

VERTICAL **TIMES**

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE ACCESS FUND



your climbing future



VOLUME 66 | OCTOBER 2005



“Climbing victories made possible by people who you have never met”

As The Access Fund matures as an organization we find ourselves working with literally thousands of volunteers around the country -- both unaffiliated and with over 50 affiliated local climbing organizations. Regardless of the organization there is always a common thread; volunteer-climbers concerned for your local crags and boulders so that you and future generations will be able to climb. Most interesting is this is occurring all over the Nation, yet most of these people have never met one another.

As the number of climbers grow so does the need to support one another in our efforts. ***We are all climbers and climbing resources are finite.*** Even if today you think you will never climb at the Happys or Sads, Oak Flat or Laurel Knob, on Mt. Rainier or Denali, there are climbers who share your passion and volunteer their time and money to work on issues at these areas. The Access Fund is your common link to all of these communities around the country. As a community of climbers, *support is how success is accomplished.*

And yet there are still many areas with only a lone voice or no one at all to look out for climbers' needs and concerns. It is easy to get involved and support your local area but, it is sometimes more

difficult to comprehend how a success in Jamestown, AL or a loss in Twin Falls, ID effects the entire climbing community. *Support is how success is accomplished.*

One way the Access Fund directly supports the climbing community is through our Climbing Preservation Grants Program which strives to give away 15% of the Access Fund's yearly revenue for projects big and small. These projects are requested and staffed by the climbing community.

The grant money is made possible by every Access Fund member and partner but yet only 1% of all climbers are members. If every climber in the country became an Access Fund member for \$35 (about 70 cents per week), there isn't an access issue that couldn't be resolved. *Support is how success is accomplished.*

We all share the same goal and you never know when you will need help in your local area. The Access Fund is only as strong as the volunteers and resources we have available to us. Please do what you can.

Take the 2005 Challenge and help yourself and the climbing community by supporting the Access Fund.

Steve Matous | Executive Director

Vertical Times October 2005 | Vol. 66

The Access Fund is a national non-profit organization dedicated to keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment. Vertical Times is the membership newsletter of the Access Fund published six times a year in February, April, June, August, October, and December.



ROCK IS FINITE KEEP ACCESS INFINITE

The Access Fund, our affiliates, corporate partners and regional coordinators invite YOU to join the Access Fund in the Climbing Resource Challenge. **Every dollar that is given to the Access Fund between November 1 and the end of the year will be matched by a combination of corporate sponsors and current AF supporters.** This is an opportunity for you to double your giving to keeping climbing areas open and to conserving the climbing environment. TAKE THE CHALLENGE TODAY!

On a national level the Access Fund affects policy that touches climbers across the country. On a local level, we support local climbers with grants for projects, resources for local climbing organizations, and support in keeping your local crag open. But what we can do is only as strong as our members.

Support is how success is accomplished

The number of climbers continues to increase dramatically and with this comes increased access issues. These issues that could prevent you from being able to do what you love. Resources keep your climbing areas open and we depend on you to help build these resources.

Only 1% of all climbers contribute to the resources of the Access Fund by being a member. These resources keep all climbers climbing. The number one reason people aren't members is that "they haven't gotten around to it". Please get around to it now, so that we can all keep climbing.

We challenge you to keep access infinite.

Piggy Bank Pledge- Save or find one quarter a day. 25 cents x 7 x 52 = \$91

Latte Promise- Skip your morning latte once per week. \$2.50 x 52 = \$130

Brown Bag Commitment- Take your lunch to work once per week. \$5 x 52 = \$260

One Tank Difference- Donate the equivalent of one tank of gas per month. \$40 x 12 = \$480

Everything helps...

Since 1990, the Access Fund has been the only national advocacy organization that keeps climbing areas open and conserves the climbing environment. The Access Fund supports and represents over 1.6 million climbers nationwide in ALL forms of climbing; Rock Climbing, Ice Climbing, Mountaineering, and Bouldering.



NORTHEAST

Regional Focus

Northeast Road Trip (August 19th-28th, 2005) By Deanne Buck Grassroots Coordinator

I recently hit the road to spend time with some Northeast climbers to see and hear first hand the issues they face as a climbing community.

In 1927, Appalachian Mountain Club members made ascents of the Cannon, Cathedral, and Whitehorse cliffs in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Seven years later, a group of New Yorkers climbing Breakneck Ridge, on the flanks of the Hudson River noticed the white cliff band of the Shawangunks to the North. Soon after climbers began flocking from around the world to test their skills on the unique geological formations that exist along the East Coast, the trend continues to this day.

The Northeast contains some of the most diverse climbing resources in the country with such well

known locations as Ragged Mountain, the Gunks and many smaller privately-owned or locally-managed areas such as Farley's Ledge, Quincy Quarries, Rosendale, and Pinnacles. Similar to the climbing resources, access issues, concerns, and solutions are unique from one area to the next due to private ownership of crags, restricted cliff access, and local-management concerns of liability.

Connecticut: Saturday & Sunday

The Ragged Mountain Foundation (RMF) is a nonprofit dedicated to preserving natural resources and maintaining public access to Connecticut's high and wild places. After a long legal odyssey, the title to 56 acres of land in Southington, CT that includes a nationally known climbing area and a section of the Metacomet Trail was transferred to the RMF. The RMF's access concerns, strategy

ADOPT-A-CRAG 2005

In the December issue of Vertical Times, there will be a complete "wrap-up" of Adopt-a-Crags from across the country.

"Adopt-a-Crag is about giving back [but] there's always a chance to climb a bit, watch the cliff birds fly, and have a great party with friends" says writer, long-time climber and Adopt-a-Crag organizer Jeff Achey.

Adopt-a-Crag is an excellent avenue for building alliances and partnerships and to plan for the future. Adopt-a-Crag inspires activism, advocacy, volunteerism, and stewardship. Be it a crag clean-up of 8 volunteers or a fundraiser, comp, and trail work day with 100 volunteers, Adopt-a-Crag is about giving back to those places we love and use on a regular basis. Organizers get a complete resource kit will be at your disposal helping with everything from organizing to providing swag for volunteers.

You Can Still Organize an Event!

Many Adopt-a-Crags across the country are complete and many more are still to come. It's been another successful year but because we've extended Adopt-a-Crag to better accommodate specific area needs, there's still time to organize an Adopt-a-Crag (if there isn't already one in your area) or join a scheduled Adopt-a-Crag. Adopt-a-Crag information and registration are available online at <http://accessfund.org/cons/aacreg.php> or contact Deanne@accessfund.org.

Check the schedule of events at: <http://accessfund.org/events/aac.php>

If you find an Adopt-a-Crag in your area contact the organizer to volunteer, and if there is not one yet at your favorite crag, you still have time to start organizing!



and actions fall into the areas of access management, sanitation including non-climber impacts, closure concerns, and promoting volunteerism.

Western Massachusetts: Monday & Tuesday

Western Mass Climbers Coalition (WMCC) works to build cohesive relationships with advocacy groups, state and local governments, landowners, and conservation groups to keep climbing areas open and conserve the climbing environment in Western Massachusetts.

The varied climbing resources throughout Western Massachusetts represent some of the finest climbing opportunities in Massachusetts and New England; however as the popularity of climbing increases, the impacts felt by landowners and the environment are becoming more apparent. Developing working relationships and understanding between climbers, landowners, state and local agencies, and other groups will begin to resolve current conflicts and help to preserve future climbing resources.

On Tuesday morning I spoke with Congressman and climber John Olver in Fitchburg about WMCC and the Access Fund's work. We discussed Olver's role in climbing access by voting on Queen Creek and tax incentives for land donations to public trusts. We also discussed bouldering's positive impact on the sport as an introductory activity for young people to get into the outdoors.

Boston: Wednesday

I met with Richard Doucette and toured Boston's premier climbing area, Quincy Quarries.

The Gunks: Friday - Saturday

Rosendale, NY: Friday

A new bouldering area developed in 2004 by locals, Rosendale's boulders are on Rosendale

Water District property and with the increased popularity of the area came traffic and the need to communicate with the land owners. An access strategy was developed by boulderers, the Gunks Climbers' Coalition, and the AF and climbers immediately agreed to cease all climbing at the site. Following several months of discussions with Rosendale town officials, the GCC made a public presentation to the town board exploring the idea of permitting legal access to the Water Works Bouldering area. The process has been moving along, thanks to the dedication of the local climbing community transferring ownership and management to the Mohonk Preserve.

Climbers Meeting: Saturday Evening

The Gunks Climbers Coalition (GCC) had a meeting at the Mohonk Preserve. The meeting provided the opportunity to hear local activists' perspectives on climbing and organizational issues. Issues identified were climber education/minimizing impacts and safety practices, raptor closures, camping, signage, and participation in and focus of the GCC. The purpose of the meeting was to dialogue on the issues bringing climbers together to identify future actions.

Thanks to everyone I met with during my time in the Northeast.

- Mike Stokes, Jeff Sargeant, Terry Sutton, Lisa Pesci, and the RMF Board
- Jeff Squire (AF RC), Rob Sullivan and John LaValley and the WMCC.
- Congressman John Olver
- AF Prez Dave Rosenstein, Chris Moratz, and Chris Spatz, and the GCC board
- Members of the CCM
- Richard Doucette (AF RC)
- The Boston Rock Gym and Metro Rock.
- Mohonk Preserve ranger, Hank Alicandri and the Peters Kill Ranger, Bob O'Brien.



SOUTHEAST

Regional Focus

ACTION ALERT

Great Falls Park, VA

Draft Management Plans could seriously limit climbing opportunities in the park. **YOUR COMMENTS NEEDED NOW!** Deadline to comment is Dec. 15th

The National Park Service has released a draft General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Great Falls Park. The plan evaluates two alternatives for the park. The park's preferred alternative would severely and unnecessarily restrict climbing in the park by implementing closures, a permit system and other measures designed to reduce the number of climber visits. The plan can be viewed at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>

A public meeting was held at the Great Falls Park visitor center on September 17 to solicit comments on the plan. The meeting was well attended by climbers from the Wash. D.C. area who voiced their concerns with the plan. The Potomac Mountain Club has put together a good overview of the issues on their website including a link to the NPS site where you can submit comments on the plan. For more information, please visit: http://www.patc.net/chapters/mtn_sect/



CENTRAL

Regional Focus

\$7.5M to purchase additional Reimers land Reimers Ranch, TX

As most of you have probably already heard, the Travis County Commissioners' Court voted on Tuesday to approve the bond proposal that will appear on the ballot on Nov. 8th. \$7.5M to purchase additional Reimers land for the new Southwest Metro Park was included in the package.

The proposal that was approved totals \$120M and will not require a tax increase. It will be split into 3 separate propositions: parks and open space, jails, and roads. The parks proposition also includes \$18M for the purchase of "park land to be designated as open space" in SW Travis Co. This money could eventually be used to purchase the Hogue tract, which adjoins Reimers, but it's too early to tell.

Ensuring that the funds for Reimers acquisition got onto the ballot was the last hurdle before the actual election in Nov. and we did it!

If one thing was evident throughout this entire process, it's that the advisory committee and the commissioners heard our message loud and clear that open space in general is a very high priority and that it was **ESSENTIAL** to save Reimers by acquiring it for a county park.

We all owe a huge thanks to everyone who has helped out with this effort by attending meetings, speaking at public hearings, collecting signatures on petitions, writing letters, sending emails, making calls, talking with committee members and commissioners, and even taking some of them on a tour of Reimers. You all know who you are, so congratulate yourselves on a job well done and be very proud of what was accomplished. It's been really cool to see so many people get involved and work so hard to make this happen.

-Stan Ostrum, CTM events coordinator

Please visit www.ctmrocks.com/news/reimers



WEST

Regional Focus



Grassroots Advocacy Group formed to represent climbers' interests

Indian Creek, UT

The Friends of Indian Creek recently organized as a volunteer climbing advocacy group that seeks to preserve the character of Indian Creek while providing necessary funding and other resources for stewardship projects and outreach efforts to ensure the conservation of the world-class recreational, natural and cultural resources found at Indian Creek. To become a free member, email friendsofindiancreek@hotmail.com FOIC's mission statement and updates can be seen on their website at <http://www.moabdesertadventures.com/foic.htm>

BLM Will Charge Campground Fee at "PV Pit"

Bishop, CA

The BLM Bishop Field Office will begin charging a fee for camping at the Pleasant Valley Pit campground when it opens for the season (November-May) this fall. Fees will be \$2.00 per vehicle per night. "We appreciate the cooperation of the local campers and climbers who have voluntarily supported PV Pit campground in the past through donations," said BLM Bishop Field Manager Bill Dunkelberger. "However, donations and appropriated dollars can no longer support the needed services at the campground."



PHOTOS: Bennett Barthelemy

Lost Rocks Access Alert!

To ease access concerns, please enter Lost Rocks from either the Flinthead Ridge trail walk-in campground or the trail from the southern end at High Bluff. Both trails are off the Coastal Scenic Drive. The less gnarly approach is via High Bluff with just a small 4th class section at the very end where it dumps on to the beach a second time at the true southern edge of Lost Rocks. North along the beach from the Flinthead Trail is private Yurok reservation land and is off limits to climbing.

Alternative areas for bouldering without access issues: Osagon Rocks in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park, Houda Pt. and Moonstone County Park -Bennett Barthelemy





SPOTLIGHT:

It's Not What Your Crag Can Do for YOU, But what YOU Can Do for Your Crag

As climbers, we know that there is much more to climbing than what is portrayed in a truck commercial. Climbing is a niche lifestyle but mainstream advertisersglom onto it as a way to differentiate their product and communicate power, focus, will, and drive to customers.

When was the last time you remember “off-roading” at 40 MPH across the desert in a SUV full of your buddies and when the dust finally settles you are at the base of a beautiful tower? Mainstream’s depiction of climbing often shows us as a group of over-the-top, radically crazed, adrenaline junkies who won’t let anything stand in our way of getting up the rock—including sensitive desert environs.

Obviously they don't get it.

Our access to climbing depends on our actions as climbers and how others understand us.

- Show and tell others how you take care of your crags.
- Be proactive in creating and maintaining relationships with land managers/owners of your local crags.
- And don't just practice what you preach but also preach what you practice.

Climbing continues to grow but rock is a finite resource. Keep it open and keep it pure. The future of climbing depends on you.

L8tr

Spotlighter

Reese Martin Memorial Grant & Award *The Access Fund is pleased to announce the Reese Martin Memorial Award & Grant:*

Reese Martin was killed in a paragliding accident on July 9th, 2004. Reese was an amazing man, a good friend, climbing partner and Access Fund board member, supporter and donor. Reese had an enthusiasm and passion for life, friends, family, climbing and adventure.

Reese began climbing in 1971, and had climbed in the Pacific Northwest, California, Alaska, Nepal, Peru, Canada, Europe and Thailand, authoring over 100 new routes. Reese started out as a regional coordinator in California for the Access Fund and then joined as a member of the Access Fund board of directors. He replaced hundreds of bolts for the American Safe Climbing Association and was an American Alpine Club member.

In the spring of 2005 the Access Board of Directors, acting with the support of Reese’s family, formally established the Reese Martin Memorial Award to honor this great man and his years of work on behalf of the American climbing community as an activist, regional coordinator and board member of the Access Fund.

The Reese Martin Memorial Grant is an activist grant that will provide up to \$5,000 annually to an Access Fund Regional Coordinator (RC) and their affiliated LCO for projects that meet the Access Fund climbing preservation grant criteria. ***The Reese Martin Memorial Award will provide up to \$1,000 annually*** to an Access Fund RC for outstanding achievement to be used for training that will further enhance the RC’s work. *Stay tuned: The winner of the RMMA will be announced this Fall.*



March 24-26, 2006

The Third Annual "Mountain Gear Presents: Red Rock Rendezvous"

The Red Rocks Rendezvous climbing festival will return to the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area near Las Vegas to benefit The Access Fund and other local and national non profit organizations.

For the first time in the event's history, this year's festival will offer a Friday "Intro to Climbing" clinic day for less experienced climbers and climbers who have never experienced the difficulty levels of the Red Rock Canyon. **The goal of the "Intro" day is to introduce 50-100 people to the great sport of rock climbing. There will also be an optional gear package that will include a harness, helmet, shoes, belay device, carabiner, chalk bag and a membership to the Access Fund.** Participant's can get this great gear package, plus the Friday "Intro" day and the rest of the weekend for only \$299.00.

Events

To streamline the events process, the AF has created a new page on the website under the EVENTS tab where interested people or groups can complete a webform for their event. If your event qualifies, membership materials and goodies may be sent additionally. All events the AF is involved with will be included on the event schedule. The deadline for event registration is one month prior to event. To register an event, visit: accessfund.org/events/index.php/

Thanks

A special thanks goes out to Hans Florine for his great slideshow at EMS in Boulder, CO. He raised nearly \$800 for the Access Fund. Thank you Hans for all your help!

We would also like to thank Lynn Hill and Brad Lynch for all their help with the Access Fund Ambassador's climbing day event and fundraising.

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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.

TITANIUM — \$50,000+

Haynes and Boone LLP — 2003

DIAMOND PLUS — \$20,000+

Black Diamond Equipment — 1991
REI — 1991

DIAMOND MEDIA — \$20,000+

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Climbing — 1991
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PLATINUM — \$10,000+

CLIF Bar — 1995
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American Bouldering Series — 2000
Big Up Productions — 2003
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La Sportiva — 1994
Mammut USA — 1991
MSR/Therm-a-Rest — 1995
New England Ropes - Maxim — 1992
Omega Pacific — 1992
The Spot Bouldering Gym — 2003
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CAMP USA — 2004
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Gripped: The Climbing Magazine — 2004
Lowe Alpine Systems — 1991
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Phoenix Rock Gym — 1997
Planite Climbing Gyms — 2004

Revolution Climbing — 1998

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Adventure Guide Pakistan — 2005
Alpine Ascents International — 1998
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Sickle Climbing — 2001
Stone Age Climbing — 1997
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Tom K. Michael, D.D.S., P.S. — 2000
Travel Country Outdoors — 2002

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Alpinist — 2003
Blue Ridge Outdoors Magazine — 1997
Camp4.com — 2002
Coreyography — 2002
Dan Bailey Photography — 2002
DrTopo.com — 2003
GetBeta.com — 2004
Integrity 7 Productions — 2004
Lenticular Pictures — 2005
Michael Clark Photography — 2004
Nathan Welton Photography — 2005
Ousley Creative — 2001
Patitucci Photo — 2003
Second Chance Films — 2004
Sender Films — 2005
Sharpend Publishing — 2004
She Sends — 2004
SNEWS — 2002
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THIS MONTH'S FEATURED PARTNER

Editor's Note: Each edition we will highlight a partner that has gone above and beyond in keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment.



If it wasn't for REI a lot of things wouldn't be possible around the Access Fund. REI has been there for the climbing community since the beginning and steps up to challenge year after year.

REI is the Title Sponsor of Adopt-a-Crag and helped get this important stewardship program off the ground.

During the past six decades since it was created in 1938, REI has grown into a renowned supplier of specialty outdoor gear and clothing. They serve the needs of outdoors people through 78 retail stores in the U.S. and by direct sales via the Internet, telephone and mail. Today, REI is the nation's largest consumer cooperative with more than 2 million members.

To make the outdoor community stronger, REI provides nearly \$2 million in donations in support of the outdoors and outdoor recreation including their Diamond Plus support of the Access Fund. REI clearly shows that support is how success is accomplished.

Thanks REI!

Member Shop

Access Fund Members Take 10% off of all merchandise!

Climbing without your Access Fund T-shirt? Designed by Jeremy Collins. Printed on Patagonia Bene-Tees.



Men's T
Blue or Black
S-XL
\$20 (member price \$18)



Women's T
Green Tea
S-L
\$20 (member price \$18)



Piton Bottle O-Pin-er
\$8 (member price= \$7.00)

ITEM	COLOR	SIZE	QUANTITY	UNIT PRICE	LINE TOTAL
Men's Access Fund T-shirt	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Women's Access Fund T-shirt	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Piton Bottle O-Pin-er	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
North Face Redpoint Jacket	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
SUB TOTAL:					_____
TAX: (CO RESIDENTS ONLY - 2.33%)					_____
SHIPPING: (\$5 for 1st item + \$.50 each additional item)					_____
TOTAL:					\$ _____

(Make checks payable to Access Fund or enter your credit card info below)

Visa / MC / Discover / AMEX: _____ Exp. date: _____

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DO YOU NEED TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

If your membership is current, please pass this form on to a friend.

DONATION LEVEL

- \$35
- \$50/ Access Fund T-Shirt
- \$100/ AF Shirt & Trango Chalkbag
- \$250/ AF Shirt & Outdoor Research Pullover
- \$500/ AF Shirt & 1 year sub to *Alpinist* Mag
- \$1000/ AF Shirt & North Face Tadpole Tent
- Other \$ _____

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Membership or gift for: _____

Address: _____

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NO THANKS, keep the gift and use 100% of my donation for your work.



Circle style/size:
Men's S M L XL
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Circle size:
S M L XL



Please make your check payable to the Access Fund or fill out credit card info above.

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[accessfund.org/secure/joinnow/join_indiv.php](https://www.accessfund.org/secure/joinnow/join_indiv.php)

Local Climbing Organizations and Affiliates (*Denotes Affiliates)

A local climbing organization (LCO) is an organization, association, or access committee working primarily or exclusively to keep climbing areas open, conserve the climbing environment, and promote responsible climbing. LCOs are the liaison between the climbing community and their local land managers and land owners. Affiliates are LCOs who have joined the Access Fund Affiliate Program. If you are an LCO listed below and not an Access Fund Affiliate, please contact Deanne Buck, grassroots coordinator, at 303-545-6772 x112 or deanne@accessfund.org.

AL Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	CT Ragged Mountain Foundation*	NC Boone Climbers Coalition* Carolina Climbers Coalition* Pisgah Climbers Association* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	SC Carolina Climbers Coalition* Pisgah Climbers Association* Southeastern Climbers Coalition*
AR Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	GA Southeastern Climbers Coalition*	NH Rumney Climbers Association	SD Black Hills Climbers Coalition*
AZ Arizona Mountaineering Club* Friends of Queen Creek* Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition* Prescott Climbers Coalition* Tucson Climbers Association*	IA Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition*	NJ Access NJ*	TN Southeastern Climbers Coalition*
CA Bigfoot Country Climbers' Association* Boulder Clean - Joshua Tree Bouldering Group* Cragmont Climbing Club Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition* Friends of Joshua Tree* Friends of Pinnacles San Diego Alliance of Climbers* San Diego Climbers Coalition* Southern Sierra Climbers Association*	ID Boise Climbers Alliance* Kootenai Climbers*	NM CRAG-New Mexico*	TX Central Texas Mountaineers* Climbers of Hueco Tanks* Texas Mountaineers
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