCESS FUND ANNOUNCES SECOND ROUND OF CLIMBING PRESERVATION GRANTS

The Access Fund recently announced the recipients of its second Climbing Preservation Grants cycle for 2001. Awarded

four times each year, Climbing Preservation Grants provide financial assistance for projects that preserve or enhance climbing opportunities and conserve the climbing environment in the United States. Grants approved for this cycle totaled \$19,000 and were distributed to support four separate projects by local climbing organizations, public agencies, and conservation groups. Support of important land acquisition campaigns featured prominently in this grants cycle.

The following grants were awarded:

### OURAY ICE PARK, CO, PIPE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROJECT

\$5,000 was awarded to the Ouray Ice Park to replace the original, aging pipe system that supplies water to make the Park's unique and world-renowned ice climbs. This grant covers nearly 25% of the total project budget and will support the local climbing organization headed by Mike Gibbs, and Ouray City Council in their efforts to keep the park open to host over 5,000 climber-days each winter. It will also allow an extension of the ice park to create additional routes.

Intermittent water supply over the past two years has meant that the facility would be closed in the winter 2001/02 season. The increased efficiency of the new system will reduce the total volume of water used to create the climbs by 75%.

The Ice Park serves as a major winter tourism attraction and draws climbers and sightseeing tourists from around the world. Ouray City Councilwoman Barbara Uhles elaborated upon the park's importance: "The Ice Park contributes significantly to



John Hessel

*With the help of a \$5000 Access Fund Grant, the Ouray Ice Park will reopen for the 2001/02 ice climbing season!*

Ouray's winter economy, and the City has worked closely with the board of the park to increase its attractiveness. "

### PITKIN FALLS, EAST VAIL, CO, LAND ACQUISITION CAMPAIGN

\$5,000 to the Eagle Valley Land Trust towards their campaign to acquire two lots beneath the East Vail waterfall known to climbers as "Pitkin Falls". The area is located 1/2 mile from the East Vail Interchange and supports a 100-foot, grade IV icefall. Although featured in the Colorado Ice Climbers Guide, access to the Falls has been problematic since parking and gaining access to the falls crossed private land. Acquisition of this area will ensure public access to the waterfall, and a conservation easement through the Town of Vail, will allow the creation of a small parking area.

According to the Eagle Valley Land Trust, "The two lots we will purchase are a

valuable scenic and recreational amenity for nearby homeowners, the Town of Vail and ice climbers. The ice climbing in Vail is some of the best in the state. Our purchase will ensure public access to the waterfall and keep a unique and scenic property undeveloped."

### BLACK MOUNTAIN, TN, LAND ACQUISITION CAMPAIGN

\$5,000 to Tennessee Parks and Greenways Foundation towards their fundraising efforts to acquire Black Mountain, a 528-acre parcel threatened by development located at the southern end of the Cumberland Mountains. This popular area hosts good bouldering and 100-foot sandstone cliffs with spectacular views of the Tennessee Valley and Smoky Mountains. Black Mountain, TN, Land Acquisition Campaign. The campaign received strong support from local climbing groups such as the Southeastern Climbers Coalition. If successful, it will allow the transfer of the land to Tennessee State Parks, which will be managed in perpetuity for recreation and conservation.

### STUDY TO MODEL CLIMBER USE IN WILDERNESS, AZ

\$4,000 to the University of Arizona towards a two-year post-graduate study through the Department of Renewable Natural Resources. The study, carried out by Erik Murdock, will model and inventory rock climber use in wilderness areas. Data collected will allow researchers to create a model that can be adjusted to predict the implications of changes in wilderness policy. Although the study will be carried out in California and Arizona wilderness areas, the data set and model will have application at other areas. This project supports the Access Fund's work in climbing management and resource protection.

For more information on Access Fund grants, or to view the guidelines, go to: [www.accessfund.org/Programs.html](http://www.accessfund.org/Programs.html).

## CLIMBERS TICKETED AT T-WALL

We were climbing on cliffs in the Prentice-Cooper Wildlife Management Area outside of Chattanooga, TN on Sunday, April 8. About 3 p.m., a state forest enforcement officer came walking along the base of the cliffs, and informed us that we were trespassing illegally. He said our cars would be towed if we didn't get off the cliffs immediately. He said this was a turkey hunt day and the entire 24,000 acres of state land were closed to everyone except the hunters.

On the way down the trail going back to our cars, two officers were sitting by the side of the trail collecting our names. They said they were fining us for illegally trespassing, even though we had no idea the cliffs had been closed for a turkey hunt. There had been no sign posted indicating a hunt was occurring. One of the officers told us that it was our fault and we should have called their office to find out first. Since it was my first visit to the area, I had no idea I was required to call their office before I went climbing!

I asked if we might be forgiven for this mistake, since this was our first time here and we were unaware. He said no, we would be fined anyway. I asked how much the fine would be. He said it was \$146 a piece! I asked why it was so high and he sat back and laughed and said "Hey, you guys are a gravy train for us!" He seemed to be enjoying the fact that they were taking so much money off of climbers.

When we returned to our cars parked down at the road, several state vehicles were parked there and another officer had his book out writing up citations for each of us. I asked him why there had been no signs or warning about this policy. I suggested that a sturdy metal sign posted right at the trail entrance with the specific dates of the closure would prevent this from happening in the future. His response was that it doesn't work to put up signs because they always get torn down. I also asked him why they had waited until mid afternoon to come and do the sweep of the cliffs and not in the early part of the day. I had been at my car until 11 a.m. and no officers warned us before we went up. However, when the cliffs were fullest, in mid-afternoon they came. His response was that they were busy elsewhere and couldn't get here sooner. The real reason, however, certainly seemed to be to wait until the maximum number of climbers were on the cliffs, so as to issue the greatest number citations to fill the "gravy train." Judging by the number of climbers waiting in line to get their citations, it was quite a gravy train that day, over \$2000!

John Myers

*The Access Fund urges climbers to comply with all posted signs, including those restricting access. For safety reasons it may be a good idea to close the T-Wall to all but hunters a few days per year, but TWRA should try to get the word out through avenues other*

*than on-site signs, which apparently disappear regularly in that area. We will work with the agency to achieve better outreach to the climbing community in the future. Call the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency at 800-232-6704 to obtain a list of the current hunt dates.*

## RESCUE COSTS

I totally disagree with your stance on rescue costs as described in May 2001 "Vertical Times." Climbers SHOULD pay for their rescues. Climbers need to take responsibility for their own actions — why should climbers think they have a right to get bailed out when they get themselves into trouble? The entire thrust of your article downplays climbers' responsibility for their own safety. For example, suggesting that people practice their religion outdoors is just a cheap way to tell people to try to get around the system. The law that says we don't have to pay a fee for religious use of public lands was never meant to protect spoiled, whining climbers. It was meant to protect people who really do practice their religion in the outdoors. I am really really tired of our culture's avoidance of personal responsibility and am really disappointed to see AF get on that old tired bandwagon. Not to mention that rescuers risk their own safety getting people out of bad situations, often caused by inexperience or poor judgement. I am going to use the information in your article to a) contact my Senators and Representative, and tell them I DO NOT want public lands paid for by every citizen's income tax. I believe it is more fair to raise use fees. b) make my opinion know on the US Forest Service's comment form. c) reconsider my membership in the Access Fund.

Kimber Fitzmorgan

*Kimber Fitzmorgan's comments reflect a misunderstanding of the Access Fund's position on rescue cost recovery. We agree that climbers should assume complete responsibility for their well-being while climbing. Our objection to the proposed requirement that climbers pay for their rescues is based on one principal issue: fairness. Only climbers are targeted for the proposed rescue-cost requirement. All visitors to Denali should have to pay their rescue costs. Fitzmorgan confuses the rescue cost recovery issue with use fees. We oppose use fees because they are a barrier to access, pure and simple. Moreover, use fees are discriminatory and unnecessary. We intended the suggestion that climbers think about "practicing their religion in the outdoors" to be considered as a form of protest rather than a "cheap way to get around the system." No level of use fees could ever come close to paying for all of the public lands' needs. We will continue to pressure Congress to allocate more money for recreation management and resource protection. See page 3 of this issue for more on use fees.*

•letters continued on next page

## Letters continued...

### ACCESS FUND V. TRUTH

I was very disappointed by the recent article by Armando Menocal, which seems to have been published without editorial oversight. In it, he falsely portrays the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) as an enemy of fixed anchors in the wilderness - in fact as the only organization to fall in line with a hard-line stance against anchors in Wilderness Areas.

As a caveat, I must say that I was not at any of the meetings of the forest service rulemaking review committee. I do not know what was said. I do know Stefan Jackson, and I believe Menocal vastly underestimates Stefan's good will, and the role he plays as NOLS' spokesperson for the oversight committee. However, I spent 10 years instructing climbing and mountaineering courses for NOLS, and taught several hundred NOLS students about safe and circumspect backcountry climbing and anchor use. Also, I do have a copy of NOLS public policy statement regarding the use and existence of fixed anchors in Wilderness Areas. It states, "Fixed anchors, including bolts, are important risk management tools in many climbing settings. In designated Wilderness, we routinely use fixed anchors...to ensure a safe descent on steep terrain. Thus, we must be able to use fixed anchors to teach climbing safely." The document goes on to disavow the use of motorized drills in Wilderness Areas, and support replacing aging or unsafe fixed anchors. It makes no mention of banning fixed anchors, nor of limiting climbers ability to use them under reasonable circumstances.

Under the guise of reportage, Menocal's article attacks the school - and Stefan Jackson in particular - for his perception that NOLS is or will be fighting against the use of fixed anchors. While this may be an legitimate perception in editorial context, I believe it is irresponsible as it is reported and printed.

In addition, he vastly underestimates the important role NOLS has played in introducing climbers to safe backcountry and frontcountry climbing for over 35 years. A conservative estimate of the number of climbers NOLS has introduced to backcountry climbing might be 20,000 people. The lost opportunity is to capture the interest of those climbers on behalf of the Access Fund and all who are interested in appropriate legislative oversight of fixed anchor and access issues.

I sincerely hope that greater circumspection will prevail in the future on the part of Vertical Times. These issues are not getting easier; we need to work together, not let personal perceptions color the truth.

Richard Morse

*Editor's Note: Please note the disclaimer that accompanies each Spray article in Vertical Times: "The opinions in Spray are not necessarily those of the Access Fund."*



**www.rei.com**

## **REI AWARDS ACCESS FUND \$105,000 GRANT**

**Recreational Equipment Inc. announced that it will grant \$105,000 to the Access Fund over a three-year period to support the Access Fund's essential policy work in Washington and on a regional level. This important grant will also help build a youth program to promote stewardship and awareness among the fastest growing population of climbers.**

**REI has established a remarkable tradition of supporting effective recreational advocacy groups. In making this historic grant to the AF, REI continues its leadership in the area. REI's long-standing relationship with the Access Fund has been key to building and sustaining our action programs and enables the Access Fund to be proactive in all areas of climber policy and education.**



## Spray Continued from page 2...

unbolted because the climbing is not worth the effort.

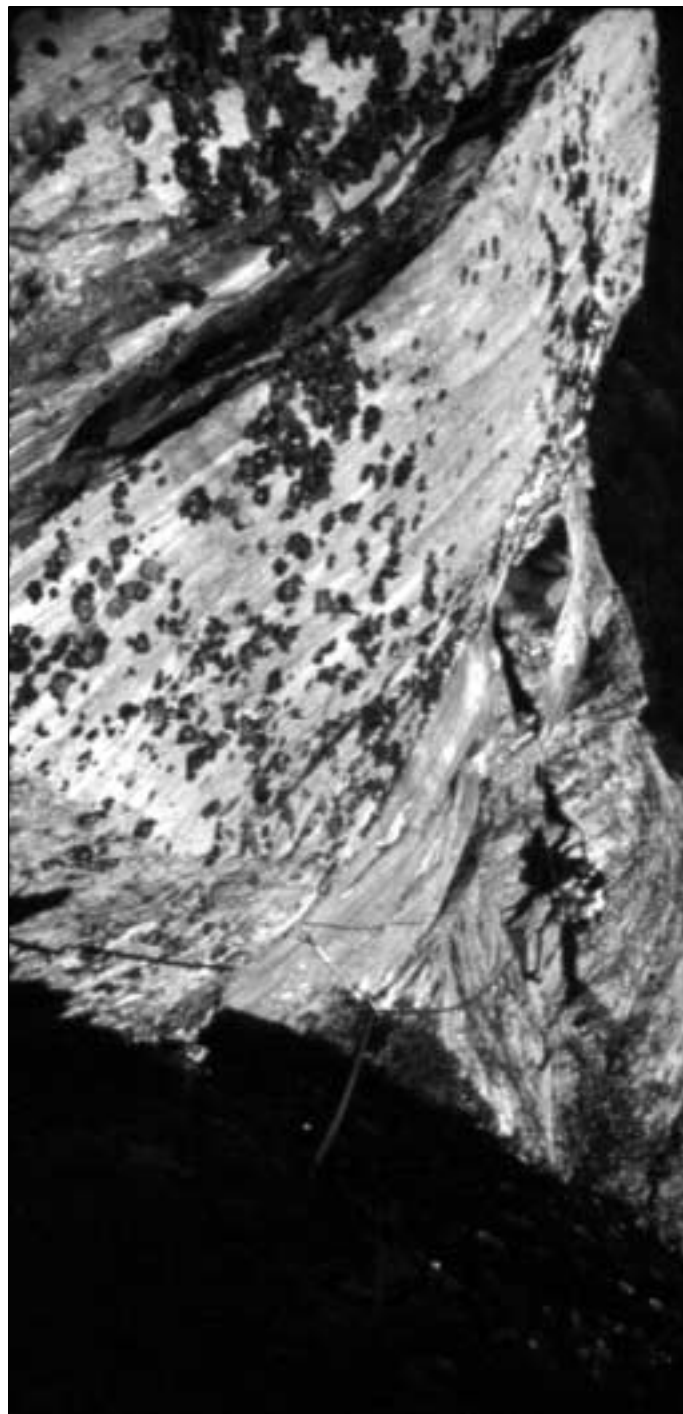
There seems to be a lot of enthusiasm for first ascents from climbers who are more wrapped up in what they want to do than what has already been done. An example is climbers putting up new routes when they haven't even climbed half of the routes that are available. Instead, they're being fired up to put up a first ascent.

I believe a dangerous mentality is coming into Western Carolina. What's developing is a trend where people are more psyched on themselves and climbing first ascents than on just being in the mountains of Western N.C. It now appears that Whitesides will soon have a route every 25 feet. A new route will appear in every conceivable blank space on the face. I have to ask what is wrong with the ones that are there? I try not to project my feelings and expectations onto others, but I have climbed several routes in most climbing areas in N.C. many times and I never feel bored. I see and feel the "rhythm" and I am happy to be alive and present wherever I am. It does not matter to me that I have climbed the Whipping Boy on Whitesides more than a dozen times, and will likely climb it two dozen more. I feel happiness and contentment in just being there. I enjoy just being, not conquering every conceivable blank spot I can find when I haven't even climbed half of what is established. The same goes for Maginot Line at Shortoff and B.O.G. Man Direct at Ship Rock - the list could go on.

Happiness is boundless! Contentment is available for those who step out of their EGOS. More so now than at any time, people are "using" climbing exploits to identify themselves in the world. Beginners and old-timers alike are falling prey to the silly notion that "I need my name in a book before I die" or "I need the recognition of others to feel good about myself" or "the more routes I can do, the better man or woman I am." I don't believe people need to be putting up routes in Western N.C. for these egotistical reasons. People can go to any other place and do whatever they want, but not in the Western Carolinas.

People should find their own turf to put up squeeze jobs, rap routes and 5.4 sport climbs. North Carolina is not necessarily all climbed out, but without doubt most of the plumb lines were done long ago - like it or not. Unless you find something extremely obscure, you're not likely to find anything that hasn't been looked at from a traditional view in the past (if you don't understand the term "traditional" you have a lot of learning to do). And most important, people should be aware that no matter what you feel about yourself and your climbing - the value of these hills transcends anything climbers could ever do. If you don't know this, then you are missing out on the most important part of climbing in N.C."

*Chad Garner has been climbing for ten years and has always called North Carolina home. His travels have taken throughout the U.S., and to Canada and South America. He presently works as a Structural Integration Therapist in Atlanta.*



John Heisel

***Biff Farrell enjoys "being" on and not "conquering" the Maginot Line. The route pierces the magnificent metamorphic gneiss of Shortoff Mountain, located in the pristine Linville Gorge Wilderness Area of North Carolina.***

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

# Events

## KURT SMITH'S KICKIN' ACCESS SLIDE SHOW TOUR

Kickin' Access is a climber's party benefiting the Access Fund, and it's coming this summer to a crag near you. This fundraising event is designed to unite your climbing community.

Join the party with DJ Underground Chuck as he spins some heavy beats and Kurt Smith shares his 20+ years of climbing experience in a one-hour slideshow. Come out and become a member of the Access Fund, enter the gear raffle, or enter the pull-up and dyno contests. Log onto [www.potrerochico.com](http://www.potrerochico.com) for more updated information.



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## Calendar

### JULY

7/12-15 Lander, WY - 8th Annual International Climbers Festival Leslie Van Orman, 307 332-2971

7/12 Lander, WY - Wild Iris Trail Project in conjunction with the International Climbers Festival, Leslie Van Orman, 307 332-4541

7/14 Plymouth, NH - Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, The Rock Barn- Rhinoceros Mountain Guides, Jim Shimberg, 603 536-2717

7/18 Pittsburgh, PA - Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Mountain Dreams International, Inc, 412-621-4878

7/20 Lakewood, CO - climbing comp, Lakewood Link Recreation Center

7/26 Dayton, OH - Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Urban Krag Climbing Center, 937 224-5724

7/27-29 Pontiac, MI - JCCA Nationals, Planet Rock Gym, Nick Cocciolone, 248 334-3904

7/28 Pontiac, MI - Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Planet Rock Gym, 248 334-3904

7/29 Rapid City, SD - climbing comp and slide show, Black Hills Climbers Coalition, Toni Brumbaugh, 605 923-6533 or [dakotatoni@yahoo.com](mailto:dakotatoni@yahoo.com)

### AUGUST

8/2 Boulder, CO - Kickin Access Kurt Smith slide show tour, Boulder Rock Club, 303 447-2804

8/5-10 Gorham, NH - Volunteer Trail Crew, for Rock Climbers, Appalachian Mountain Club Trails Dept., Allison Nelson, 603-466-2721x192, [www.outdoors.org](http://www.outdoors.org) and [anelson@amcinfo.org](mailto:anelson@amcinfo.org) 603 466-2721 x166

8/7 Colorado Springs, CO - Kickin Access 2001 slide show with Kurt Smith, Sport Climbing Center, 719 260-1050

### SEPTEMBER

9/15 Pocatello, ID - Pocatello Pump, Idaho State University, Peter Joyce, 208 236-3912

### OCTOBER

10/6 Cincinatti, OH - 9th Annual Forearm Frenzy, Sun & Ski Sports, 513 745-0099

10/12-14 Tulsa, OK - 9th Annual Forearm Frenzy, Sun & Ski Sports EXPO, 918 254-0673

10/20 Houston, TX - 9th Annual Forearm Frenzy, Sun & Ski Sports EXPO, 281-537-0928

10/20 Joshua Tree, CA - Women Rock Josh climbing workshop week-end for women, Friends of Joshua Tree, Patty Rambert, 760-366-9699 [www.friendsofjosh.org](http://www.friendsofjosh.org)

## EVENTS PINNACLE

These events raised the most money for the Access Fund this spring:

- \$1830 Kickin Access-Kurt Smith slide show tour, Harker Heights, Call of the Wild, Rok Haus, Blue Ridge Outdoors
- \$1238 Royal Robbins slide show, Access Fund Activist Summit, Estes Park, CO
- \$1011 Dan Bailey slide show, Aggie Theatre, Fort Collins, CO
- \$865 Stoney Point Clean and Climb Competition, Chatsworth, CA
- \$785 Foster Falls Climb Fest 2000 - Climbers Appreciation Day & Dean Potter slide show, Southeastern Climbers Coalition, Atlanta, GA
- \$752 Bouldering Blow Out, Upper Limits, Bloomington, IL
- \$525 Mike Libecki slide show - Arizona Mountaineering Club, Scottsdale, AZ
- \$470 9th Annual Sandrock Hoe-Down, Southeastern Climbers Coalition, Atlanta, GA
- \$385 Royal Robbins slide show EMS Boulder, CO
- \$325 Taylor Falls Clean-up, Midwest Mountaineering, MN
- \$305 4th Annual Flatland Climbing Competition, NU Climbing Club, Lincoln, NE



September 8, 2001

On September 8, 2001, nationwide, the Access Fund will lead trail restoration projects and clean-ups at climbing areas in the most wide ranging volunteer effort ever by the climbing community.

Adopt-a-Crag Day brings climbers together to preserve our climbing resources and care for climbing areas. It inspires activism, advocacy, volunteerism, and stewardship across the country. Join the party!

CALENDAR



Mick Ryan

- Phoenix, AZ Arizona Mountaineering Club, place to be determined, Sue Goins, skgoins@qwest.net
- Silverado, CA - Adopt-a-Crag-Echo Cliffs in Santa Monica Mountains, Louie Anderson, 714-479-5881
- Ventura, CA - Adopt-a-Crag-Stoney Point clean-up, Real Cheap Sports, Ghia Burch- 805-648-3808, realcheapsports@mindspring.com
- Joshua Tree, CA - Joshua Tree National Park- trail project and slide show, Friends of Joshua Tree, Phil Spinelli, 760-366-9699
- Boulder, CO - Adopt-a-Crag Ampitheater, Mountain Sports, Flatirons Climbing Council, CMC, and the Boulder Rock Club, Erin Hagerty 303-442-8355, Dave Turner 303-554-8535 and Matt O'Conner 303-447-2804
- 10/13-14 Eldorado Springs, CO - Adopt-a-Crag - Eldo, Action Committee for Eldorado and Neptune Mountaineering, Dan Knight- 303-543-8625, Dan Howley 303-499-8866
- Rifle, CO - Adopt-a-Crag Rile Mountain Park, Tasha Waugh, 970-876-1908
- Lost Wall on Pigeon Mountain, GA, Atlanta Climbing Club, Southeast Climbers Coalition, Gary Latimer 770-830-8769 or 404-237-4021
- Pocatello, ID - Adopt-a-Crag-Ross Park, Idaho State University, Peter Joyce, 208-236-3912
- Arlington, MA - Adopt-a-Crag- Hammond Pond, Scott Sandberg, 781-648-1294
- Acadia, ME - Adopt-a-Crag-Otter Cliff, Acadia Mountain Guide Climbing School-Alpenglow Adventure Sports, Jon Tierney, 207-288-8186, climb@acadiamountainguides.com
- Columbia, MO - Adopt-a-Crag-Capen, Climbers Alliance of Mid-Missouri CAMM, Steve Hollis, 573-499-4902
- Gorham, NH - Adopt-a-Crag- Square Ledge Trail, Appalachian Mountain Club, Cristin Bailey, 603-466-2721 x.166, amcbailey@hotmail.com
- Table Rock, NC - Adopt-a-Crag-Table Rock, Boone Climbers Coalition- Carolina Climbers Coalition, Alisha Toomey, 828-963-7579; Ron Dawson, 828-963-7579
- Raleigh, NC - Pilot Mountain State Park Adopt-A-Crag with NC State parks, NCSU, Carolina Climbers Co., The Climbing Place, Michael Pinkston - 910 497-2007, Aram Attarian, 919-515-3709, Terry Dash, 919-515-1392, Pilot Mountain State Park, 336-325-2355
- Falling Rock, SD - Adopt-a-Crag-Falling Rock, Black Hills Climbers Co., Toni Brumbaugh, 605-343-4310 or dakotatoni@yahoo.com
- Clarksville, TN - Adopt-a-Crag-conservation project, Clarksville Climbing Club, 931-920-3165
- Jefferson, WI - Governor Dodge State Park, Wisconsin Outdoor Access, Steve Fry 970-605-5015
- Fremont Canyon, WY - Adopt-a-Crag- Fremont Canyon, Mountain Sports, Kevin Siebke, 307-266-1136
- Devils Tower, WY - Adopt-a-Crag- Devils Tower National Monument, Scott Brown, 307-467-5283 x.21, scott\_brown@nps.gov
- Ragged Mtn., CT - Ragged Mountain Foundation, Mike Stokes, 203-239-882
- Toccoa, GA - Currahee Trail Day, SECC, Mike Crowder, 404-329-1519
- Tallulah Gorge, GA SECC, Mike Crowder, 404-329-1519
- North Attleboro, MA - Lincoln Woods clean up, Joe McLoughlin & Newenglandbouldering.com, 508-639-5502
- Sam's Throne, MO - Petra Rock Climbing Gym, Corey Canada, 417-866-3308
- Obed, TN - Obed Scenic River, East Tennessee Climbers, Frank Harvey, 865-986-6618
- 9/22 Vedawvoo, WY - 4th Annual Fat Crack Fest, Cross Country Connection, Wade Griffith, 307-721-2851

For more info email: [adoptacrag@accessfund.org](mailto:adoptacrag@accessfund.org)

Phone: (303) 545-6772

Web: [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org)



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**Festivals, demos, membership promos** - Brad McLeod, Wilson's Eastside Sports, James Wilson, North Wall, Outpost Wilderness Adventure, David Appleton

**For just being awesome** - Tommy Caldwell, Lisa Rands, Wills Young, Scott Milton, Diane Vetter, Kerry Nodal, Hans Florine, New Belgium Brewing Co., Reed Bartlett

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The Access Fund is a national, nonprofit dedicated to keeping climbing areas open & conserving the climbing environment. Since its incorporation in 1990, the Access Fund has provided more than \$1 million for climbing conservation and education across the US. We've paid for land purchases, climbers' campgrounds, educational brochures, toilets, signs, and scientific research on climbers' impact on birds of prey and cliff-dwelling plants. For more information:

**PHONE: 888-863-6237**

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 Boulder, CO 80308**

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## BALDY POINT PRESERVATION CEREMONY CLIMBING AREA IN OKLAHOMA PERMANENTLY PROTECTED

A crowd of enthusiastic supporters gathered at Quartz Mountain State Park on May 5th to celebrate the recent Access Fund acquisition of the Baldy Point climbing area. The ceremony was capped off with a symbolic "cutting of the ribbon," which was strung across the upper face and cut by climbers on rappel. "By protecting Baldy Point as part of Quartz Mountain State Park, we have preserved public access to one of the regions most valuable climbing resources and one of Oklahoma's most outstanding natural areas," said Marion Hutchison, Access Fund regional coordinator and event organizer. The Baldy Point Preservation Ceremony officially recognized the transfer of Baldy Point to the State of Oklahoma and honored all of those who contributed to the success of this important conservation effort. The ceremony included emotional remembrances of the land's former owners, long-time Mangum residents Ted and Margaret Johnson who allowed climbers to use their land beginning in the 1970's. Among the guests were State Park officials, Senator Bob Kerr from Altus, members of Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition, local climbers and other friends and supporters of the preservation effort.



Marion Hutchison

*Climbers rappel to set the ribbon which officially opened Baldy Point, Oklahoma to climbers. Thanks to the Access Fund and Wichita Mountain Climbers Coalition, climbing is now preserved at Baldy Point.*