



QUARRY PROJECT UPDATE: CRAG-VT RECEIVES MORE GRANTS!

The Quarry acquisition is moving along well. On June 17th the purchase and sales agreement was signed with an anticipated closing set for December!

"Now it really feels real" said Dr. Richard Katzman, a CRAG-VT board member and long-time proponent of gaining Quarry access. Making the acquisition even more "real" was the recent award of a \$12,000 Vermont Recreation Trails Grant that CRAG-VT applied to over the winter. The trails grant is federal funding administered by the VT Department of Forests Parks and Recreation.

In July, the Access Fund contributed \$5,000 to the project, in addition to \$2,500 already provided by the AF last fall. CRAG-VT is now an AF affiliate. For more information about this program, visit: www.accessfund.org/whowere/who_lco.html.



A F F I L I A T E

With just four months left until the closing, several thousand dollars must still be raised. Costs include the price of the land, road maintenance, signage, legal fees, and parking lot construction. CRAG-VT has applied to the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board for the remainder, and if all goes smoothly, a conservation easement will be placed on the property that will keep this area open to climbing in perpetuity! CRAG-VT thanks the State of Vermont and the Access Fund, as well as the numerous private donors. But we could still use more help... please join today!

~Heather Furman

Everest Challenge Raises More than \$8,500!

More than seventy climbers ascended a group total of 29,035 ft—the height of Mt. Everest—on March 27th at Petra Cliffs and raised more than \$8,500 towards the Quarry Project! The Everest Challenge was CRAG-VT's first climbathon fundraiser, and we thank all who participated for making it an outstanding success.



Six climbers raised more than \$300 and received brand new Mammut climbing shoes for their effort. The climbers were Will Fenn, Ara Finlayson, Ross Perry, Paul Hansen, Nancy Koenig Peckham, and Travis Peckham. A hearty congrats also goes to Travis for spearheading the event and providing enthusiastic leadership—and to Nancy for her fundraising tips. Travis' enthusiasm must have shown to his contributors, as he was also the highest fundraiser!

Corporate sponsorship was generously provided by Petra Cliffs, Climb High, Outdoor Gear Exchange, Mammut, Petzl/Charlet Moser, Wild Country/Red Chili, Black Diamond, Climbing Magazine, Craggers (N. Conway, NH), The Wall Rock Gym (Quechee, VT), the Ski Barn (Bolton,



Paul Hansen/ecopixel.com

Climbers packed Petra Cliffs to rise to CRAG-VT's first Everest Challenge.

VT), Price Chopper, Hannafords, and Shelburne Supermarket. The UVM Outing Club and St. Michaels College Outdoor Program attended as well, and the UVM club donated a free wilderness first responder class to the raffle.

Two local anonymous donors each provided \$1,000 donations earmarked for the Quarry Project. We are thrilled with these generous gifts and can't thank you more. Thanks also to Paul Hansen for the on-line pledge system, Nicole Ballinger for promotions, Dave Furman for gathering raffle items, Ross Perry for recruitment, and Steve Charest at Petra Cliffs.

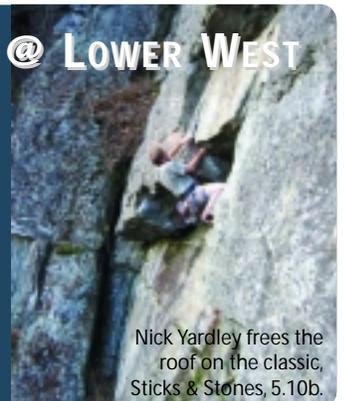
With such a great success, it's likely that CRAG-VT will launch another expedition to Everest in the future. Stay tuned!

~Nicole Ballinger

ADOPT A CRAG: SEPTEMBER 25TH @ LOWER WEST

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 25th from 11am to 3pm for a day of stewardship and fun at Lower West Bolton. Trail stabilization will continue on the new access trail built last summer and along the cliff base. Pending landowner permission, a small group may also work on Upper West's severely eroded trails. We hope to see you there!

More details at www.cragvt.org soon!



Scott Conchieri

Nick Yardley frees the roof on the classic, Sticks & Stones, 5.10b.

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.

Issue Vol. 2 No. 2 - August 2004

CRAG-VT Board - 2004

Heather Furman - *President*
Nicole Ballinger - *Vice President*
Pam Moreau - *Secretary (& Legal Counsel)*
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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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Richmond, VT 05477
(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/editing by Nicole Ballinger

ACCESS ALERT!

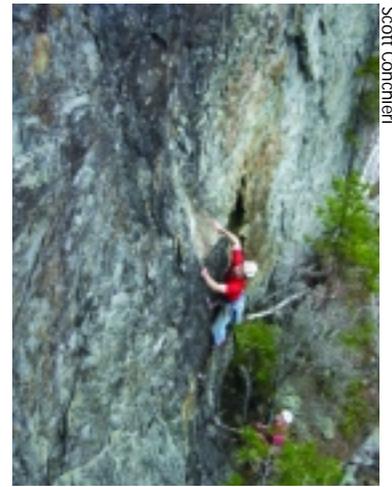
The Bolton Quarry had its access revoked in March 2003 and remains closed to climbing. CRAG-VT is currently raising funds toward the purchase of the property and expects to close on it in December (see page one).

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. The Secret Squirrel Crag remains closed.

~Ross Perry

A Big THANKS to...

- ✱ **The Access Fund** for a new \$5,000 grant for the Quarry Project.
- ✱ **VT Dept. of Forest Parks and Recreation** for the \$12,000 trails grant.
- ✱ **Nancy Koenig-Peckham** for keeping our books straight as the new funds and grants come in.
- ✱ **The Bolton Select Board and Conservation Commission** for endorsing the Quarry Project.
- ✱ **Outdoor Gear Exchange** for newsletter and brochure printing.
- ✱ **Ecopixel.com** for website and email hosting.
- ✱ **The new members** who joined CRAG-VT at the Everest Challenge, and all who participated.



Scott Conchieri

Aldan Pellet on the climb, Private Property, (5.9-) at Upper West Bolton.

Peregrine Management Changes in Adirondacks

If you tried to climb at several Adirondack cliffs this spring, you may have been in for a surprise. This past season, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) changed the peregrine closure format at several popular cliffs in the Adirondacks.

In the past, sections of Poke-O-Moonshine, Moss Cliff and the Washbowl Cliffs were closed in May to allow the falcons to nest, and then reopened to climbing in mid August. This year, the entire cliffs were closed in April to allow the birds a chance to choose a nest site without interference from the increasing numbers of early-season climbers. In mid June, a traditional section closure was imposed if birds had nested.

"We didn't want the falcons to choose their nest site based on human disturbance," said Joe Racette of the NYSDEC. "Closing the entire cliffs allowed the falcons to choose a nest site based solely on its suitability for

raising chicks, not on where popular climbing routes are— hopefully resulting in a greater percentage of successful hatches."

Although it's too early to gauge the success of the program, it's likely that this strategy will be employed in the future. For more information, or to check a cliff's status, visit the NYSDEC website at: www.dec.state.ny.us/website/reg5/close-droutes.html. For Vermont information on peregrines contact the VT Nongame and Natural Heritage Program at (802) 241-3717 or the National Wildlife Federation at (802) 229-0650.

~Dave Furman



Travis Peckham

Peregrine falcon chicks.

CRAG-VT Flips for Funds at Climb High

CRAG-VT raised more than \$200 selling burgers and hot dogs at the Climb High downtown store's sidewalk sale this past May, and introduced many new climbers to the organization and the Quarry Project.

Thanks to Climb High and Ross Perry for coordinating the event, and also to Dave Furman, Liv Perry, Travis & Nancy Peckham, Scott Conchieri, new members Pam Gude and Chris Cote, Pam Moreau and Tom Buck for working the grill, talking to the public, and generally doing anything that was needed.

~Ross Perry



Ross Perry

CRAG-VTers Scott Conchieri, Liv Perry, and Travis Peckham grilling some 5.10 burgers!

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

Congratulations to Peter Kametsis, on the birth of his son—and for sending China Beach (5.14b) at Rumney! After spending about 20 days working the route he became the 4th climber to redpoint one of NE's hardest sport climbs. In Smuggler's Notch, Pete successfully climbed the 110' linkup of pitches 3 and 4 on Ganesh (5.11+), completing the crux pitch as it was originally envisioned. His several attempts included an incredible effort in which a hold broke, flying him off inches from salvation. He felt the link-up was 5.12 given the pump-factor.

After dozens of hours of aggressive cleaning, Scott Conchieri unearthed a most-likely unclimbed line at Lower West. Broken Bristle (5.8 R) blasts up a blank wall and past a creaky flake above the first pitch of In the Pines. After some deliberation, Scott lead the runout route without adding pins or bolts. Dave Furman repeated it shortly after, describing it as "really fun climbing... it'll get your underwear in a bunch!"

In Smuggler's Notch, Travis Peckham and Derek Doucet freed Jimmy Hat (5.11). Stemming and jamming the 80' overhanging crack/corner system involves tricky cruxes, few rests and some dubious gear. After following the route, Doucet felt that it may warrant a 5.10R qualifier and adding a fixed-pin or two is being considered. Doucet, also a recent father, has been attempting an amazing new climb on the Deep End buttress called, Leaver Beaver, which will be free very soon. Nearby, Dave Furman completed Beer Gut (5.11), a steep line that climbs the face and huge roof under Big Daddy. Furman describes the route as "pumpy," which speaks volumes.



Will Mayo on Cloak and Dagger in the Notch.

ICE

Fat ice last winter presented an excellent opportunity for Will "Bones" Mayo and Dave Furman to establish a major new line right of Ragnarock in Smuggler's Notch. Cloak and Dagger (M6 WI 6-) includes long sections of very thin ice following roughly the line of the rock climb Better Living Through Chemistry. Among the route's highlights is a spectacular 30' free-hanger hundreds of feet off the deck.

After numerous attempts thwarted by cold, wind and even the loss of the entire last pitch, Mayo and Furman completed the four-pitch line using leashless tools. Furman noted, "The last pitch is well protected with rock gear, but we were worried that we'd ride the icicle! Will did a great job of leading this pitch, which is short but extremely steep climbing around dagger's outside."

While the third pitch had been climbed before by parties traversing in on a high ledge, the climbers believe that the first two and certainly "The Dagger" fourth pitches are new. This route promises to attract more attention as one of the Notch's longest, hardest ice routes and the first to be graded WI 6. Hopefully, next winter will see repeat ascents and confirmation of the grade.

GYM

Petra Cliffs hosted the ABS Regional Championship last February. Unfortunately, I didn't catch the whole comp, but the men's final was an amazing edge-of-your-seat nail-biter as the top-ranked competitors worked the final three problems. After sending two of the final problems, the 2nd and 3rd place men failed on the last problem after making

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 land users. Climbing on private land is a privilege, not a right.

awesome efforts. Finally, the 1st place competitor, climbing legend Chris Sharma, stepped up and after a few false-starts pulled off one of the single most amazing feats of climbing I have ever seen! Sharma nailed the move and won the men's division amidst the roar of an ecstatic crowd. Complete results and photos are at www.petracliffs.com.

BOULDERS

Bill Patton continued to be a driving force in Smuggler's Notch this summer, establishing at least three new problems. Rhode Island Ripper (V7/V8), in a grotto area above the green egg boulder, follows a beautiful short crack to power laybacking and a fingerlock finish. Who gets the Chicken (V6) and Turning Worm (V4/V5) follow new lines up the gully from the Tourist Treat/Wheat Thin boulder. Turning Worm pulls up the far left on the slab and around the large truck size chockstone and concludes with a jump-down finish, while 'Who gets...' pinches an obvious arete just left of a broken offwidth crack system. Bill Patton, who spends nearly as much time in the notch as the boulders themselves, describes 'Who gets...' as "Notch V6—high and a bit scary."



Chris Sharma rocked the house at Petra Cliffs.

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.

...Choss Pile, continued from page 3

The very strong "GP" from Arizona brought his V13 climbing skills to the notch last month and cranked the second known full ascent of Red Cross after about an hour of work. GP also managed to establish a new high point on the yet unsoft "Blunt" project—potentially a new V11. GP raged through nearly every established problem, including casual on-sights of The Green Egg (V7) and The Impossible Problem (V7). He also established a steep problem powering through the overhang at the far right hand side of the Slivers boulder—which is yet to be repeated or named.

Lastly, CRAG-VT's Everest Challenge was featured in *She Sends*, a new women-focused climbing mag out of Boulder. Check out shesends.com for more info.

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

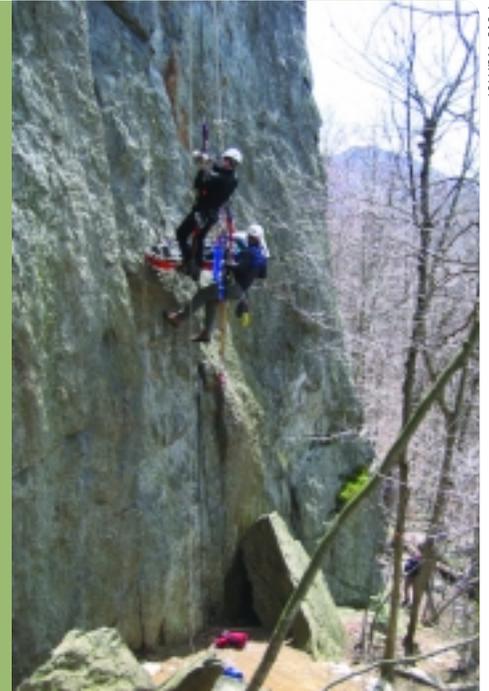
*~Compiled by Travis Peckham, with thanks to:
DF, DD, BP, PK and others.*

Stewardship Notes....

As the popularity of climbing continues to grow, so does the use of accessible crags such as Lower West Bolton, where we've seen a tremendous increase in the number of climbers and their vehicles this season. Remarkably, everyone seems to be making an effort to minimize impact, leave no trace, and climb safely. The new trail around the cliff is holding up well and will be further improved at the trail day on September 25th.

CRAG-VT urges climbers to continue the tradition of stewardship at LWB. Stay alert at the roadside. Be smart above, below and on the rock.

*~ Dick Katzman,
Lower West Land Steward*



Pete Warner

Just training, fortunately! Stowe rescue used the A-wall at LWB last spring for rescue practice.



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THE CRAG RAG
AUGUST 2004