



Lower West Trail Day a Success!

Thank you to new members, sponsors, Petra Cliffs, and everyone who made the June 28th Lower West Celebration Day a success! Participants constructed rock bars to stabilize existing trails, brushed out areas that need time to revegetate, and constructed a new trail to the top of the cliff near the climb, Harvest Moon.

A new sign built by Mike Donohue, with lumber donated from Richmond Hardware, was installed for posting information about the cliff and CRAG-VT. Lars Botzjourns of the Bolton Conservation Commission and Adam Stone provided expertise on trail building and planning the trail re-route. Thanks also goes to the Green



Ross Parry

Happy trail builders in front of the new sign.

Mountain Club for loaning tools. The gear auction at the day's end netted some great booty for participants and raised just over \$1000

for CRAG-VT. Thanks go to Bruce Hennessey for his fast-talking auctioneering and to Ben & Jerry's for free ice cream. Trail Day sponsors included the Access Fund, Bristol Yoga, Bluewater Ropes, Climb High, Cliff Bar, Ibex, Isis, Intervale Compost, Liberty Mountain, Maple Wind Farm, Outdoor Gear Exchange, Racquet's Edge, Peregrine Outfitters, Petra Cliffs, Sterling Ropes, Northeast Guidebooks, Wild Country, Vermont Coffee Company, and more. Thank you to all!

Although the new trail is now deep in snow, please remember to use it next spring!

~Nicole Ballinger



Paul Hansen/Ecopixel.com

Volunteers building a rock wall.

Help Open the Bolton Quarry to Climbing

With the successful Lower West acquisition, CRAG-VT has embarked on a second climbing resource access project! The Bolton Quarry is a locally and regionally significant rock and ice climbing area currently for sale. Once used for constructing I-89, the Quarry was abandoned upon completion of the highway in the 1960s and has since developed into one of Northern Vermont's most important rock and ice climbing locales. CRAG-VT is negotiating to buy the Bolton Quarry and its surrounding 30-acre parcel for recreational climbing use and land preservation.

Working with a local landowner to secure access to the Bolton Quarry is a formidable task. Unlike the generous donation of Lower West, CRAG-VT must purchase this property. The total project cost is more than \$55,000. So far, with the generous support of the Access Fund, Climb High, and member donors (see thanks on page two), we have made a small dent in that amount, but many more donations are needed. Please help us protect the Quarry and ensure climbing there in perpetuity! **Donate and see more Quarry photos at www.cragvt.org!**

~Heather Hibbard

KICKIN' ACCESS TOUR ROCKS PETRA CLIFFS

Kurt Smith and his multi-media Kickin' Access tour rocked its way to Vermont last October, raising \$400 for CRAG-VT! An ABS Bouldering Competition got the night rolling with 36 competitors crimping and slapping up a host of problems.

Local Nikki Whelan won the women's events and Jody Miall of Manotick, Ontario (see photo on page four) topped the men. Top boulderers were also showcased gunning John Gill's legendary routes in Kurt's movie, "Friction Addiction-Black Hills Gold."

Thanks to Kurt Smith, The Access Fund, Petra Cliffs, Climb High, the Outdoor Gear Exchange, and the Saint Michael's College Wilderness Program for bringing this kickin' show to Vermont.



Dave Furman

Rick Sylvester on some perfect Quarry ice.

CRAG-VT is an organization for climbers and landowners. We encourage both to contact us with concerns about climbing access, landowner liability, and natural resource issues. For more information visit www.cragvt.org.

THE CRAG RAG

The **Crag Rag** is the membership newsletter of CRAG-VT. It is published two times/year in the spring and fall.

Issue Vol. 2 No. 1 - January 2004

CRAG-VT Board - 2004

Heather Hibbard - *President*
Nicole Ballinger - *Vice President*
Pam Moreau - *Secretary (& Legal Counsel)*
Nancy Koenig Peckham - *Treasurer*
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Paul Hansen - *Webmaster*
Dr. Richard Katzman - *LW Land Steward*
Dave Furman
Travis Peckham
Alden Pellett
Ross Perry

CRAG-VT is run entirely by volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or Board membership, please contact us!

Contact Information

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(802) 229-0140
info@cragvt.org
www.cragvt.org

Meetings

CRAG-VT typically meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm at the Camels Hump Middle School in Richmond, VT. The public is welcome to meetings. Call or email to confirm the time and date.

Newsletter design by Nicole Ballinger

Board Members Needed

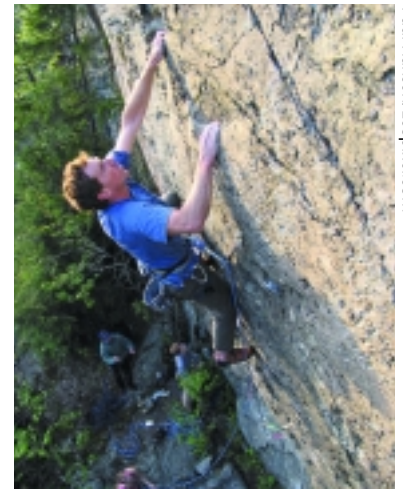
CRAG-VT is actively seeking new board members...and you don't need to be a 5.10 climber to join! We're looking for energetic folks interested in helping protect Vermont climbing resources. If you have skills in fundraising, education and outreach, land protection, public relations, grassroots organizing, mapping, or simply have energy to spare, we'd love to meet you!

CRAG-VT meets on the first Wednesday of the month at Camels Hump Middle School in Richmond—meetings are open to the public. Contact any of our board members listed above or visit our website, www.cragvt.org, for more information.

~Heather Hibbard

A Big THANKS to...

- * **The Access Fund** for a \$2,500 grant for the Quarry project.
- * **Climb High** for their \$1,500 donation to the Quarry project.
- * **Individual donors** to the Quarry project: Nelson Hoffman, Dick Katzman, Leslie J. McCarthy, Thomas McCarthy & Assoc., Alden Pellett, and Duncan C. Robb.
- * **Paul Hansen/ Ecopixel.com** for web and email hosting
- * **Outdoor Gear Exchange** for newsletter and brochure printing.
- * **NEICE.com** and Doug Millen for donating an access webpage for the Quarry project.



Paul Hansen/Ecopixel.com

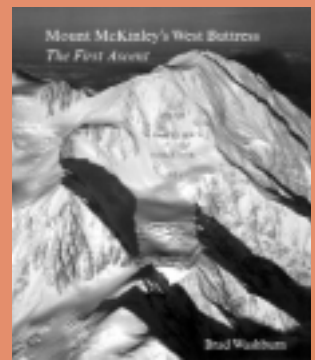
Derek Doucet at the Quarry prior to its closure to climbing.

Vermonters Publishes Washburn Logbook

Local mountaineer and book antiquarian Greg Glade recently published *Mount McKinley's West Buttress: The First Ascent—Brad Washburn's Logbook* by Bradford Washburn.

Although 1,000 climbers annually ascend McKinley via the popular West Buttress today, the route was unclimbed until Brad Washburn negotiated it first in 1951. Gorgeous black and white photos of this epic journey accompany Washburn's detailed logbook in this fine book.

Copies signed by Brad Washburn and unsigned copies are available from Top of the World Books at (802) 878-8737 or www.topworldbooks.com.



Johnson State Students Cleanup Prospect Rock

Johnson State College students Jeff Pietro and John Waldo organized a clean up day at Prospect Rock under the direction of Outdoor Education Professor Brad Moskowitz. Last year the Agency of Natural Resources closed the area to climbing.

Over the past year, Brad has discussed the issue with ANR personnel and met with the State Lands Ecologist, Leif Richardson, to discuss concerns about erosion and climbing impacts. After the meeting, Richardson stated, "I feel optimistic that the current level of rock climbing can continue without further degrading the rare natural community at the site (a red pine woodland), so long as groups and individuals from the climbing community work with the state on more active stewardship."

With this in mind, Brad convinced Jeff and John to organize the cleanup. Eight students showed up on a bitter, cold Saturday to remove trash and debris, brush out (or block) side trails that cause unnecessary impact and erosion, and stabilize erosion at the bases of popular routes.

ACCESS ALERT!

The Bolton Quarry had its access revoked in March 2003 and remains closed to climbing. CRAG-VT is currently raising funds toward the purchase of the property (see page one).

Follow-up: The Agency of Natural Resources has lifted the climbing ban for Johnson State College on Prospect Rock. It's unclear whether other permitted users have regained access, but private parties are allowed access. Climbers should leave no trace and avoid activity that might impact the area (see Cleanup article, left). The Secret Squirrel Crag, remains closed.

~Ross Perry

This initial cleanup project may promote increased stewardship of Prospect Rock, with Johnson State College leading the way. Finally, with a little help from Brad, Austin Paulson and Mark Puleio (of Peak Expeditions) should be thanked for removing the large, dead trees that were ominously hanging above the most popular routes.

~Brad Moskowitz

The CHOSS PILE Vermont Climbing News...

Got Choss? We've got it here—a roundup of what's happening on the ice, rock, boulders, and in the gym in Vermont and nearby...

ROCK

Local climbers were active in Smugglers' Notch this summer, climbing several new lines and revisiting some forgotten classics. Derek Doucet and Dave Furman established The Beanstalker, a two-pitch route (5.8, 5.7+) on the enticing face right of the ice climb Blind Fate. Doucet also established The Big Daddy Arete, (5.8+, 5.8+) from the ground up with Alden Pellet on the massive buttress left of Easy Gully. Doucet describes the position and exposure on the route as "spectacular." Both routes are reportedly quite fun and solid for the grade.

Dave Furman and Travis Peckham completed the ground-up first ascent of The Deep End, a new four-pitch (5.11-, 5.10, 5.10+, 5.10) line near Big Daddy. This well-protected, sustained, three-star route follows unimaginably good rock for over 350'. Climbers on subsequent ascents have quipped that a section on the second pitch may be 5.12 (or A0) if you're under 5'10".

Peckham also teamed up with Doucet on a rainy day to establish Jimmy Hat (5.10 A1), a stunning 80' overhanging dihedral. Doucet aided the initial steep, overhang with small wires and knifeblades to access the corner. Peckham then climbed the excellent finger and hand crack using free and aid techniques and making a scary trundle enroute. The party plans to return in dry weather to free the aid sections, but it looks like we'll have to wait until next year. This pitch promises to be a classic of the same caliber as The Rose and The Thorn at Upper West.

This season's repeats of the old and the



Paul Hansen/Topixel.com

Travis Peckham climbing a future classic in the Notch last Fall.

new included Fraggie Rock (5.9), Better Living Through Chemistry (5.9), Single Mothers (5.10), Elephant's Head Crack (5.9+), Ganesh (5.11+), Quickbeam (5.11+) and other favorites. With routes now starting to see annual ascents and several new moderate lines established this summer, adventure climbing in the Notch is likely to grow in popularity in the coming years.

EARLY ICE

The ice season was off to a false start! With an early cold snap, routes froze early, especially in the higher elevations. Local climbers successfully bagged several lean ascents including Renormalization at Willoughby, Pinnacle Gully on Mt. Washington, Ragnarock in Smugglers' Notch and others—all before Thanksgiving! While the ice was allegedly good enough to climb, little more than the odd stubby was found for true ice pro.

Despite the promising start, the warm weather at Thanksgiving cooked off most of the ice. The weather was so good, in fact, that at least one local hardman headed south to the Gunks for one last rock climb.

But the cold returned, and Dave Furman and Alden Pellet climbed what may be a new moderate mixed route on the left wall of Hidden Gully above the first snowfield in the Notch. After leading a nearby variation pitch with Travis Peckham on a previous outing, Furman returned with Pellet to ascend Drigh Gully (WI4- Mixed). "Drigh" is a Scottish term for everything wet, cold, damp foul and dirty, all mixed together! The line takes the major corner for a couple rope-stretching pitches and finishes up an

Climbing COMMON SENSE

Much of Vermont's climbing is on private land and some is on public land. Access on private land is a delicate matter. The following guidelines will help ensure good relationships among climbers, landowners, and land managers:

1. If you don't know, ASK.

Where to park? Where to hike in from? Is the cliff closed to peregrine nesting? If you don't know, ask the landowner.

2. Turn down the volume.

Noise travels easily in many areas. Keep noise to the bare minimum on the approach and while climbing. Leave boom boxes and barking dogs at home.

3. Leave No Trace.

"Take only photos, leave only foot prints..." Stay on existing trails. Pack out garbage whether it's yours or someone else's. Don't place or leave fixed anchors without landowner consent.

4. Use common sense & courtesy.

Be smart and polite to landowners, neighbors and other recreational users. Climbing on private land is a privilege, not a right.

Dave Furman



Thin ice on the Black Dike-Will Mayo last October.



Dave Furman

Alden Pellet on the first ascent of Drigh Gully (WI4- Mixed) in Smugglers' Notch.

icy corner. Bring a few Specters, assorted pins, and rock pro for this thin route. Rap anchors are in place on trees about 30 feet right of the route.

BOULDERS

Smugglers' Notch saw lots of traffic this summer, including visits from some strong climbers from throughout the northeast.

continued on back page...

CARE FOR YOUR CRAG - BECOME A MEMBER!

Your tax-deductible donation will help CRAG-VT protect existing climbing in Vermont and open more areas to climbing. Mail your membership to PO Box 614, Richmond, VT 05477, or donate online at www.cragvt.org.

Name: _____
Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____

Yes, I'd like to join!

\$15 \$25 \$50 other ____

To pay by credit card please visit www.cragvt.org

My check, payable to CRAG-VT, is enclosed.

The Choss Pile, continued...

Tim Kemple cranked on some new problems, including a hard direct start to Red Cross (project) and a difficult roof problem that ascends the steep overhangs just to the right of Bloody Sunday. Mike Goloub sent Pulling the Pork—a hard V8 during a cold and rainy afternoon, while Shahan Mufti sent E.P.H.U. (e-foo); that's short for "emotionally and physically unstable." E.P.H.U

(V6) is a sketchy highball that starts to the left of Red Cross. Bill Patton, who claims to be fighting back old man time, but is climbing as strong as ever, repeated Red Cross (V9/V10?) in between attempts on two new highballs called Mercy and Waterfall.

GYM

Petra Cliffs continues to host well-attended bouldering comps. On February 21st the ABS Regional Championships will bring some superb boulderers to Petra Cliffs. You can also hone winter skills by enrolling in the gym's ice climbing, mountaineering and avalanche awareness classes. Call (802) 65-PETRA or visit www.petracliffs.com.

Please email any ice/rock/boulder/gym news to chosspile@cragvt.org!

~Compiled by Travis Peckham, with thanks to: WM, AP, DF, CS and others.

Upcoming Events...

- ☼ January 16-18, 2004 - **Adirondack Mountainfest**, Keene Valley, NY. Visit www.mountaineer.com for details.
- ☼ February 6-7, 2004 - **Banff Mountain Film Fest**, Burlington VT. Buy tickets at the Ski Rack: 658-3313.
- ☼ February 21, 2004 - **ABS Regional Championships**, Petra Cliffs. For details call (802) 65-PETRA.



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Canadian Jody Miall cranking at the ABS Competition at Petra Cliffs in October.



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THE CRAG RAG
JANUARY 2004