

Vertical Times



THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE ACCESS FUND
VOLUME 57, APRIL 2004



THE BOULDERING ISSUE

- Launch of the Boulder Project
- Ways to Involve Boulders in Your LCO

THE BOULDER project

A special project of the AccessFund

We all have our obsessions, our boulder projects. Lying awake in bed chasing the shadows with our hands, memorizing the sequence by moonlight. We visualize our project and its completion over and over in our minds. The moves, which at one time were impossible, seep into the realm of attainable. "Next season," we tell ourselves as we sip our last cup of joe at the Kava Coffeehouse before heading down Highway 395 out of Bishop. Access to boulders is not eternal, though. Our hardest challenge might not be the dyno to a one-handed mantle sequence, but mastering the techniques of awareness and respect - for land, for life, for one another, for ourselves.

The Boulder Project, a national initiative facilitated by the Access Fund in cooperation with climbers, the climbing industry, land managers, and local activists, creates synergy in the climbing community to ensure that boulder projects remain open even after all of us have sent our problems. This isn't your typical Access Fund initiative - no overt Access Fund-driven educational campaign. To that end, broad-based involvement is of utmost importance. Not only is it important for all segments of the climbing industry to rally around the Boulder Project from a moral standpoint, but also it will bring the youth and the energy of the bouldering community into the growth and development of the industry, thus affecting access, thus affecting environmental and ecological concerns. It's a symbiotic objective. The future of bouldering, especially when it comes to access, rests in all of our hands through the actions and choices we make today.

Ultimately the Boulder Project is a way of life, thinking, making choices, building relationships, and taking actions that stretch well beyond bouldering. It's an awareness that the world and ourselves are evolving. Bouldering creates an intriguing tension. On one hand is the natural world; there is something about mountains, deserts, and the rock that excites us, and in their midst we push ourselves to perform at our highest level. Yet equally, the enormity of it all diminishes our importance in the earth's affairs. The Boulder Project is about respecting this tension, owning our actions as they affect our climbing environment, and working to ensure the preservation of climbing access well beyond the completion of our boulder project.

How can climbers be a part of the Boulder Project? Easy - let your passion for climbing inform your choices. Become involved, share your love of climbing with non-climbers, encourage shops and retailers to cater to climbers, let your land managers know your passion for bouldering, encourage your bouldering posse to organize a clean-up, mentor younger boulderers, realize that your choices and actions today affect access for future boulderers, and most importantly, continue to get outside and send your boulder project. For more information, visit accessfund.org

Authored by: Deanne Buck with help from Robb Shurr, Ojai International

Logo design by: Heath Norton, Vbouldering

On the cover: *Matt Stark cruxes on Overweight Lover at the Hound Ears, North Carolina. "The Ears" is a bouldering area in a private resort that is only open for one day of the year at the Hound Ears Bouldering Competition; therefore, access there is definitely not taken for "granted." Photo by John Heisel.*

Bouldering and Green Space in Atlanta: Taking a Stand at Boat Rock

By Jason Keith, Policy Director

(Reprinted from the Black Diamond Spring '04

Rock Climbing Catalog)

Boat Rock, a small but regionally significant boulderfield surrounded by Atlanta's growing sprawl, was about to be destroyed — literally. The housing developer had assured Brad McLeod, co-founder of the Southeastern Climbers Coalition, that he'd make every effort to spare the boulders from the teeth of the rock crushers, but soon thereafter gravel was all that remained of classic problems such as *Titanic*, *Jerry's Arete*, *The Glass Mantle*, and *Toe Jam*. More boulders awaited demolition.

Boat Rock is a 1/2 mile long jigsaw puzzle of private parcels, many of which have yielded to high-density residential subdivisions. Brad knew he must take a stand before the machines spit out, piece-by-piece, even more classic bouldering problems. When a FOR SALE sign appeared, Brad and the rest of "Team Boat Rock" immediately started the money drive to buy the boulders: \$100,000.

So far, TBR has raised over half the needed cash through individual climber donations, and by making the project about the community as a whole. "This is a green space issue: it's not just about climbers, it's about the local community," explains Brad.

"We could've chained ourselves to the boulders, but that would've alienated folks that might help us." Instead, TBR chose a collaborative approach that eventually endeared boulderers to the local residents.

Today the "Boat Rock Preserve" protects nearly eight acres of bouldering, including such outstanding problems as *Lost Digits*, *Paint Can Boulder*, and *Waves in Motion*. The Boat Rock Preserve, now part of a land trust established by the SCC, also provides critical greenspace and an "outdoor classroom" where local school kids tour the property to learn about its geology, animals, and unique flora such as oak and hickory trees, wild azaleas, and orchids. Eventually, Brad and the rest of TBR envision the Boat Rock Preserve growing into a 40-acre park for boulderers, school kids, and much-needed open space.

Taking a stand at Boat Rock not only meant bringing the climbing community together to save a threatened bouldering area, it also meant reaching out to the local community to identify common interests like greenspace preservation and environmental education. Sometimes preserving your own piece of the rock means sharing it with others as well.

More donations are still needed to pay off the purchased land, taxes, insurance, and maintenance bills. Check the SCC website for the full story at seclimbers.org

Update on Cave Rock: July-August, 2004 Voluntary Closure

In response to the recent decision by the United States Forest Service (USFS) to uphold the Cave Rock climbing ban, on December 15, 2003 the Access Fund filed a lawsuit requesting the courts overturn a USFS management decision (see file at www.accessfund.org/programs/CaveRock_complaint.htm). The Access Fund is a national, non-profit climber's advocacy organization representing the interests of more than one million climbers nationwide. Cave Rock is a multi-use recreational area in Nevada on the shores of Lake Tahoe.

Climbing is the only activity to be prohibited by the USFS under its Record of Decision (ROD). According to the forest supervisor's decision, there will be an immediate ban on climbing, while other "compatible" recreational activities such as hiking, fishing and picnicking will be allowed to continue because these other activities do not conflict with the "feeling and association" of Cave Rock. US Hwy 50, which runs through Cave Rock via a dynamited tunnel, lies just a few feet away from the climbing area. (See photo on the Access Fund website at accessfund.org/programs/pr.html)

In late November, through negotiations with the USFS and their attorneys, the Access Fund was able to obtain an administrative stay that stopped implementation of the ROD until a U.S. District Court rules on the matter. This will occur after both sides have presented written arguments to the court this summer.

Recently the USFS, through their attorneys, requested the Access Fund support a voluntary climbing closure for the months of July and August 2004 "to protect the area during this high use time of the summer," stated the USFS. The Access Fund has agreed to support this voluntary closure out of respect to the religious practices of the Washoe during these two months. Whether or not you as an individual climber respect the voluntary closure, it is critical


that you obey all the rules and in no way give cause to encourage the USFS to take a stricter approach. While the lawsuit is pending in court, all recreational activities that are currently permitted (including rock climbing on existing routes) will be allowed to continue at Cave Rock. The temporary order that prohibits installation of new fixed anchors will remain in place.

"The Access Fund has a long and exemplary history of compromise on similar climbing access issues such as Devils Tower in Wyoming, and the Red River Gorge in Kentucky," said Jason Keith, policy director for the Access Fund. "At both of these areas, land managers have found a way to balance the interests of recreational and cultural user groups." The Access Fund will continue to educate climbers on culturally sensitive climbing issues. As stated in the Cave Rock climbing guidebook, climbers should "climb and behave in a respectful manner. Cave Rock is an important spiritual site to the Washoe. Either treat it with respect and reverence or leave."

As always, the Access Fund encourages climbers to respect other users and be sensitive to people for whom Cave Rock has religious and spiritual significance. Please follow these guidelines when climbing at Cave Rock:

1. *Refrain from climbing in July and August 2004 in support of voluntary closure;*
2. *Do not place new or replace existing fixed anchors.*
3. *Act respectfully to all user groups.*
4. *Use restroom facilities at the boat ramp or pack it out.*
5. *Report any user conflicts or removal of fixed gear to the Access Fund and the USFS.*
6. *Obey all USFS rules and regulations.*

Access Fund Releases Bouldering Paper: Unique Resource to Benefit Land Managers

The Access Fund is proud to announce the publication of a unique resource providing the first-ever overview of bouldering issues and management 

approaches in the United States, *Bouldering: Understanding and Managing Climbing on Small Rock Formations* is intended to provide a knowledge base for managing bouldering as a unique form of outdoor recreation, and contains an overview of bouldering, participant demographics, impacts caused by bouldering and management considerations.

"The tremendous growth of bouldering in recent years has fueled many of the emerging access issues at numerous areas around the country including Bishop, CA; Joshua Tree, CA; and the Ross Lake Recreation Area of the North Cascades, WA" said Shawn Tierney, Access Fund access and acquisitions director. "Given the growing popularity of climbing and outdoor recreation it is critical that management practices are in place to protect natural resources while allowing for diverse climbing experiences. The goal of this paper is to share information and encourage greater consistency in climbing management in the US."

Copies of *Bouldering* will be sent to land managers, educators, Access Fund regional coordinators, and local climbing organizations. Copies also are available online as a PDF at:

www.accessfund.org/access/access_pub_resource.html



Bouldering: Understanding and Managing Climbing on Small Rock Formations provides a knowledge base for managing bouldering.

Vertical Times, April 2004, volume 57.

The Access Fund is a national non-profit organization dedicated to keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment.

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The Access Fund is a national, nonprofit organization dedicated to keeping climbing areas open & conserving the climbing environment. Since its incorporation in 1990, the Access Fund has provided more than \$2 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.

Vertical Times is the membership newsletter of the Access Fund published six times a year in February, April, June, August, October, and December.

Access Fund
PO Box 17010
Boulder, CO 80308

ph: 303-545-6772
FAX: 303-545-6774
www.accessfund.org

AREA REPORTS

Arizona's Oak Flats Threatened by Mining Proposal

Access to portions of Arizona's Queen Creek/Oak Flats area, home to the Phoenix BoulderBlast (formerly, the Phoenix Bouldering Contest), may be lost forever if the US Forest Service approves a mining proposal by Resolution Copper Company to extract billions of dollars worth of high-grade copper. There is substantial concern of ground subsidence due to the proposed mine – believed to be the largest copper ore body in North America – located thousands of feet beneath the Oak Flats campground where the PBB occurs. For liability reasons, the mining company would like to limit any public access to the areas above where the mining may occur (that is, much of the bouldering and roped climbing in the region). The mine could affect hundreds of bouldering problems and roped routes.

At this stage Resolution Copper has completed initial feasibility studies and begun "informal discussions" with the US Forest Service's Tonto National Forest concerning the proposal. For more information call the Tonto National Forest in Phoenix, AZ at (602) 255-5200, log on to their website at www.fs.fed.us/r3/tonto/indexy.html, or email the Tonto's Deputy of Public Affairs Vincent Picard at vpicard@fs.fed.us.

In March, AF Policy Director Jason Keith traveled to Phoenix and met with climbers to identify possible outcomes and strategies to maintain climbing and bouldering access at Oak Flats. A result of this meeting was the establishment of Friends of Queen Creek (FOQC) – a group of local activists dedicated to maintaining public access to the larger Queen Creek area. In March, Keith and FOQC members also met with officials from Resolution Copper to explore alternatives for mining activity and climbing opportunities in the Queen Creek area to coexist.

For more information, contact Paul Deifenderfer at dief@phoenixrockgym.com or visit friendsofqueencreek.com

Climbing Access Round Up

by Mick Ryan

Whilst the climbers are out at the rocks

pulling hard on shallow pockets and spotting each other should they fall, the local land management agencies, a local climber organization, the climbers Access Fund and several local climbers are watching their backs also, successfully managing the climbing areas where they play.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been very busy recently managing climbing on the Volcanic Tableland. The biggest news is the collaboration between BLM, DWP and Inyo County to install a parking area and trail on Chalk Bluff Road at the base of the Sad Boulders canyon. The trail from the Chalk Bluff Road to the Sad Boulders will be improved by the BLM and local climbers working together. Access to the Sad Boulders via Caso Diablo Road will be discouraged. The back road is rough and the upper parking lot is small so it won't take much persuasion for climbers to use the front access via Chalk Bluff Road.

The BLM is planning to do a more comprehensive ecological study of raptors in the entire Owens Valley around Bishop. The objective is to gain a greater understanding of the ecological, climatic, and human factors that may influence the population dynamics of these important top predators, and ultimately to gain knowledge of how to manage the area.

There is also good news for campers at the BLM Pleasant Valley Winter campground, known as the Pit. The BLM has purchased a CXT pre-cast concrete toilet to replace the expensive-to-empty porta-toilets. This luxurious commode, if you'll pardon the French, will be installed before next season's influx of winter climbing visitors. This installation has been partly funded by the Access Fund who donated \$9,750 specifically for the new toilets, bringing the total Access Fund grants to climbing projects in the Bishop area to over \$14,000 in 2003, and over \$26,000 since 2000.

Up at the Buttermilk's Peabody Boulders the Forest Service (FS) has also been busy doing studies on how people and car impacts can be managed, stabilized and hopefully reduced. The increase in the popularity of bouldering has put a lot of pressure on this area. Two concerns of the FS are sanitation and parking, and they are investigating installing CXT toilets and formalizing the parking by con-

structuring two parking areas out of natural materials. They prepared an Environmental Assessment and users have had the opportunity to comment on the FS rational and proposed alternatives. Most users agree that sanitation is an important issue along with encroachment of vehicles on to the delicate high desert vegetation, but many were concerned about the position of the top parking area and the effect it would have on the view shed of the Sierra Nevada from the area. The Forest Service will make their decision soon.

After several years of being represented by local individuals and the Access Fund, the Eastern Sierra now has a formal "climbing council" to represent climbers interests. Called the "Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition" (ESCC) their mission statement is to "preserve the climbing environment and access to climbing areas through stewardship, education, and community outreach." The ESCC is endorsed by the Access Fund and is focusing on being a forum for all climbers or members of the community to voice their concern about specific climbing issues.

Presently there are ten ESCC boards members: Sarah Schneider, Tony Puppo, Scott Justham, Clark Trowell, Zeke Federman, Jaime Stewart, Greg Haverstock, Tim Steele, and Paul Rasmussen, with Schneider and Federman being the important land manager liaison team.

The ESCC are planning to have a website up and running soon where you can register to join, so far they have a mailing list of 50 names and to fairly represent climbers they will need much more than that. The group will be having regular public meetings to which all our invited. One of the first actions the group is involved in will be the improvement of the trail from Chalk Bluff Road to the Sad Boulders canyon in collaboration with the BLM and FS trail specialist Marty Hornick.

In addition to the ESCC, climbers are also represented by the Access Fund's Regional Coordinator, Bob Harrington, who also made comments recently on the FS plans up at the Buttermilk. Climbers are encouraged to make individual comment on any land management issues directly to land mangers or attend the "Interagency Bouldering (and Climbing) Group" meetings and make their voices heard.

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"Mandala" T-shirt with Access Fund logo on the front. (blue or white) Sizes S, M, L, XL. \$20

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Ways to Involve Boulderers in Your Local Climbing Organization

(Adopted from IMBA's "9 Ways to Involve Freeriders in your Club")

Boulderers are some of the most passionate, energetic, and creative climbers around. Involving all types of climbers and all types of climbing can give an established local climbing organization a great boost of adrenaline. Here are a few tips to help.

1. Include Boulderers in Organization Leadership

Expand the leadership of your organization to be inclusive of all types of climbing. It is one thing to invite boulderers to attend a meeting or two. It's another to invite them to have a significant voice in the organization's decision-making process. Work to enlist boulderers in your organization's leadership or board of directors.

2. Embrace Bouldering Stewardship Projects

Stewardship is about giving back to the climbing areas we use on a regular basis. From the signs in the parking areas, to the established trail systems, to the rocks and boulders where we devote endless hours, climbers are frequent land-users, and it is important that we make an effort to maintain and care for that land. Stewardship projects encourage climbing communities to engage local land managers, landowners, park service employees, and forest rangers in conversation about ways to preserve and protect their climbing areas and environments.

3. Use your Existing Relationship with Land Managers to address Environmental and Cultural concerns in bouldering areas.

Remote, challenging, wilderness bouldering is becoming more and more popular. For cultural and environmental reasons, land managers may have concerns with bouldering in these areas. It is important to work with boulderers and your local land manager to determine the sensitivity of bouldering areas and the potential impacts of discovering a new bouldering area. Most land managers are open to the idea of work-

ing with boulderers to responsibly manage new and culturally or environmentally sensitive bouldering areas. The savvy land manager knows the benefits of working with boulderers, rather than the never-ending battle of closing trails and/or areas. Use your organization to create an open relationship between boulderers and land managers.

4. Listen, Don't Criticize

The discovery and growth of bouldering areas is a complex issue. It may seem that the easiest thing to do is to criticize and separate your organization from this element of climbing. This approach will only fragment the climbing community. Boulderers are enthusiastic climbers. Listen to their ideas - you'll gain their respect and learn something in the process.

5. Liven it Up, Brah!

Organization meetings need not be events that challenge C-SPAN for dynamic entertainment value. Keep meetings fun, lively and snappy. Show climbing videos, provide good food and drink and keep the agenda moving. These elements appeal to all climbers — not just boulderers.


6. Shop Talk

Boulderers tend to be passionate climbers, and many spend a lot of time in local climbing gyms and shops. Use these shops and gyms to get boulderers involved in your organization. Put up flyers for meetings or better yet work to host organization meetings or parties at a shop or gym.

7. Boulderers can Expand and Increase Organization's Membership

While certainly not the rule, boulderers are often young. They may have a different perspective on what types of events will attract the climbing community. Pay attention: if a boulderer suggests that your organization's next fundraiser be a thumping techno dance party, perhaps they're onto something.

8. Invest in Boulderers

Not with money, but with time. Younger boulderers are part of the future of climbing and your organization. By taking the time to work with them and share your knowledge and experience, you can be sure the future of climbing will be in good hands. 

Access Fund Awards \$19,500 in Climbing Preservation Grants

The Access Fund has awarded \$19,500 in its first round of grant funding for 2004. Awarded three times annually, Climbing Preservation Grants provide financial assistance for local climber activism and protection of the climbing environment. The grants will be distributed for trail improvements, education and start-up assistance for newly formed local climber organizations. "The Access Fund is committed to preserving the climbing experience for present and future generations," said Shawn Tierney, access and acquisitions director. "We're proud to fund these important initiatives on behalf of our members and the entire climbing community." The following grants were awarded:

Rocky Mountain Field Institute Trail Projects, UT

\$5,000 to the Rocky Mountain Field Institute (RMFI) for trail projects at Indian Creek Canyon, UT. Projects will include construction of climbing access trails to the Way Rambo and Cat Walls, campground maintenance and restoration for the Bridger Jack camping site, and maintenance of existing trails. The mitigation of impacts to the fragile desert landscape continues to be a critical need in Indian Creek Canyon. RMFI has received Access Fund support for Indian Creek projects for the past 6 years.

Southeastern Climbers Coalition, GA

\$3,000 to the Southeastern Climbers Coalition (SCC) for the Boat Rock Preserve. SCC purchased the 7-acres Boat Rock property with assistance from the Access Fund in 2002, and has held periodic fundraisers over the past two years to pay for the purchase. This grant is part of the Access Fund's ongoing commitment to the SCC for Boat Rock. By purchasing Boat Rock the SCC has managed to preserve a small slice of a magnificent boulder field and its unique environment for climbers as well as the surrounding community to enjoy.

Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition, CA

\$2,500 to the ESCC to help pay for organizational and start-up expenses for the newly

formed grassroots climber's advocacy group. ESCC will focus on proactive resolution of climbing management issues, dialogue with land managers, education and outreach to local and visiting climbers, stewardship of the area's resources, and representing climbers in the eastern Sierra.

Black Cliffs Trail Project, ID

\$3,000 to the Boise Climbers Alliance to improve climbing access to the Black Cliffs, a local cragging area 15 minutes from downtown Boise. Climbing use has increased over the years, resulting in the proliferation of social trails and serious erosion problems. The BCA will also install several kiosks at key trailheads to inform climbers about the BCA, supporting organizations, the raptor protection plan, and the area's natural and historic value.


Friends of Joshua Tree/Boulder Clean, CA

\$1,500 to the Friends of Joshua Tree (FOJT) for their "Boulder Clean" project. Boulder Clean is an educational campaign focusing on building awareness of local bouldering access issues, bouldering ethics, stewardship, and conservation of climbing resources. FOJT is currently working in partnership with industry partners, JTNP officials, local guidebook authors, boulderers, and local retailers.

Rock Canyon Protection Project, UT

\$2,000 to the Rock Canyon Alliance (RCA) for the Rock Canyon Preservation Project. The grant will support the ongoing efforts of the RCA to preserve climbing access in Uinta National forest and on 80-acres of private land within Rock Canyon. Quarrying has recently been initiated on the private land, and much of the quartzite boulders and cliffs have been removed. In response to the quarrying activity, climbers in Utah have organized to support the RCA to preserve access and limit the effects of the mining operation.

Natural Bridge, CA

\$1,000 was awarded to help pay for interpretive signage at a culturally significant climbing site in northern California. The signs will also ask visitors not to climb at Natural Bridge. The voluntary closure 

is fully supported by the local climbing community and the Access Fund.

Pete's Rock Conservation Project, UT

\$1,250 to the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance (SLCA) for the Pete's Rock Conservation and Restoration Initiative. Last year, the SLCA committed to permanently removing large white painted numbers from Pete's Rock, a beginner top-rope crag located near Mt. Olympus in the Wasatch Range. The numbers had been re-painted year after year as a tradition to mark the routes and designate their difficulty. The public is overwhelming in support of permanently removing the paint as most recreationists felt it was a practice no longer acceptable.

Auburn Ice Access Project, MA

\$250 to the Friends of Auburn Ice Canyon. Access to one of the only ice climbing venues in eastern MA is threatened by conflicts with adjacent private landowner. Funds will help defray the cost of producing informational signs and brochures directing climbers to parking and access routes.

2003 Access Fund Work On Endangered Crag

The AF launched the endangered climbing area campaign with the support of Mountain Gear in 2003. The campaign identified areas around the country most in need of immediate attention and highlighted the issues and problems facing each one. For more information visit accessfund.org/endangered/index.html

CAVE ROCK, NEVADA

Spearheaded opposition to USFS climbing ban at Cave Rock. Filed an administrative appeal urging the Forest Service to reconsider their management actions; and filed a lawsuit with Nevada Federal Court to reverse unconstitutional actions by the US Forest Service.

THE FLATIRONS, COLORADO

Attended a series of meetings with city of Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks Department planning staff and provided climber perspective on the Flatirons Visitor Management Plan; provided ongoing support for the Flatirons Climbing Council

(the area's local climber organization).

HUECO TANKS, TEXAS

Continued to offer support to Hueco Tanks State Historical Park (HTSHP) for resource protection, trail improvements, and climber education. Assisted the formation of the Climbers of Hueco Tanks, provided financial support for Climbers of Hueco Tanks staff to attend crucial management meetings, where they obtained recognition from HTSHP that Hueco is one of the world's premier bouldering sites which is unique and should be preserved. For the first time ever the State of Texas recognized that recreation is a legitimate use of the park and bouldering is an important use of the park resources. Held a climbers meeting at Hueco to hear the concerns of the bouldering community.

LITTLE COTTONWOOD CANYON, UTAH

Met with members of the Salt Lake Climbers Alliance to discuss strategies for negotiating with the LDS Church concerning private property issues in Little Cottonwood Canyon (LCC).

RED ROCKS, NEVADA

Drafted administrative comments and related advocacy work on management plans for Red Rocks National Conservation Area (NV) and the newly established wilderness area at Red Rocks.

RED RIVER GORGE, KENTUCKY

Strategized with cultural resource consultants to find positive solutions to protect archaeological and historical values at Red River Gorge, KY while maintaining reasonable climbing access.

TWIN SISTERS, IDAHO

Continued two-part strategy:

1. Develop and implement a CMP for neighboring Castle Rocks State Park.
2. Initial discussions with IDPR to revise City of Rocks CMP,

VOLCANIC TABLELAND, CALIFORNIA

Provided over \$14,000 in grants to assist with bouldering management on the Tableland and organized a climber meeting that led to forming a local climber group to represent climbers on the east side of the Sierra.

MEET THE AF

Michael Lindsey, Director of Major Gifts

John Heisel: Where are you from?

Michael Lindsey: I was born and raised in Wyoming. I lived there 27 years, leaving to work for Colorado Outward Bound in 1979. During my last five years there, I was the program director and did some fundraising trips to Nepal and the former Soviet Union. Then, I started working for NOLS as the director of the Rocky Mountain Branch, and worked as the operations director overseeing branches in Kenya, Mexico, Canada, Chile, as well as the U.S.

JH: How did you get into climbing?

ML: In 1970, my roommate took a two day introduction to rock climbing course at the University of Wyoming. He came back and said "I really like this, let's go out climbing. He bought an old Gold line rope, a few pitons and a hammer. The next day we went to Vedauwoo. He led the first pitch to show me how it was done. I led the second pitch and (laughs) somehow we managed to survive. So we learned by trial and error. Then, I kept climbing at Vedauwoo and around Wyoming and Colorado throughout college. When I graduated, I kept trying longer and harder climbs and traveled around the Western United States and Canada.

JH: What type of climbing do you prefer?

ML: After almost 20 years of traditional climbing, I moved to Lander in 1989. The best traditional climbing was a ways away so we started putting up sport climbs in nearby Sinks Canyon. I could go from my house, to climbing at Sinks Canyon, in 15-20 minutes. Sport climbing really fit my lifestyle. I could spend half a day with my daughters, and still get in enough pitches in to feel real hammered. I enjoy the gymnastics and movement of sport climbing. I still like to trad climb, but like the convenience and ability to focus on the pure movement of sport climbing.

JH: So, tell me about your job as Director of Major Gifts.

ML: My job is to get more people involved in financially supporting the Access Fund. Climbers are becoming increasingly aware that their climbing resources can't be taken for granted. For the Access Fund to be effective, it needs the resources, namely dollars,

to expand its mission and remain the voice of sensible climbing regulations and access issues.

JH: What type of support are you trying to receive for the AF?

ML: The Access Fund gets its financial support from membership fees, individual donors, private and public foundations, grants, and corporate support. We need to broaden our base and get more people involved in giving to ensure our climbing future is intact. As the population grows, cities expand and regulations stiffen, there will be more pressure to limit access to some of our favorite climbing areas.

JH: What kind of projects are you working on?

ML: One of my biggest projects is organizing the Annual Dinner in San Francisco on September 23rd where we will have three speakers. The theme is "three generations pushing the limits in Yosemite."

JH: What are some other of your projects?

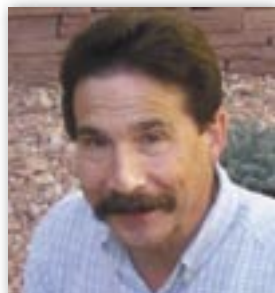
ML: I'm also working to expand our Planned Giving program. There are a number of ways people can give to the Access Fund such as wills, life insurance, or deferred gifts. Some planned gifts can even take effect during the donor's lifetime. The important concept is that the donor's heirs will still receive the same amount, even with a planned gift. The difference, in many instances, is that the federal government receives less tax.

JH: So why should people support the AF?

ML: First, become a member because our membership can be a powerful force for public policy issues that affect climbing. We've truly have made a significant impact on climbing in America. Also, members can be assured their contributions are well spent to protect their climbing interests.

JH: Anything else?

ML: A lot of access problems can be avoided if climbers are good ambassadors and stewards in their local climbing areas. For example, at Sinks Canyon we met with the land managers early on when we started developing routes. Then we worked with them to develop strategies for minimizing impacts, which helped ensure continued access to the area!



Quartz Mountain Thanks

As a long time Access Fund Member and recent transplant to Oklahoma, I had my first opportunity to climb at Quartz Mountain this weekend. It was an all too short day, but what a marvelous spot to climb out there in the plains of the west. I also had the opportunity talk with one of the park rangers. He was enthusiastic about Quartz Mountain becoming a part of the park system and had nothing but wonderful things to say about the climbing community.

Congratulations to all who were a part of this project. I look forward to years of climbing here in Oklahoma and will keep supporting Access Fund and its many projects.

*Tom Trautman
Oklahoma*

Cave Rock Concerns

My name is Mike Njoten. I just visited the forest service office today and found out that cave rock will be closed to climbing as of the 20th of Nov. I live in South Lake Tahoe and climb at cave on a regular basis (approximately 100 to 150 days within the last 3 years). I know everyone who climbs there and none of us had ever seen any of the Washoe visiting their most "sacred" cave rock. We need to fight the closure. If there is anything I can do please tell me. Slayer was one of the first 5.14's in the U.S. Henry Rupert, the Washoe medicine man, visited the cave from 1965 to 1969. This is their sole argument. Alvin McClaine climbed a classic 5.6 at cave in 1963 which is just as historically significant. As for the archaeological aspect and the rock work that Dano did to disturb the "original" state of cave rock's floor, I am appalled. The only reason that a floor even exists is because the government needed somewhere to put all of the rubble from the two tunnels they blasted through the andesite plug's core. Cave Rock is one of the places where climber's realized that we can climb the severely

overhanging rock.

*Mike Njoten
Tahoe, California*

Response to "Altruist With A Bosch"

(reprinted with permission from Rock & Ice Magazine)

Matt Samet's interview with Bob D'Antonio ("The Power and the Fury" – Rock and Ice #129 Dec. 1, 2003) illustrates why every climber should join the Access Fund. Every popular climbing area is at risk today, and Bob's cavalier and contentious attitude is like a bull in a china shop. I like Bob's routes, but the idea that he is an altruist with a Bosch is a stretch. There are a million climbers in this country, and bureaucrats and land owners don't give a damn about anyone's right to climb, much less to bolt.

It's unfortunate that Bob felt compelled to criticize the Fixed Hardware Review Committee. The process developed by Eldorado State Park and the Action Committee for Eldorado is an excellent model for popular crags on public lands. Applications for new fixed hardware are submitted to the FHRC, whose charter is to interpret the consensus of the climbing community. ACE has worked hard for 11 years to build a positive relationship with the State Park. Now that's altruism. (A similar process has been adopted to open limited areas of the Flatirons for new route development after 15 years of restrictions.) Anyone who believes that they are entitled to place bolts whenever, wherever they like is oblivious of today's climbing reality.

The only way to preserve climbing access and responsible establishment of new routes is for climbers to band together and support the organizations fighting for their interests. So get behind the Access Fund and your local climbing organization BEFORE your favorite crag gets closed or restricted! It's difficult to understand why less than 10% of climbers support the Access Fund. The more climbing areas that are closed, the less your imagined right to express your sense of adventure matters – whether for common good or personal glory.

*Owen Silver
Boulder, Colorado*

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The Member Handbook is a complete source of information about access issues, Access Fund programs, letter writing and other advocacy tools, and a primer on ways to get involved at your local crags. Look inside for:

- Tips for writing political action letters.
- A complete list of the Access Fund's staff.
- Guidelines about how to climb responsibly.

- Download the PDF file at:
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Events, Thanks and Featured Member

Event Calendar

April

4/23 Tempe, AZ, 21st Annual Phoenix Boulder Blast, Jim Waugh, 480-540-3486
4/24 Towson, MD Spring Cling, Towson University, Beth, 410-704-5361
4/27 Wilmington, NC, Discover Outdoor Center Climbing Competition, Seth Pomerance, (910) 962-4052

May

5/7 Asheville, NC Mountain Sports Festival, UNC - Asheville Outdoor Programs, Chad Morgan, (704) 251-6459
5/8 "Spring Thing" Volunteer Day, Smith Rocks, OR, (541) 548-0338

July

7/10 Lander, WY, International Climbers' Festival, Jennifer Barrett, (307) 332-4541, climbersfestival@wyoming.com, www.climbersfestival.org

Thanks for your support through general events and projects

Kurt Smith and Elaina Arenz-Smith, Tommy Caldwell & Beth Rodden, Wilderness Exchange Unlimited, Don Bushey, Vertical Endeavors, James Wallish, USCCA, Rock'n & Jam'n & Deb Grass, Georgia Outdoor Recreation Program, Vertical Ventures, Aiguille Rock Climbing, Rok Haus Indoor Climbing Gym, 4th Annual Wasatch Ice Festival, High Adventure, Riley Sidaway & Richard Harrison, Adventure 16, Gainesville Rock Gym, Gavin Heverly, Ouray Ice Festival 2004 & Erin Eddy, Upper Limits & Jodi Duniphan, Michigan Ice Climbing Festival, Down Wind Sports & Bill Thompson, Cody Ice Roundup, Don Foote, The Magic Line & Fabrizio Zangrilli, Brett Davis & Frank Harvey.

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The Access Fund
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your climbing future

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

LOCAL CLIMBING ORGANIZATIONS

LCO's are volunteer-based climber organizations working in collaboration with the Access Fund to preserve access and conserve the climbing environment at the local or regional level. LCO's also support the Access Fund through events and membership drives. To add your LCO to this list, E-mail deanne@accessfund.org. For links to websites of these LCOs, visit

www.accessfund.org/whoweare/who_lco.html

Alabama

Alabama Climbers' Association
Southeastern Climbers Coalition

Arizona

Arizona Mountaineering Club
Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition
Tucson Climbers Association

Arkansas

Southeastern Climbers Coalition

California

Boulder Clean - Joshua Tree Bouldering Group
Cragmont Climbing Club
Friends of Joshua Tree
Friends of Pinnacles
San Diego Climbers Coalition
Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition
Southern California Mountaineers Association
Southern Sierra Climbers Association

Canada

Climbers Access Society of British Columbia

Colorado

Action Committee for Eldorado
Flatirons Climbing Council

Connecticut

Ragged Mountain Foundation

Georgia

Southeastern Climbers Coalition

Idaho

Kootenai Climbers

Illinois

Illinois Climbers Association

Iowa

Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition

Kentucky

Kentucky Rock and Sports Trust
Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition
Southeastern Climbers Coalition

Ohio

Ohio Climbers Association

Massachusetts

Appalachian Mountain Club - Boston Chapter
Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition

Michigan

Grand Ledges Climbers Coalition

Missouri

Climbers Alliance of Mid-Missouri

Minnesota

Minnesota Climbers Association

Nevada

Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council

New Mexico

CRAE-New Mexico

New Jersey

Access NJ

New York

Gunks Climbers Coalition

North and South Carolina

Boone Climber's Coalition
Carolina Climbers Coalition
Pisgah Climbers Association
Southeastern Climbers Coalition

Ohio

Ohio Climbers Association

Oklahoma

Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition

Oregon

AAC - Oregon Section Access Committee
Cascades Mountaineers
Mazamas
Smith Rock Climbers

Pennsylvania

Explorers Club of Pittsburgh
Manayunk Climbing Alliance
Pennsylvania Alliance of Climbers

South Dakota

Black Hills Climbers Coalition

Tennessee

Southeastern Climbers Coalition

Texas

Central Texas Mountaineers
Climbers of Hueco Tanks
Texas Mountaineers

Utah

Salt Lake Climbers Alliance

Vermont

CRAE-VT

West Virginia

New River Alliance of Climbers
Southeastern Climbers Coalition

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Outdoor Access