

VERTICAL **TIMES**

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE ACCESS FUND



your climbing future



ANNUAL REPORT ISSUE

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INTRODUCTION |

THE AF PERSPECTIVE



For 15 years, since 1991, the Access Fund has been the country's only organization dedicated solely to keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment. In that time we have spent millions of dollars on representing climbers' interests in the public policy arena, local conservation projects, support for grassroots activism, climber education and land acquisitions. We have grown to over 15,000 members and affiliates and gained the support of the climbing industry. We work with countless corporate and community partners, 55+ affiliated local climber organizations, and 40+ regional coordinators to advocate on behalf of the 1+ million active climbers in the USA.

While challenged on the financial front, from a mission perspective 2005 was an extremely successful and productive year for the Access Fund. In 2005, the AF board concluded a 2 year strategic planning process that will see us through the next five years assuring that all our work contributes to the following vision created by the entire climbing community. "The Access Fund envisions a future in which climbing and access to climbing resources are viewed as legitimate, valued, and positive uses of the land; where climbers respect and appreciate the places they climb so that the climbing environment is conserved for current and future generations."

Together with a focused mission and vision, long term commitment to self-regulation, and local activism we are well prepared to continue to address the issues in the years ahead.

In the following pages you'll find highlights of the mission work that the Access Fund accomplished in 2005. These successes are due to the tireless efforts of the committed AF staff, board of directors, and volunteer network across the country. None of this work would have been possible if it wasn't for the outstanding financial support of the donors and partners listed in this Annual Report as well as countless other members across the country. Please browse the lists and personally thank those you know; likewise, if you know someone who should be on these lists and are not, encourage them to step up and join.

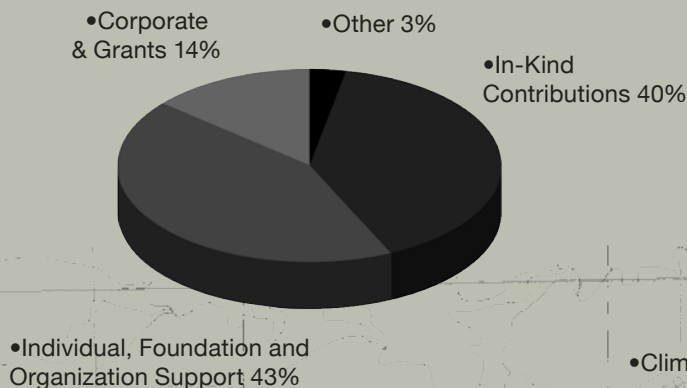
On behalf of the Access Fund Affiliates, volunteers, and American climbing public, the Access Fund staff and Board of Directors deeply thank these individuals, companies and foundations for providing the resources to keep us all climbing.

Dan Nordstrom | President

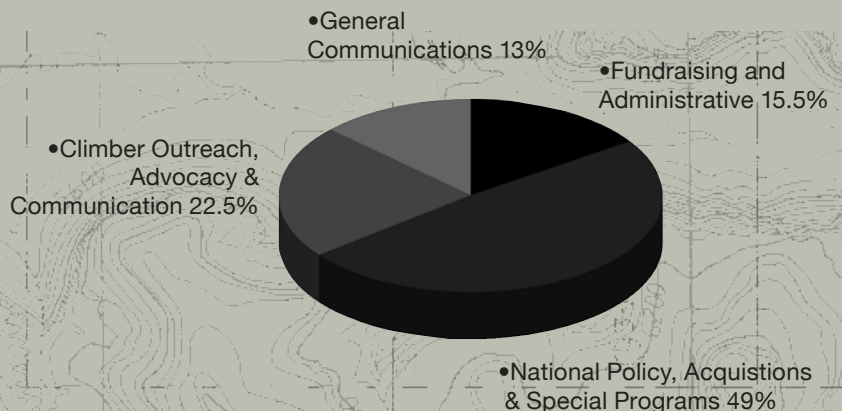
Steve Matous | Executive Director



2005 SOURCE OF FUNDS



2005 USE OF FUNDS





Through the next few pages you'll find overviews and highlights of each of our core programs. These are simply snapshots from 2005. To view an exhaustive list of all our 2005 work please go to www.accessfund.com/pdf/ars/AnnualReport05.pdf.

For additional information about each program check out the web links at the bottom of pages.

Find out what is going on in any state at any time by clicking on your state at www.accessfund.org.

2005 | Access Fund Grants Awarded

Grants Program

In 2005, the Access Fund's Grant Conservation Program awarded over \$100,000 to conserve the climbing environment and access to climbing areas across the United States. Thanks to the financial support of Access Fund members and partners. The following Grants were awarded »

Jamestown, Alabama

The Southeastern Climbers Coalition was awarded a grant to help pay for the purchase of the Jamestown climbing area. The crag, which was on land privately owned, has been closed since the early 1990s. Many of the best climbing areas in Alabama are closed due to private landowner issues.

Sam's Throne, Arkansas

A grant was awarded to the Forest Service for the purchase and installation of a CXT vault toilet at Sam's Throne. The Forest Service is in the process of upgrading the area to include a primitive campground and additional day use parking area with informational kiosk.

Northern California, California

The Bigfoot County Climbers Association received a grant to develop a website. The website will provide local and visiting climbers with information about climbing in the northern California coastal region, access issues, restrictions and closures, stewardship projects and other updates.

Buttermilks, California

The Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition received a grant to assist with the purchase of a vault toilet for the Buttermilks bouldering area. Due to dramatic increases in climbing use, installation of a permanent toilet at the Buttermilks is critical to reducing human waste impacts in the area.

Yosemite National Park, California

Yosemite National Park received a grant to pay for the purchase and installation of bear box food storage lockers at the base of popular Yosemite Valley climbing areas. Climbers currently do not have convenient and effective locations to store food while on multi-day climbs, and in recent years the number of bear incidents in climbing areas around the Valley has increased.

Donner Summit, California

The Truckee Donner Land Trust received a grant to assist with the purchase of 189-acres west of Donner Lake in Billy Mack Canyon. The purchase will expand the Donner Summit climbing area, as the potential climbing opportunities in the Canyon, heretofore closed to climbers, is fantastic.

Rocky Mountain Field Institute, Colorado

The Rocky Mountain Field Institute was awarded a grant for the Crestone Needle Restoration Project. The goal of the project is to preserve Crestone Needle (14,197') by constructing a sustainable summit route, and restoring badly damaged and heavily eroded areas along the route's perimeter.

Dome and Elephant Butress, Colorado

A grant was awarded to the Silver Lake Ditch Co. for restoration work at the Dome and Elephant Butresses. Work focused on ditch restoration and mitigating erosion caused by foot traffic at this heavily used site near Boulder.

Shelf Road, Colorado

The Rocky Mountain Field Institute received a grant to improve the trail from the Bank to Cactus cliff. The current trail was built a number of years ago and was not designed to accommodate the numbers of climbers who now visit Cactus cliff. »

Red River Gorge, Kentucky

The University of Kentucky Research Foundation received a grant to conduct a research project to test the effects of intentional site burial using geo-textiles on cultural resources found in two rock shelters in the Red River Gorge. The results of this study will provide needed information on whether previously closed areas can be opened up to some types of recreational use following placement of geo-synthetic material.

Great Barrington, Massachusetts

The Friends of East Mountain received a multi-use grant for trail work and maintenance at Mormon Hollow, a survey to determine alternative parking options and possible acquisition of a small lot, and the installation of water bars and ladders at the main cliff in Great Barrington.

Blackline Buttress, Montana

A grant was awarded to the Forest Service for the Blackline Buttress trail rehabilitation and construction project. The targeted trail is 1.5-2 miles long, with roughly 800 feet of elevation gain. The trail needs drainage work, downhill retaining walls, and retreading. The grant will be used for materials, an informational bulletin board, and trail marker signs.

Blackleaf Canyon, Montana

The Teton River Watershed Group was awarded a grant for educational outreach for the Blackleaf Canyon climbing area. Working with the Forest Service, the climbing community is interested in proactively addressing emerging issues at this increasingly popular area. Parking, human waste, grizzly bear food order regulations, and access trails have been identified as key areas of concern.

Laurel Knob, North Carolina

The Carolina Climbers Coalition received a grant to assist with the purchase of a 50-acre tract near Cashiers, North Carolina containing what is arguably the tallest cliff in the eastern United States – a granite wall over 1,000 feet tall known as Laurel Knob. The purchase opens up a previously closed climbing area.

Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council, Nevada

A start-up and organizational grant was awarded to the Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council. LVCLC is dedicated to ensuring climbing access, encouraging stewardship of the environment, and cultivating a sense of community in a world-class climbing destination. Red Rock Canyon faces ever more threatening issues from encroaching development, increased land use, and challenges

to access through issues imposed by the federal government.

Mohonk Preserve, New York

The Mohonk Preserve was awarded a grant for a multi-faceted outreach program designed to reach novice climbers in the Gunks, educate them about the fragile life on cliffs and convert them to low-impact climbing ethic.

French's Dome, Oregon

The Forest Service was awarded a grant to help pay for a slope stabilization and belay platform construction project at a popular climbing destination near Mt. Hood. Heavy use at this site has resulted in erosion and vegetation loss at the base of the rock and outlying areas. The project will involve the construction of rock retaining walls, a trail on the northeast side of the formation that will direct use, and revegetation in areas that are no longer in the travel zone.

Madrone Wall, Oregon

The Madrone Wall Preservation Committee was awarded a grant for ongoing public outreach work in the effort to protect Madrone Wall. The group is working to reopen the site to public access and lobbying to get the site permanently protected as a park or open space property. Madrone Wall has been closed since 1997.

Castleton Tower, Utah

Utah Open Lands received a grant for the implementation of a "wag-bag" sanitation program at the camping and trailhead area of Castleton Tower. The grant will contribute toward the purchase of wag-bags, a dispenser and educational materials.

Indian Creek, Utah

The Friends of Indian Creek received a grant to produce an Indian Creek informational and educational brochure. The brochure will focus on providing concise information on camping, private lands issues within the area, and the BLMs management plan for Indian Creek.

Wisconsin Outdoor Access, Wisconsin

Wisconsin Outdoor Access (WOA) received a grant to help with organizational expenses and outreach to climbers throughout the Midwest. WOA is a grassroots organization that will focus on statewide access and stewardship issues.

Coopers Rock, West Virginia

A start-up and organizational grant was awarded to the Coopers Rock Regional Climbers Coalition. This group will focus on access/stewardship issues in the Coopers Rock, WV area.

2005 | Access and Acquisitions

The staff of the Access Fund strives to empower climbers to take ownership of their favorite climbing areas and supports those efforts through providing technical assistance and grants, issuing action alerts, writing letters of support to public land agencies, connecting activists, and leveraging the strength, respect, and legitimacy of the Access Fund's name.

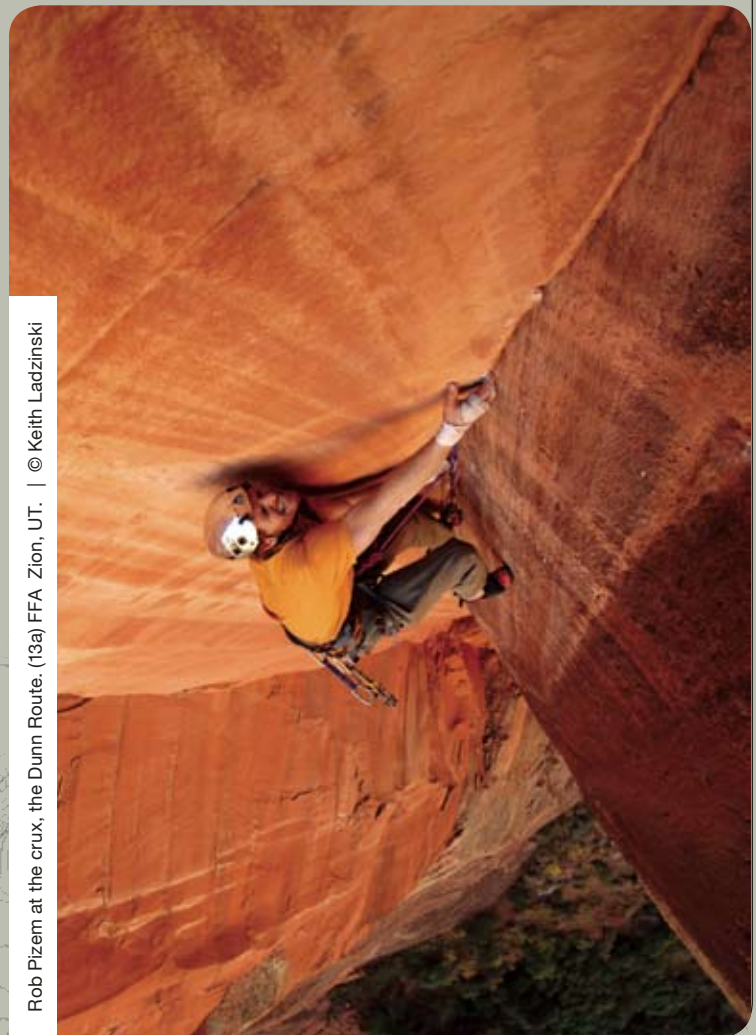
Local climbers must be involved in the planning process to make a difference in how climbing is managed at their local public land crag. When land managers initiate management plans or implement changes that affect climbers, they often look to AF Affiliates and Regional Coordinators for advice regarding the needs of climbers. However, if an active advocacy group representing climbers' interest is not available or not known, land managers will implement plans without the benefit of receiving climber input. When climbers are at the table for important decisions, it's much more likely that our interests will be accommodated.

The Access Fund has negotiated Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with both the United States Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is working towards an MOU with the National Park Service. These MOUs and relationships help ensure that climbers are at the table to provide valuable knowledge and resources that help shape the conversation and have ensured that local management plans are consistent with national policy in areas such as Tahquitz in California, Virginia's Great Falls Park, Monongahela National Forest of West Virginia, Ozark National Forest in Arkansas, Idaho's Castle Rock State Park, and Zion National Park, Utah.

The heart of the relationships is the commitment by the land management agencies to encourage its local officials to participate with Access Fund staff, representatives and Affiliates in the development of mutually beneficial work projects and educational activities. Last year, the Access Fund staff sent letters to land managers in California, West Virginia, Virginia, Texas, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Colorado on behalf of local activists' efforts to initiate a relationship or move toward a positive resolution of a climbing issue. These letters of support are prime examples of the climbing community's opportunity to utilize successes on the national level to positively

influence access at the smallest neighborhood crag.

Gaining public access on private land is perhaps the most challenging permission to acquire and is often only achieved after a few individuals build a solid relationship with a land owner which sometimes requires years. Sometimes the only way to ensure climbing access in perpetuity is to acquire the land. Tangible victories gained on private lands in 2005 include the transfer to public entities or the acquisition by an Affiliate of Madrone Wall outside Portland, Reimers Ranch near Austin, Jamestown in Alabama, and North Carolina's Laurel Knob and Rumbling Bald. Additionally, significant progress, outside of acquisition, has been made by locals across the country in working with landowners to allow and maintain climbing access on private lands. Some of these successes include relationship building with landowners, consensus-building within the climbing community, and the acceptance of rock climbers by private landowners as legitimate users of their land.



Rob Pizem at the crux, the Dunn Route. (13a) FFA Zion, UT. | © Keith Ladzinski

» to learn more please visit | www.accessfund.org/about.php

2005 | Grassroots Focus

The Access Fund Grassroots Program consists of 40+ Regional Coordinators, 55+ Affiliated Local Climbing Organizations, and the Programs Team at the Access Fund. Together known as the Action Network we continue to develop and implement a shared vision of success. What these true grassroots organizations and individual activists do is much larger than winning local victories. The fundamental goal of organizing locally, regionally, and nationally goes well beyond immediate issues or crisis. Through the Action Network we build unity and power affecting positive change for climbers' interests. The Grassroots Program is not, however, merely a blueprint for change, it's truly a belief that people--individual climbers in their day-to-day activities have the power to make real change. We continue to move toward a vision in which a victory in Alabama is a victory in North Carolina is a victory in Washington.

The Action Network

The Access Fund continues to move toward a structure in which all volunteers are an integral part in the success of keeping climbing areas open and conserving the climbing environment. A shared vision, however, is only as strong as the structure and systems that support and sustain it. In 2005, with the input of the Affiliates, the Access Fund focused on creating systems and templates for organizations that more efficiently move us toward our access and conservation objectives.

The Access Fund staff surveyed Affiliates to assess how we could better and more effectively serve their

needs. Feedback indicated that an online forum for Affiliates and activists would help create a more united community. In October, the Grassroots Network online group was formed and launched. This space provides an opportunity for activists to connect with one another and to ask for advice on specific issues. In addition, we created streamlined publications, including, "How to Start and Affiliate Organization" and "Approaching and Working with Private Landowners" as tools for Affiliates and activists.

Affiliates also indicated that regional workshops and site visits were important in enabling the Access Fund staff to better understand local access and conservation issues. In 2005 the Access Fund staff spent face-to-face time with volunteers and constituents across the country in Maine, New Jersey, West Virginia, Virginia, New Hampshire, Illinois, Arizona, California, Nevada, Colorado, and Utah through site visits. The Access Fund hosted two regional gatherings, one in New Hampshire in late spring and the other in Southern Illinois in the fall. Climbers came together for a day of networking and problem-solving at each event. The workshops provided opportunities for climbers to reunite or to "finally put a face with a name." And, in August, we embarked on a 10-day road-trip of access, conservation, and community in the Northeast, with stops in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. The trip was an opportunity for the Access Fund to visit with and get to know the climbers who generously donate their time as Access Fund Regional Coordinators and with Affiliates to keep all of us climbing at our favorite local, regional, and national climbing gems. For the staff to effectively advocate on behalf of all climbers, it is critical that we get out and experience local access issues.

» to learn more please visit | www.accessfund.org/about/accomp.php



Mike Anderson on Colors of Devotion (13b) Penitente, CO. | © Keith Ladzinski

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

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ADOPT A CRAG 2005

Adopt-a-Crag was once again a banner year as the climbing community logged over an estimated **20,000 volunteer hours** from over **3,800 individuals** at **111 scheduled events in 35 states**, Canada, and Puerto Rico. At the end of the day, the climbing community contributed over **\$300,000.00 of volunteer time** to conserve our valuable climbing areas.

Jeremy Boydston, from the Southeastern Climbers Coalition sums up the spirit of Adopt-a-Crag, "We have maintained a beautiful little crag and a good relationship with the land owner. Through sustained efforts by the Access Fund and the Southeastern Climbers Coalition, the land owners realize that climbers are the solution to their problems, not the cause." Brain Hatfield, land manager at Devil's Tower National Park adds, "We surpassed our expectations by a long shot. This year's Adopt-a-Crag was our most successful event ever! Adopt-a-Crag makes it easy for land managers to coordinate a stewardship event."

Adopt-a-Crag would not be possible without the generous support of its sponsors. **Title Sponsor Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), Presenting Sponsor GORE-TEX® Products, and Contributing Sponsor CLIF Bar** provide key financial backing, allowing the Access Fund to provide each Adopt-a-Crag event with volunteer gifts and clean-up materials, and to present three awards for exemplary events:

- The **REI Adopt-a-Crag of the Year Award** was presented to **Greg Sievers, the American Alpine Club (AAC)- Central Rockies Section**, and all the volunteers at the 5th Annual Lumpy Trail Day. The result of the day-long project was a complete "face lift" of over 500 vertical feet of extremely rugged mountainous trail and the installation of 133 wood and rock steps and seven drains to help check storm runoff and control erosion.
- The **GORE-TEX® Products Adopt-a-Crag Stewardship Award** was awarded to the **Western Massachusetts Climbers' Coalition (WMCC)** for their efforts in two very successful Adopt-a-Crags.
- The **CLIF Bar Adopt-a-Crag Conservation Award** was awarded to **Lincoln Else, Ken Yager, Yosemite Climbing Association, Yosemite National Park, and the over 600 Yosemite Facelift volunteers** for displaying tremendous activism and stewardship.

Thanks to all Adopt-a-Crag volunteers. You do make a difference!

THE BOULDER project

An AccessFund Initiative

The boulderProject is an Access Fund initiative that communicates how climbers, the environment, and access are all interconnected.

A need for the boulderProject arose from the growing trend of new climbers being introduced to the sport through indoor gyms and frontcountry bouldering areas without the direct mentorship and "environmental appreciation" that were key components of past generations. By enriching the sense of community, empowering climbers with knowledge and awareness, and encouraging climbers to proactively conserve their climbing areas, the boulderProject guides the transition from indoors to outdoors.

In 2005 the boulderProject sprang to life on the web, in the media, and at events. boulderproject.org was launched to provide tools and resources for up-and-coming activists to spread our message of access and conservation. A poster series with Access Fund Ambassadors Chris Sharma and Lisa Rands and a minimum impact practices bookmark were distributed to climbing gyms, comps, and other events. Ads ran in *Climbing, Rock & Ice*, and *Urban Climber Magazine*, and a promotional video for use at events, film screenings, and online was produced by BigUp Productions featuring Chris Sharma sending a first ascent boulder problem and conveying his respect for the climbing environment.

In 2006 the boulderproject.org will be relaunched and serve as the mainstage for all things boulderProject; an online community, activists' resources, and multimedia gallery are just a few of the items to look forward to. boulderProject minimum impact tools for youth teams and programs, tips for minimum impact climbing, resources for climbing activists and land managers, guidelines for new area developers, and more are all in the works and will soon be available online. The boulderProject will remain front and center throughout 2006 through the collaboration with gyms and events across the country and a growing campaign of support from a growing Access Fund Ambassador.

Spread the good word of minimum impact climbing!



2005 | Policy Focus

The Access Fund is the leading voice of the climbing community in the political and land management arenas. Much of the AF policy work occurs in Washington DC with key officials, bringing the climbing community to the table on key issues. Some of these issues are resolved quickly while others require a long-term commitment of resources to resolve.

BLM MOU

Negotiation and execution of an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) on a memorandum of understanding (MOU) formalizing a cooperative agreement working at the national, regional and local levels on mutually beneficial programs, projects, training and other recreational activities. The five-year agreement will see the BLM and Access Fund working together on programs, projects and activities that are in the best interests of the public. This MOU with the BLM joins an existing MOU between the Access Fund and the USFS. Continued work towards a similar agreement with the National Park Service continues. MOUs give climbers a seat at the table when land managers are developing climbing management policies. For more information how to use this agreement in your area, see http://accessfund.org/pdf/LCO_Strategy_MOU.pdf

Mining Revisions Stopped

In late November and December Congress added mining reform provisions to the Budget Reconciliation bill that could have resulted in a massive sell-off of climbing resources located on public lands across the country. The Access Fund policy program spearheaded outreach efforts to the climbing community, other recreation groups and the environmental community generating a large letter writing response that contributed to the defeat of these mining provisions and saved climbing access to crags located on or next to countless mining claims. This issue is not over. In 2006 several members of Congress have promised to revive this effort to sell off public lands through a variety of measures. Stay tuned to the Access Fund's E-News for any updates.

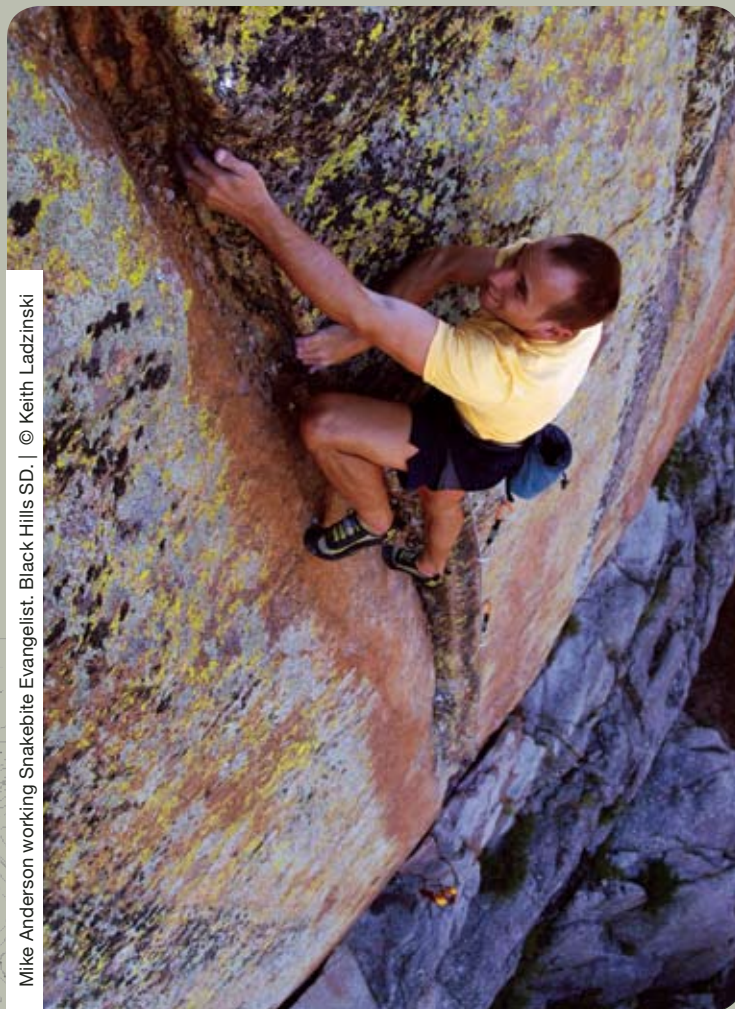
Oak Flat/Queen Creek

Advocacy work on the Queen Creek/Oak Flat area of Arizona threatened by a massive copper mine proposal that could have resulted in the largest loss of climbing ever. Our work included meetings with congressional staff, negotiations with Resolution Copper Company

towards a recreational use license for Oak Flat, and an assessment of potential Oak Flat replacement areas. In May of 2006 the Access Fund executed a recreational use license agreement with Resolution Copper Company that preserves bouldering access for at least five more years at Oak Flat, in addition to securing future climbing at the popular Atlantis and Pond sport climbing areas east of Phoenix. Stay tuned for more information about your climbing future at Oak Flat.

Cave Rock

Continued legal representation in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals regarding the Access Fund's Cave Rock, NV lawsuit which seeks a balanced USFS plan retaining some degree of climbing opportunities at this unique Lake Tahoe crag. In early 2006 the Access Fund filed our final brief with the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals and are still waiting to hear whether oral arguments will be scheduled. Our goal is to achieve an agreement at Cave Rock similar to the successful climbing management plan for Devils Tower where climbers choose to limit their access out of cultural respect.



Mike Anderson working Snakebite Evangelist. Black Hills SD. | © Keith Ladzinski

» to learn more please visit www.accessfund.org/advo/index.php
also visit www.accessfund.org/about/accomp.php

SPOTLIGHT PROJECT | Indian Creek

Since the late 1990s the Access Fund has been the leading voice representing the interests of climbers at Indian Creek during negotiations with the BLM and other stakeholders such as Heidi Redd and The Nature Conservancy. We have issued numerous action alerts urging climbers to weigh in during various phases of the BLM's planning process, organized climber meetings at the Outdoor Retailer Show to get climbers involved, and drafted detailed administrative comments advocating for reasonable management policies that protect the area while maintaining Indian Creek's unique wild feeling. The Access Fund also helped broker a compromise with the Dugout Ranch to maintain public access across private lands to the hundreds of classic climbs found at places like Supercrack Buttress and Scarface Wall.

In October 2005 the BLM signed a final management plan that seeks to accomplish the policies urged by the Access Fund. To assist the BLM in implementing this plan the Access Fund helped form the Friends of Indian Creek climbing advocacy group to raise money for stewardship efforts and inform climbers about the details of the new plan. We have also worked closely with the American Alpine Club who has generously provided crucial funds to pay for informational kiosks and wag bags (self-management of human waste is the centerpiece of the new plan), and we have also obtained support from numerous members of the outdoor industry.

Indian Creek's new management plan is one of the country's most progressive in that it allows climbers an opportunity to self-manage their resources and limits unnecessary developments and restrictions.

For more information and to get involved, see friendsofindiancreek.org.



Seth Lytton on Bone Machine. Rifle, CO. | © Keith Ladzinski

City of Rocks, ID

Continued communications with the NPS and Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation regarding a possible revision to the climbing management plan at the City of Rocks, ID that may reconsider the current climbing ban on the Twin Sisters formation. Climbing on the Twin Sisters has been illegal for almost 10 years and in 2006 we have an opportunity to revise the climbing management plan and limit the arbitrary and unnecessary ban. In the last few months the Access Fund has issued action alerts to get climbers involved and we have drafted administrative comments to the NPS urging a more reasonable approach for climbing management at the City of Rocks. Our work includes communications with the Idaho congressional delegation to lobby for their help in easing the absolute Twin Sisters restriction. Numerous Idaho climbers have been involved in this advocacy work which will continue through 2006 and beyond.

Long Range | Policy Focus

AF Lobbying Plan

Developing a long range lobbying plan focusing our advocacy efforts on our core strengths and areas where we can make significant impacts in support of our mission to keep climbing areas open and conserve the climbing environment. This plan will develop a legislative and regulatory agenda to enhance climbing opportunities, and strengthen and foster new and existing relationships in Washington, DC on Capitol Hill and with agency officials.

Fixed Anchors in Wilderness

Ongoing lobbying work with federal land management agencies in Washington, DC regarding draft proposals affecting the placement of new fixed anchors in wilderness to ensure that land managers preserve reasonable climbing opportunities in designated wilderness areas. The Access Fund's work on this issue represents the interests of all climbers who climb in wilderness areas. Whether you put up new lines or scale existing routes, the always imminent fixed anchor policies of the National Park Service, US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management would affect your experiences at places like Yosemite Valley, the Black Canyon, Red Rocks, the Sawtooths, and Linville Gorge.

» to learn more please visit | www.accessfund.org/about.php

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Keith Schrader
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Jay & Andrea Shotwell
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Amanda Stoneham
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Scott Williams
Doug Wilson
Rick & Pam Winberg
John Winsor
Linda Yancey
Mark Zaleski
Peter & Rebecca Zurcher**2005 MEMORIALS***The AF Memorial Fund was founded in 1998 to honor individuals who cared about the mountain environment. The following memorials were established in 2005.*Mike Bearzi
Henry Everding
John StoddardBill Bradshaw
Bob Kamps
Brian Youngs

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

AR

2005 | Corporate Partners

TITANIUM — \$50,000+

Haynes and Boone LLP — 2003

DIAMOND PLUS — \$20,000+

Black Diamond Equipment — 1991
REI - 1991

DIAMOND MEDIA — \$20,000+

Backpacker Magazine — 2004
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Urban Climber Magazine — 2004

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Mountain Gear — 1995
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Petzl/Charlet Moser — 1991
prAna — 1995
The North Face — 1995

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Nalgene — 1992
Outdoor Research — 1999

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Campmor — 1991
La Sportiva — 1994
Mammut USA — 1991
MSR/Therm-a-Rest — 1995
New England Ropes - Maxim — 1992
Omega Pacific — 1992
The Spot Bouldering Gym — 2003
Touchstone Climbing Inc. — 1998
Trango USA &
Stonewear Designs — 1992
Weathered Stone — 1999

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All Terrain — 2003
Arc'teryx — 1998
BlueWater — 1992
FalconGuides — 1998
Gregory Mountain Products — 1993
Marmot — 1999
Metolius — 1991
Misty Mountain Threadworks — 1994
Mountain Hardwear — 1996
New Belgium Brewing Co. — 2000
Sterling Rope — 1994

MAJOR — \$1,000+

Amedeus Consulting Group — 2004
Asolo — 2003
bluetrope consulting — 2003
CAMP USA — 2004
Cloudveil — 1998
Crazy Creek Products — 1992
EXUM Mountain Guides — 2005
Gripped: The Climbing
Magazine — 2004
Lowe Alpine Systems — 1991
Montrail — 2002
Phoenix Rock Gym — 1997
Planet Climbing Gyms — 2004

Redpoint, Inc. — 2000
Rock and Snow, Inc. — 2003
Schwartz Communications,
Inc. — 2003
SuperTopo.com — 2003
Yates Gear — 1993

CONTRIBUTING — \$500+

Advanced Base Camp — 1992
Alpine Ascents International — 1998
Anker Climbing Equipment — 2003
Avery Brewing Company — 1998
AZ on the Rocks — 2003
Climbing Rope Bracelets — 2005
Eagle Creek — 2005
Excalibur DMM/Wild Country
Red Chili USA — 1995
Five Ten — 2004
Flannel Design — 2001
Fox Mountain Guides &
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Higher Ground Roasters — 2003
Julbo — 2005
JustRopes.com — 2004
Kind Coffee — 2003
Kristin Carpenter
Public Relations — 2003
Matrosh Inc.- AustriAlpinUSA — 2005
Mountain Tools — 1991
Mountaineers Books — 1992
Mountainsmith — 2003
NEice.com — 2005
Nemo Equipment — 2005
Nicros — 1997
Osprey — 2003
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym — 1995
PMI — 1991
Portland Rock Gym — 2005
Real Cheap Sports — 2003
Saltic Climbing/Trekking — 2003
Sherrill Tree &
Climbing Supply — 2005
Sickle Climbing — 2001
Stone Age Climbing — 1997
Stone Moves — 2005
Tom K. Michael, D.D.S., P.S. — 2000
Travel Country Outdoors — 2002

MEDIA PARTNERS

Alpinist — 2003
Blue Ridge Outdoors
Magazine — 1997
Camp4.com — 2002
ClimbingBoulder.com — 2001
Coreyography — 2002
Dan Bailey Photography — 2002
DrTopo.com — 2003
GetBeta.com — 2004
Integrity 7 Productions — 2004
Lenticular Pictures — 2005
Michael Clark Photography — 2004
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Ousley Creative — 2001
Patitucci Photo — 2003
Second Chance Films — 2004
Sender Films — 2005
Sharpend Publishing — 2004
She Sends — 2004
SNEWS — 2002
Stark Contrast Photography — 2005

2005 | Community Partners

ACC ROCX
Ace Adventure Center
Action Outfitters
Adams State Adventure Program
Adventures Edge
Alaska Rock Gym
Allegheny College Outdoor Program
Alpine Ascents International
Alpine Club of Canada- Toronto Access
Committee
Alpine Shop, Ltd.
AMC - NY Chapter Mountaineering
Committee
Antiques & Oddities, Inc.
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Arizona Mountaineering Club
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Blue Star Camps
Boulder Mountaineering School
Boulders Climbing Gym
Camp Birch Trail for Girls, Inc.
Carolina Adventures, University of NC
CASBC
Cascade Crags Indoor Climbing
Cascade Guiding Service
CATS
Climb Aloha
Climb Max
CLIMBX
Club Sport
Colgate University Outdoor Education
Program
Colorado Outward Bound
Colvin Center Climbing Gym
Coyote Corner
Cragmont Climbing Club
Cross Country Connection
CU Outdoor Program
Down Wind Sports
Eagle Rock School
Eagle Nest Foundation
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Ethos Mountain Works
Expeditions Unlimited
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Georgia Outdoor Recreation Program
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Lancaster Climbing Club
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Michigan Ice Fest
Midwest Mountaineering
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Mountain Goat Outfitters
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Prairie Walls, Inc
Pruett Publishing Company
Quest Corporate Institute
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Reality Climbing
Redpoint Production, Inc.
Rim of the World Climbing Club
Rivert Whitewater Toys
Rockbound
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Rocks and Ropes of Tucson
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Rok Haus Indoor Climbing Gym
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Sierra Mountain Center
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Southern California Mountaineers Association
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Stone Gardens
Stonehenge
Summit Rock Gym
Sunrift Adventures
Talus Climbing Service
Terra Firma
Texas Tech Outdoor Pursuit Center
The Backpackers Shop
The Bag and Pack Shop
The Climbing Place
The Mountaineer
The Mountaineers - Rec Access Committeee
The Rock Barn- Rhinoceros Mountain Guides
The Spot Bouldering Gym
The Warriors Way
Trailhead Sports
Triple Crown
UCSB- Adventure Programs
Uli, Inc
UMD - Vertical Pursuits
University of Pennsylvania Outing Club
University of Tennessee Outdoor Recreation
Upper Limits
Uprising Rock Climbing Center
USA Climbing
Ute Mountaineer
Vail Rock & Ice Guides, LLC.
Vertex Climbing Center
Vertical Access
Vertical Adventures
Vertical Dreams
Vertical Endeavors - St. Paul
Vertical Hold Sport Climbing Center
W-Trek Outfitters
Water Stone Outdoors
Western State College Department of
Recreation
Whitman College Outing Program
Wild GUYde Adventures
Wilderness Education Program
Wilderness Exchange
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WildRays Photography
Wildside
Wilkes-Barre Rock Climbing Gym
Williams Outing Club
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X-TREME Rock Climbing Center
Yosemite.Fitness
Zen Lizard Systems



PHOTOGRAPHER PROFILE

KEITH LADZINSKI

"WITH MORE CLIMBERS
CLIMBING ACCESS IS
A HUGE ISSUE."

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Photo: Corey Pugh | Aurora's Outdoor Collection

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"MANY OF OUR FAVORITE
CLIMBING AREAS ARE IN THREAT
OF CLOSURE. FORTUNATELY THE
ACCESS FUND IS OUT THERE
WORKING FOR US KEEPING
CLIMBING AREAS OPEN AND
CONSERVING OUR CLIMBING
ENVIRONMENT."



Written by AF Ambassador Brian Rhodes:

In 1994 Keith purchased his first camera from a pawn shop with the help of his brother. What started out as a hobby quickly blossomed into a passion. An avid photographer ever since, Keith spends as much time as he can photographing the outside world. With a heavy emphasis on adventure and nature photography, Keith hasn't limited himself to one genre of photography—from Skateboarding, to Rock Climbing, to people in Business. In 2003 and 2004 his work was recognized by the International Library of Photography. Keith resides in Colorado Springs, CO and spends as much of his time outside camping, rock climbing, and hiking in the beautiful Colorado wilderness.

Keith Ladzinski called me out of the blue and asked if I would be interested in taking some climbing photos at our local Garden of the Gods. I accepted the invitation and came away utterly enthralled by the images he had captured; Keith has continued to pursue his climbing photography ever since. Keith has had numerous covers in various climbing publications, advertisements, and feature articles. He's photographed some of climbing's best. At the 2006 Ouray Ice Festival Keith covered the event for The New York Times.

Keith had a frightening introduction to the sport of Rock Climbing, taking a severe fall from the Independence Pass climb, Cryogenics, decking on the talus, he came away with bone fractures and a broken neck but miraculously fully recovered and still loves to climb and photograph the sport.

Traveling with Keith is always a ticket for an adventure, filled with stories, antics and laughter. Keith's passion for photography is equaled by his exuberance for living life to the fullest, exploring, and making new friends along the way. Keith is a member of the Access Fund and generously donates the proceeds from his slideshows to helping raise awareness of the issues facing the climbing community.

What stands out the most about Keith is his kindness, so if you ever run into Keith at the crags, say hello and smile, cause you'll come away with more than just another picture. Keith's next adventure will land him in South Africa on May 25, for ten weeks to shoot with some of climbing's elite athletes.

Keith's work can be viewed at www.ladzinski.com

Register Your Event

Make the AF part of your event . If your event qualifies, membership materials and swag will be sent. The deadline for event registration is one month prior to event. Register at: <http://www.accessfund.org/events/index.php>



EVENTS | Adopt-a-Crag 2006 Challenge

Newly established as a year-round event, Adopt-a-Crag 2006 is already underway and gaining momentum.

In 2005, the bar was set high with 111 scheduled Adopt-a-Crag events across the nation, and reaching our 2006 goal of 120 events will set a new standard of success.

While we might not all climb at the same level as Access Fund ambassador Tommy Caldwell-or even in a parallel universe - together we will not only match his accomplishments by repeating all 4 of his first free ascents on El Cap with each pitch representing an Adopt-a-Crag event, but we will tick a new free route. If we succeed this far, we will work to establish our own first free ascent on El Cap, the 23 pitches of "Magic Mushroom", and set the new standard of success. The tick list is as follows, with a grand total of 120 pitches. Let's get it done!

- West Buttress – VI 5.13c, 20 pitches
- Lurking Fear – VI 5.13c, 19 pitches
- Muir Wall – VI 5.13c, 33 pitches
- Dihedral Wall – VI 5.14a, 25 pitches
- Magic Mushroom – VI 5.14?, 23 pitches

As of May 15th we have climbed 34 pitches on El Cap, completing the West Buttress in record speed and style, and finding ourselves 14 pitches up the daunting line of Lurking Fear.

Still buzzing from the success of last year, we found ourselves in good shape to send the West Buttress without too much trouble; 20 beautiful pitches up the dramatic left side of El Cap. First climbed by Layton Kor and Steve Roper in 1963, and first FREE climbed by Tommy Caldwell and Beth Rodden in June 2003, the route has 2 pitches of 5.13b up high and a crux 3rd pitch that goes at 5.13c. An amazing accomplishment for us to repeat, and a strong showing for our first 20 pitches. **Special thanks to REI, GORE-TEX® Products, and CLIF Bar for the belay.**

We now find ourselves 14 pitches up Lurking Fear, relaxing at a large bivy 3 pitches below Thanksgiving Ledge and 5 pitches from the summit. We sent the crux 5.13c slab pitch during cool morning temps, cruised several pitches of perfect 5.12 cracks, and now find ourselves enjoying the day's last rays below the shared upper pitches of the West Buttress. We know them well, summiting should not be a problem, and we look forward to starting up our next Caldwell route, the free Muir Wall, soon.

Logon to www.accessfund.org/events/aac.php for an up to date list of Adopt-a-Crags
www.accessfund.org/adopt for info on how to organize your own Adopt-a-Crag.

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Haynes and Boone LLP — 2003

DIAMOND PLUS — \$20,000+

Black Diamond Equipment — 1991
REI — 1991

DIAMOND MEDIA — \$20,000+

Backpacker Magazine — 2004
Climbing — 1991
Rock & Ice — 1993
Urban Climber Magazine — 2004

PLATINUM PLUS — \$15,000+

Petzl/Charlet Moser — 1991

PLATINUM — \$10,000+

CLIF Bar — 1995
Mountain Gear — 1995
Patagonia — 1992
prAna — 1995
The North Face — 1995

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Amedeus Consulting Group — 2004
Archer Law Offices P.C. — 2003
Boulder Rock Club &
Colorado Mountain School — 1996
GORE-TEX® products — 1991
Nalgene — 1992
Outdoor Research — 1999
Trango USA & Stonewear Designs — 1992

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Omega Pacific — 1992
SCARPA North America — 2006
Sherrill Tree & Climbing Supply — 2005
The Spot Bouldering Gym — 2003
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SILVER — \$2,500+

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Arc'teryx — 1998
BlueWater — 1992
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Metolius — 1991
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Mountain Hardwear — 1996
Mountain Khakis — 2006
New Belgium Brewing Co. — 2000
Sterling Rope — 1994

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Crazy Creek Products — 1992

EVOLVE Sports — 2006
Exum Mountain Guides — 2005
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Montrail — 2002
Mountainsmith — 2003
Osprey — 2003
Phoenix Rock Gym — 1997
Planet Climbing Gyms — 2004
Redpoint, Inc. — 2000
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Royal Robbins — 1992
SuperTopo.com — 2003
Thule — 2003
Vertical World — 2006
Weathered Stone — 1999
Yates Gear — 1993

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Excalibur DMM/Wild Country
Extreme Engineering — 2004
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Flannel Design — 2001
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GearEXPRESS.com — 2003
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Julbo — 2005
JustRopes.com — 2004
Kind Coffee — 2003
Kristin Carpenter
Public Relations — 2003
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Mountaineers Books — 1992
NEice.com — 2005
Nemo Equipment — 2005
Nicros — 1997
Outdoor Retailer — 1991
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym — 1995
PMI — 1991
Portland Rock Gym — 2005
Real Cheap Sports — 2003
Sickle Climbing — 2001
Stone Age Climbing — 1997
Stone Moves — 2005
Tom K. Michael, D.D.S., P.S. — 2000
Travel Country Outdoors — 2002
Vasque — 2001

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Alpinist — 2003
Andrew Burr Photography — 2006
Andrew Querner Photography — 2006
ASANA PackWorks — 2005
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Coreyography — 2002
Dan Bailey Photography — 2002

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Harrison Shull Photography — 2006
Integrity 7 Productions — 2004
Lenticular Pictures — 2005
Michael Clark Photography — 2004
Mike Tea Illustration and Design — 2006
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Patitucci Photo — 2003
Rockclimbing.com — 2006
Second Chance Films — 2004
Sender Films — 2005
Sharpend Publishing — 2004
She Sends — 2004
SNEWS — 2002
Stark Contrast Photography — 2005
summitjournal.com — 2006

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.



In France during the 1970s, the PETZL family started a company with a mission to develop simple, efficient and intelligent solutions for people passionate about verticality and exploration. This is as true today as it was 30 years ago as PETZL reaches across the world creating and supplying gear for climbers to safely keep us all climbing.

But it doesn't stop with gear. PETZL is a philanthropic leader in the US climbing community helping to keep climbing areas open and conserve the climbing environment by fueling grassroots organizations.

In 2006 PETZL stepped up their Access Fund support to Platinum Plus with a portion of the increase going directly to support the acquisition of Laurel Knob, NC proving that anyway you look at it, PETZL keeps climbers climbing.

On behalf of the US climbing community, thank you PETZL for the role you play!



Check out the MemberSHOP for deals on Access Fund Swag and special discounted offers from our partners <http://www.accessfund.org/membershop>

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Access
INFINITE!

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- \$100**
- \$ _____ Other

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**At \$100 or more, you qualify for a gift. (visit www.accessfund.org/mip to choose your gift)

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NOTE: The Access Fund occasionally lends its mailing list to organizations involved in issues you may also find of interest. If you wish NOT to have your name exchanged, please check here. Thank you.

Local Climbing Organizations and 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, Programs Director, at 303-545-6772 x112 or deanne@accessfund.org

Alabama

Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Arkansas

Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Arizona

Arizona Mountaineering Club*
Friends of Queen Creek*
Northern Arizona Climbers Coalition*
Prescott Climbers Coalition*
Tucson Climbers Association*

California

Bigfoot Country Climbers' Association*
Cragmont Climbing Club
Eastern Sierra Climbers Coalition*
Friends of Joshua Tree*
Friends of Pinnacles
Friends of Williamson Rock*
San Diego Alliance of Climbers*
Southern Sierra Climbers Association*

Colorado

Access Colorado*
Action Committee for Eldorado*
Colorado Springs Climbers Alliance*
Flatirons Climbing Council*
Northern Colorado Climbers Coalition*

Connecticut

Ragged Mountain Foundation*

Georgia

Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Iowa

Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition*

Idaho

Boise Climbers Alliance*
Kootenai Climbers*

Illinois

Illinois Climbers Association

Kentucky

Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Massachusetts

Appalachian Mountain Club
Boston Chapter*
Western Massachusetts Climbers Coalition*

Michigan

Grand Ledges Climbers Coalition

Minnesota

Minnesota Climbers Association*

Missouri

Climbers Alliance of Mid-Missouri*
Kansas City Climbing Club*

Montana

Southwest Montana Climbers Coalition

North Carolina

Boone Climbers Coalition*
Carolina Climbers Coalition*
Pisgah Climbers Association*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

New Hampshire

Rumney Climbers Association*

New Jersey

Access NJ*

New Mexico

CRAG-New Mexico*

Nevada

Las Vegas Climbers Liaison Council*

New York

Adirondack Mountaineering Coalition*
Gunks Climbers Coalition*

Ohio

Ohio Climbers Association*

Oklahoma

Chandler Park Climbers Coalition*
Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition*

Oregon

AAC - Oregon Section, Access Committee*
Mazamas
Smith Rock Group*

Pennsylvania

Lancaster Climbing Club - Access Project*
Pennsylvania Alliance of Climbers*

South Carolina

Carolina Climbers Coalition*
Pisgah Climbers Association*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

South Dakota

Black Hills Climbers Coalition*

Tennessee

Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Texas

Central Texas Mountaineers*
Climbers of Hueco Tanks*
Texas Mountaineers

Utah

Friends of Indian Creek*
Salt Lake Climbers Alliance*

Virginia

Friends of Great Falls Coalition*

Vermont

CRAG-VT*
Northeastern Vermont Climber's Alliance

Washington

Washington Climbers Coalition*

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Outdoor Access*

West Virginia

Coopers Rock Regional Climbing Coalition*
New River Alliance of Climbers*
Southeastern Climbers Coalition*

Canada

Climbers Access Society of British Columbia*

» to contact your local LCO or to view a LCO website go to: www.accessfund.org/partners/affiliates.php

Vertical Times June 2006 / Vol. 70

Printing is generously supported by Urban Climber Magazine. 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. Printed with 100% soy based inks on 10% recycled fiber paper.



» Front Photo: Andy Raether bouldering at Castlewood Canyon, CO. | © Keith Ladzinski