

Vertical Times

#45



YOUR CLIMBING FUTURE

The Access Fund is working with Regional Coordinator Steve Johnson and local climbers to resolve new access problems at Bridaveil Falls, CO.

Photo: Charlie Fowler

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

.....p. 2

POLICY UPDATE

Indian Creek Update, Lower Yosemite Falls

Project Environmental Assessment . . .p. 3-4

AREA REPORTS

Regional access news across the nation

.....p. 5-6

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Access Fund Corporate Partnersp. 9

ACCESS FUND EVENTS PINNACLE AND

THANK YOUp. 10

SHOULD THE ACCESS FUND CHANGE ITS

NAME?p.12

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

www.accessfund.org
phone: 303-545-6772
address: P.O. Box 17010
Boulder, CO 80308

Vertical Times is the membership newsletter of the Access Fund published six times a year in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Authorizing organization: the Access Fund, 2475 Broadway, Boulder, CO 80304.

This issue date: March 1, 2002. Volume #45. Price: \$30/year.

Editorial Director: Sam Davidson

Editor: John Heisel

Exceeds 50 percent recycled content



Access Fund Members Come Through

By Sam Davidson, Executive Director

It's always a pleasure to be able to convey good news to our members. In the months of December 2001 and January 2002, the Access Fund set records for income. Our members played an essential role in generating this income.

We raised over \$36,000 through our special end-of-year appeal to members – almost 5% of those we asked responded (a good response rate to such appeals in the non-profit world is 1%), with an average donation of nearly \$250 (see page 11 for a list of contributors).

In these months the Access Fund also received over \$44,000 from more than 800 climbers who joined us as new members through our Member Education Drive.

The Access Fund currently boasts 10,200 members (we are by far the largest national climbers organization) and have a goal of growing our membership to 15,000 by 2005.

To continue to earn the support of American climbers, in 2002 the Access Fund will continue to focus exclusively on preserving climbing access, defending climbing freedoms, and protecting the natural environments climbers cherish. We will accomplish our mission through our successful formula of conservation projects, advocacy in Washington, land acquisitions, and support for local climber activism.

This year we will also do a better job of asking our members and the climbing community at large what they need and expect from us, so that we can better support their interests and priorities.

No other organization has this focus or formula. In short, no one does climber advocacy better than the Access Fund.

The Access Fund achieved some remarkable successes in 2001. We completed the purchase of Quartz Mountain in Oklahoma and convinced the US Forest Service not to ban all use of fixed anchors in wilderness areas.

We worked on dozens of land management plans and provided thousands of dollars for scientific research and wildlife protection programs because we believe a healthy ecosystem enhances the climbing experience.

We gave out \$50,000 in grants to solve waste disposal problems and fund trail improvement projects. We launched our Boulder Campaign to raise awareness and preserve access at areas like Hueco Tanks, the Happy and Sad Boulders, and the Buttermilks.

Not bad for just one year, but none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the steady support of our members. We at the Access Fund want to thank you, our members, for holding up your end of the bargain.

Indian Creek Update

As many climbers are aware, the spectacular Wingate sandstone buttresses of Southeastern Utah offer some of the most aesthetic and challenging climbing opportunities in the world. The Access Fund has been working for the past decade to

resolve access issues at areas like Indian Creek, the Canyonlands, and Castle Valley. Recently, we have made substantial progress in meeting our goal of preserving access to and protecting the fragile natural resources of these special areas.

On January 17 and 18, at the request of the Access Fund, an informal meeting was held at the BLM Monticello Field Office to discuss the upcoming Recreation Management Plan for Indian Creek. Jason Keith of the Access Fund, BLM recreation planners, and representatives from The Nature Conservancy and Rocky Mountain Field Institute attended this meeting. The new plan will likely include changes to camping locations, vehicular access, and perhaps a few route closures. By the Fall of 2002 the BLM hopes to provide a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for public review and comment.

Climbing. The BLM is required under federal law to manage Indian Creek so that recreation use does not impair cultural resources or threatened and endangered wildlife. This means the BLM may close some climbs that have rock art, ruins, bird nests and/or critical habitat in the immediate vicinity. The Access Fund will work with the BLM to help fund cultural and wildlife surveys to identify these locations so that the scope of any closures will be minimized. Meanwhile, please do not climb on routes that have any sign of rock art, historical writings or ruins at their base. Although there are no seasonally posted restrictions on climbs in Indian Creek, be aware that there may be nesting raptors in the area. If you inadvertently come across a raptor nest on a climb, back off immediately. Also, the Redd family, previous owners and now managers of the Dugout Ranch, has requested that climbers not climb on the



Photo: Jason Keith

Don't bust the crust! Fragile cryptobiotic soils provide soil stability, help increase water infiltration, and assist with plant germination and growth. This driver destroyed crusts that could take anywhere from 50 to 250 years to recover.

Paragon Prow (AKA, The Sundial), situated behind their home. The Redds have for many years generously allowed climbing and camping on portions of their ranch. Please return the favor by respecting their request not to climb on the Paragon Prow.

Campfires. Wood gathering for fires at Indian Creek has become excessive, and the new plan may require campers to bring their own wood. If you must have a fire use pre-existing sites, bring in all your own wood and keep the fire small. Although downed trees and shrubs may seem good firewood, the resource is limited and of high value for future plant and soil development. Never break off limbs from live trees for firewood, and please do not build huge, unsightly fire rings.

Camping. The most significant impact of the upcoming planning initiative on Indian Creek climbers is new limitations on camping. Human sanitation is problematic and campers are increasingly driving off-road, disturbing fragile soils and vegetation. Until the new Recreation Plan is implemented camping will remain permitted at current locations, but the new Plan will likely restrict camping to designated campsites—probably in already disturbed areas at the Bridger Jack and Superbowl campsites.



Access Fund Policy Analyst Jason Keith attended a January meeting to discuss the upcoming Indian Creek Recreation Plan.

Camping is prohibited on the roadside pull-outs of Highway 211, on the private property of the Dugout Ranch and the Nature Conservancy (across the road from Supercrack and Battle of the Bulge Buttresses), and in restored side canyons. Please observe boundaries and posted signs and never camp on areas with undisturbed vegetation or desert soils. See www.LNT.org to learn about minimum impact camping practices.

The basic sanitation needs for the thousands of recreation user-days at Indian Creek will require toilets at Donnelly Canyon and the most heavily used camping areas. As such, the days of free camping at Indian Creek may be numbered due to the cost of these improvements. The Access Fund will fight for a free camping alternative to the Indian Creek Recreation Plan Environmental Assessment (EA), but much work is needed to identify alternative funding sources in lieu of fee camping if free camping is to be retained.

See the "Feature" page on our website (www.accessfund.org) for the complete report on Indian Creek and current status of the Recreation Plan. For more information call Jason Keith, Access Fund policy analyst, at 303-545-6772 x102.

Lower Yosemite Falls Project Environmental Assessment

Following a public scoping period this last summer, Yosemite National Park produced an EA for the Lower Yosemite Falls Project.

This plan potentially affects access to the Lower Falls Amphitheater and Sunnyside Bench, both popular with climbers. After approval of the Yosemite Valley Plan in December 2000, site specific efforts toward planning for the restoration of impacted natural resources, replacing the inadequate restroom, rehabilitating trails and bridges, and improving educational and interpretive displays were resumed. These items, among

others described in the Yosemite Valley Plan for the Lower Yosemite Fall area, are the subject of this EA.

Access to climbing routes in the Lower Falls Amphitheater continues to be permitted; however, interim tour bus parking will be an issue for those staying at Camp 4. To address relocation of the tour bus parking area from the Lower Yosemite Falls area, interim replacement parking spaces would be in an existing lane of Northside Drive, adjacent to and extending west of Camp 4. This "interim period" could last years.

Access Fund Regional Coordinator Paul Minault submitted comments to the Lower Yosemite Falls Project EA, expressing concern that the proposal to park tour buses adjacent to Camp 4 will have a negative impact on the visitor experience at Camp 4. If bus parking begins at the entrance to Camp 4, then the campground will be lined with buses throughout the day on every day of the prime visitor season. In addition, bus drivers like to keep their engines running in order to keep their air conditioners going and bus interiors cool. This creates noise and air pollution at Camp 4. Also, the parked buses will not only block Camp 4 views from the south towards Leidig Meadow, but will also present a solid row of large, shiny vehicles to campers at Camp 4. Because this bus parking arrangement may last for years, the Access Fund proposed instead that the buses park farther west of Camp 4 on Northside Drive. This removes the buses completely from the Camp 4 area and ensures that bus parking will have no impact on campers in the campground.

The Access Fund's standard for judging impacts to the visitor experience at Camp 4 has been and remains: "Would they do this to visitors at the Ahwahnee Hotel?" It seems quite unlikely that the Park Service would consider parking buses along the road to the Ahwahnee because of the impact on those visitors. As the Access Fund pointed out in our comments to the Valley Plan, we believe the Park Service has yet to recognize that camping is the form of overnight accommodation with the greatest potential to fulfill the primary purpose of the park, which is "to promote visitor enjoyment of park resources through a direct association or relation to those resources." Because of this potential, the camping experience at Camp 4 and other park campgrounds deserves the highest level of protection.



WEST Access Fund Grant Supports Bouldering in Bishop, CA

The Access Fund has provided a \$9,750 grant to the Bishop, CA field office of the Bureau of Land Management to manage the tremendous growth of bouldering in this area and protect resources on the Volcanic Tablelands. Funds will be directed towards a number of projects, including campground maintenance, climber education, outreach, and cultural resource surveys. The grant is part of the Access Fund's nationwide Bouldering Campaign, which aims to:

- * Raise awareness about bouldering among land managers and the public;
- * Promote care and respect for natural places visited by boulderers;
- * Mobilize the climbing community to act responsibly and work cooperatively with land managers and landowners;
- * Protect and rehabilitate bouldering resources;
- * Preserve bouldering access.

For more information, contact Shawn Tierney, access and acquisitions director, at shawn@accessfund.org.

BLM Asks For Voluntary Closure of Western Chalk Bluff

Steve Addington, Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management in Bishop, CA, is asking the public to honor a voluntary seasonal closure of public lands along the western part of Chalk Bluff, north of Bishop, to protect raptor habitat.

The voluntary closure to foot, equestrian and vehicle traffic will be in effect from January 1 to July 31, 2002. The closure area is from the northern edge of Chalk Bluff Road to the northern boundaries of Sections 19, 20 and 21, and from the eastern edge of Section 21 (touching the uppermost tip of Happy Boulders canyon) west to the edge of the power line road above Pleasant Valley Reservoir. The closure applies to BLM-managed public lands and does not include the foot trail in the middle of Section 21. There will be signs posted in the area asking visitors to respect the closure, with

additional notices at information kiosks and local businesses. Although it is expected that the closure will have a minimal effect on climbing due to limited bouldering in this area, the Access Fund urges all climbers to honor this closure as it will help preserve access in the future.

As a result of public input and environmental analysis, the BLM decided on a voluntary closure for the 2002 raptor-breeding season. The completed environmental analysis document is available at the Bishop library or from the BLM office in Bishop. BLM is continuing to study the situation and will begin a public planning effort to guide long-term management of the area. The process will be completed by September 30.

For more information contact Doug Dodge, Joe Pollini or Joy Fatooh at the BLM's Bishop field office: 760-872-4881.

Bishop Camping Information

The BLM in Bishop expects that the

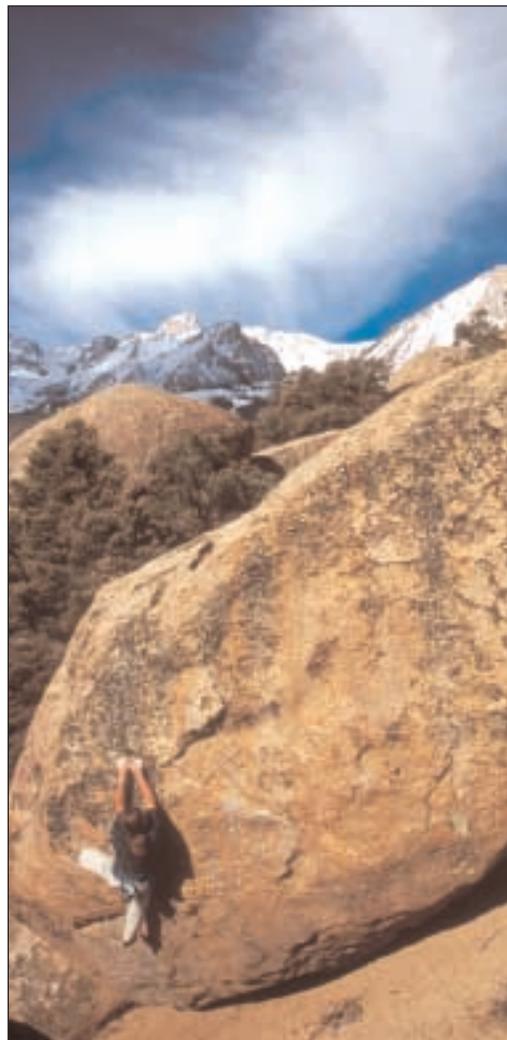


Photo: Pete Cassam

The Access Fund gave a \$9,750 grant to the Bishop field office of the Bureau of Land Management to help manage bouldering in the famous Buttermilks .

Photo: John Heisel



There is a new phone number for overnight camping at Red Rocks, NV.

Pleasant Valley Winter Campground may fill with campers during certain periods this spring. If you plan on climbing and camping around Bishop and the BLM campground is full, check with the campground hosts Colin and Molly to see if they can squeeze you in with other campers. Otherwise, plan on camping at one of the nearby developed campgrounds or dispersed sites described below:

1. **The Bardini Foundation House:** this is a climbers' hostel located at 515 Sierra St. in Bishop. \$10 per night.
2. **Pleasant Valley County Campground:** located on Pleasant Valley Road about a 1/4 mile beyond the turnoff to the BLM winter campground. This campground charges \$10 per night, is open year round and contains facilities.
3. **The Pinion Site:** free dispersed camping location above the gorge. No facilities.
4. **Buttermilk Country:** free dispersed-

camping on Inyo National Forest land. 28 day limit. Take Hwy. 168 west from Bishop to the Buttermilk Road. Turn right, look for dispersed campsites about a mile after the turnoff.

5. **Millpond Campground:** full service, commercial campground. \$12 per night for up to four people. Open March 1 to December 1. Showers.

Please do not camp on the Volcanic Tableland. This sensitive desert environment is vulnerable to camping related impacts and is easily damaged by camping use. Camp at one of the areas described above.

Although camping at the Pleasant Valley BLM campground is free, the Access Fund urges all climbers using this site to give a donation. This will help defray some of the cost involved (trash collection and servicing the toilets) in keeping the campground open. Donations are accepted on-site.

Red Rocks, Nevada

Climbers should be aware that the BLM office in Red Rocks has a new telephone number for late exit/overnight parking pass information. The number is 702/515-5050.

Volunteer Wanted

Conservation coordinator for Northern California. Initiate and manage volunteer conservation projects at climbing areas including trails and cleanups, Adopt-a-Crag events, distributing seasonal wildlife closure

The Access Fund

YOUR CLIMBING FUTURE

Now is the time to help the Access Fund plan for your grandchildren's climbing future. The Access Fund has all the resources to make planned giving easy.



Give a planned gift; it is the most mutually beneficial gift you could give.

- * Stock
- * Bequest
- * Charitable Gift Annuity
- * Pooled Income Fund
- * Charitable Remainder Annuity Trust
- * Charitable Remainder Unitrust
- * Lead Trusts
- * Name The Access Fund as a beneficiary in your life insurance policy or retirement plan

If your gift is \$10,000 or more, you may designate it for one of the following categories: Acquisitions, Advocacy & Activism, Membership, Conservation, Adopt-a-Crag, Education, Climbing Preservation Grants or Unrestricted. For more information on the Access Fund's planned giving program, contact Heather Clark, Development Director, 303-545-6772 x.100 or heather@accessfund.org.

information, educational signs and brochures, and parking/sanitation installations. Experience in construction, natural resources management, project administration or volunteer supervision a plus. Work with volunteers, climbing organizations, public land managers and private landowners. Develop a prototype model for use in other regions nationwide. Requires self-starter able to work independently, motivate others and follow through to completion. If interested, contact Paul Minault at: pminault@earthlink.net

California Kudos

Many thanks to Mammoth Mountaineering Supply and all who supported their grand opening party, which featured Kurt Smith's Kickin' Access slide show tour, as well as appearances by Peter Croft and John Bachar. Together they raised \$905 for the Access Fund, and roped in 44 new members! Mammoth Mountaineering Supply is very active with the Access Fund, and has also sponsored slide shows by Mike Libeck.



MIDWEST Mississippi Palisades State Park, Ill

The Amphitheater
Wall (aka, the Mud

Wall) was closed over the winter due to significant rockfall that occurred late in the fall. Park officials are hoping to meet sometime this spring to determine whether it can be reopened to climbers. There is concern about further rock fall and the possibility of rocks hitting the roadway below. Members of the Eastern Iowa Climbers Coalition and the Access Fund have been in contact with park officials. For more information, call MP State Park at 815-273-2731.

The Access Fund's CFC# is 2361

During this year's Combined Federal Campaign, please designate the Access Fund on your pledge card. The Access Fund CFC # can be found under the Conservation and Preservation Charities of America link under <http://www.conservenow.org/>

Access Fund Board

President

Becky Hall, CO-The Nature Conservancy

Vice President

Mark Kroese-Author & Climber Activist

Secretary

Eric Hobday, UT-
Salt Lake Climbers Coalition

Treasurer

Leslie Brown, WA-Climber Activist

Board of Directors

Conrad Anker, CA-The North Face
Chris Archer, CO-Attorney
Kathleen Beamer, WA-REI
Andy Carson, WY-Trad Climber
Ken Cline, CO-Computer Consultant
Andy Fitz, WA-Asst. Attorney General
Charlotte Fox, CO-High Altitude Climber
Larry Gustafson, TX-Attorney
Pat Jodice, OR-Oregon Cooperative
Fish & Wildlife Unit
Michael Kennedy, CO-Honorary
Gene Kistler, WV-Blue Ridge Outdoors
Sam Lightner, Jr., WY-Climber Activist
Kastle Lund, CA-The Boojum Institute
Bob Margulis, WA-Climber Activist
Reese Martin, CO-Sempra Energy
Chris McNamara, CA-SuperTopo, LLC
Armando Menocal, WY-Honorary Board
Member & Founder
Dave Rosenstein, NY-Campmor
Kurt Smith, TX-Rancho Cerro Gordo
Shannon Stuart Smith, KY-Attorney
Jeff Widen, CO-Colorado
Environmental Coalition

Access Fund Staff

Executive Director

Sam Davidson. . . . sam@accessfund.org

Development Director

Heather Clark . . . heather@accessfund.org

Access & Acquisitions Director

Shawn Tierney. . . shawn@accessfund.org

Policy Analyst

Jason Keith. . . . jason@accessfund.org

Publications Director

John Heisel. . . . john@accessfund.org

Membership Director

Kerry Cowan. . . . kerry@accessfund.org

Event Coordinator

Kate Cavicchio. . . . kate@accessfund.org

Office Manager

Aimee Baker. . . . aimee@accessfund.org

Letters

Tired of Being "Used"

We're currently in the midst of the biggest gold rush in US history. The mining companies rake in billions yet pay no royalties to the government. They leave behind huge environmental disaster areas that taxpayers must pay to clean up.

Logging subsidies total well over a billion dollars per year in losses to the Treasury, according to studies done by the John Muir Project of Pasadena, California. Grazing subsidies include below-market grazing fees, alfalfa grown on federal irrigation projects to feed the cattle, and "range improvement" projects that almost always cause environmental harm.

Motorized recreation and industrial tourism take a massive toll on the landscape. Dirt bikes, jet skis, snowmobiles and other "recreational" machines foul our air and water and disrupt wildlife habitat. The scope of the environmental damage from logging, grazing, mining, and recreational development on public lands is huge, and the cost to the taxpayer is enormous.

Out here in the rural West, you see strip mines, clearcuts, denuded mountainsides and riparian areas, scarred ORV "play areas" and mountainsides being consumed by the cancerous ski industry. This is the result of free rides for industry. You won't see any environmental destruction or species put on the endangered list caused by hikers.

This is really not about the Treasury. It's about fairness. Never mind that this [Fee Demo] program funds mostly its own enforcement and not much else. It is an insulting rip-off to us poor taxpayers, and we are tired of being used.

David Orr
Moab, Utah

Jason Keith, AF Policy Analyst, responds:

While Mr. Orr presents several valid arguments, Congress is unfortunately not very receptive to restructuring budgetary priorities that would cut back on the subsidies they dole out every year to the resource industries. It's hard to accept the argument that the passive human-powered recreationists are the ones getting a "free ride" on our public lands. The fact remains that recreational use on our public lands is growing dramatically, and the related costs of this increased activity burdens agency budgets and impacts the resource. Congressional appropriators like Fee Demo because

they don't have to appropriate as much money directly to the agencies, and can hang their hat on the Program's "pay-to-play" premise. The problem is that much of recreational use in backcountry and wilderness areas cause only negligible impacts. The Access Fund remains committed to working with the agencies and Congress to fashion permanent but limited use fee legislation. That is, there should be no "pay-to-play" where it costs nothing to "play."

Concerned About Indian Creek

It saddens me to think that [climbing around Indian Creek] might soon be in jeopardy, thanks to the planned seismic exploration in Indian Creek Canyon allowed by Bush's new energy policy. These developments scare me. I moved to Utah for the desert climbing, and I cannot imagine having my favorite areas inhabited by gas and oil companies looking for a profit. I looked over your web site, but could not find a reference to this. Is there anything else I can do? I have already written to my Senators and Representatives. Thanks for your help in responding to these alarming developments.

Chad Lake
Via E-mail

The Access Fund responds:

We share Mr. Lake's concern about the potential effects of drilling for oil and natural gas on the climbing experience in areas around Indian Creek, Canyonlands National Park, and Escalante-Grand Staircase National Monument. These marvelous areas offer some of America's most spectacular and challenging rock climbing. While the proposed drilling would (so far) not be very near Indian Creek or Canyonlands, it is unclear how issues such as traffic associated with the resource extraction would affect climbing. The Access Fund has invested tens of thousands of dollars to preserve climbing at Indian Creek, Canyonlands, and the Moab region, and we are committed to ensure that government law and policy do not diminish this experience. Other groups, such as the Natural Resources Defense Council (www.nrdc.org) and Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance (www.suwa.org) are also committed to this end. The Access Fund is working with SUWA to prevent the Bush administration's energy policy from altering the fundamental character and aesthetics of the Utah deserts. Check SUWA's web site for more information. Meanwhile, we will continue to disseminate status reports on this issue, and welcome feedback from our members as to how we can best protect our interests in this region.

Access Fund Corporate Partners

For companies that care about climbing, Access Fund corporate partnerships are dedicated to the environment, access, conservation, adventure, and the diversity of the climbing experience, nationwide. The Access Fund thanks corporate partners and like minded businesses for their support in 2002.

Please endorse these companies that support the Access Fund and your climbing future.

DIAMOND—\$20,000+

- Black Diamond Equipment/Bibler-Scarpa
 - Climbing
 - Galyan's
 - REI
 - Rock & Ice

PLATINUM—\$10,000+

- Petzl/Charlet Moser
- The North Face

GOLD PLUS—\$7,500+

- CLIF Bar
- prAna
- W.L. Gore

GOLD—\$5,000+

- Campmor
- Climb High/Mammut
- Crazy Creek Products
 - La Sportiva
 - Maxim Ropes
 - Nalgene
- Omega Pacific Mountaineering
 - Patagonia
 - Trango USA and Stonewear Designs

SILVER—\$2,500+

- Advanced Base Camp
 - BlueWater
 - Boreal
- Boulder Rock Club
 - Corplan
 - FalconGuides
- Gregory Mountain Products
 - Kelty
 - Metolius
- Misty Mountain Threadworks
 - New Belgium Brewing Co.
 - Sterling Rope
- Touchstone Climbing Inc.
 - Weathered Stone

MAJOR—\$1,000+

- American Bouldering Series
 - Arc'teryx
- Cascade Designs/ Therm-a-Rest
 - Pusher/Cordless/S7

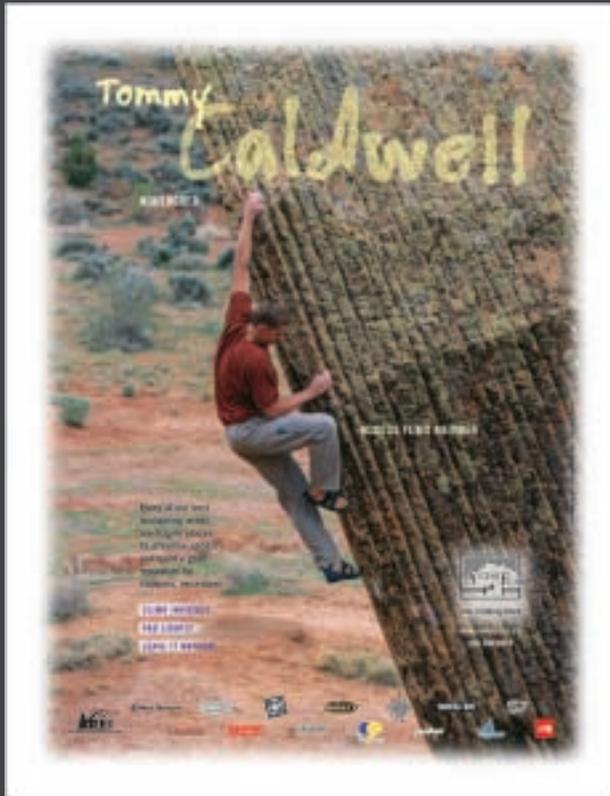
- Lowe Alpine Systems
 - Marmot
- Mercer Capital Group
 - Mountain Gear
- Mountain Hardwear
 - Outdoor Research
- Phoenix Rock Gym
 - PMI
 - PuR
- Red Point, Inc.
- Sport Chalet
- Sun & Ski Sports
 - Yates Gear

CONTRIBUTING—\$500+

- All Terrain Company
- Alpine Ascents International
 - Bearing Images
- Cloudveil Mountain Works
- Excalibur DMM/ Wild Country/ Red Chili USA
 - Flannel Design
- Gravity Kills Company
- Jagged Edge Mountain Gear
- Joshua Tree Rock Climbing School
 - Megalith
- Mountain Madness
 - Mountain Tools
- Mountaineers Books
 - Nicos
- Philadelphia Rock Gym
- Phoenix Bouldering Comp
 - Ropegun
- Seattle Manufacturing Corporation
- Shoreline Mountain Products
 - Sickle Climbing
 - Soma Entertainment
 - Stone Age Climbing
- T.K. Michael, D.D.S., P.S.
- Ushba Mountain Works
 - Voodoo Holds

MEDIA PARTNERS

- Blue
- ClimbXMedia.com
- Southeastern Adventures
- TexasClimbers.com
- Vbouldering



Photography: Dan Patrucci Creative: Ousley

Tommy Caldwell and Lisa Rands Posters

Order these inspirational 16.5" x 24" posters -
 All proceeds will benefit the Access Fund 2001-2002
 Bouldering Campaign, Climbing Advocacy, and Conservation Projects.

PRICE: \$9.95

Call 303-545-6772(x107) or order on-line at
www.accessfund.org/secure/gear.pl



Photography: Wills Young Creative: Ousley

Events

- 3/23 Lancaster, PA - Governor Stable Bouldering Competition, Pennsylvania
- 3/23 Atlanta, GA - Sandrock 2002 Cleanup and Bouldering Competition, Brad McLeod and the Southeastern Climbers Coalition (404) 329-1519
- 3/30 Hoover, AL - Moss Rock Preserve Trail Day/Bouldering Competition, Lee Means and the Southeastern Climbers Coalition (205) 663-1236
- 4/6 Athens, OH - Ohio University Rock Stars, Ohio University, Jamie Jasinski (740) 597-1484
- 4/6 Washington DC - St. Alban's School Voyageur Program Cathedral Crank, Rob Terry (202) 537-6468
- 4/6 Allendale, MI - Climbing Competition, Grand Valley State University, Bill Wimsatt (616) 895-3226
- 4/13 College Station, TX - Aggie Pumpfest 2002, Texas A&M University, Jason Kurten (979)862-1999
- 4/22 Thousand Oaks, CA Thousand Oaks Earth Day Celebration, Kate Thomas (805)449-246

Events Pinnacle

- \$4874 Cloudwalker & Ouray Ice Festival – Ouray, CO
- \$1000 2nd Annual Climb for Yosemite - San Francisco, CA
- \$841 Mark Newcombe Slide Show at Skinny Skis – Jackson, WY
- \$504 Plastic Pull at Colorado Mountain College – Glenwood Springs, CO
- \$350 Cranberry Crank at Planet Granite - Santa Clara, CA
- \$345 7th Annual Fall Flash Fest at CLIMB-MAX, INC – Asheville, NC
- \$300 Seattle Bouldering Challenge at Stone Gardens – Seattle, WA
- \$250 Climbing Competition at East Carolina University – Greenville, NC
- \$245 14th Annual Tollhouse Face Off at California Outfitters – Fresno, CA

Thank You

For putting on climbing and bouldering competitions:

Jim Horton, Goose Kearse, Misty Mountain Threadworks, Jody Furr, Chad Denning, Cam Donnahoo and the Central Sierra Climbers Association, Lea Nesbitt, Jessica Tomasin, Jason Duckowitz, Jonathan Godes, Mike Whigham, Stuart Cowles, Terry Dash

For hosting or presenting a slide show:

John Wallace, Kurt Smith, Don Powers, Mike & Tim Ward, Dan and Janine Patitucci, Mike Libeck, Phil Leeds and Skinny Skis,

For sponsoring festivals, demos, membership promotions, or fundraisers:

Charlotte Fox, Becky Hall, Reese Martin, Peter Johnson, Peter Carrick, Terry Dash, Peter Joyce, Kevin Gerasi and Backwoods, Wilson's Eastside Sports, Jeff Lowe, Erin Eddy, Jeremy Sugerman, Ruth Bender, Greg Barnes, James DeRoussel and the Tuscon Climbers Association, Vinny McClelland, Maury McKinney, Mammoth Mountaineering Supply

For just being great friends of the AF!

Rim of the World Climbing Club, Mike Brown, David Silberman, Phil Spinelli and Friends of Joshua Tree, Mike and Moria Ousley, Jeff Achey, Tracy Martin, Heather Hibbard, Chris McNamara, Sarah Felchler, Armando Menocal

End of Year Appeal Thank You

The Access Fund would like to thank the following individuals who contributed significantly to our end of the year grassroots advocacy appeal.

\$10,000: Tom Isaacson & Anne Watson

\$3,500: Charlotte Fox & Reese Martin

\$2,500: Joanne Ernst & James Collins

\$2,000: Colin & Kathleen Lantz

\$1000: Matthew Dealy, Ann Down, Robert & Ellen Hostetler, Roger Linfield, Bruce Pech & Wendy Weiss, Ned Scheetz

\$500: Sam Davidson, Paul Diefenderfer, Larry Gustafson, Michael Krauss, David Rosenstein, John Sirois, Denis Thibodeau

\$250-\$499: Joel Ager, Kathleen Beamer, George R. Carr Jr. & Amy Derbyshire, Andrew Carson, Mark Clancy, Michael Clifford, D. Kirk Davidson, Dominic DeVincenzo, Christian Dolan, Jeffrey Fuchs, Christopher Haartz, David Hessler, Margaret Judith Hillenbrand, Pete King, David Rikert, Gil Stevens, Walt & Suzy Wilkinson, Peter & Rebecca Zurcher

If The Access Fund Is Really About Defending American Climbing, Why Don't We Call Ourselves That?

By Armando Menocal, Founding
President of the Access Fund

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 904
Denver, CO

The Access Fund has always been clear what we were about: keeping climbing areas open and preserving climbing freedoms. But does the name "Access Fund" help us achieve this mission? Does our name convey a strong image of climbers joined together to defend their freedoms, preserve access, and protect the climbing environment?

Does our name say instantly to anyone who hears or reads it that we are all about climbing?

Since the earliest meetings of the Access Fund (and they were all raucous and passionate), we have debated whether to change our name. No one was ever completely satisfied that the name "Access Fund" was the best name for our organization, given our mission and constituency.

The Access Fund has grown to the point where we need a name that says we are about defending climbing, period. Not just climbers' access, but all aspects of the climbing experience.

A name that does this well is *American Climbing*, which says what we've wanted in our name all along. It says we are about defending American climbing. That means gaining and maintaining access to the crags and mountains, and preserving the freedom to explore, which is the soul of climbing. It means defending all forms of climbing, traditional and sport climbing, bouldering, and mountaineering. It means protecting the climbing environment for ours and for future generations.

I propose that the Access Fund become *American Climbing*. The Access Fund has always looked to its members for feedback about how we can be most effective and meaningful to the American climbing community. We'd like your reaction now, to this proposed name change. What do you think?

You can respond to Menocal's question by writing us via e-mail at info@access-fund.org or at PO Box 17010, Boulder, CO 80308.

The Access Fund, PO Box 17010
Boulder, CO 80308

Address Service Requested

