

VERTICAL **TIMES**

THE NATIONAL PUBLICATION OF THE ACCESS FUND



POWERED BY CLIMBERS



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The AF Perspective



The Stories that Define Us

The biannual Outdoor Retailer tradeshow is a great coming together of the outdoor community. The huge convention center in Salt Lake City fills with old timers and young hotshots, titans of industry, and brand new startups. The Access Fund attends the show to meet with corporate sponsors and individual supporters and to ensure everyone remembers the importance of maintaining access and taking care of the great outdoors.

Some of the earliest board members and staff of the Access Fund attend the show too. They have different careers now, but their commitment to the Access Fund hasn't waned much over time. Every year at the show, we schedule a dinner with this core group to give them the opportunity to meet the current staff and tell stories about the early years of the Access Fund. They tell us about the ethical battles they used to have at board meetings, the first victories and early defeats, and the financial challenges of getting a new non-profit off the ground.

At one point John Juraschek, the first Executive Director of the Access Fund, choked up as he recalled how another man sitting at the table had made a personal loan of \$10,000 in order for him to make payroll for several months. The early volunteers and staff put a lot on the line to protect climbing access. They envisioned a future in which climbing was seen as a legitimate and valuable use of the land. And they believed they could take action to make that vision a reality.

I think listening to these stories helps the staff connect with our roots. Stories told about an organization largely define that organization. The act of storytelling, which is probably as old as language itself, has a deep affect on the way we view ourselves, our surroundings, and our future prospects. Reflecting on the struggles of the early staff and volunteers gives me confidence to face new challenges and to create new stories for this generation of climbers.

Our feature article in this issue of the Vertical Times is an interview with Armando Menocal, founder of the Access Fund. I hope his stories shed light on the early issues the Access Fund faced and how we came to be the organization we are today. As a current member, you are a part of this unfolding story. Your support of the Access Fund allows us to continue to pursue Armando's vision, almost 20 years later.

Enjoy!

Brady Robinson
Executive Director

We want to hear from you! | COMMUNICATING WITH OUR MEMBERSHIP

Due to the current economic situation and an increase in printing costs, the Access Fund is reevaluating how we communicate with our membership. How would you feel about getting more updates online (via a new website and e-news) and getting the Vertical Times twice a year instead of four times a year? Keeping you informed is essential to our mission. How do you want us to communicate with you? We want to hear from you! Please let us know your thoughts via e-mail brady@accessfund.org or call and leave a message at 303-545-6772 x103.



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Ethan Pringle makes the 2nd ascent of Iron
Monkey, Eldorado Canyon. | © Andy mann

The Community Perspective

Voices

The big view on the economic stimulus bill

I'm gratified to see that the organization is seeking to influence the Economic Stimulus Plan, as well as seeking climbers' input [in response to economic stimulus survey action alert: <http://www.accessfund.org/display/page/AA/118>]. But take the big view: we should be looking at the stimulus plan as an opportunity to push for a campaign of updating our natural resources infrastructure to provide good-paying, professional jobs, and also improve and conserve national treasures for us and our children. I've written my own representative and senators urging this.

Dan Richardson, The Dalles, Oregon

AF: Dan, you raise some very good points, and we're glad you're thinking big picture. However, this kind of "big idea" reorganization isn't likely to happen as part of the stimulus initiative, where hundreds of Congressional offices are debating how this money can best remedy the recent economic downturn. The AF and our Outdoor Alliance partners will continue to push for specific projects that this economic stimulus money should fund, as well as support the bigger infrastructure management view in forums where it's more likely to get traction. Thanks for your perspective and please stay involved!

Props from the south

You know man, whether it is doing Yellow Bluff, or working beside you guys drinking beer in Ouray, this is all part of a bigger picture to me. The relationship that we have had with the Access Fund over the years continues to motivate me as a climber. It is an honor working in this field. It sincerely helps keep the balance and while it is not my real job that puts food on the table, I believe that it is just as important.

Paul Morley, Southeastern Climbers Coalition

AF: Thanks, Paul. We like drinking beer with you too!

T-shirt love

I am a long-time AF member, and wanted to give you a bit of feedback. A while back, one of the "rewards" was a black t-shirt with a design on it that kind of looks like Ayers rock on drugs. You wouldn't believe how many people have said, "cool shirt"—everyone from the spiked hair dude at Starbucks to my most tied-down, stodgy colleague. I can't believe this—no one ever complements my clothes.

I wanted to tell you so you could complement the artist and bring this shirt back at some point. I don't know about anyone else, but it sure is a hit with me. End of feedback. Thanks for all your hard work.

Paul Heyliger, Ft. Collins, CO

AF: Paul, we're psyched that the Access Fund could help make you a snazzier dresser—we consider it just another membership benefit.

The artist who designed that shirt was Jeremy Collins, and we'll pass along your compliments. As for bringing back that particular design, we try pretty hard to keep things fresh. But your letter was timely; we've started thinking about designs for our next round of shirts and would love to hear from our members. See below.

We want your artwork!

The Access Fund is in search of artwork for the next membership tee. You'll get more than 15 minutes of fame if we select your design—you'll get a gift package and your art will be sent to every Access Fund member for the next year. Send us a sample of your artwork. Submissions should reflect climbing or mountain views and be formatted as PDFs or presented in an online gallery. **E-mail to holly@accessfund.org by April 30th.**



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

News from the Grassroots Network

Climbing activism is alive and kicking all across the country, and we encourage you to get involved and get connected. Here are just a few highlights from local climbing organizations and AF regional coordinators around the country.



Yellow Bluff

Southeastern Climbers Coalition (SCC) to close on Yellow Bluff acquisition

After three years of persistent effort, the SCC plans to reopen a portion of the historic Yellow Bluff cliff, located about 20 miles from Huntsville, AL. After a large fundraising effort, the SCC is on the verge of completing the acquisition. Many thanks for everyone's donations, interest, and involvement. For more information, visit www.seclimbers.org.

New climbing organization in Maine working on Portland quarry access

The Maine Climbers Alliance (MCA) is the most recent addition to the Access Fund affiliate network. The alliance is currently working on opening access to a privately owned quarry in Portland. For more information visit www.maineclimbersalliance.org.



Jim Pinter-Lucke at Taquitz

Two new Regional Coordinators in California working on trail rehabilitation

We are happy to announce Jonathan Meeker and Jim Pinter-Lucke as new regional coordinators in the Los Angeles area. The two are interested in rehabilitating the Taquitz and Suicide trails. For more information, contact Jim at jlucke@cmc.edu or Jonathan at jmeek@aerotek.com.

New Regional Coordinator in Hawaii working to establish a local climbing organization

We are excited to announce that we have our first Access Fund regional coordinator in Hawaii. John Ryan is currently promoting access on both private and public lands in Maui. He is also developing a new local climbing organization. For more information, contact John at johnryan@hawaii.edu.



Josh Karnes at Governor Stables

New Regional Coordinator in Pennsylvania working on Governor Stables

We are also happy to announce Josh Karnes as the new regional coordinator for Pennsylvania. Josh is currently working on reopening access to Governor Stables bouldering field. For more information, contact Josh at accessjosh@gmail.com.

Hueco Tanks Coalition hits its stride

Hueco Tanks Coalition is in full swing and working hard on obtaining its nonprofit status, applying for AF grants, and kicking off a volunteer trash clean-up in mid-March. For more information, contact Dave Green at dave.green151@gmail.com.

Local Climbing Organization 101 | WRITING A MISSION STATEMENT

Interested in starting your own Local Climbing Organization? One of the first steps is developing a mission statement that defines your reason to exist. It should be concise and encompass your objectives now and into the future. Once developed, keep your mission statement at the forefront. It will help you focus and keep your discussions, plans, and actions mission driven. For help establishing your mission statement, **contact our Grassroots Coordinator Amy Ansari at amy@accessfund.org**, or check out the mission statements of other organizations around the country at www.accessfund.org/partners/affiliates.php.

To submit an update for your local climbing organization or area, contact Amy Ansari at amy@accessfund.org.

Regional Reports

Telluride's Bridal Veil Falls Re-Opened to Climbing

Standing 365 feet over Telluride's Box Canyon, Bridal Veil Falls is Colorado's tallest free falling waterfall, and, some would argue, one of the most classic and difficult ice climbs in the country. It has been closed to climbing for the better part of a few decades, with the exception of several brief openings.

Following extensive negotiations, ice climbers are once again able to legally climb the classic Bridal Veil Falls. This agreement was reached through negotiations between The Trust for Public Land and the Idarado Mining Company, with support and advocacy from Colorado's San Miguel County, the Telluride Mountain Club, and the Access Fund. The deal gives a revocable public access license that provides climbers access to this world-class ice climb.

The re-opening of Bridal Veil Falls is a big win for the climbing community, but we need your help to ensure its continued access. This area contains innate hazards, which climbers must be aware of to ensure their own safety and mitigate potential access issues.

The new public access license is revocable and is contingent on climbers' awareness of and compliance with a number of rules. Climbers must sign in at a kiosk, avoid the Powerhouse area at the top of the falls, and make all descents via rappel. A complete list of rules and a topo can be found at www.sanjuaniceclimbs.com.

Compliance with these rules is essential to maintain climbing privileges. Please treat this area and its adjacent private land with respect, and help educate others on its proper use. Our combined efforts can help keep this landmark climb open for years to come. For more information, contact Access Fund regional coordinator Steve Johnson at steve@8750law.com.

Bridal Veil Falls | © Steve Johnson

Climbing Access at Risk in Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge

Recently the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced intentions for a new conservation plan for the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge, including a review of compatible uses. Once completed, the conservation plan will serve as a guide for managing the refuge for the next 15 years. Word has spread that FWS may ban climbing at the refuge.

According to Duane Raleigh, Big Stone Publisher and first ascensionist of many of the classic routes in the refuge, the “Wichitas,” as they have come to be known, are “an oasis of rock climbing to the land-locked climbers of Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, and Arkansas.” He continues, “If you are a climber, seeing those granite hills is like spotting the sails of a rescue ship after being cast away on a deserted island.” Losing access to this treasured climbing resource would be a great loss to the community.

“If you are a climber, seeing those granite hills is like spotting the sails of a rescue ship after being cast away on a deserted island.”


This isn't the first time climbing access in the Wichitas has been threatened. In the early 1990s, the Fish and Wildlife Service initiated similar environmental assessments at the refuge to determine whether climbing

and other recreational activities were causing significant impacts. In the early stages of this process, the FWS created a considerable amount of controversy when it announced that climbing—a compatible use of the refuge since the early 1940s—was to be terminated.

In response to that threat, hundreds of local climbers from Oklahoma, Texas, Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri formed the Wichita Mountains Access Association (WMAA) to represent the climbing community in its efforts to protect climbing at the refuge. In 1995, following two years of additional reviews, the FWS finally ruled that climbing could continue at the refuge, subject to a few additional regulations and assistance from locals to manage climbing impacts.

The Wichita Mountains Climbers Coalition is now working to ensure that the new plan will not adversely affect the long-standing tradition of rock climbing at this classic Oklahoma area.

In a recent E-news, the Access Fund urged climbers to get involved in the planning process, and write the refuge in support of climbing as a secondary compatible use. You will have another opportunity to weigh in and support this effort. Stay tuned to Access Fund news for updates. For any questions or comments, e-mail jason@accessfund.org or visit <http://www.wichitamountains.org>.



Jeremy Collins on the classic finger crack Ra, Crab Eyes formation, Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge | © Andrew Chasteen

Spring Feature

An Auspicious Infancy: The Earliest Days of the Access Fund

By J. Young, www.rockclimbing.com

I began climbing in 1986, but I'm certain I never heard of the Access Fund before, say, the mid nineties. If you think that's shameful, consider this: The Outdoor Industry Association estimates that 1.6 million people in the US have climbed at some point in their lives. Of those, the AF estimates that 500,000 have done more than hop drunkenly on the nearest carnival wall, and that probably 200,000 of us climb regularly or semi-regularly. And yet, the AF's roll of current members is roughly only 10 to 15,000 people. I wonder how many of the 200,000 have never heard of the Access Fund, or worse, know of it but still haven't made an effort to support it. Even if you are one of the few who truly have a more complete image of the Access Fund and what it does for us, I challenge you to look deeper. There's more to learn.

I spoke at length with Armando Menocal, who, along with Jim Angel, founded the Access Committee of the American Alpine Club (AAC) in 1985. He had much to say about the often humble beginnings of this auspicious organization.

Jay: Tell me about the birth of the idea of the Access Fund. What was the impetus to actually get this thing rolling?



Armando: Well...in the mid-1980s, we were starting to have access problems across the country. In large part it was the beginning of the sport climbing movement. But as we learned from the National Park Service, there was an increase at trad areas as well. Many land managers suddenly felt overwhelmed by climbing. The combined effect of more climbers and more new climbing areas caused a lot of land managers to attempt to put the brakes on climbing. They didn't know what climbing was, and they'd never regulated it. As a result, there started being closures. I'd been active in some of these issues in California, so the American Alpine Club asked me to start an Access and Conservation Committee to confront these issues. So I agreed...

Jay: Who were some of the folks on that early committee?

Armando: The earliest were me and a guy named Jim Angel, just two of us. The first thing he did was plan an act of civil disobedience up at Mt. St. Helens. Jim had been playing it by the book, and they refused to reopen Mt. St. Helens to climbing even after the big crater explosion was long past.

Jay: What was the act of civil disobedience?

Armando: Jim wrote a letter to the Forest Service telling them that on a mid-summer day—he gave them the date, which was like six to eight months out—he was going to climb Mt. St. Helens. They had been involved in a planning process for two or three years, and it'd been all finished, but they would not open the mountain to climbing. They were just being bureaucrats dragging their heels. And so to provoke them into either finally arresting him or getting them to issue the decision, he just told them, "I am going to climb that mountain." And he sent copies to all the local newspapers. And it worked! By summer, they issued the plan.

"To provoke them into either finally arresting him or getting them to issue the decision, he just told them, 'I am going to climb that mountain.'"

This scared the American Alpine Club, so we stopped for nearly two years. Then Jim McCarthy became president of the AAC, and he said, "You do whatever you need to, and we'll back you 100%." And that's really when the Access Committee started. Jim Angel and I added people: Randy Vogel; a fella by the name of Mike Jimmerson down in Arizona, who was a real workhorse; Rick Accomazzo in Colorado; and a few people back East as well. We were basically about a dozen folks who met like once or twice a year. At first it was a very slow process. Mostly it was just all of us talking about the problems we had. We got to the point where we actually needed to have our own staff, so every year we'd do something that was "The Call." And The Call was a call to Yvon Chouinard. And Yvon would always say, "How much?" And I'd say something like \$10 thousand dollars. And he'd send it.

Jay: That's amazing!

Armando: In the early years, we were funded 100% by Yvon Chouinard. So anyway, that's how we got started; we were the Access Committee of the American Alpine Club. After Jim McCarthy was no longer president, the [access] problems were getting so big and there was so much stuff and I was spending so much of my time as the chair of the committee that we decided the better thing to do was form a separate organization. And that's what we did in 1990.

Jay: Was that separation done with the good graces of the AAC? I mean, were they on board for this?

Armando: For the people involved it was painful and hard. Because you had people in the AAC who really supported us and they wanted us to stay, and they didn't like us leaving. And, there were people who, frankly, didn't like us, 'cause we were activists and they didn't like some of the strong positions.

Jay, in the 1980s, because of sport climbing, there was a huge amount of debates in the climbing community, dealing with everything from rap bolting, hang dogging, etc. And one of the key decisions that the Access Committee made, which continued with the Access Fund, was that we would not get involved with ethics. We would not say, "Okay, we'll defend people who put up routes ground up, but we won't defend people who do it rap bolting." There were many people who were lining up on either side of those issues. There were people who were lobbying government agencies to get them involved, so rap bolting would be prohibited in one place. And the Access Committee said, "No, we will not do that. We will defend climbing in all its forms."

"The Access Committee said, 'No, we will not do that. We will defend climbing in all its forms.'"

If the climbing community, within itself wanted to say, as a matter of ethics, people shouldn't rap bolt in a certain area, that's fine. But land managers and the government should not get involved in ethical debates. And that is one of the things that made us very controversial. That was

one of the early decisions we made. I've always credited Randy [Vogel] with helping us make that decision. He was very important in that. And it's still the Access Fund policy to this day. We don't take sides in ethical debates. We defend climbing in all its forms.

Jay: If I'm on the board of the AAC around that time, when you guys in the Access Committee are thinking of splitting off, and I'm against it, what are some of my protests?

Armando: I would say there were probably two major disagreements within the AAC. One was over the ethical question because there were people there that didn't think we should fight government agencies if they were going to prohibit rap bolting, or if they were going to prohibit power drills being used to place routes. Some people even went so far to say we shouldn't defend the placement of bolts at all.

And then the second thing was that we were activists. We were arguing with and taking on the government. And there was a large body within the AAC that thought that was not their role. Their job was to support, but not argue with government agencies. But a lot of us were out of the 60s and 70s, and that wasn't our way at all!

"I mean you were just getting killed by a thousand cuts, to be fighting an anti-bolting thing."

Very clearly, the Access Fund started as an advocacy organization. That was the main thing we did. One of the reasons we formed the Access Fund [from the committee] was because we were fighting efforts to prohibit bolting, whether it was power drill or hand drill, all over the country, and we needed a national organization. I mean you were just getting killed by a thousand cuts, to be fighting an anti-bolting thing. It was just one Forest Service place after another, and then the Park Service... We needed to start dealing with the source—the people who made the rules back in Washington, DC. We knew we needed to have a nationwide organization to deal with the advocacy issues. And to this day, the primary focus of the advocacy part of the Access Fund, which I still think is the major thing we do, is nationwide, because most of the problems are nationwide.



Early Access Fund Board Meeting. Left to right: Bill Supple, Bob Archbold, Michael Kennedy, Rick Accomazzo, David Brower, Armando Menocal

Jay: Today, is the state of access in America where you thought it would be in almost two decades after the Access Fund split off? How are things different now from what you thought it would be like?

Armando: Well, I thought some of these issues would be put to rest. But otherwise I would say it's about where I would have wanted it to be. I think if you look on the positive side of the ledger, no major climbing area in America is closed. There are some local areas that are closed, but I don't even think you can say there are any regional destination areas that are closed.

You can still place a bolt anywhere in wilderness or non-wilderness in America with very few exceptions. Some places they have committees you have to go through. There are a few places we haven't been able to get in line, like the Superstitions and the Sawtooth, but those are pretty small in comparison. Big-wall climbing, which

would have been shut down entirely with an anti-fixed-anchor rule in wilderness is still alive and well. So, if you look at it that way, in the big picture, we're where we would want to be.

“Big-wall climbing, which would have been shut down entirely with an anti-fixed-anchor rule in wilderness is still alive and well.”

On the downside, is that some of these issues have not been put to rest. Bolting...it has been really hard to get the federal agencies to finally put that issue to rest. And we have to keep putting energy into doing that. The number of times that I, and now Jason Keith, have gone back to Washington and talked to people in the federal government at all three major agencies—BLM, Forest Service, and Park Service—would take up a year or more of somebody's time. And as long as you don't put it to rest, you have to keep dealing with it, because some local ranger will decide that he's going to ban bolts. It still happens.

Maybe with the new administration...

Jay: In the years-long development of the Access Fund to where it is right now, what are some of the pleasant surprises that have popped up?

Armando: Well, to me the biggest surprise, it shouldn't be, but it still is to me, is to watch what was for some of us in the 80s and 90s our real passion to keep climbing areas open get taken up by one generation after another. The people that run the Access Fund now are one, two, or three generations removed from the first group that started it. And I guess I remain surprised every time I see an entirely new bunch of people—who had nothing to do with us historically—step up and start really taking on the challenge...and re-forming the organization and taking

Collaboration. | ACCESS FUND AND THE AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB

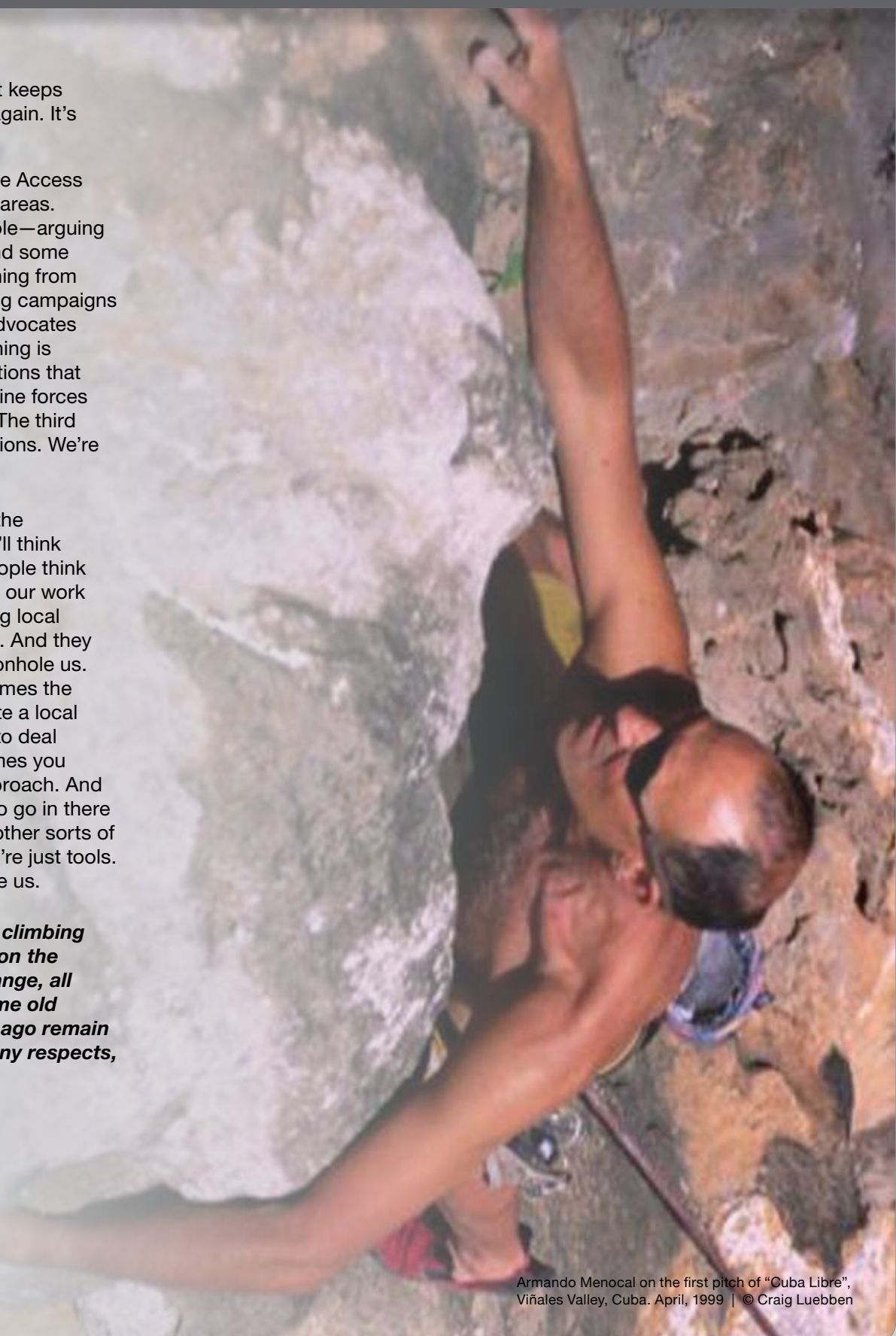
While the early days of the Access Fund and the American Alpine Club's relationship was sometimes contentious, the two organizations now enjoy a collaborative working relationship, often working in tandem on issues that support American climbers.

it to a new place. It just keeps happening again and again. It's pretty exciting to see.

I've tended to divide the Access Fund's work into three areas. One is the advocacy role—arguing to keep areas open, and some of that involves everything from litigation to letter-writing campaigns and all the tools that advocates use. And the second thing is building local organizations that then become the frontline forces dealing with closures. The third one is actually acquisitions. We're trying to build that.

Some people think of the Access Fund and they'll think acquisitions. Some people think of AF and they think of our work building and supporting local climbing organizations. And they sometimes try to pigeonhole us. Which are we? Sometimes the right answer is to create a local climbing organization to deal with an issue. Sometimes you need an advocacy approach. And sometimes you need to go in there with acquisitions and other sorts of development. But they're just tools. They're not what define us.

The ongoing fight for climbing access in America is on the brink of profound change, all while some of the same old struggles of 20 years ago remain prominent and, in many respects, unresolved.



Armando Menocal on the first pitch of "Cuba Libre", Viñales Valley, Cuba. April, 1999 | © Craig Luebben

Access Fund Presents its 2008 Awards

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

Sharp End Awards

The Access Fund is proud to honor the following recipients for their outstanding leadership and activism:

Jonah Harrison, AF Regional Coordinator in Washington State

Jonah's work with the Washington Climbers Coalition has been instrumental in protecting access at Gold Bar, and reopening new-route development in the Skagit River Gorge. Jonah also spearheaded, along with the Washington Trails Association and Wilderness Society, a TeamWorks project that harnessed the energies of the Vertical World Climbing Team in Seattle to build a climbing access trail to new crags at Newhalem.

Cameron Cross, Founder and President of the Northern Colorado Climbers Coalition

Cameron has worked to alleviate tensions between climbers, park affiliates, and land proprietors in many Colorado climbing areas, including Mt. Evans, the Poudre, Rocky Mountain National Park, Carter Lake, and Arthur's Rock. He has also been the main organizer of the Horsetooth Hang, a Fort Collins bouldering festival that consists of costumes, competition, and clean-up.

Eastern Mountain Sports (EMS)

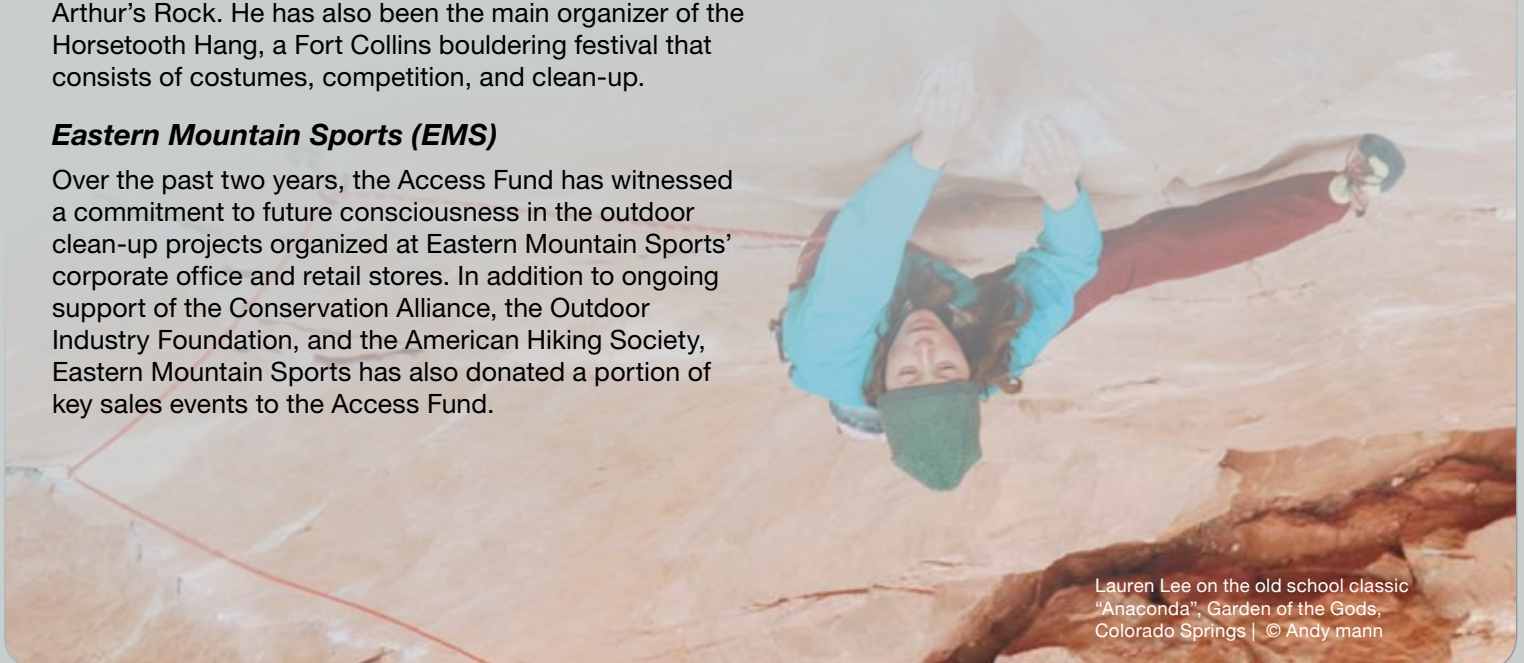
Over the past two years, the Access Fund has witnessed a commitment to future consciousness in the outdoor clean-up projects organized at Eastern Mountain Sports' corporate office and retail stores. In addition to ongoing support of the Conservation Alliance, the Outdoor Industry Foundation, and the American Hiking Society, Eastern Mountain Sports has also donated a portion of key sales events to the Access Fund.

Bebie Leadership Award – Steve Johnson

We honor Steve Johnson as America's outstanding activist for the cause of preserving climbing access and the climbing environment. Steve has shown leadership and extraordinary perseverance for nearly two decades in the fight to open Bridal Veil Falls in Telluride, Colorado. Steve, a lawyer by trade, was also instrumental in the recent acquisition of Mother's Buttress in Unaweep Canyon, donating all of the necessary legal work.

Reese Martin Award – Brian Poulsen

We honor Brian Poulsen for his outstanding leadership as an Access Fund regional coordinator in California. Brian is a founding member of CRAGS (Climbing Resource Advocates for Greater Sacramento) and has spent dozens of hours working with local climbers and state land managers in an effort to reopen access to the quarry at Auburn State Recreation Area. Brian has also volunteered his time to advocate for climbing access to Tuolumne Meadows at National Park Service planning meetings in Yosemite.



Lauren Lee on the old school classic "Anaconda", Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs | © Andy mann

The Access Fund Celebrates 10 Years of Adopt-a-Crag!

Ten years ago, the Access Fund hosted its very first Adopt-a-Crag stewardship event, kicking off a thriving tradition of climbing volunteerism. In those early days of the program, Adopt-a-Crag events pulled climbers together for trash clean-up days at their favorite crags.

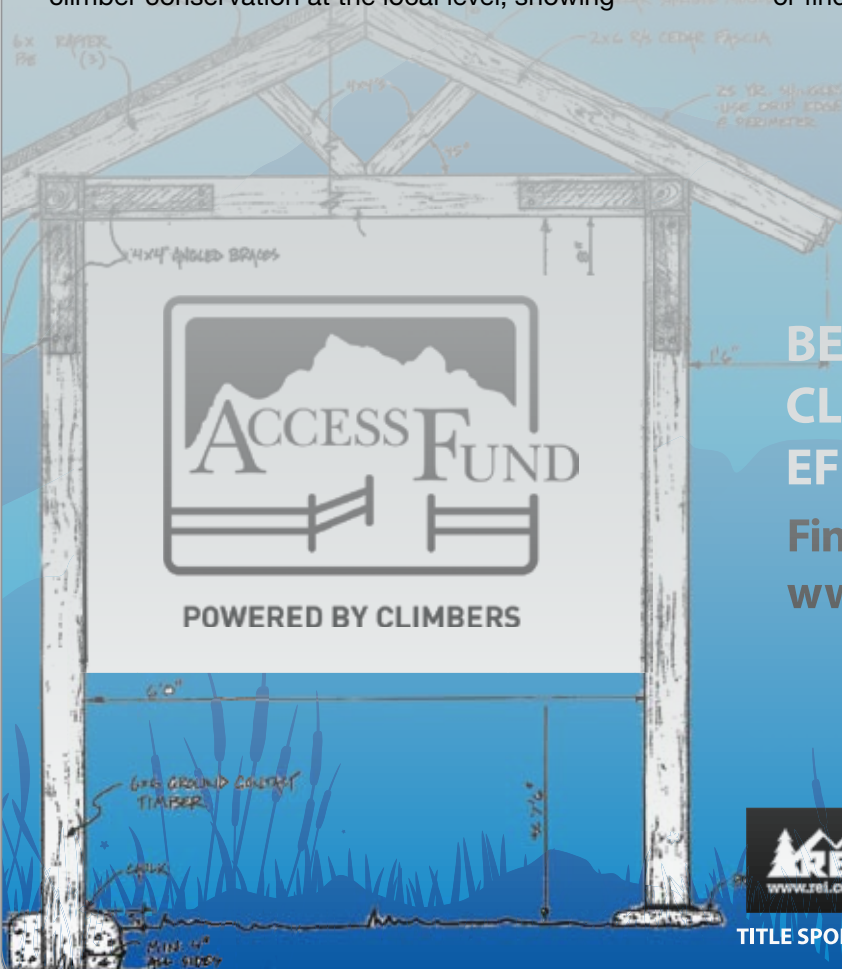
Over the years, however, we've seen organizers grow more and more sophisticated in their stewardship efforts. Today, ten years later, we are thrilled to see volunteers take on more and more complex projects—everything from the traditional trash clean-ups to trail building, erosion control, and invasive weed mitigation.

In this 10th year of the program, the Access Fund celebrates you—the organizers and volunteers who dedicate your time to uniting local climbing communities to conserve our climbing areas. Your efforts epitomize climber conservation at the local level, showing

landowners and land managers that climbers truly care about the places they recreate. This display of stewardship not only gives back to the land, but is paramount to keeping climbing areas open by showing decision makers the passion that climbers have for their climbing areas.

We are looking forward to a landmark year for the 10th anniversary of the Adopt-a-Crag program, with many great events already being planned. Kicking off our season was the Carolina Climbers Coalition (CCC) Adopt-a-Crag at Pilot Mountain in North Carolina. This event was especially significant because it represented the CCC's first opportunity to work with and begin building a relationship with the new superintendent of the park.

Join the celebration today! Go online to register your event or find an event near you at www.accessfund.org/adopt.



BE PART OF THE LARGEST CLIMBING VOLUNTEER EFFORT IN HISTORY

Find an event near you today at www.accessfund.org/adopt



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Access Fund News

Access Fund Awards the 2008 TeamWorks Golden Toothbrush

Escalade climbing team, Kennesaw, Georgia

The fall of 2008 had our Grassroots Coordinator, Amy Ansari, wide-eyed as she plowed through stacks of TeamWorks scorecards, tallying the totals for the Access Fund's inaugural year of the TeamWorks program. The winning team would not only get a cash grant of \$2,000 to put toward their climbing program, but serious bragging rights for stewardship efforts at their local crags.

The team that came out on top was team Escalade of Kennesaw, Georgia. The Escalade team took to this competition, which is judged by total volunteer hours spent hosting or participating in Access Fund Adopt-a-Crag events, like they take to climbing itself—with vengeance. The kids hosted three events that drew 156 volunteers, who contributed a total of 477 volunteer hours to local conservation and stewardship.

When asked what the defining moment of the TeamWorks experience was for his team, Coach Chris Sierzant commented, “The looks on their faces when they saw over 90 volunteers show up for the Little River Canyon Adopt-a-Crag. They had smiles on their faces when they realized how big of a difference they could make in the community.”

According to Chris, Little River Canyon has been a well-kept secret by the locals for a long time, which wasn't doing the

area any favors. “The place was trashed,” says Sierzant, “Not enough people knew or cared about it and the park system wasn't getting funding to clean it up. The Rangers needed help.” So Escalade stepped up to organize the Adopt-a-Crag event, embracing gorilla marketing tactics to get the word out—everything from recruiting at the gym, to sending out flyers and e-mails, and promoting the clean-up effort through MySpace and Facebook.

When we asked Chris what his reaction was to learning that his team had won the grant money, he stated dryly, “Would you expect anything less from Escalade?” Um...I guess not. Escalade plans to put their grant money toward team uniforms, which they feel will further strengthen their commitment to the team and give the next generation of young climbers something to aspire to.

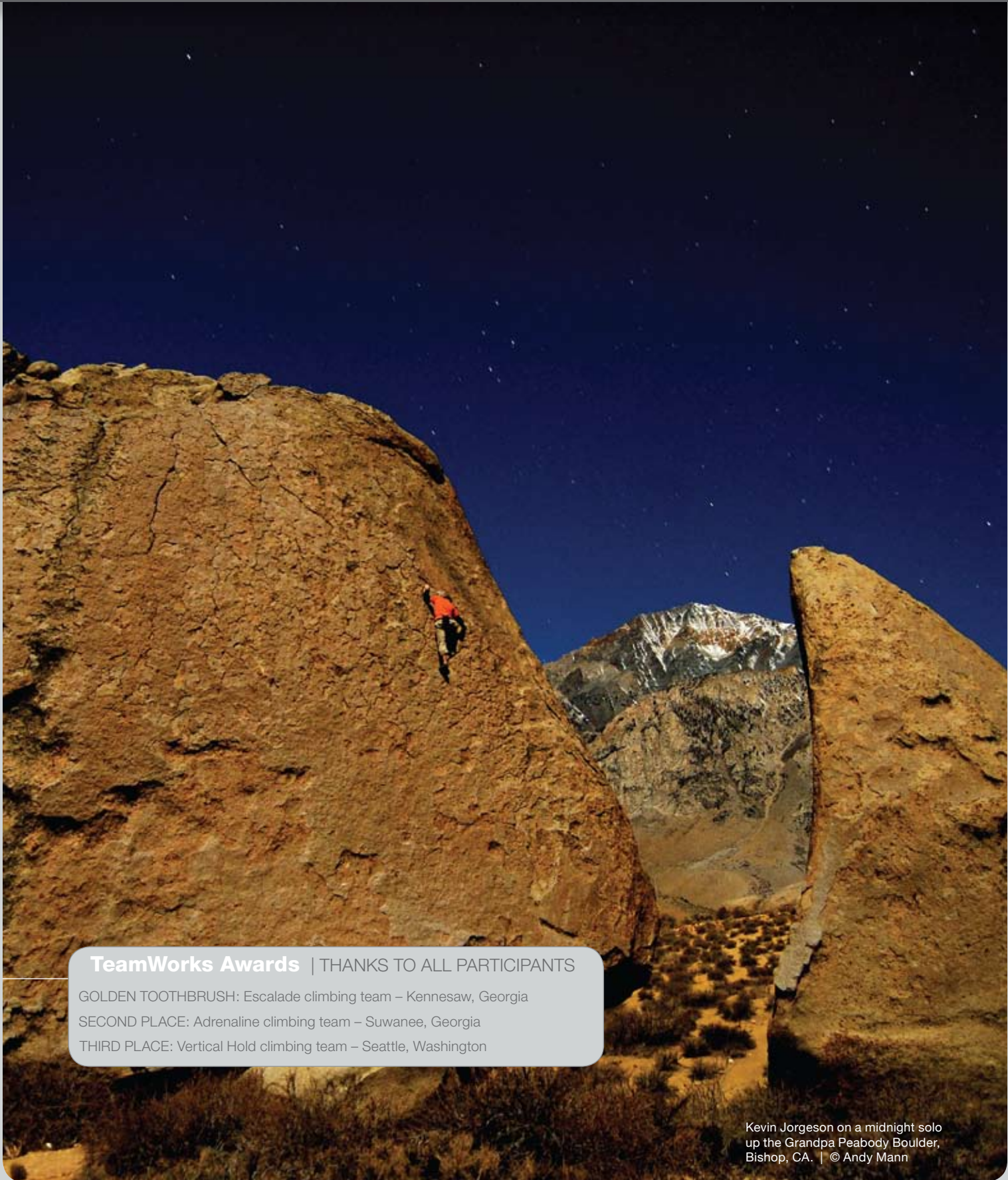
The Access Fund would like to thank all of the TeamWorks members who participated in this year's program. We're proud to have them in the Access Fund's corner and look forward to seeing what they're made of in the 2009 competition.

To learn more about the TeamWorks program, or to register your team for the 2009 competition, visit www.accessfund.org or contact Amy Ansari at 303-545-6772 x105.

TeamWorks is made possible by the generous support of our corporate sponsors: Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI), GORE-TEX Products, CLIF Bar, The North Face, Urban Climber Magazine and USA Climbing.



From left to right: Matt Eldridge, Jon Mitchell, Senya Laryguine (Coach), Corey Houlihan, Laurie Watkins, Corey Jourdan, Jason Hurst, Mitch Garner, Henry Bravo, Christopher Sierzant (Coach), Sarah Bain, Avery Doig, Christian Reitz, Mark Farr, Mike Eldridge.



TeamWorks Awards | THANKS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS

GOLDEN TOOTHBRUSH: Escalade climbing team – Kennesaw, Georgia

SECOND PLACE: Adrenaline climbing team – Suwanee, Georgia

THIRD PLACE: Vertical Hold climbing team – Seattle, Washington

Kevin Jorgeson on a midnight solo
up the Grandpa Peabody Boulder,
Bishop, CA. | © Andy Mann

Featured Artist Profile

Andy Mann

*As you turned the pages of this month's **Vertical Times**, you've been privy to a collection of stunning images by up-and-coming photographer, Andy Mann. Andy graciously donated these photographs to show his support for the Access Fund.*

Andy Mann is a full-time freelance photographer based in Boulder, CO. While Andy's photography spans all walks of life and a wide array of subjects, it is his work in the climbing community that is gaining the most attention. "Being a traveling photographer is a dream come true. It is a very special place to be and not one that I take for granted. I'm counting my blessings," says Andy.

Andy has a long reach when it comes to his subjects, working with climbers like Fred Nicole, Chris Sharma, Tony Lamiche, Daniel Woods, Lisa Rands, Tommy Caldwell, and others. When asked what his favorite part of the job is, Andy states: "The most addictive part of my job is creating friendships with athletes from all over the world. The connection I share with the climbing community is pretty strong, and I have been very fortunate to travel and share some wild adventures with many of them."

In addition to Andy's work as a photographer, he also produced the soon-to-be-released Colorado documentary film Rocky Mountain Highball (www.rockymountainhighball.com), which will premiere at the Boulder Theater on April 27, 2009. Andy also recently accepted a position as Contributing Editor at Urban Climber Magazine.

To learn more about Andy and his work, visit www.andymann.com.



Andy finds some alone time behind his guitar on a recent trip to South Africa. | © Keith Ladzinski

Support the Access Fund

Membership makes it happen

The Access Fund is only as strong as its membership. With nearly 50% of our income coming from members like you, your donations make our work possible.

We know that times are tough right now, but we need your help to continue keeping climbing areas open. If you haven't already done so, please renew your membership for the upcoming year, and encourage your climbing partners to join the cause.

Thank you for your ongoing support! Join, renew, or give an additional donation at www.accessfund.org/join.



New in the Member Shop

Proudly show your support for the cause with the new The North Face "Wicked Beanie," co-branded with the Access Fund logo. This classic, slim fitting knit design with a soft fleece ear band lining is the perfect way to keep your head warm at the crag or cover up a bad hair day. One size.

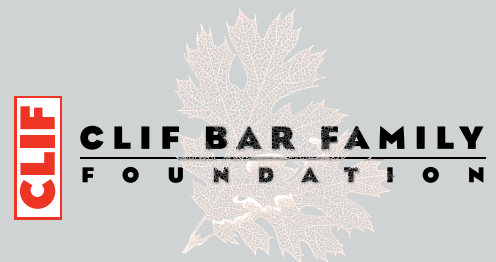
Now in stock: grey, black, or brown

Member price: \$13.50

Non-member price: \$15.00

CLIF Bar Family Foundation's Gift Card Program Benefits the Access Fund!

The CLIF Bar Family Foundation introduces On Your Behalf, a unique gift card program that encourages charitable gift exchange and allows gift card recipients to make contributions to the organizations of their choice. To increase exposure and provide essential funding to grassroots organizations, On Your Behalf has partnered with 23 beneficiary groups focused on a wide array of social concerns, including environmental restoration and conservation, sustainable food systems and agriculture, and public health. Visit www.clifbarfamilyfoundation.org/onyourbehalf.



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REI — 1991

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Climbing — 1991
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Red Chili USA — 1995
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GearEXPRESS.com — 2003
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Julbo — 2005
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Rock and Snow, Inc. — 2003
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Sickle Climbing — 2001

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Tom K. Michael, D.D.S., P.S. — 2000
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Vasque — 2001
Wenger — 2008
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MEDIA PARTNERS

Andrew Burr Photography — 2006
Andrew Kornylak Photography — 2006
Andrew Querner Photography — 2006
Andy Mann Photography — 2009
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Aurora Photos — 2007
Brian Solano Photography — 2007
Camp4.com — 2002
Corey Rich Photography — 2002
CragCam Productions — 2006
Dan Bailey Photography — 2002
Dawn Kish — 2007
DrTopo.com — 2003
Emilie Lee — 2006
Eric Draper Photography — 2007
GetBeta.com — 2004
Griz Guides — 2006
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Kevsteele Photography - 2008 — 2008
Kyler Deutmeyer — 2008
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Patitucci Photo — 2003
Pixel Print Graphics — 2007
Rockclimbing.com — 2006
Second Chance Films — 2004
Sender Films — 2005
Sharpend Publishing — 2004
She Sends — 2004
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Summitjournal.com — 2006
Thoos — 2006
Tom Frost — 2007
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About the Access Fund

Powered by climbers, for climbers, the Access Fund gives you a local and national voice on climbing issues, provides you with opportunities to give back to the areas in which you climb, keeps you informed about critical issues, and arms you with information that makes you a more effective advocate for the climbing community. Our goal is to provide swift action and assistance when a US climbing area is in danger, and provide preemptive protection against access issues. We fulfill this mission through five core programs: climbing management policy, local support and mobilization, stewardship and conservation, land acquisition and protection, and education. For more information, visit us at www.accessfund.org.



Kevin Jorgeson mucks it up for the camera on "Secrets of the Beehive", Bishop, CA. | © Andy mann

Local Climbing Organizations

The Access Fund believes that united we are stronger. That is why a critical piece of our work is supporting Local Climbing Organizations (LCO) and uniting them into a national grassroots network. An 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. They are the liaisons between the climbing community and their local land managers and land owners.

Alabama

Southeastern Climbers
Coalition

Arkansas

Arkansas Climbers' Coalition
Southeastern Climbers
Coalition

Arizona

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

California

Allied Climbers of San Diego
California Mountaineering
Group
Climbing Resource Advocates
for Greater Sacramento
Cragmont Climbing Club
Eastern Sierra Climbers
Coalition
Friends of Joshua Tree
Friends of Pinnacles
Friends of Williamson Rock
Southern Sierra Climbers
Association
Yosemite Climbing Association

Canada

Climbers Access Society of
British Columbia

Colorado

4 Corners Climbing Coalition
Access Colorado
Action Committee for Eldorado
Colorado Springs Climbers
Alliance
Denver Climbers Coalition
Flatirons Climbing Council
Northern Colorado Climbers'
Coalition
Roaring Fork Climbers Coalition

Western Colorado Climbers'
Coalition

Connecticut

Ragged Mountain Foundation
District of Columbia
Mid-Atlantic Climbers

Georgia

Southeastern Climbers
Coalition

Iowa

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Idaho

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Kootenai Climbers

Illinois

Chicago Mountaineering Club
Illinois Climbers Association

Kentucky

Friends of Muir Valley
Red River Gorge Climbers
Coalition
Southeastern Climbers
Coalition

Massachusetts

Appalachian Mountain Club –
Boston Chapter
Western Massachusetts
Climbers Coalition

Maryland

Mid-Atlantic Climbers

Maine

Maine Climbers Alliance

Michigan

Grand Ledges Climbers
Coalition

Minnesota

Minnesota Climbers
Association

Missouri

Climbers Alliance of Mid-
Missouri

Kansas City Climbing Club

Montana

Bitterroot Climbers' Coalition
Southwest Montana Climbers
Coalition

North Carolina

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

New Hampshire

Rumney Climbers Association

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
Madrone Wall Preservation
Committee
Mazamas
Smith Rock Group

Pennsylvania

Climbing Conservancy of
Central Pennsylvania

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
Concho Valley Climbers
Association
Texas Mountaineers

Utah

Friends of Indian Creek
Moab Area Climbers' Alliance
Northern Utah Climbers
Coalition
Salt Lake Climbers Alliance
Southern Utah Climbers'
Coalition

Virginia

Friends of Great Falls Coalition
Mid-Atlantic Climbers
Shenandoah National Park
Climbers Alliance

Vermont

CRAG-VT
Northeastern Vermont Climber's
Alliance

Washington

Washington Climbers Coalition

West Virginia

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



POWERED BY CLIMBERS

» To contact your local climbing organization or to view their website go to: www.accessfund.org/partners/affiliates.php

Cover Shot: Naomi Guy holds the swing on "The Wilford Prow" high above Carter Lake. | © Andy mann

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