

# Vertical Times

AUG. #47  
2002

**Devils Tower**  
Management Plan  
to be revised

Access Fund  
negotiates for  
**Horse Pens**  
40

Climbing access  
endangered at  
**Cave Rock**



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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**  
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**Boulder, CO 80308**

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Editorial Director: Sam Davidson  
Editor: John Heisel

*Cover: There is no mistaking the awesome monolith of Devils Tower. A "voluntary closure" each June successfully preserves cultural values and climbing opportunities, but this policy could change as the Park Service revises the Climbing Management Plan.*

(photo by Bill Hatcher)

## Note from Sam Davidson, Executive Director

I have always believed that climbing is about more – much more – than simple physical exertion in high places.

For many climbers, our experience on the boulders, crags and mountains is enhanced by contact with wildlife, by glimpses of secret treasures and by an awareness of those who came before you. Many of our best and most famous climbing areas have significant historic, archeological, and cultural values. Since our inception, the Access Fund has worked to preserve climbing opportunities in such areas. However, climbing is not appropriate everywhere or always. So we have worked to support management policies that balance climbing access with protection of historic resources and cultural values.

This is why we support the "voluntary closure" of Devils Tower to climbing in the month of June, to respect American Indian beliefs and ceremonies. It is why we continue to work with the Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife on educational initiatives to protect rock art at Hueco Tanks, and why we support the 50-foot "No Climbing" zone around rock art at Red Rocks. Also, it is why we will challenge a Forest Service decision to prohibit all climbing at Cave Rock.

So why doesn't the Fund simply withdraw from the Cave Rock conflict since there are other good crags in the area? The answer is more a matter of precedent than access to a single crag. There is a growing bias against climbing in areas with historical, archeological, or cultural values. Increasingly, land managers are using hypothetical impacts to justify closing climbing areas.

The Constitution says the government cannot prohibit any interest group from using public lands because another interest group objects for religious reasons. The Fund supports progressive management that honors American Indian beliefs and protects historic resources; however, climbing need not be eliminated to achieve these goals.

To prevent widespread closures, the Fund is fighting for this principle. We need your help—now—to succeed. Please read our Action Alert on Cave Rock on the next page and take action.



John Heisel

**The "Stary Eyed Man" at Hueco Tanks, TX**

## Cave Rock, NV

Cave Rock, a well-known crag on the south shore of Lake Tahoe in Nevada, will likely be closed to climbing sometime this year. A strong and rapid response from climbers is required to stop this closure.

The Access Fund has been working to keep Cave Rock open for climbing since 1995. Cave Rock has been popular with climbers for more than 20 years, and provides sport climbing opportunities even in winter, when most other local cliffs are unclimbable.

Cave Rock straddles US Highway 50 (four lanes tunnel directly through the formation) so local climbers never imagined there would be a problem with climbing there, other than possible safety issues. It was a surprise when the Washoe tribe complained about climbers to the US Forest Service, which owns the portion of the rock where the climbing routes are located.

Since that time the Fund, working with local climbers, has tried to negotiate a compromise, which would keep Cave Rock open for climbing on a limited basis. We have repeatedly suggested solutions similar to that in effect at Devils Tower - "voluntary closures" for limited time periods. We agreed to remove some routes and that no new routes should be established.

Despite our efforts, the Forest Service threatened to close Cave Rock several years ago. At that time the Fund was successful in convincing the agency that Cave Rock should remain open to climbing, but that a joint education effort would encourage climbers to climb elsewhere out of respect for Washoe religious beliefs.

However, in May 2002 Regional Coordinator Paul Minault (former recipient of the Mark Bebie Award, the Access Fund's highest honor for climber activism) met with a high-level Forest Service official with the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit. This official informed Minault that Cave Rock will likely be closed to climbing because of the religious concerns of the Washoe.

The Fund works to educate climbers about Native American religious beliefs and ceremonies, where these affect climbing resources or access. This is consistent with the Access Fund's policy of developing cooperative, non-regulatory solutions to competing uses of public lands.



Paul Minault collection

*Cave Rock, Nevada. The climbing area is above the westbound lanes of Highway 50.*

The Fund believes that the vast majority of climbers in the United States are sympathetic to Native American concerns and will sacrifice climbing opportunities to respect Native American religion without the burden of exclusionary regulations. This belief is substantiated by the results of the voluntary closure at Devil's Tower, which has led to a remarkable 85% (or more) decline in climber visitation during the month of June.

The Fund believes that climbers will and should support a similar policy at Cave Rock, and that the Forest Service should make a voluntary closure their preferred planning alternative. The Fund will continue to work to convince the Forest Service to adopt a more progressive policy for Cave Rock, but we need your help. Please write the Forest Service and tell them that a voluntary closure at Cave Rock is the best way to balance recreational and Native American interests. Write to:

Maribeth Gustafson, Forest Supervisor  
United States Forest Service  
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit  
870 Emerald Bay Road, Suite 1  
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

See our website at [www.accessfund.org/programs/programs\\_tool\\_caverock.html](http://www.accessfund.org/programs/programs_tool_caverock.html) for a sample letter to the Forest Service on the Cave Rock issue. For more information, call Jason Keith, AF Policy Analyst, at 303-545-6772 x102.

•Policy Update continued on page 7

# Area reports

## SOUTHEAST Access Fund Negotiates for Southeast Climbing



In late May, Shawn Tierney, Access Fund Access and Acquisitions Director, met with local climbers at **Boat Rock, GA** and **Horse Pens-40, AL** to make progress on preserving access to these regionally significant bouldering areas. AF board member Gene Kistler also made the trip to Horse Pens. The Access Fund recently provided a \$10,000 grant to the Southeastern Climbers Coalition to be used toward the purchase of 7.7-acres of land

containing the Boat Rock boulders. Boat Rock is home to the best rock climbing in the metro Atlanta area. The purchase of this tract will prevent the land from being sold to developers.

Horse Pens-40, one of the finest bouldering areas in the Southeast was closed last fall when the owners of the privately owned "park" ran into financial difficulties. Two days prior to the Access Fund visit, the property was sold to a local businessman who intends to keep the area open for festivals, events, and climbing. Local climbers and the Access Fund will work with the new owner who has expressed a willingness to keep the area open for climbing.



photos by John Heisel, Brad McLead, Shawn Tierney

Upper photos: Atlanta skyline, Boat Rock parcel that the Access Fund helped purchase, and demolition of nearby boulders for housing development. Lower photos: Horse Pens 40 sign, barn, boulders, and Gene Kistler, Access Fund Regional Coordinator sampling some Southeast Sandstone at HP-40. Kistler joined Shawn Tierney in a recent site visit to HP-40.



Shawn Tierney



51 students from the Golden High School/American Red Cross Youth Corps volunteered for a Golden High School "signature project" at the Access Fund's North Table Mountain property in May.



**WEST**  
**Golden Cliffs Preserve, CO**

In early May, 51 students from the Golden High School/American Red Cross Youth Corps completed a Golden High School "signature project" at the Access Fund's North Table Mountain property near Golden, CO. The students performed much needed trail and restoration work, repairing badly eroded sections of the trail from the parking lot to the cliff. In addition, the students designed and constructed a new entrance sign. The Access Fund extends its appreciation and gratitude to the students from Golden High who participated and to the Red Cross for organizing and supporting the project.

**Volunteer Wanted**

Conservation coordinator for Northern California wanted to initiate and manage volunteer conservation projects at climbing areas. Help organize Adopt-a-Crag events, distribute seasonal wildlife closure information, educational signs and brochures, and work on 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

**ALASKA**  
**Clean Mountain Can Project**

*(Report submitted by Roger Robinson, National Park Service)*

I would like to report that the Clean Mountain Can project, supported by a \$5500 Access Fund grant, has been very successful. Presently, over a hundred climbers have used the cans on the West Buttress and the West Rib of Denali. To date we have had at least ten different nationalities using the cans. The project will continue into early June when the supply will have run out at the 14,200 foot camp.



Wayne Fuller

The can pictured above is one of hundreds used on Denali Mountain in Alaska this Spring. The Clean Mountain Can Project was funded by a \$5500 Access Fund Grant.

Access Fund  
**ADOPT A CRAG**

SEPTEMBER 7, 2002

The time is always right to do what is right.  
 — Martin Luther King, Jr.

Adopt-a-Crag Day is about giving back to the climbing areas we cherish. Get active! Join thousands of fellow climbers in projects that help protect the environment and preserve access.

To find or organize an Adopt-a-Crag Day event, visit [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org) or call 303-545-6772 ext. 112

Photos by John Hovell



Title Sponsor



Presenting Sponsor



Supporting Sponsor

**19 Events and Counting! Register today at [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org) or call 303-545-6772, ext. 112**

6/22 - Adopt-a-Crag-Day and Tree Planting at Independence Pass – Aspen, CO  
 7/27 - Terrain Boulders Trail Building Day - Boulder, CO  
 August TBA - Adopt-a-Crag Alaska Style – Girdwood, AK  
 8/17 - Clean Up Little Si – Tacoma, WA  
 9/7 - Adopt-a-Crag Day – Phoenix, AZ  
 9/7 - Adopt-a-Crag Day at Mt. Tamalpais and Mickey's Beach - Mill Valley, CA  
 9/7 - Adopt-a-Crag Day at Echo Cliffs – Silverado, CA  
 9/7 - Adopt-a-Crag Day at Mt. Woodson, La Mesa, CA  
 9/7 - Adopt-a-Crag Day at Lumpy Ridge - Estes Park, CO  
 9/7 - Adopt-a-Crag Day at Ross Park – Pocatello, ID

9/7 - Adopt-a-Crag Day - Saint Louis, MO/Southern IL  
 9/7 - Adopt-a-Crag Day at Looking Glass - Brevard, NC  
 9/7 - Adopt-a-Crag Day at Crowders Mountain, Moore's Wall, and Pilot Mountain Winston-Salem, NC  
 9/7 - Adopt-a-Crag Day in the Adirondacks-Hamilton, NY  
 9/7 - Adopt-a-Crag Day at Obed Wild and Scenic River, TN  
 9/7 - Adopt-a-Crag Day at Fremont Canyon – Casper, WY  
 9/20 - Frenchman Coulee Trail Project – Tacoma, WA  
 9/21 - Adopt-a-Crag Day at Enchanted Rock – Helotes, TX  
 9/21 - Adopt-a-Crag Day and Wilderness Climbing Symposium - Ketchum, ID

...Policy Update continued from p.3

### Climbers Again Under Fire for Rescue Costs in Pacific Northwest

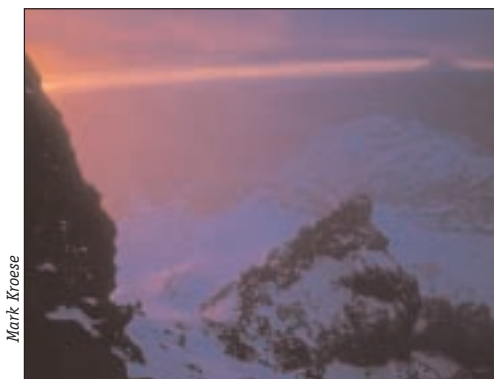
Recently, climber fatalities on Mount Hood and Rainier in the Pacific Northwest drew intense media attention and rekindled debate over whether the costs of rescuing climbers should be "recovered."

In the wake of these incidents the Access Fund and other climbing organizations (in particular the American Alpine Club) were quickly besieged by print and visual media. Fortunately, we had done our collective homework.

In reality, climber rescues are only a tiny percentage of the total number of rescues per year of recreational visitors to the public lands. Similarly, the cost of climber rescues is a relatively small as a percentage of the total cost of recreational user rescues.

Charging visitors to our national parks and forests for the cost of their rescues causes many problems: it may establish a legal obligation on the part of the government to perform rescues; it creates an expectation of rescue in the mind of the cost-payer, reducing self-sufficiency; and it confuses the fact that military helicopters often used in mountain rescue are already paid for – there is no extra cost for this "real-life" training for military personnel.

The Access Fund is actively working to defend climbers against discriminatory and unfair policies related to rescue costs. We will continue to encourage a strong ethic of self-reliance and self-regulation among climbers, and will work closely with other advocacy groups to ensure that rescue cost issues do not become a serious access problem.



Mark Kroese

*The Access Fund is working to defend climbers against discriminatory and unfair policies related to rescue costs on Mt. Rainier (pictured above) and Mt. Hood.*

## ACCESS FUND Merchandise

members take 10% Off!



16.5" x 24" 2002 Bouldering Campaign posters of Tommy Caldwell and David Graham. \$9.95



Our stylish cap with the Access Fund logo embroidered on the front lets everyone know your commitment to the sport. Adjustable to fit most sizes. \$15



The Access Fund O'Piner is an essential tool that should be found on every climber's keyring. It sports our logo etched into a cool replica piton. \$8



Don't lose your grip! With the Access Fund Hand Strengthener, you can get pumped from the comfort of your couch. \$7



NEW! "Only Climbing" t-shirt with Access Fund logo on the front. Sizes S, M, L, XL. \$20

To order visit "Merchandise" at [www.accessfund.org](http://www.accessfund.org) or call Aimee, 888-863-6237 x107.

*(Hey Community Partners! You can now order great Access Fund Gear at wholesale prices online on our website!)*

# Letters **Changing Climate**

Just over a week ago I had the privilege and joy to climb "Skywalker" on South Arapaho, Mountain. It wasn't the best conditions, but it sure is a beautiful climb. Unfortunately, I realized on my return, after reading the recent EPA Climate Action Report to the UN, that snow climbs like Skywalker may be even more degraded than this year, and may well not be available to future generations of climbers at all. Surely this is an access issue — indifference and neglect on the part of our government to climate change will limit access in the long term as effectively as any set of wilderness regulations unfavorable to climbers. I would like to encourage at least a position statement [from the Access Fund] on this matter to raise awareness amongst the members. Even that most cautious and inclusive of organizations, the Nature Conservancy, has recently become an advocate of mitigation [of climate change]. The present administration's indifference to the impacts of human induced climate change is a serious and pressing concern for all climbers.

Richard Blackmore  
Lafayette, CO

*The Access Fund responds: We appreciate that many of our members are well informed about "big picture" issues such as rapid climate change, which may affect climbing access and/or the climbing environment. We know that global warming is causing glaciers and ice sheets to shrink; what we don't know is the extent to which humans are causing this phenomenon, and how quickly, if at all, it can be reversed. To date, the Access Fund has not*

*considered climate change to be a pressing climbing access issue. However, we invite our members to let us know if you think we should take a more active stance on this question.*

## **Response to "Reduce Anchor Wear"**

Thank you very much for printing the recent editorial "Reduce Anchor Wear" (Vertical Times #46) and thanks to the author for writing it. Regarding anchor wear from TRing and lowering directly through anchor chains or Metolius rope bolts. This has been an irritation of mine for years, and I have tried to always let climbers know when they are wearing away at anchors. Not only that, but I'd imagine you're less likely to drop yourself when rappelling, then be dropped by your belayer while being lowered.

These practices of using your own quick-draws for TRs and to rap off a climb instead of lowering need to become standard for climbers. Stop wearing out anchors! TR and lower smart!

John Evans  
Salt Lake City, UT

I wanted to express my thanks to the Access Fund for your generous contribution to the Southeastern Climbers Coalition's Boat Rock Project. The boulder field is an oasis of wilderness in the middle of several housing projects and as such is valuable in its own right, but the excellent quality of the rock makes it even more precious to those of us who love climbing in all its forms.

Sue Wilmoth  
Atlanta, GA



John Haisel



Brad McLeod

**The Southeast Climber's Coalition is one of the country's most active climbing organizations. Recently, volunteers from the SEC recently cleaned up Boat Rock in Atlanta, GA. Access to many of the boulders at Boat Rock has been preserved thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Access Fund and efforts by the SEC.**



# 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

y o u r c l i m b i n g f u t u r e

## DIAMOND—\$20,000+

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- Nike ACG

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  - Weathered Stone

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## 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 best way to leave an enduring legacy for climbing.**

- \* Stock
- \* Bequest
- \* Charitable Gift Annuity
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- \* 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](mailto:heather@accessfund.org).

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## Events

- 7/11 Boulder, CO, Kurt Smith Kickin Access Tour 2002 - Neptune Mountaineering (303) 499-8866
- 7/11 Atlanta, GA, Boat Rock Benefit - Club Eleven 50 (404) 584-2252
- 7/13 Gunnison, CO Kurt Smith Kickin Access 2002 - Serrano Mexican Grill (970) 642-0366
- 7/18 Breckenridge, CO Kurt Smith Kickin Access 2002 - Mountain Outfitters (970) 453-2201
- 7/27 Hill City, SD Kurt Smith Kickin Access 2002 - Granite Sports & Sylvan Rocks (605) 574-2425
- 7/30 Bozeman, MT, Kurt Smith Kickin Access 2002 - Barrel Mountaineering (406) 582-1335
- 8/13 Salt Lake City, UT Kurt Smith Kickin Access 2002 - Rockreation (801) 278 - 7473
- 9/7 Adopt-a-Crag day. See current event listings on page 7.
- 9/13 Chicago, IL, International Outdoor Festival, Peter Johnson (866) 463-1464
- 9/19 Carbondale, CO Hera Ovarian Cancer Climb for Life, Sean Patrick (970) 963-0817
- 9/20 Sedona, AZ, Sedona Ecofest (928) 282-4241

## Events Pinnacle

- \$2186 Kurt Smith Kickin Access Tour/Climbers Rendezvous, Water Stone Outdoors - Fayetteville, WV
- \$2125 Kurt Smith Kickin Access Tour/Sandrock 2002 Cleanup and Bouldering, Southeastern Climbers Coalition - Atlanta, GA
- \$850 Kurt Smith Kickin Access Tour 2002, Vertical Ventures - Tampa, FL
- \$817 Taylor Falls Clean Up Day, St Paul - MN
- \$815 Kurt Smith Kickin Access Tour 2002, Stone Works Climbing Gym, Inc. - Carrollton, TX
- \$650 Kurt Smith Kickin Access Tour 2002, Aiguille Rock Climbing - Longwood, FL
- \$600 Kurt Smith Kickin Access Tour 2002, Stronghold Athletic Club - Columbia, SC
- \$580 Kurt Smith Kickin Access Tour 2002, X-TREME Rock Climbing Center - Miami, FL
- \$505 Kurt Smith Kickin Access Tour 2002, Rok Haus Indoor Climbing Gym - Lafayette, LA

## Thank You

### For raising awareness and hosting benefits and conservation events:

Andrew Jillings and Hamilton College, Wilson's Eastside Sports, Gainesville Rock Gym, James DeRoussel and the Tucson Climber's Association (and his little dog, too), Holly Scerbo and Mountain Sports in Boulder, Royal Robbins, Scott Glogowski and all involved with the Taylor's Falls Clean Up, Brad McLeod and the Southeastern Climber's Coalition, Gene Kistler and Water Stone Outdoors, Spencer Victory and his video "One Year, Seven Climbers, a Killer Spring Break and Some Close Calls."

### For sponsoring climbing competitions and Access Fund membership promotions:

Christopher Botkins and the University of Northern Colorado, Dustin Clements and the NU Climbing Club, Patrick Hayes and Rock of Ages Climbery, Luke Mehall and all the good old Gunnie boys at Western State, PolyEscapes and all the Climb-a-thon participants, Boulders Sport Climbing Center, Arthur Cormier and his ever-committed crew at Rok Haus, Vertical Endeavors in Warrenville and St. Paul, Towson University, and Texas A&M University.

### For presenting slide shows:

Summit Canyon Mountaineering, which provided a venue for Robbie Williams' images of exotic climbing around the world, and Mountain Sports in Boulder, where Dan Hare offered an intimate glimpse into the history of Front Range climbing (and showed lots of slides of climbers in neon lycra!).

### For inviting Kurt Smith and his Kickin Access Tour into their climbing communities:

On the Edge, Rok Haus, X-Treme, Stronghold Athletic Club, Aiguille Rock Climbing, Stone Works Climbing Gym, Vertical Ventures, Southeastern Climber's Coalition, and Water Stone Outdoors.

## Thanks to our top desert appeal and new member contributors

### \$1000

Susan Sosin

### \$250 - \$499

Nicola Hill  
Bob and Cindy Monnet  
John Jinishian

### \$500

Deidre Byers  
Charlotte Fox & Reese Martin  
Michael Kennedy

Thomas Riihimaki  
Laura Schmonsees  
Elizabeth Sholes  
John Sirois  
Marc Sisko  
Daniel Snyder  
Mark Veteto

Twin Sisters, Idaho: Yet another climbing area closed or at risk due to historic/cultural significance. The Access Fund has not given up the fight to restore access to the Twin Sisters and will push for this option when the Climbing Management Plan is reviewed in 2003.



John Barstow

The Access Fund, PO Box 17010  
Boulder, CO 80308

Address Service Requested



your climbing future

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