

# VERTICAL TIMES

The National Publication of the Access Fund  
Spring 11/Volume 90  
[www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org)

## 20 Years, 20 Milestones

page 8



UNLOCK JAILHOUSE 6  
MOUNTAIN GOATS TAKE TOP SPOT IN TEAMWORKS COMPETITION 7  
2010 SHARP END AWARDS 12



“The loftier the building, the deeper must the foundation be laid.”

— Thomas Kempis

In this first issue of the *Vertical Times* in our 20th year, we focus on some of the milestones we’ve passed since our incorporation in 1991. From the early acquisitions and the proposed fixed anchor ban of the 1990s to the protection of Jailhouse and the recognition that climbing is compatible with wilderness, we have a lot to be proud of. And we still have a lot of hard work and opportunity in front of us.

The early work of the Access Fund laid the foundation for our recent success. Our acquisition of several parcels in Unaweep Canyon in 1991 proved that we could buy and protect land, and it set the stage for today’s Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign (AFLCC). Our continued advocacy on the legitimacy of climbing on public lands and the necessity of fixed anchors is one of the main reasons the National Park Service (NPS) sees climbing as a legitimate use of wilderness.

Climbing participation numbers have increased dramatically in the last 20 years, with the popularity of bouldering, sport climbing, and climbing gyms bringing more people to our sport. Many of the ethical battles of yesteryear are largely behind us. (Have you been taken to task for being a “hangdog” lately?) Yet new questions have taken their place: When are PermaDraws appropriate? What types of climbing are compatible with wilderness areas? How will new routes and boulder problems be developed on public lands in the future?

Though we’ve been around for 20 years, the ever-changing landscape of climbers, politics, and agency policy means that the Access Fund must constantly rethink our strategy and adapt to new challenges and opportunities. In some ways, it feels like we’re a nonprofit startup company: With limited resources and abundant passion and optimism, we believe we can change the world and open more climbing areas for sustainable recreation for this and future generations. It is a vision that helped launch us and still sustains us to this day.

Thank you for your generous support and volunteerism—it’s what has made everything we’ve done possible. We here at the Access Fund look forward to the next 20 years of working with the climbing community to keep our treasured places open and protected.

See you out there,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brady Robinson".

**Brady Robinson**

*Executive Director*

**ACCESS FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**OFFICERS**

*President*, Paul Fish, WA  
*Vice President*, Jamie McNally, TX  
*Treasurer*, Nancy Feagin, UT  
*Secretary*, Matt Compton, OR

**BOARD MEMBERS**

Mark Baum, VA  
Katie Blackett, CO  
John Evans, UT  
Alexander Friedman, WA  
Steve Johnson, CO  
Kyle Lefkoff, CO  
Richard S. Luskin, UT  
Perry Norris, CA  
Corey Rich, CA  
Beth Rodden, CA  
Mark Synnott, NH  
Beaver Theodosakis, CA  
Dirk Tyler, CO

**HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS**

Rick Accomazzo, CO  
Larry Gustafson, TX  
John Juraschek, NC  
Michael Kennedy, CO  
Armando Menocal, WY  
Dave Rosenstein, NJ  
Bill Supple, VT

**ACCESS FUND HEADQUARTERS**

**STAFF**

Brady Robinson  
*Executive Director*  
303.545.6772 x101, brady@accessfund.org

Amy Daley  
*Business & Finance Manager*  
303.545.6772 x107, daley@accessfund.org

Holly Stewart  
*Communications & Marketing Director*  
303.545.6772 x100, holly@accessfund.org

Jason Keith  
*Policy Director*  
303.545.6772 x102, jason@accessfund.org

Leici Hendrix  
*Development Director*  
303.545.6772 x106, leici@accessfund.org

Joe Sambataro  
*Access Director*  
303.545.6772 x112, joe@accessfund.org

**GENERAL COUNSEL**

Chris Archer

Sean D'Agnalo leads Mental Physics, another classic crack in Joshua Tree, CA | © Richard Tyler Gross



## Climbing and Cultural Resources

In the feature story “Climbing and Cultural Resources: A Tough Balance, A Tougher Conversation” from your last issue, author Laura Snider makes the blanket statement (page 9), “For example, Castle Rocks, which neighbors City of Rocks, Idaho, was recently closed entirely to climbing ...” It is important to clarify that the BLM closed 320 acres that it manages to climbing; however, the primary recreation area of Castle Rocks State Park, which is adjacent to the BLM backcountry, offers hundreds of sport and trad routes and remains open. The state park operates under a climbing management plan that protects cultural resources while providing many areas open to climbers.

— WALLACE F. KECK, SUPERINTENDENT,  
CITY OF ROCKS NATIONAL RESERVE

**AF:** *Wallace, we can see where that sentence could be misleading. It was not our intent to convey that the entirety of Castle Rocks is closed to climbing—the sentence was meant to convey that the closure [on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land] did not allow for any amount of climbing, that it is closed entirely. Thanks for clarifying!*

## NPS Proposal Requiring Preauthorization for Bolting

If I put up a new route with all trad gear, but find I need to place a bolt to be safe or get down, am I a criminal? I can't always guarantee I will or will not need to place a bolt in a new route situation. New routes are not all prequantifiable. In the wilderness, a new route is a spontaneous necessity sometimes.

— ANONYMOUS

**AF:** *The new NPS policy, which is in draft form, does not currently have language allowing for unexpected emergencies requiring fixed anchors. BLM regulations allow the placement of permanent fixed anchors in an emergency, and we'll be pushing for a similar provision with the National Park Service.*

## Props

Having the Access Fund down here helping us all sort through this very complex acquisition was invaluable—Deep Creek is a unique area that has gathered the support of the outdoor community at large. Very cool to see different groups come together for a common goal.

— CHAD WYKLE,  
SOUTHEASTERN CLIMBERS  
COALITION

**AF:** *Chad, we were psyched to be there to help and excited to see access to Deep Creek permanently protected. Nice work!*



The Access Fund wants to hear from you. Share your thoughts, ideas, and perspectives on access issues. Tell us what we're doing well. Tell us where we could improve. E-mail your comments to [holly@accessfund.org](mailto:holly@accessfund.org).

### Mid-Atlantic Climbers Enters into Joint Membership with Access Fund

Mid-Atlantic Climbers is the first local climbing organization (LCO) to offer full joint membership with the Access Fund. Now, climbers in the mid-Atlantic region can support climbing access and conservation at the national and local levels at the same time—with one donation. Visit [www.accessfund.org/joinmac](http://www.accessfund.org/joinmac) for more information.



**MID-ATLANTIC CLIMBERS**



### Boulder Canyon Climbers Working on Long-term Protection Plan

Boulder Canyon climbers are working with the Access Fund on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that incorporates local climbers and several landowners in the canyon on a long-term vision for the protection of climbing areas in Boulder Canyon. Stay tuned to [boulderclimbingcommunity.net](http://boulderclimbingcommunity.net) for updates.

### New Society Turn Land Steward

Since Telluride Mountain Club (TMC) first contacted the Access Fund in 1994 to protect Society Turn, it has helped steward this popular bouldering area outside Telluride, CO. TMC has stepped up to monitor the small crag on a quarterly basis to help the Access Fund meet National Land Trust stewardship standards and protect the six-acre property for future generations of climbers. For more information, contact TMC President Tor Anderson at [telluridemountainclub@gmail.com](mailto:telluridemountainclub@gmail.com).



### Gunks Climbers Coalition Fundraising for Waterworks Bouldering Area

The Gunks Climbers Coalition (GCC) has pledged a total of \$50,000 over 10 years to support the creation of a master plan for site design and long-term access management that supports climbing at the Waterworks bouldering area. It has already raised \$10,000, but it needs the community's help to continue fundraising. To find out how you can help, visit [www.gunksclimbers.org](http://www.gunksclimbers.org).

## Local Climbing Organization 101: **Joint Membership with the Access Fund**

Members are the lifeblood of local climbing organizations, but it can be challenging to manage a membership program. That's why the Access Fund has created a program that helps LCOs get a membership program up and running or strengthen an existing membership program—allowing your volunteers to focus on climbing issues.

**With one donation, members can support the local and national levels.** When members join or renew their membership, they'll be able to support their local climbing organization and the Access Fund with one easy donation.

**Let us do the hard work for you.** We'll manage the membership program so your volunteers don't have to. You'll receive membership information and dollars without having to send out e-mails or letters requesting support.

**Focus on access, conservation, and stewardship of your local crags.** Being a part of the joint membership program will allow you to focus on keeping your local climbing areas open, not managing a membership program.

All you need to qualify is to be registered in your state as a charitable organization or have 501(c)(3) status. For more information, contact Leici Hendrix, development director, at [leici@accessfund.org](mailto:leici@accessfund.org).



To submit an update for your local climbing organization or area, contact Joe Sambataro at [joe@accessfund.org](mailto:joe@accessfund.org).

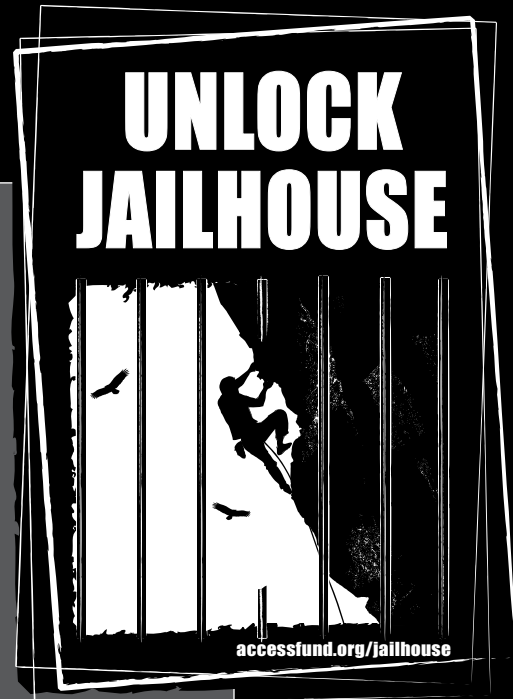
In mid-November, the Access Fund announced that permanent access had been secured to Jailhouse Rock near Sonora, California, through the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign. Jailhouse Rock boasts up to 200 feet of overhanging amphitheater on the western face of a basalt lava flow known locally as Table Rock. “For 12+ and harder routes, Jailhouse offers arguably the best winter stamina sport climbing in the West,” states Tom Addison, who has been climbing at Jailhouse Rock and maintaining positive relations with landowners since 1990.

While access has been secured, the current approach trail still crosses private land, which is up for sale. And the historical parking area is also subject to break-ins and misuse by non-climbers looking to access Tulloch Lake for partying or swimming. The Access Fund secured a route to the cliffs through a different access point and launched a fundraising campaign late last year to raise money to build a new parking area with trailhead facilities.

We are happy to report that thanks to the leadership of local climber Tom Addison and countless other donors and volunteers, fundraising is on track to build a new parking area with trailhead facilities; pay for the construction of a security gate; and cover legal, surveying, and other transactional costs.

The existing parking area and access trail will remain open for the immediate future. Construction of the new gate, parking area, and trailhead will begin later this year. Stay tuned for updated access information, including the gate code and important conditions of access at [www.accessfund.org/jailhouse](http://www.accessfund.org/jailhouse).

Many thanks to all of the climbers and area businesses who opened their wallets to make this access victory possible! Jailhouse Rock is a major resource for the San Francisco Bay Area, Yosemite, and Sacramento climbing communities, and we are thrilled that access is on its way to being permanently protected. While the Access Fund has secured a conservation easement to protect climbing access, Jailhouse is still on private land, and it is more important than ever to maintain a good relationship with the landowners. ■





# Mountain Goats

## TAKE TOP SPOT IN TEAMWORKS COMPETITION

One Saturday in late September, the Mountain Goats youth climbing team of St. Paul, Minnesota, found themselves staring into a 10-foot-deep by 15-foot-long cave filled with trash. Aptly named the “Alternative Living Cave,” this bouldering area in Duluth is rumored to have been taken over years ago by some University of Minnesota students who equipped it with everything from a makeshift stove and an ample supply of beer to piles of trash. The cave boasts an impressive six-foot-high roof, with lines established in the mid-90s—their names and grades lost to history.

This was the scene of the Vertical Endeavors’ Mountain Goats’ fall TeamWorks stewardship event. About 12 kids from the youth climbing team

came out that day, along with five other volunteers, to return this Minnesota bouldering area to a climbable state. After a half-day of carrying trash (cans, bottles, old blankets, huge torn-up tarps, an old metal stove) and removing large, stacked rocks, the Goats worked to reestablish lines and find new gems.

“On most any team, people usually look up to the best climbers, the strongest climbers, the ones making it onto podiums and to the tops of the hardest climbs,” says the Mountain Goats’ coach, Tyler Hoffart. “With the Mountain Goats, our climbing leaders are also our TeamWorks leaders. It is refreshing to coach young people who are not only quick to train hard and thus climb hard—but also always ready to support their climbing community and give back.”

The Mountain Goats hosted or cohosted (along with the Minnesota Climbers Association) five Adopt a Crag stewardship events last year, bringing in dozens of volunteers to help them cinch the top spot in the Access Fund’s 2010 TeamWorks youth stewardship competition. The kids were psyched when they learned that

they won the competition, expressing excitement about competing again this coming year. “They know they helped do something really good—good for them, for their friends, and for the land they love to climb,” says Hoffart.

The team has decided to invest the majority of the TeamWorks award money into its Team Grant Fund, a program designed to get more youth involved in climbing who wouldn’t normally be able to participate due to financial reasons.

The Access Fund would like to thank all of the TeamWorks members who participated in the 2010 TeamWorks competition. We are incredibly proud of all their accomplishments and look forward to seeing what they’re made of in the 2011 competition! ■

*TeamWorks is made possible by the generous support of our corporate sponsors:*

- *Recreational Equipment, Incorporated (REI)*
- *The North Face*
- *Urban Climber Magazine*
- *Clif Bar & Company*

**Golden Toothbrush**  
Mountain Goats Climbing Team  
St. Paul, MN

**Second Place**  
Adrenaline Climbing Team  
Suwanee, GA

**Third Place**  
Urban Core Climbing Team  
Atlanta, GA



In celebration of our 20th anniversary, we invite you to look back with us on 20 great milestones that have helped shape the course of the Access Fund and climbing in America.

**1. AF declares that it will support all forms of climbing**



The 1980s brought turmoil to the climbing community around climbing ethics—everything from rap bolting to hangdogging. The climate was one of heated controversies, route destruction, bolt-pulling, and even fist-fighting among climbers. At the time, the activists who would later form the Access Fund were still part of the American Alpine Club, but they set the first guiding principle of the Access Fund (which still endures today): to defend all forms of climbing and to not discriminate between trad and sport, alpine and bouldering, or climbing styles—ground-up or top-down, hangdog, bolts or bolt-less. “We don’t take sides in ethical debates. We will defend climbing in all its forms,” said Access Fund Co-founder Armando Menocal.

**2. AF breaks away from the American Alpine Club**



In 1990, the Access Committee within the American Alpine Club recognized that a dedicated organization was needed in order to effectively keep climbing areas open and protected. In the midst of the ethics debates, bolting restrictions, and areas being closed to climbing, the access problems were getting so big that a dedicated staff was needed to deal with them on multiple fronts. The official split took over a year, and in 1991 the Access Fund incorporated as its own organization dedicated to keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment.



**3. AF begins a tradition of land acquisition**

In 1991, the Access Fund, working in collaboration with local climbers, purchased



several rock formations from a private landowner in Unaweep Canyon near Grand Junction, CO. The acquisition provided strategic public access to adjacent BLM lands and protected a stunning 400-foot granite wall. The Unaweep acquisition kicked off a tradition of Access Fund land conservation efforts, leading to a total of 41 acquisitions supported in the last 20 years.

**4. AF launches grants program**



Early Access Funders launched the Climbing Preservation Grants Program in 1991 to provide money to organizations taking on projects designed to identify and work on the root causes of local climbing access and conservation issues. To date, the program has awarded 234 grants, across 35 states, totaling \$891,426.

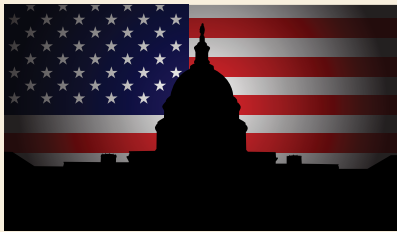
**5. AF builds a legacy of climber activism in Washington, D.C.**

The early access advocates formed the Access Fund in the early 90s, in part, because they were fighting efforts to





prohibit bolting all over the country and they needed to go directly to the top. “I mean, you were just getting killed by a thousand cuts, to be fighting an anti-bolting thing. It was one Forest Service place after another, and then the Park Service ... We needed to start dealing with the people who made the rules back in Washington, D.C.,” says Menocal. And so the Access Fund’s legacy of advocating for climbers in Washington, D.C., was born, and advocacy still remains critical to the mission today.



**6. Jim Angell’s trail building crusade**

In the mid-90s, founding Access Fund board member and master trail builder Jim Angell hit the road on a national trail building campaign. Jim taught many land managers how to build trails and mitigate climbers’ greatest environmental impact. Many of the trails we still hike today to reach our favorite crags—from the Gunks to Yosemite—have stood the test of time thanks to Jim’s work. “Jim’s trail work was one of the first real demonstrations to land managers that a well-designed climber access trail could minimize the most significant climber impact on public lands: social trails and erosion,” says founding board member Rick Accomazzo.



**7. AF takes on controversial topic of climbing and cultural resource protection**

In 1995, the Access Fund worked with the National Park Service and the Plains tribes to strike a compromise between climber access and the wishes of Native Americans at Devils Tower. An agreement was reached on a voluntary climbing closure of the tower during the month of June, when the majority of spiritual ceremonies are held. In the last 15 years, climbing has only grown in popularity, and land managers across the nation have been grappling to an increasing degree with how to protect cultural resources and still allow climbing. The Access Fund has worked on this issue at dozens of other areas across the country, including Indian Creek, Hueco Tanks, Red Rocks, Bishop, Joshua Tree, and others.



**8. AF takes the lead on climbing management to protect cliff nesting raptors**

In the mid-90s, land managers had no scientific studies related to climbing and its impact on nesting raptors, leading to substantial discrepancies in climbing restrictions across the country. Recognizing that the impact of climbers on nesting areas was due special consideration, the Access Fund consulted with biologists to identify the needs of nesting raptors and, in 1997, published *Raptors & Climbers: Guidance for Managing Technical Climbing to Protect Raptor Nest Sites*. This research has provided a foundation for negotiating dozens of climbing closures around the country.



**9. AF takes on fixed anchors in wilderness**

In 1997, the United States Forest Service (USFS) issued an outright ban on fixed anchors in wilderness, declaring them illegal. The Access Fund challenged the ban, and in 1998 an advisory committee was formed to find consensus on how to move forward. The Access Fund, as well as other advocates and leaders in the outdoor industry and other federal land managers, took part in this negotiated rulemaking process. The majority agreed on a basic framework for managing fixed anchors in wilderness: bolts, while a necessary tool for climbing, should be rare in wilderness; power drills are prohibited; bolt-intensive sport climbs are not compatible in wilderness; and prior authorization may be required for bolting. Eleven years later, no national policy has been implemented that dictates the use of fixed anchors in wilderness. However, the framework still guides federal land managers on the implementation of fixed anchor policies at the local level.



**10. AF sues the federal government**

In 1999, the Access Fund brought a lawsuit against the National Park Service to challenge a climbing ban on the Twin Sisters formation at City of Rocks in Idaho, arguing the fact that the park’s



own studies showed no impacts from climbing. In 2005, the Access Fund sued the federal government a second time, going all the way to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to challenge the U.S. Forest Service climbing ban at Cave Rock in Nevada. Once again, the Forest Service's own studies showed no significant impacts from climbing, and the Access Fund argued that the ban violated the U.S. Constitution because it favored the religious preferences of the Washoe Tribe over everyone else's privileges to access public land. While the Access Fund lost both lawsuits, its efforts forced federal land managers to do a better job of justifying closures. The land management agencies are well aware of the lawsuits that the Access Fund has filed, and they know how far climbers are willing to go to protect their rights to access public land. We've seen better decision making as a result.

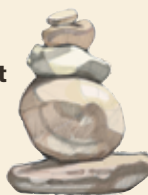
### 11. Launch of the Adopt a Crag program

In 2000, the Access Fund officially launched the Adopt a Crag program to unite local climbing communities with land managers to conserve climbing areas. Historically, climbers have had a high standard of environmental awareness and stewardship. And the Access Fund clearly saw that climber stewardship had a great impact on positive relationships with land managers. Having just celebrated its own 10th anniversary, Adopt a Crag remains the Access Fund's signature stewardship program, drawing an average of 4,000 volunteers a year to take care of the places we climb.



### 12. AF establishes best practices for climbing management planning

As the sport of climbing continued to grow exponentially, the Access Fund saw land managers across the country developing management plans that would have significant effects on future access. In 2001, the Access Fund published *Climbing Management: A Guide to Climbing Issues and the Development of a Climbing Management Plan* to educate and assist land managers on climbing management strategies that provide for climbing access while protecting resource values. In addition to this guide for land managers, the Access Fund provides guidance on draft climbing management plans around the country and hosts national climbing management summits to bring land managers together to share best practices.



### 13. AF takes on recreation fees

In 2001, Congress passed the controversial Recreation Fee Demonstration Program, which imposed fees on certain recreational users of federal lands. This was not an entrance fee but a use fee for simply walking, paddling, climbing, fishing, or biking on public lands. The Access Fund opposed the implementation of use fees to access wilderness and backcountry areas where significant administrative support is neither required nor desired by visitors, arguing that there should be no "pay-to-play" where "playing" costs virtually nothing. America's national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, recreation areas, and open spaces are the heritage of every citizen and access to these lands



should be equally available to all. The Access Fund continues to challenge recreation fees when they unfairly target climbers.

### 14. AF invests in grassroots network of local climbing organizations

When a local climbing access issue occurs, the best line of defense is almost always the local climbers who are familiar with the area and the issues. That is why, in 2004, the Access Fund worked to encourage, organize, and support local climbers to join together into local climbing organizations, offering one-on-one guidance, educational resources, stewardship programs, and grants to help get these local organizations up and running. Today, the grassroots network is stronger than ever, with over 90 dedicated local climbing organizations making victories happen all across the country.



### 15. AF helps found the Outdoor Alliance

In 2006, six of the largest human-powered recreation interest groups in the country—Access Fund, American Hiking Society, International Mountain Bicycling Association, American Whitewater, American Canoe Association, and Winter Wildlands Alliance—formed a coalition to work on issues of mutual interest. The Access Fund found that the motorized recreation community often spoke on behalf of all outdoor users. Though climbers are not necessarily at odds with the motorized recreation community, our interests and priorities are distinct. "Forming the Outdoor Alliance did more than any other single thing to elevate the profile of the climbing community in D.C.," says Policy Director Jason Keith.



**16. Launch of TeamWorks initiative**

In 2008, the Access Fund launched the TeamWorks program to help young gym climbers make the transition to responsible outdoor climbers and stewards. As the popularity of climbing continued to grow in the mid-2000s, indoor climbing gyms gave kids the opportunity to experience climbing in a relatively risk-free environment. This trend began spawning generations of talented young climbers, grown strong and bold inside the gym, who eventually turned to climbing outdoors—many of them without the ethic of outdoor responsibility. TeamWorks is a youth stewardship competition that challenges young climbers to host and participate in Adopt a Crag stewardship events, giving them the opportunity to work side by side with more seasoned outdoor enthusiasts and learn how climbers, the environment, and access are all connected.



**17. Launch of the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign**

Over the years, the Access Fund has seen more private climbing areas changing hands, some of them lost to cash-ready developers. In 2009, the Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign was launched as the first-ever multimillion-dollar revolving loan program that provides local climbing



organizations with the short-term financing and transaction expertise to act quickly to save threatened climbing areas. As a revolving loan program, money is loaned out, repaid, and then reinvested, allowing the Access Fund to recycle dollars to protect more climbing areas over time. In the past two years, the AFLCC has helped protect or enhance access at seven climbing areas in Washington, Alabama, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Kentucky, California, and West Virginia.



**18. AF signs MOUs with all three major federal land management agencies**

In 2009, the Access Fund held memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with all three federal land management agencies for the first time. Working to formalize these agreements for half a decade, the Access Fund signed its first MOU with the U.S. Forest Service in 2005, followed by the Bureau of Land Management in 2006, and the National Park Service in 2009. These MOUs are significant because they acknowledge the relationship that the Access Fund and the climbing community have with federal land managers. They help secure a “seat at the table” for climbers in discussions surrounding local and national policies that affect climbing.



**19. AF becomes a nationally recognized member of the Land Trust Alliance**

In 2010, the Access Fund Land Foundation (a separate entity set up to hold property and provide liability protection) was dissolved and all holdings were transferred to the Access Fund. This simplified organizational model sped up land transactions and maximized the effectiveness of the Access Fund’s private land protection efforts. This change also enabled the Access Fund to steward properties in compliance with Land Trust Standards and Practices. “We have stepped up our commitment to stewarding the climbing areas we’ve helped secure, as well as positioned ourselves to better protect threatened resources,” says Access Director Joe Sambataro.



**20. AF grows to a \$1 million organization with over 10,000 members**

We’ve come a long way. In 1991, when the Access Committee of the American Alpine Club broke away to form the Access Fund, the organization consisted of a handful of committed activists and \$10,000 from Yvon Chouinard. Over the years, other climbers saw the importance of what the Access Fund was trying to do and signed up to sponsor our work. Slowly but surely, individual climbers and companies in the climbing industry began to open their wallets, allowing the Access Fund to expand its work. Today the Access Fund is a thriving organization with a \$1 million annual budget and is over 10,000 members strong, working to keep climbing areas open and conserve the climbing environment.



**Here’s to a memorable 20 years, and 20 more to come! ■**

# 2010 SHARP END AWARDS

Each year the Access Fund recognizes individuals and businesses that go above and beyond to volunteer their time and efforts to preserving climbing access and the climbing environment. These recipients stand out in their commitment to the American climbing community, and the Access Fund is honored to present this year's awards to a worthy group of volunteers and activists.

**Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award**  
**RICK "RICO" THOMPSON**

We are proud to recognize Rico Thompson with the Menocal Lifetime Achievement Award, a special honor



given to lifelong activists of climbing access. Rico's service to the climbing community predates the Access Fund and spans the nation. As a cofounding board member, Rico helped move the newly formed Access Fund from a volunteer-run group to a fully staffed national organization leading the way to keep climbing areas open and conserve the climbing environment. Serving as the AF's first-ever national access and acquisition director, he played a central role in hundreds of access victories, including the purchase and transfer to the USFS of the parking area and trailhead at Rumney, New Hampshire; the acquisition of Society

Turn crag and Golden Cliffs preserve in Colorado; the acquisition and transfer to the BLM of Shelf Road's Cactus Cliff; and the formation of Castle Rock State Park in Idaho. Throughout the 1990s, Rico organized the AF's National Trails Initiative with legendary trail guru Jim Angell. From 1994 through 2010, Rico served as president of the Access Fund Land Foundation and worked closely with the Access Fund board and staff to transition AFLF holdings to the Access Fund for future management and protection. He continues to serve as regional coordinator for the Colorado Front Range, and we are honored to continue working with one of the nation's key figures in climbing activism and conservation for many more years to come.

**Bebie Leadership Award**  
**TOM ADDISON**

Access Fund is honored to recognize Tom Addison for his outstanding leadership in protecting Jailhouse Rock in Sonora, California. He has maintained positive relationships between climbers and landowners of Jailhouse Rock since the 1990s, working with multiple owners, the county, and the climbing community to address their concerns. With a new subdivision going through in 2010, Tom contacted the Access Fund and played a critical role in working with the landowner to ensure permanent access for



climbers. With the conservation and access easements secured, Addison led the way to locally fundraise for the Unlock Jailhouse campaign. Tom started working on access issues in the 1980s at Farley Ledge in western Massachusetts and has been an Access Fund member since 1992. For over 20 years, Tom has worked to keep crags open in Stanislaus National Forest and the Sonora area.

**Reese Martin Coordinator of the Year Award**

**JIM PINTER-LUCKE**

We are proud to recognize Access Fund Southern California Regional Coordinator Jim Pinter-Lucke



as the recipient of the 2010 Reese Martin Award for the leadership and support he has given to climbing areas all over southern California. Jim came on board with the Access Fund in 2008 and has worked nonstop on a long list of efforts to conserve and protect climbing areas, including organizing two Adopt a Crags each year at Tahquitz and Suicide to rehabilitate trails and install climber trail signs; driving five to eight hours from Los Angeles to support Adopt a Crags in Bishop and Yosemite; supporting the Friends of Williamson Rock at U.S. Forest Service meetings; and representing the Access Fund at many events. In 2010, Jim successfully launched a new local climbing

organization, the Idyllwild Climbers Association. Over the past two years, Jim's passion to protect and preserve climbing areas in southern California has made a great impact. We look forward to working with Jim for many years to come.

### Sharp End Award JEFF BROWN

We are proud to present a Sharp End Award to Jeff Brown, founder of the Allied Climbers of San Diego (ACSD) and a tireless advocate for balancing the interests of climbers with other land values and user groups. Jeff's efforts have led to more targeted and less restrictive raptor closures in the Cleveland National Forest, greater understanding of and compliance with land manager rules and obligations within the climbing community, and significant progress on other access issues in the southern California region. Always quick to point out that ACSD has been a group effort, Jeff has nonetheless been the single greatest force to bring the San Diego climbing community together to work for the common good. Though he recently stepped away from his formal leadership role in ACSD, his legacy will live on through the organization's continued success. Thank you, Jeff!



### Sharp End Award BRYAN PLETTA

We are excited to honor Bryan Pletta, president of the New Mexico Climbers Resource and Advocacy Group (CRAG) and owner of Albuquerque's Stone Age Climbing Gym, with a Sharp End Award for his leadership in the New Mexico climbing community. Also a longtime Access Fund regional coordinator, Bryan has organized many Adopt a Crag projects to build and repair climbing area trails throughout New Mexico and has worked proactively to maintain positive landowner relations to preserve climbing access at Datil/Enchanted Tower. This past year, Bryan met with local climbers and the U.S. Forest Service to address a wilderness fixed anchors controversy and negotiate a compromise. Bryan's dedicated and diplomatic leadership has been a key asset to New Mexico climbers for years.



### Sharp End Award KENJI HAROUTUNIAN

The Access Fund is honored to present a Sharp End Award to Kenji Haroutunian, president of the Friends of Joshua Tree (FOJT), for his dedicated activism to keep the rock in Joshua Tree National Park open to climbers. Kenji has been instrumental



in developing and organizing FOJT's annual Climb Smart event (just completing its 13th year), which partners climbing companies, athletes, and the local Joshua Tree community to support FOJT, Joshua Tree Search & Rescue, and other key climbing advocacy groups. This year, Kenji also rallied climbers to participate in Joshua Tree's general management plan, which could affect climbing access and conservation for the next 15 to 20 years. Thanks to Kenji for his longtime support for Joshua Tree climbing.

### Sharp End Award RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT, INCORPORATED (REI)

For 20 years, REI has been dedicated to protecting the places we climb and conserving the climbing environment. REI's support of both the Adopt a Crag program and the TeamWorks youth stewardship program has grown local volunteerism and long-term stewardship of climbing areas tremendously. In 2010, REI increased its support of the climbing community through the REI VISA card and proceeds from Banff Mountain Film Festival. We thank REI for its passion and commitment to bringing communities together to protect the places we climb. ■



## Corporate Partners

These partners are businesses that put their money where their mouth is to support the future of climbing. Please consider the important contribution these partners make to your climbing future. They support the Access Fund and you. We encourage you to support them!

### ABOVE THE CLOUDS - \$100,000+

Mountain Gear  
Outdoor Research  
prAna  
The North Face

### TITANIUM - \$50,000+

Black Diamond Equipment, LTD  
Mammut  
MSR®  
Petzl  
Therm-a-Rest®

### DIAMOND PLUS - \$35,000+

Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

### DIAMOND - \$20,000+

*Alpinist Magazine*  
*Climbing Magazine*  
*Dead Point Magazine*  
Marmot  
*Rock & Ice Magazine*  
*Urban Climber Magazine*

### PLATINUM PLUS - \$15,000+

Clif Bar & Company  
Osprey

### PLATINUM - \$10,000+

eGrips Climbing Holds  
GORE-TEX® Products  
Planet Granite  
Stanley  
Stonewear Designs  
Touchstone Climbing, Inc.  
Trango

### GOLD PLUS - \$7,500+

SCARPA North America

### GOLD - \$5,000+

Backcountry.com  
Campmor  
Carhartt  
La Sportiva  
Mountain Hardwear  
Mountain Khakis  
New England Ropes  
Patagonia  
Rock'n Jam'n  
The Spot Bouldering Gym

### SILVER - \$2,500+

Arc'teryx  
BlueWater Ropes  
Falcon Guides  
Jetboil  
Mad Rock  
Metolius  
Momentum Media PR  
Outdoor Retailer  
Rothschild  
Schoeller  
Sterling Rope Company  
SuperTopo.com  
USA Climbing

### MAJOR - \$1,000+

Asolo  
Avery Brewing Company  
CAMP USA  
Clear Future Markerboards  
Fixed Pin Publishing  
Fox Mountain Guides & Climbing School  
Lowe Alpine  
Moosejaw  
New Belgium Brewing Company  
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym  
RESTOP  
Spadout.com  
Treasure Mountain Inn  
Upslope Brewing Company  
Vertical World, Inc.  
Yates Gear Inc.

### CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

Alpine Ascents International  
Amarillo Rock Climbing House  
DMM Excalibur/Wild Country/  
Red Chili  
Evolve Sports  
GearEXPRESS.com  
Got it! Real Estate & Development  
Gregory Packs  
Haven Housewrights, LLC  
Higher Ground Roasters  
Julbo  
Liberty Mountain Climbing  
Mountain Tools  
Oskar Blues Brewery  
Outdoor Utah Adventure  
PMI  
Redpoint Nutrition  
Redwood Creek  
Rocks and Ropes of Tucson  
Stone Age Climbing Gym  
Tom K. Michael, DDS, PS  
Trailspace.com  
Vandalion Restaurant  
Verde PR & Consulting  
Wes & Gold

### SUPPORTING - \$250+

Alpine Endeavors  
Boulder Rock Club/  
Colorado Mountain School  
Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS)  
Hilleberg the Tentmaker  
Intelligentsia  
Omega Pacific  
Pagoda Climbing  
Rock & Snow  
Wild Country  
Zeal Optics



The Access Fund would like to welcome Jetboil as a corporate partner at the silver level. Jetboil, the award-winning creator of the revolutionary integrated cooking system, recently sold its new "GreenKit" at the winter 2011 Outdoor Retailer trade show and donated the proceeds to the Access Fund for our 20th anniversary. We'd like to thank Jetboil for its dedication to keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment.



Clockwise from top left: Robb Klaasen looking up at the crux of Heavy Traffic, Santa Barbara, CA | © Richard Tyler Gross; The artist Richard Tyler Gross reflecting near the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range, Bishop, CA. | © Sean Naugle; Trevor Long leads Panty Line in Red Rocks, NV | © Richard Tyler Gross; Midnight borderline free solo in the Alabama Hills, CA | © Richard Tyler Gross

# Richard Tyler Gross

**R**ichard Tyler Gross is an avid adventure, sports, wildlife, landscape, commercial, and product photographer currently based out of Santa Barbara, CA. Graduating from the world-renowned Brooks Institute with a Bachelor of Arts in Professional Photography, Tyler is drawn to expressing the harmonic moments that lie between man, spirit, and nature. Every interaction in the outdoors—whether it be catching the perfect wave, finishing a climbing route, or trekking to the peaks of far off mountains—offers him an opportunity to grow physically and mentally and gain a fresh perspective on humankind and its relation to this earth and our existence. Tyler’s stock photography is currently represented by Aurora Photos and his vision can be shared at [www.rtylergross.com](http://www.rtylergross.com). ■



The Access Fund  
P.O. Box 17010  
Boulder, Colorado 80308



Protecting America's Climbing

## Join us as we celebrate our 20th anniversary!

The Access Fund will be celebrating its 20th anniversary at events all around the country this year. Look for an event in your area!

### **Red Rock Rendezvous**

Las Vegas, NV: March 18-20

### **Nor'Easter**

Rumney, NH: September

### **New River Rendezvous**

New River Gorge, WV: May 14-16

### **Yosemite Facelift**

Yosemite, CA: September

### **EMS Open**

New York, NY: June 25

### **Rocktoberfest**

Red River Gorge, KY: October

### **UBC/USA Climbing Bouldering Comp**

Salt Lake City, UT: August

### **Access Fund 20th Anniversary Bash!**

Boulder, CO: October 22