



CLIMBERS PRO-ACTIVE IN 2001

In this issue, you can read about some recent actions by the Access Fund and big plans for 2001! At the January Outdoor Retailer Tradeshow, the AF hosted a Climbing Testimonial forum for climbers to submit letters about climbing areas they visited and their experiences during the past year.

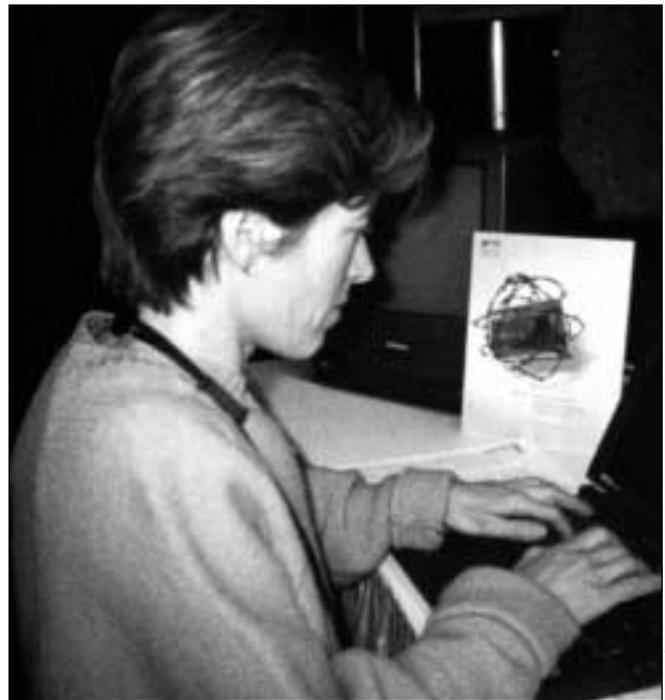
With a laptop and printer on-site at the Salt Palace, climbers submitted over a slew of letters to be mailed to appropriate land managers and landowners concerning different areas. See page 10 to read some of the submissions including letters from "Hollywood" Hans Florine and Lynn Hill!

Coming soon to the snow covered Rockies of Estes Park, Colorado is the Regional Coordinator Summit. Read more about the event on page 9 as well as the grants update. Applications have been received for projects in California, North Carolina, Vermont, Utah, Arizona, and Colorado.

Mark your calendars for the second annual Adopt-A-Crag Day 2001 coming to a crag near you on September 8. Last year there were 65 events in 25 states which included cleanups, trail maintenance, rock wall construction, and the removal of fire rings. To establish an event, contact Heather Clark at 303-245-6772 (x100) or email heather@accessfund.org.

Other big events this spring include an official Baldy Point Preservation Ceremony on May 5th, at Quartz Mountain State Park, Oklahoma. The Access Fund and Johnson Trust should close the acquisition by March 31 to make the "Tuolome of the

East" accessible to climbers. Read more about the acquisition and its history the next issue of the Vertical Times premiering in May.



Kath Pyke

Lynn Hill submits a letter for the Access Fund Testimonial forum held at the January Outdoor Retailer trade show in Salt Lake City, UT. Dozens of climbers submitted letters about climbing areas they visited and their experiences at the areas during the past year. See page 10 to read Hill's testimonial .

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING II

BY ARMANDO MENOCA

I had just been told to shut up by Stephan Jackson of the National Outdoor Leadership School. I realized that I was incensed and about to lose it. In years of courtroom work, I had never struck out in anger. But now, I could feel a genuine outburst building inside me. I knew that I was trapped. I wasn't allowed to speak, and any rebuttal would be inappropriate. All I could do was get up and walk away.

It was yet another day of negotiating in the Forest Service's rulemaking on whether rock climbers are going to be allowed to use the slings, pitons, and bolts that have been a traditional part of climbing. In view of the events that had led up to that moment, I shouldn't have been taken by surprise and left rejected and exasperated.

Any committed climber would have been upset about the situation. A small group of people, unknown to the entire climbing world, was deciding whether many remote mountains in America would ever again be climbed and explored. The majority of them were not climbers and some were bureaucrats. At least others were veterans from past struggles over wild areas and climbing. Some were there because they had free time and were interested in the dispute. Some couldn't pronounce "piton" and would lecture on climbers' unwillingness to take on "real wilderness" without the security of fixed protection or rappel anchors. They weren't necessarily bad or ill motivated people. Some were my friends and were equally unhappy

to be there, but no concerned climber would want the future of climbing decided by this so called Fixed Anchors in Wilderness Negotiated Rulemaking Committee.

This isn't something you boast about, but I wasn't just another concerned climber. Perhaps I can get away with claiming that no one has been more involved than I in defending climbers' abilities to keep these tools for ascents and descents on routes. I started on this struggle so long ago that I can't remember my first bolting ban or closure. One of the main reasons that I helped start the Access Fund was so that we could keep using fixed anchors to climb.

Now Stephan Jackson, the NOLS committee member, who probably had not been old enough for the youngest junior category in a climbing comp when I first defending anchors, did not want me to speak because I wasn't one of the selected committee members. He was right since any objection from a selected committee member overruled those who were unselected. My resentment was not helped by the fact that NOLS, the starting ground for many climbers and a few of my climbing partners, was now the only "climbing group" which had turned against the use of anchors.

I'd watched and listened to the defenders of climbing put up an excellent, in fact, an unyielding case. The Access Fund, American Alpine Club, American Mountain Guides Association, and the Mountaineers were vigilant. They consistently had the correct facts, not just on climbing, but even the Wilderness

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Larry Gustafson

Another day of negotiating in the Forest Service's rulemaking on whether rock climbers will be permitted to use fixed anchors for future ascents in Wilderness areas. "A small group of people, unknown to the entire climbing world, was deciding whether many remote mountains in America would ever again be climbed and explored," says Armando Menocal, environmental and human rights advocate and professional mountain guide.

FIXED ANCHORS IN WILDERNESS

The US Forest Service says it wants to complete its rulemaking on climbing and fixed anchor use in designated wilderness areas, but it will

have to wait to do so.

The Forest Service has developed a draft rule but did not release the rule for public review and comment prior to January 20, 2001, when the Bush administration took office. President Bush quickly placed a 60-day moratorium on all new federal government rulemaking.

The Access Fund has been working hard to insure the Forest Service supports the progress made by the Negotiated Rulemaking committee, which was disbanded last fall after a few wilderness purists refused to accept a proposal which all other committee members supported. Environmental heavyweights such as the Sierra Club, National Parks & Conservation Association, and Wilderness Society all endorsed the proposal.

The Forest Service stated it will honor the work of the rulemaking committee in its new rule. The Access Fund's ongoing communication with the Forest Service has led us to believe the unpublished agency rule is not entirely consistent with the committee's proposal that would have allowed the use and replacement of existing

fixed anchors in wilderness. Also, it would have prohibited new climbs which are entirely bolt protected (new bolts could be placed occasionally, to link crack systems or as belay/rappel

anchors). Under this proposal, any type of drilled fixed anchor would require some form of authorization, for example through a decision in a Wilderness Management Plan or under a special use permit.

The Access Fund endorsed this proposal as a difficult but acceptable compromise to resolve the long-standing question of how bolting should be treated in wilderness, which by law requires a higher standard of protection. We will not support any proposed rule which is more restrictive than this compromise.

The Access Fund continues to work with the Forest Service and other federal wilderness agencies to clarify or establish climbing policy. If and when the Forest Service does issue a draft rule for public comment, it is critically important for climbers to provide feedback. Check the Access Fund Web site (www.accessfund.org) for updates on the fixed anchor issue and information on how to comment on a proposed rule.

LOCALS WEIGH IN ON NEW WISCONSIN CLIMBING RULES

In the February issue of the Access Fund Virtual Times e-newsletter, we reported the adoption of new climbing "policy" for Wisconsin state parks and natural areas. Local climber and guidebook author Sol Sepsenwol, who has been closely involved in the discussions between climbers and the state Department of Natural Resources, offers these clarifications:

The possibility that climbers may be required to obtain a "permit" is a new idea, never discussed with the Rock Climbing Technical Advisory Committee ("voluntary registration" was considered). Climbers would not benefit from having to get a permit unless the state made improvements to its lands to promote climbing (such as bike trails for bikers).

Bolting is specifically prohibited only on DNR buildings and structures. There is no

rule regarding bolting on rock.

The new rules do not mention what restrictions or requirements may be involved in "opening" new climbing areas. If rock formations are on state land - that is not in a State Natural Area — it is climbable unless posted otherwise.

There is a provision in the new rules for closing an area to climbing specifically (as opposed to closing it to all activities), but there is no prescription for removal of a climbing closure.

The new rules say nothing about the role and formation of Climbing Advisory Committees, which are a centerpiece of the comprehensive climbing policy developed by the RCTAC. The new rules incorporate only a few pieces of this comprehensive strategy. Sepsenwol adds, "The proposed rules do not represent a policy. The bulk of the 6-page climbing policy, generally faithful to the original [developed by the RCTAC], will have to be incorporated into the DNR's Property Manager's Handbook (by a process as yet unknown). This past August, climbers on the RCTAC had a very positive meeting with all DNR property managers [whose lands include rock formations]. It was clear they have no blanket objections to climbing; they were worried about scramblers, not climbers; and that some would like to see climbing resources on their properties developed. [This was] a completely different attitude from that we faced in meetings with the RCTAC in 1999 and DNR administrators throughout 2000."

The Access Fund supported the work of climbers on the RCTAC by providing legal and editorial assistance. We will continue to work with local climbers and the DNR to support climbing on Wisconsin state lands and to ensure that climbing rules and policy are sensible, reasonable, and necessary.

For more information, contact Sol Sepsenwol, Ph.D. at ssepsenw@uwsp.edu.



The Forest Service has released an undisclosed draft rule concerning fixed anchor use.

MIDWEST CONTINUED EFFORTS ON HUECO ACCESS

In mid-February Sam Davidson, Access Fund senior policy analyst, and Claudia Nissley, resource specialist, visited Hueco Tanks State Park in Texas to discuss climbing access with John Moses, park manager. Moses expressed interest in obtaining assistance from the Access Fund for a climbing exhibit to showcase at the park, and he voiced the need for assistance with their volunteer climbing guide program. Local climbers at Hueco Tanks strongly support efforts made by the Access Fund. Local climber Scott Milton credits the fact that Hueco is still accessible due to the efforts of the Access Fund.

CLOSING THE DEAL -- QUARTZ MOUNTAIN, OK

The Access Fund and Johnson Trust have executed the remaining agreements necessary for closing on the Baldy Point Acquisition. Closing preparations are now being made and the transfer of Baldy



Point to the State of Oklahoma should take place by March 31.

An official Baldy Point Preservation Ceremony has been scheduled to occur at on May 3, 2001 at Quartz Mountain State Park. The ceremony will recognize the transfer of Baldy Point to the State of Oklahoma, and will honor all of those who contributed to the success of this acquisition. For more information check the WMCC website at: www.wichitamountains.org

WEST ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK CLIMBING MANAGEMENT PLAN RELEASED

The National Park Service has released a draft Backcountry/Wilderness Management Plan for Rocky Mountain National Park. RMNP is home to some of the most famous alpine rock climbs in this country, including the East Face of Long's Peak (the Diamond), Hallet Peak, the Petit Grepon and Spearhead. The draft plan proposes the first comprehensive climbing policy for the park, and would:

- Prohibit vegetation removal;
- Allow chalk use but encourage climbers to be sensitive to its visual and environmental effects;
- Allow existing fixed anchors to be used and replaced;
- Prohibit new "bolt intensive" climbing routes (entirely bolt-protected climbs).

Interestingly, in its fixed anchor policy the plan reflects the majority consensus of the Forest Service's Negotiated Rulemaking committee. Comments on this plan are due by March 30, 2001. You can review the plan on-line at <http://www.nps.gov/romo/pppressreleases/>

EARLY/ LATE ACCESS POLICY CHANGED AT RED ROCKS

As of January 1, 2001, the "early access, late exit" policy for Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area in Nevada has



changed. Previously, climbers could get permission for early access or late exit from the Bureau of Land Management and receive the combination to the lock on the gate of the area's loop road. Citing various problems with this system, BLM no longer allows early access; all visitors can enter only after the gate is officially opened, at 6 am, and all vehicles must be out of the loop road by 5 pm. Local climbers and the Access Fund are working with the BLM to address the problems raised by the new system. Access to the multi-pitch climbs in the Red Rocks backcountry (i.e. Levitation 29) have lengthy approaches and descents. Two ideas have been discussed:

- A lock-and-key system, where climbers would be issued with a key to open the gate and then deposit it in a retrieval box;
- A mechanized gate which could be opened with magnetic cards issued to climbers and other visitors needing early access. Call Red Rocks' Climbing Ranger Patrick Putnam for more information, 702-647-5042.

AF POSITION ON YOSEMITE VALLEY PLAN

The Access Fund has received questions from some climbers regarding our position on the new Concept Plan for Yosemite Valley. In Vertical Times vol. 38, we reported our concern with elements of this plan which could adversely affect the climbing experience in the Valley, while generally supporting the big-picture goals of the

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plan: to reduce crowding, traffic problems, and development, and to restore the park's natural qualities. The Access Fund refused to endorse the Concept Plan because it calls for the elimination of all roadside parking from El Cap Meadow to the Arch Rock entrance station along Route 140. We strenuously objected to this action, and to the plan's reduction in the total number of campsites in Yosemite Valley. We will fight any closure of roadside parking areas until climbers' unique transportation needs are fully considered and we are satisfied that climbers will no longer need roadside parking in Yosemite. Contact Regional Coordinator Paul Minault at pminault@earthlink.net for more information.

BACKCOUNTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE BLACK CANYON

Western State College of Colorado is working with the National Park Service to develop a backcountry management plan for the park's wilderness areas. This includes the access gullies and the inner walls of the canyon used by climbers. The resource assessment process is estimated to take two years. For more information see the web site: www.western.edu/envs/black/ An open meeting will be held in Montrose, CO in late April to present information on resource conditions and proposed monitoring.

DRAFT PLAN FOR INDIAN CREEK

The Bureau of Land Management continues work on the Indian Creek Corridor that will address visitor use in the Northwest corridor from Newspaper Rock to the National Park boundary at the Needles. The Access Fund is working closely with the BLM, the Nature Conservancy and local climbers to address issues such as parking, camping, and waste disposal. The draft plan should be available and posted on the BLM web site for public comment in April.

The Access Fund will alert climbers when the document is posted through our email news list serve. To join this email list, click on the "Join List" button on at our web site at www.accessfund.org

TRAIL RULING FOR MOAB

In January the BLM announced that mountain bikers, campers and trail riders will now have to remain on designated trails on thousands of acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land around Moab in order to protect the frail ecosystem from further damage. In addition, restrictions have also been placed on camping, firewood cutting and gathering in certain areas where it was not previously restricted. Concerned about large visitor increases, these new restrictions will apply to public lands north of Moab along the western boundary of Arches National Park, south and west of town and northeast of town, near the Dolores River. They also include areas northwest of town, along roads leading to Poison Spider Mesa, Gemini Bridges and Monitor and Merrimac mesas near the Island in the Sky section of Canyonlands National Park. Climbers using these areas can check out maps and more information on the BLM web site: <http://www.blm.gov/utah/moab/camp-wood-newsrlse.html>. Site specific maps will also be posted at access points.

ELDORADO MOUNTAIN DESIGNATED AS FUTURE JEFFCO ANTENNA FARM

Pinnacle Towers Inc, of Sarasota Florida proposed PD Rezoning of Eldorado Mountain for Supertowers/Antenna Farm

1) Pinnacle Towers may submit its formal application and supporting documents as soon as next week. This means that input from concerned citizens is needed very soon.

2) In order to rezone, Pinnacle must obtain rights to cross Eldorado Canyon

State Park land. The Division of Parks and Recreation is presently negotiating access rights with Pinnacle that may be in violation of the Recreation and Public Purposes Act.

3) People can write letters to the new Case Manager Susan Wood in the Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Department. For more information, visit the People for Eldorado Mountain website at www.eldoradomtn.org. The site has information on the Pinnacle Tower plan, PEM membership signup, and document downloads. Flyers with sample letter and addresses to Jefferson County may also be downloaded.

FRENCHMAN COULEE CLIMBERS' COALITION FORMS

Over the past few years, the basalt cliffs of Frenchman Coulee (a.k.a. Vantage) have become one of the most popular cragging destination in Washington, particularly in the spring and fall. A dramatic increase in climber use, however, has raised concerns with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), which manages the area for wildlife habitat.

For the past five years, the Access Fund has worked with WDFW to address climber impacts. The Fund purchased two portable toilets for the area; paid for construction of an information board; and has organized projects to build rock retaining walls at the Feathers and climbers' trails to the Powerhouse and M&M Wall.

WDFW now wants to enter a "Memorandum of Understanding" (MOU) with climbers concerning their use of the area. In response, a group of 18 climbers met in late October to form the Frenchman Coulee Climbers' Coalition (FCCC). The group's aims are to work with WDFW on climbing issues (including working with the agency on an MOU), raise money to improve the area's facilities, organize projects to help reduce climber impacts, and to provide a clearinghouse for climber information and

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Area Reports Continued...

concerns. Ideas already under discussion include a spring trailbuilding project and a fundraising campaign for a permanent toilet.

Through its initial contributions, the FCCC is filing to become a Washington non-profit corporation. The initial directors include a number of active Coulee climbers, as well as the Access Fund's regional coordinator, Andy Fitz. Membership contributions are voluntary (you don't have to pay to become a member), but donations of at least \$10 are encouraged. To become a member, check out the organization's new website at www.frenchmancoulee.org, or send your name along any donation (by check only) to: FCCC / P.O. Box 241 / Ellensburg, WA / 98926-0241. An e-Group has also been actively discussing Frenchman Coulee issues over the past several months; go to www.egroups.com/groups/FrenchmanCouleeClimbers

LITTLE SI, WA

The Department of Natural Resources, which manages Little Si as a "Natural Resource Conservation Area (NRCA)," reported an increase in neighborhood complaints in 2000 related to disruptive users. The complaints mostly focused on people hiking out after dark and making a lot of noise. The Department also received complaints of visitors' dogs roaming into yards and getting into conflicts with neighborhood dogs. Because access to the trailhead is through a residential area, please be respectful of the neighborhood's peace and quiet while heading to and from the crags.

The Department has asked all users of Little Si (climbers, hikers, and anyone else) to remember that Little Si is a day-use area only and that dogs must remain on a leash while within the NRCA (and ideally should be leashed to and from the trailhead).

In other news, the Department hopes to open a new trailhead parking area a little

farther up the Mt. Si Road from the current area in 2001. Once this lot is opened, climbers will no longer have to walk through the neighborhood to reach the crags.

EXIT 38-BOLTING RESTRICTIONS

Most of the Exit 38 climbing areas are within Iron Horse State Park, which follows an old railroad grade (and a strip of land on either side of the grade) from the North Bend area all the way east to the Columbia River. A climbing management plan for the park was developed by Washington State Parks and climbers in 1999 and is posted on an information board in the Trestle area. Under that plan, new bolted routes within the park's designated "climbing area" (which includes all the areas covered in Bryan Burdo's 1996 guidebook, plus crags to the east along the railroad grade as far as the Garcia Road crossing) are allowed after the climber has contacted the State Park manager and been given approval. Bolted routes within the park but outside the designated climbing area (i.e., everything east of the Garcia Road crossing, all the way to the Columbia) are not allowed.

Since this management plan went into effect, several new routes have appeared within the climbing area boundaries without advance approval. State Parks reserves the option to remove these routes. In addition, at least one route has appeared outside the climbing area boundaries. State Parks has asked climbers to voluntarily remove this route.

If you want to establish a new bolted route within the designated climbing area, or if you wish to discuss expanding the designated climbing area to include crags currently "off limits" to bolting, please contact Keith Wersland, Park Manager, at (509) 656-2586. As a practical matter, please also consider that the designated climbing area already has a high concentration of bolted routes. Please think careful-

ly before squeezing in new routes between existing lines.

ATTEMPTS TO OPEN THE EAST FACE OF BEACON ROCK TO CLIMBING

This past spring, Access Fund representatives and several local climbers met with Washington State Parks, a representative from the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and a representative from the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife to discuss the possible opening of Beacon Rock's East Face. For those not familiar with Beacon Rock, the East Face offers great potential for long, high-end sport routes sheltered from the rain. Opening the face is contingent on the results of a survey for two endangered plant species on the face. Climbers are working with the agencies to complete a survey in 2001.



SOUTHEAST POCKET WALL UPDATE, RED RIVER GORGE

Natural Bridge State Park has re-worked the road that leads down to Pocket Wall in yet one more attempt to eliminate four wheelers usage. The state park has taken serious measures to block the road to ATVs with major earth works. The land is still privately owned and the state park is working on the road with the land owner's permission.

Meet the Access Fund

WE'RE HERE TO KEEP YOU CLIMBING

VERMONT RC

ing was in 1996, Rai Ley Peninsula in Nepal at the time, years there. I in some moderate

My work eventually took me to Sagarmatha National Park and the recently opened Kanchanjunga Conservation Area. In 1997, I returned to Thailand for a month and continued climbing intensely when I returned to the US in 1998. I moved to Vermont in 1998 after taking a job with the Department of Forests and Parks. I began graduate school for an MS in Natural Resource Planning in 1999 (still in progress). Early last year a group of local climbers began working on access issues in the state, which was the impetus for CRAG-VT.

As an organization, we hope to bring awareness to the climbing community about the challenges we face in a state where the majority of our climbing is on private land. I feel privileged to live in a state that is small enough that we are able to talk face to face with landowners, and where ultimately, these community relationships can foster access.

My primary interests are sport climbing, bouldering, and mountaineering. My favorite climbing destinations are Red Rocks, New River Gorge, Fontainbleu, and Rai Ley Peninsula.

I am not the typical Vermont climber since I prefer sport climbing. This is ironic because I live in a state know for traditional climbing ethics. Nevertheless, I respect the local climbing ethic and people's views on climbing. There is so much history and tradition here in New England it is hard to ignore.

I think it is important to be conscientious when bolting. Presently there are many young climbers (16-24 year olds) in New England who are interested in preserving climbing ethics. Another group is the 23-30 year old climbers who grew up bolting. Finally there are the "salty old trads" that have been climbing here for years.

As climbing is becoming more popular, we are taxing the resource. People opposed to bolting should pay attention to the increased pressure on climbing areas. 90 percent of

climbing in Vermont is on private land; therefore, it is our duty to communicate with land managers and the climbing community.

Presently I am also working with CRAG-VT (Climbing Resource Access Group of Vermont) on developing a matrix on different levels of landowners' consent with the highest level being a landowner's consent to fixed anchors. We held a public town meeting in October where 53 people showed up. A moratorium on bolting was agreed upon by climbers until consent from landowners is obtained. You can access the CRAG-VT website at <http://cragvt.intranets.com>

• *Meet the Access Fund continued on page 12*



Heather Hibbard Collection

"As climbing is becoming more popular, we are taxing the resource," says Heather Hibbard, Vermont Access Fund regional coordinator. "90 Percent of climbing in Vermont is on private land; therefore, it is our duty to communicate with land managers and the climbing community."

Spray Continued from p. 2...

Act, wilderness values, and resource protection. Individual climbers such as John Krakauer and Dave Summer added their personal, passionate commitment. The conservation representatives, the Sierra Club and Wilderness Society, also defended climbing in Wilderness. Although I chafed at being on the sidelines, I had to admit that my exclusion mattered only to me. Adding my voice would not have effected the process or, more important, the outcome.

As I sat there for hour, I realized that I was not the person who was missing from the committee. It was the most important person of all that wasn't there. Even the defenders of climbing were, at best, only acting as surrogates for the one person who was going to be the most effected by the ruling.

Our opponents, the Wilderness purists, fear that pitons, slings, and bolts will lead to jet skies, snowmobiles, and dirt bikes. It's stupid, but take my word, they do believe it. You have as much chance of shaking them of that belief with facts, logic, history, emotions, as you would of persuading conspiracy theorists that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone to kill President

John F. Kennedy.

At first, the purists argued that all anchors must go. As the Committee got down to everyone's bottom line, their target was new bolts, principally, those that made ascents possible. At this point in the negotiations, it looked as though many could accept a compromise that allowed all existing anchors to remain in exchange for a ban on all-new bolts and pins.

The stakes were high, and the decisions tough ones. Only a very few climbers put up new routes. Most climbing is repeating established routes. In the lower 48, many and perhaps even most of the best natural features have been climbed. Assuring the preservation of the fixed pins, bolts, and rappel slings on those classic climbs is absolutely essential to the Access Fund and all the climbers. Even our supporters were tempted to encourage climbers to forfeit the new bolts in Wilderness to guarantee the preservation of all existing climbs.

That's when I became aware of who, above all, should be in that room: The climber of 25, 50 or a hundred years from now, whose opportunity to explore the limits of ability and vision were at stake and would be taken away by the Committee.

Those of us there were trying to represent this climber. However, most of us had passed the day when we would live out of a truck, scarf food, and collect cans to survive at a climbing area and work on their dream route. Now some of us could at best help in the exploration of new climbs. Perhaps tellingly, for me, even that was no longer in the United States.

As the last days ended, the Committee was arguing about the exact number of new bolts that could ever be allowed on a new climb. As bureaucrats and purists were blithely saying only one or two bolts in a pitch should be sufficient, the climbers would instantly translate that into 100' and 150' fall potential. They were fully aware of the consequences for future generations—either defining climbs that future climbers would never risk doing or they would accept risks not because of difficult climbing, rock fall, or weather, but because of an arbitrary limit on the permitted protection.

I wanted the missing climber to hear this and say, "Wait a minute. You want to commit me to a death fall on every pitch to do a climb that the rest of you can't even imagine attempting now?"

Then one purist added, "That number should include belay anchors. We'll let climbers decide whether to use the one or two bolts for anchors or protection." The future climber would appreciate that...

Armando Menocal is an environmental and human rights advocate, writer, and professional mountain guide. He lives in Wilson, Wyoming.

The opinions in Spray are not necessarily those of the Access Fund



Larry Gustafson

*Individual climbers such as John Krakauer, author of *Into Thin Air*, "added their personal passionate commitment." Here, Krakauer (left) discusses fixed anchors with Sam Davidson, Access Fund senior policy analyst.*

GRANTS UPDATE

The Access Fund Climbing Preservation Grants Program provides funding for education and conservation projects. Seven applications have been received for the first of its four funding cycles in 2001. All applications will

go for decision by the AF Board of Directors on February 24th. For more information on the Grants Program and to download a copy of the guidelines see: <http://www.accessfund.org/Programs.html>.

1. Northern California Access News. \$1,656 for newsletter production in 2001.
2. Peregrine Falcon Monitoring at seven climbing sites in North Carolina. \$5,200 requested by NC Wildlife Resources Commission.
3. Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition. \$4,500 requested for administrative support to work with Daniel Boone National Forest over rewrite of the Red River Climbing Management Guidelines.
4. Peregrine Falcon Education Outreach Project, VT \$2,250.00 for statewide outreach project by the National Wildlife Federation.

5. Snow Canyon State Park, UT. \$4,500 for climber's kiosk and education brochure.

6. Granite Mountain, AZ. \$2,390 requested by Prescott College for raptor and climbers co-existence study in partnership with Prescott National Forest.

7. Rocky Mountain Field Institute. \$10,000 requested by RMFI to coordinate trail and impact mitigation projects at Castleton Tower, UT; Indian Creek, UT; Shelf Road, CO.

Be smart - keep informed about spring raptor closures.

In case you missed the Access Fund's 2001 complete listings for climbing sites with raptor restrictions in the last newsletter, you can always find the latest information on our web site: www.accessfund.org (under Wildlife and Restrictions). Spring closures usually run from February through to July but may vary between areas due to latitude and elevation and birds shifting nest sites. If you know a situation that's different to the information we provide, call us - we really appreciate the feedback!

ACCESS FUND SCHEDULES 2001 REGIONAL COORDINATOR SUMMIT

The Access Fund will be hosting a conference for climber-activists on May 17-

19, 2001 in Estes Park, Colorado to discuss strategies for preserving access, conserving the environment, and promoting effective outreach at the grassroots level. This year's Summit will be the third such event held by the Access Fund in its eleven-year history and will bring together our national network of volunteer activists for 3 days of workshops, discussion, and debate. The Summit is another tangible example of the Access Fund's commitment to preserving access by investing in local activism and outreach. It also provides an excellent opportunity for volunteers to share the ideas, experience and resources.

The Access Fund's Regional Coordinator Network forms the cornerstone of our support for grassroots climber activism and is one of our primary resources utilized in keeping climbing areas open.

Land managers and representatives from climber organizations nationwide will also be invited.

To read about Heather Hibbard, Vermont regional coordinator, turn to page 7 of this newsletter. See the Access Fund website for more information on the Regional Coordinator Network. Click on "Who We Are" at www.accessfund.org



RESPONSE TO "KNOW THE DRILL"

This is in response to your article in the January 2001 issue (#38) of the Vertical Times. The article was on responsible bolting entitled "Know the Drill", by Mick Ryan. I agree with all that the written article says. The problem is the drawings and the single photo within the article. Let's get right to the point. Those pictures are completely over-exaggerated and do not represent sport climbing what so ever! Let us begin with the grid bolted cliff. I counted 161 bolts including

anchors and link up bolts in this drawing! All this on a cliff that looks to be about 25 feet high and 30 feet long. That is Almost 5 bolts every Square foot! Do I even have to explain how ridiculous that is? Not only that, but the climbers are climbing all over the place with ropes twisting all around. Some of the lines that they are taking look truly classic. Like the route that down climbs and traverses more than it goes up. Does it up the grade a few letters if you climb behind your neighbor's rope causing heinous rope drag? Let's not forget the right most belayer portraying the responsible climber by browsing the guidebook for the newest squeeze jobs. Shall we move on to the photo? Here is a bolt placed next to a nice splitter crack. The protection looks really good. That stopper looks to be nicely bottlenecked and of adequate size. One might even be able to shove in the smallest alien or a 00 TCU in there. I do say that the crack and the protection looks bomber. So why place a bolt there? What the Photo does not reveal is that maybe this route is 70 to 100 feet long, all bolted, with a small fracture that is only 4 feet long that happens to be the only section to place natural gear on the entire route.

The final photo is one unfortunate cliff that has been chipped. I do not advocate chipping in any way and I think that it is very horrible to chip routes that God has created for us to enjoy. The drawing is ridiculous however. Here are two guys getting sprayed on by chipped water spouts in a cliff during a downpour. Water is spewing out of the manufactured holds. It is true that chipped holds sometimes leak, but the way that this drawing depicts it is outrageous! This brings me to my main concern. It bothers me that there are climbers out there that tend to exaggerate the truth.

Christopher Dorrity
Via Email

CLIMBING AND LAND MANAGEMENT

The majority of climbing areas are on some type of publicly held lands and these lands have multiple users. City, county, state, and federal land managers have the responsibility to

manage these lands and balance the competing needs of various groups that have differing and at times competing agendas at the same time maintaining the habitat and wildlife in their areas. The people that get stuck in the middle of these competing forces are the local land managers. Often, they are not climbers and have, until recently, not interacted to a significant extent with the climbing community.

The amount of interaction by land managers and the climbing community is increasing. Hueco Tanks, Texas is an obvious example of poor interactions while Wichita Mountain in Nebraska is an example of good interactions.

The bottom line is that land managers have the responsibility of enforcing pertinent regulations to all land users and climbers are not different than any other user.

Let's be wise enough to prevent our own efforts from destroying the very things we want. If you can climb a route and leave no trace then that is the safest way of maintaining good relationships with the local land managers. If extensive modifications are required then careful planning which involves the local land managers can be used to help prevent negative interactions. It our responsibility to keep climbing and route development an accepted activity.

Bill Robins
Richland, WA

EDITOR'S NOTE: At the recent Outdoor Retailer in Salt Lake City, the Access Fund asked climbers to write their testimonials regarding a climbing area or experience during the past year. Below are a few of the submitted letters.

SPREADING THE GOOD VIBE

I'm a fulltime climber, and I've been fortunate enough to climb all over the world. I've seen terrible misuse of nature areas in many countries outside the US. I've seen garbage and trash strewn about and excessive asphaltting through what was once a beautiful meadow.

I think that through organizations like the Access Fund, the nature areas in the US are the best maintained and preserved natural areas in the world. In general, I find climbers and all outdoor enthusiasts here in the US to be far more conscientious about the impact they have in the wilderness. The Access Fund embodies what I see that is there all ready and spreads the good vibe.

Every time I climb, hike or bike in a new nature area, I ponder how many people went before me and made a minimal

Letters continued...

impact so that I could enjoy the resource as much as they did. I've seen the Access Fund open up and keep new areas open to all of us to enjoy AND preserve.

Hans Florine
Yosemite, CA

RESPECTFUL CLIMBERS

I am a professional rock climber, and I have been climbing for over 25 years. One of the things I love most about climbing is the freedom and beauty of the natural environment. I have witnessed many controversies and discussions regarding access issues and environmental concerns in climbing areas across the world.

In general, I believe that climbers have more respect and appreciation for wilderness areas than just about any other user group. But more importantly, climbers from across the country are working together with the Access Fund to come up with reasonable solutions to these issues in each area that not only helps protect the natural environment, but also allows people the freedom to enrich their lives in the beauti-

ful natural environment. I applaud the efforts that have been made so far through the Access Fund and I hope to see continued support by climbers and organizations across the country.

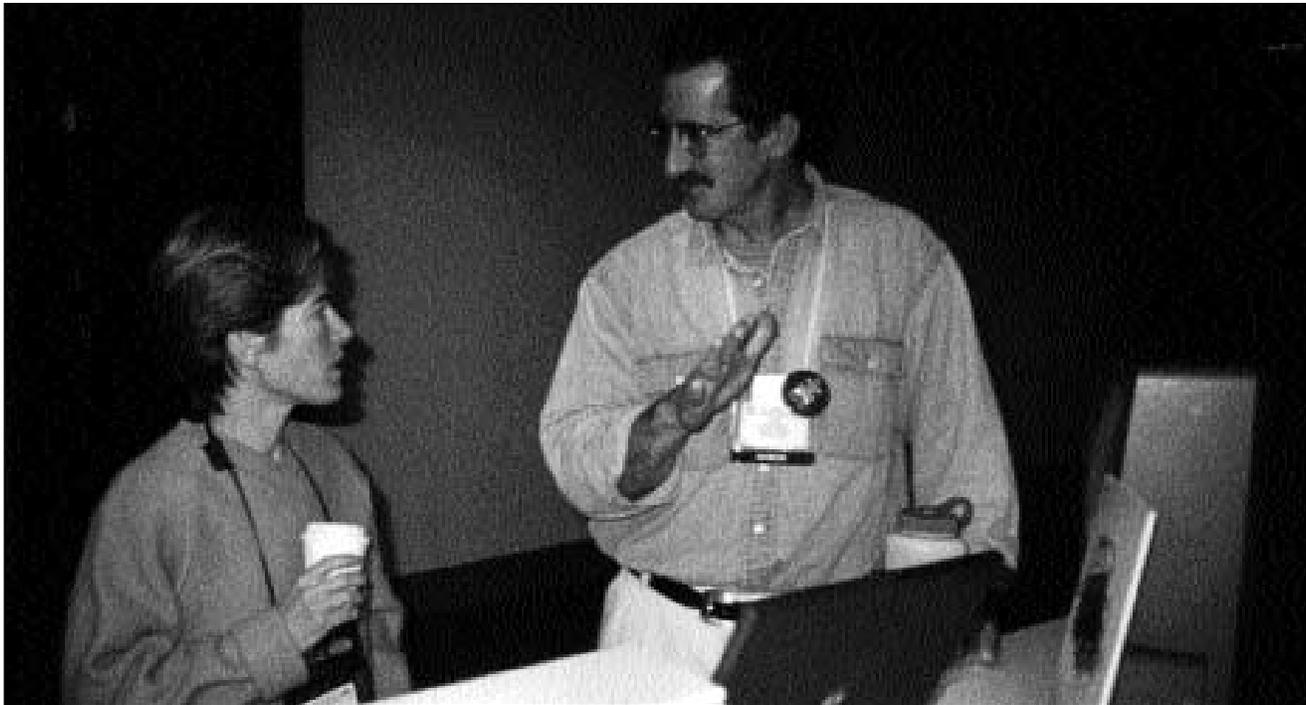
Lynn Hill
San Leandro, CA

CAMPFIRE DISCUSSION

Last Spring I was climbing with a couple of friends at the City of Rocks in Southern Idaho and joined in on a campfire discussion concerning private land access. The topic was of special interest because one of our fellow climbers was arrested for climbing on unmarked private land. The problem was from the unclear boundaries, so without an accurate topo map it would be very difficult to know exactly where you might travel.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to the Access Fund for the incredible work they have done there and hope for continued success.

Todd Sexton
Bozeman, MT



Kath Pyke

Lynn Hill talks to Sam Davidson, Access Fund senior policy analyst about respectful climbing. "In general, I believe that climbers have more respect and appreciation for wilderness areas than just about any other user group," wrote Hill in her submitted testimonial at the Outdoor Retailer trade show in Salt Lake City, UT in January.

Meet the Access Fund Continued...

SLIDESHOWS, SUFFERING AND SLED DOGS: MIKE LIBECKI, ACCESS FUND SUPERFRIEND



Mike Libeck raise \$6106 for the Access Fund in 2000 through benefit slideshows. "For me, the Access Fund is like a major artery in the climbing community/world," says Libeck who is pictured above in 1998 on the Walker Citadel, Baffin Island.

I grew up north of Fresno in Clovis, California, an hour and a half from Yosemite. Fortunately, I grew up hunting, fishing, and camping in the Sierras. This planted the seed for my present lifestyle. I've been climbing for about 9 years. I used to live in Yosemite for several Seasons. I now reside in Sandy, near Little Cottonwood Canyon in Utah in the winter. In winter, I usually work, ski, and plan expeditions for the spring, summer, and fall. I am hoping to go to Greenland and China this year.

Traditional climbing is definitely my favorite. In the last several years, aid climbing has been a huge part of my life. I enjoy all kinds of climbing, even in the gym. I have had some great times on ice and mixed climbing. Crack climbing still holds the biggest place in my heart. I am sure it probably has to do with the fact that I learned most of my climbing skills living in Yosemite for several years. I am psyched on doing new routes and venturing into untouched territory in strange places with interesting cultures.

Baffin Island has kept me busy the last four years. Those have mostly been cold suffering aid lines, with moments of warmth and free climbing. Greenland, Madagascar, and China are also great experiences that have occurred the last few years: offering perfect cracks in jungles and the cackles of lemurs. Other strange cultures such as the Uygurs and Kyrgyz, have amazing flora and fauna such as polar bears and the Arctic fox.

This years slide show is based on the Year of the Dragon Expeditions 2000, Baffin in early summer, and China in late summer/fall: Year of the Dragon Expeditions – slide show (two part show) **Part one: Baffin Island - filming the Fin.** In the

spring of 2000, I joined Russel Mitrovich, Josh Helling, a film crew (Peter Mallamo and John Middendorf), and 36 sled dogs. We traveled over 100 miles over the frozen ocean the Fin, a huge, overhanging, granite tidal wave. Mike and his team spent well over a month not only climbing and

filming a new route on the fin, but, experiencing the true wilderness of Baffin Island.

Part two: China - The Unknown Kok Shal Tau In the summer of 2000, I teamed with Jerry Dodril, and Jed and Doug Workman. We went to Xinjiang, China, in search of cutting-edge climbing in the monstrous Kok Shal Tau/Tien Shan Mountains. Our specific destination was completely virgin territory. Join them in their journey through difficulties with the Chinese authorities, experiences with many different Cultures, to exploring ancient tombs, sacred Buddhist Caves, and cutting-edge climbing.

Ever since I became familiar with the Access Fund it was common sense to support the cause. For me, the Access Fund is like a major artery in the climbing community/world.



Photos by Mike Libeck

Mike Libeck near the Fin, Baffin Island, during the Year of the Dragon 2000

EVENTS



AMERICAN BOULDERING SERIES

From October 2000 through Spring 2001 the American Bouldering Series will be held at climbing gyms all over the continent. There will be raffles to support the Access Fund at most of the 100+ events.

Check out www.rockcomps.com or call (888) 944-4244 for more info.

Calendar

MARCH

3/9 Orange, VA Music Festival - Discovery Program, Andy Mink 540-672-2296

3/9 Oaks, PA Banff Film Festival - Philadelphia Rock Gym, John DiCuollo, 610-666-7673

3/10 Chicago, IL 60th Anniversary Dinner- Topher Donahoe slide show, Chicago Mountaineering Club, Alex Andrews, 773-935-6439

3/13 Berkeley, CA Armando Menocal Cuba Libre slide show - Marmot Mountain Works, 510-849-0773

3/15 Santa Clara, CA Armando Menocal Cuba Libre slide show - Western Mountaineering, 408-984-7611

3/17 Tempe, AZ Banff Film Festival - REI, Paul Reinshagen, 602-967-5494

3/24 Aspen, CO climbing comp. - Red Brick Recreation Center, Chad Denning, 970-920-5140

3/28 Pasadena, CA Banff Film Festival - CalTech

3/30 Boulder, CO Boulder Climbing Series - Boulder Rock Club, 303 447-2804

3/31 Lincoln, NE 4th Annual Flatland Climbing Competition - NU Climbing Club, Kyle Hansen, 402-472-4777

APRIL

4/6 Phoenix, AZ 18th Annual Phoenix Bouldering Contest, Jim Waugh, jnw@primenet.com, 480-775-9874

MAY

5/5 Atlanta, GA 6th Annual Rocktown Trail Days - The Challenge Rock Climbing School, Kathryn and Jerry Dodger, 404-237-4021

5/17 Bloomington, IL Access Fund Bouldering Blow Out - Upper Limits, Jennifer Hawbaker, 800-964-7814

EVENTSPINNACLE

TOP EVENTS FROM 2000!!!

- \$6,106 Mike Libeck slide show tour 2000
- \$5,492 Ed Viesturs Endeavor 8000
- \$5,185 17th Annual Phoenix Bouldering Contest - Phoenix, AZ
- \$4,500 Climb Smart 4 - Adventure 16 - San Diego, CA
- \$3,970 Kurt Smith slide show tour 2000
- \$3,622 International Outdoor Festival - Aspen, CO
- \$2,641.24 Ouray Ice Festival 2000 - Ouray, CO
- \$2,640 7th Annual Hound Ears Bouldering Comp - Hound Ears, NC
- \$2,569 Climb-o-rama - Boulder Rock Club - Boulder, CO
- \$2,373 7th Annual International Climbers Festival - Lander, WY
- \$1,862 Pocatello Pump - Idaho State University - Pocatello, ID
- \$1,614 American Bouldering Series all events
- \$1,387 - Abby Watkins slide show - Skinny Skis - Jackson, WY
- \$1,310 8th Annual Forearm Frenzy - Sun & Ski Sports - Tulsa, OK
- \$1,115 3rd Annual Dan Bailey Adventure Photography slide show - Fort Collins, CO
- \$1,078 Touchstone International Pro-Am 2000 - Berkeley Ironworks Berkeley, CA
- \$1,039.15 Jim Donini slide show - Neptune Mountaineering - Boulder, CO
- \$1,023 Adrian Burgess, John Long and Cameron Lawson slide show - Advanced Base Camp/ Liberty Mountain - Salt Lake City, UT
- \$1,000 Horsetooth Hang Fort Collins, CO

COMMUNITY PARTNER 2000 AWARDS

Gave the most Access Fund benefit slide shows:

Kurt Smith- 30, Mike Libeck- 27

Most successful donation jar program:
Atlanta Rocks, GA; Prairie Walls, MN

Hosted the most fundraising events:

REI-Denver-7,
Neptune Mountaineering-5

Most conservation events:
Southeastern Climbers Coalition-7

ACCESS FUND SCHWAG

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Adam Johnson "accesses" the Sundance Buttress, Lumpy Ridge, Colorado. photo: John Heisel

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University, Jeff Holt, Brian Dellett, American Bouldering Series: Vertical World, YMCA-

Florida, Healthworks, The Climbing Place, Vail Athletic Club, Petra Rock Gym,

Exposure Rock Gym.

Hosting or giving a slide show- Ute Mountaineer, Jim Bridwell, Michael Kennedy,

Dusty Diaz, Mike Libeck slide show tour- Basecamp, California Outfitters, Sierra

Mountaineer-Truckee and Reno, Mammoth Mountaineering, Alpine Shop, Erehwon-

Oakbrook, Erehwon-Snokie, Downwind Sports, Middlebury Mountaineer, Bob Smiths

Wilderness House, North Cove Outfitters, IME, REI Denver store for the AF fall speak-

ers series, Jeff Lowe.

For just being awesome- Prairie Walls, Atlanta Rocks, Richard Downing for help at

the Banff Film festival, Eagle Creek, John Eberle, Becky Hall, Mission Gorge

Thursday/Sunday club, Erehwon:Scott Williams, Wilson's Eastside Sports, Evie Nott,

Malcom Daly and the Trango Crew, Campmor Retail Store, Cecily Buck, Rock & Ice,

Black Diamond, and Maxim for hosting trade show event.

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The Access Fund is a national, non-profit dedicated to keeping climbing areas open & conserving the climbing environment. Since its incorporation in 1990, the Access Fund has provided more than \$1 million for climbing conservation and education across the US. We've paid for land purchases, climbers' campgrounds, educational brochures, toilets, signs, and scientific research on climbers' impact on birds of prey and cliff-dwelling plants. For more information call us at:

888-863-6237

click on our website:

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P.O. Box 17010, Boulder, CO 80308

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