



Online Community Forum Launched!

Hop online to check out forums.cragvt.org! It's a free discussion site hosted by CRAG-VT for climbers to talk about the latest on climbing in Vermont!

Contribute news to area route reports, find people who need partners to climb with and more!

Important Quarry News!

CRAG-VT's Conservation and Stewardship Committee for Lower West Bolton and the Bolton Quarry has some important news for the Quarry. Please read on to help keep access to the Quarry open. Thanks!

Slow Down

Please keep your speed to 10 mph on Green Mountain Drive—a private road. We value our relationship with our neighbors and want to keep relations positive.

Winter Parking & Plowing

CRAG-VT has contracted with a local plower to clear the approach road and parking. It will be plowed on an as-need basis. Park in the plowed parking area in the lower quarry—NOT on Green Mountain Drive. Ten cars should fit in the winter. Do not drive near the ice pillars as half-buried boulders and fallen ice may damage your car! If you arrive after a snowstorm to an unplowed quarry road, please head back to Route 2, drive 0.3 miles west and park at the Smilie School. A trail from the school's lot leads to the quarry. This trail is across private proper-

Annual Meeting & Community Slideshow

CRAG-VT held its second annual member meeting on January 12 at Bolton Valley. More than 50 people attended to hear the latest news and watch the first community slideshow. CRAG's new president, Travis Peckham, MC'd the evening and introduced the new Board for 2006. New positions include Ross Perry, Vice President; Scott Conchieri, Treasurer; and Tom Buck, Secretary. Melissa Stauffer and Derek Doucet were also welcomed to the Board.

CRAG-VT recognized the efforts of Chip Schlegel, Job Heintz and Dennis Delay for their tremendous help over the years. After a lively discussion about CRAG-VT's current projects and volunteer opportunities, members kicked back and enjoyed a terrific slideshow, featuring local photographers and climbers on many of the Northeast's finest cliffs. Prizes were awarded to the following photographers: Chad Hussey (rock), Doug Dillon (ice), and Adam Sherman (bouldering). Thanks to Scott Conchieri for preparing the show, Liam Griffen for lending us his slide projector, and to Bolton Valley



Paul Hansen/Ecopixel.com

Access Fund Vice-President, Heather Furman, joins the discussion at the annual meeting.

Resort/Chip Schlegel for providing the meeting space!

One of CRAG-VT's goals for 2006 is to engage more members in volunteer projects. Opportunities include helping with the newsletter, managing property, moderating a discussion on the new online forum, volunteering at outreach events, such as slideshows and retail sales, and more.

If you couldn't make the meeting, but are interested in volunteering or sharing your ideas please email info@cragvt.org.

-Nicole Ballinger



Ross Perry

Bolton Quarry ice in great condition! Your CRAG-VT membership helps pay for plowing the access road.

ty. The owner requires that ALL dogs be leashed and under control.

Marginal Ice Ethics

Because of this winter's constant freeze/thaw cycles, the pillars at the Bolton Quarry have not been as thick or as well bonded to the rock as in seasons past. When ice conditions are marginal, we recommend refraining from climbing, which can knock the fragile ice

down. Enough ice may not remain to fully form again. Often times the ice will come back stronger, following a warm spell if left alone. There have been many concerns expressed to us regarding this issue, so we appreciate your best judgment.

If you'd like to volunteer with the Conservation and Stewardship Committee, please email info@cragvt.org.

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. 4 No. 1 - February 2006

CRAG-VT Board - 2006

Travis Peckham - *President*

Ross Perry - *Vice President*

Tom Buck - *Secretary*

Scott Conchieri - *Treasurer*

Paul Hansen - *Webmaster*

Dr. Richard Katzman - *LW Land Steward*

Pam Moreau - *Legal Counsel*

Dave Furman

Nicole Ballinger

Alden Pellett

Derek Doucet

Melissa Stauffer

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

802-899-3455

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

A Big THANKS to...

- ✿ **Outdoor Gear Exchange** for newsletter and brochure printing.
- ✿ **Ecopixel.com** for hosting and maintaining our website and email lists.
- ✿ **The Bolton Adventure Center & Chip Schlegel** for providing space to hold the annual meeting at Bolton Valley.
- ✿ **Ross Perry** for organizing the Quarry trail day.
- ✿ **Scott Conchieri** for organizing the community slideshow.
- ✿ **Nicole Ballinger** for designing and editing the CRAG-RAG.

Upcoming Events...

- ✿ March 4, 2006: **The Frigid Infliction Winter Adventure Race**, Bolton Valley Resort. Info: 802-865-9895 or www.gmara.org
- ✿ March 16, 2006: **Backcountry Skiing in East Greenland Slideshow**, Climb High, Shelburne. Info: 802-985-5055
- ✿ May 13, 2006: **USA Climbing Regional Junior Comp**, Petra Cliffs, Burlington. Info: 1-866-65-PETRA.
- ✿ June 24 & 25 2006: **Women's Rock Day**, North Conway, NH. Info: 603-356-7064 or www.ime-usa.com/womenrockday.

Trails Stabilized at the Quarry

The Adopt-a-Crag Day on September 17th at the Bolton Quarry was a success. Thirty-four dedicated volunteers created better access trails and stabilized the base of the new climbs in the upper quarry. The day was topped off by a raffle at the day's end that included a rope and backpack, graciously donated by Climb High/ Mammut. The Access Fund provided water bottles to all who attended, while also contributing a t-shirt and membership to the raffle. Cold drinks were supplied by the UVM Outing Club and Shaw's supermarkets helped fund the food. Thanks to Liv Perry for making delicious sandwiches. And congrats to Ross Perry for coordinating a remarkable day! Check out www.cragvt.org for more photos.



Trail day volunteers maneuver a rock into place to help stabilize an access trail.

Paul Hansen/ecopixel.com

VOLUNTEER FOR YOUR LOCAL ROCKS!

CRAG-VT recently developed an informal sub-committee structure to help members get involved with projects. Sign up for any of the following groups by emailing info@cragvt.org to

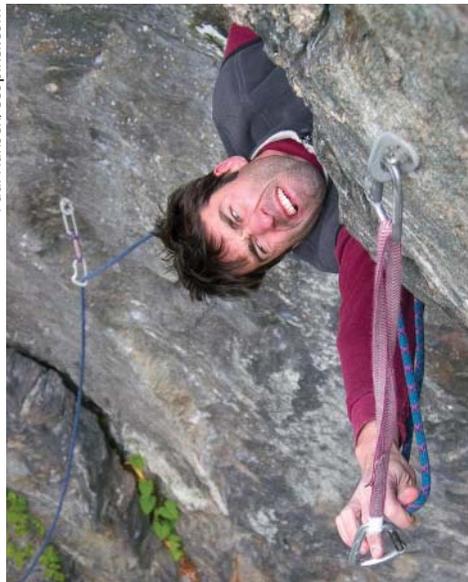
Access and Acquisitions: Help with projects to secure and maintain access.

Education and Outreach: Help staff booths at slideshows and gear sales, and distribute outreach information.

Conservation & Stewardship: Help with trail days and property management.

Membership Committee: Help with mailing lists and getting new climbers involved with CRAG-VT.

New President On Belay!



Paul Hansen/ecopixel.com

CRAG-VT has a new president as of December 2005—Travis Peckham. A life long Vermonter, Travis is a CRAG-VT founding member. He's been climbing and exploring Vermont's schist for nearly two decades. He takes over the helm from Nicole Ballinger who served in 2005.

Travis brings an incredible enthusiasm for Vermont climbing, as well as some great organizational and team management skills to CRAG-VT from his day job at IDX. He will strive to continue CRAG-VT's mission to enhance access, while engaging more of CRAG-VT's members in the process. We wish him success!

-Nicole Ballinger

New CRAG-VT president, Travis Peckham, on the sharp end.

The CHOSS PILE Vermont Climbing News...

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

ICE

Flooded by fall's heavy rains, Lake Willoughby has yielded some major new ice and mixed routes in what's been perhaps the best ice season in recorded history. Visiting Canadian climbers, Sebastien Nantel and Olivier Ouellette, established *Solstice Super Nova* (WI6+)—a spectacular thin and fragile ice climb gracing the center of the enormous west face of Mt. Pisgah. Also on the main face, New Hampshire climbers, Matt McCormick and Josh Hurst, established a fantastic mixed climb named *AstroTurf*, a direct amalgamation of the existing climbs *Aurora* and *Starman*. Highlights of the climb include technical dry-tooling through a very strenuous six-foot ceiling to an icicle.

Locals Alden Pellett, Doug Dillon and Will Mayo established *Pipe Dream* (WI6 R/X M5), a serious thin ice and mixed line to the left of the classic *Called on Account of Rains*. Pellett led the charge, sending the committing first pitch that follows a long thin one-to-two foot wide pencil of ice with poor pro. Easier ground (4/4+) led to Mayo's impressive mixed (M5) lead on the third pitch, topping out on funky ice blobs and a free-hanger.

Two days later, having earlier backed off an attempt at the first ascent of *Solstice* due to "storm and cowardice," Will Mayo returned with Ian Boyer and Joe Szot to climb a very steep line on Mount Hor, across the lake from the main cliffs. After leaving the rock gear in his van, Mayo was "punished" by having to lead the 200-foot first pitch's hollow column and free-hanging daggers with only ice screws. Szot then led a 165-foot WI5 pitch to complete the route. The trio named the climb *Moody Aunt Ruby* (WI6 R/X), but it is now thought they may have followed roughly the same line climbed earlier by Barry Blanchard or Kurt Winkler in much fatter conditions at WI4+.

Rarely formed test-pieces like *Bullwinkle* and *China Shop* have all seen ascents this

year and *Five Musketeers* yielded a possible second ascent at the hands of Ryan Stefiuk and Alden Pellett. This year more than ever, Lake Willoughby truly is one of the finest ice climbing destinations in the country.

In the 'Dacks, Ian Osteyee and Chris Fay bagged a second ascent of Jeff Lowe's Poko horror show, *Stingray*. With only a single piece of protection at the halfway point, Osteyee lead 60 meters of 1-2 inch thick vertical ice completing one of the season's boldest ascents. Osteyee then teamed up with Alden Pellett on the first continuous ascent of *Lost at Sea Direct* (WI 5+), linking *Sea Tips* with *Lost at Sea*. Also at Poko, the unstoppable Will Mayo established Katherine (M8) with Joe Szot and Matt Horner. Touted as the "last unpicked plum," this amazing line tackles signature Mayo-style steepness and commitment in the *Paralysis* amphitheater.



Will Mayo works his way up *AstroTurf* at Lake Willoughby.

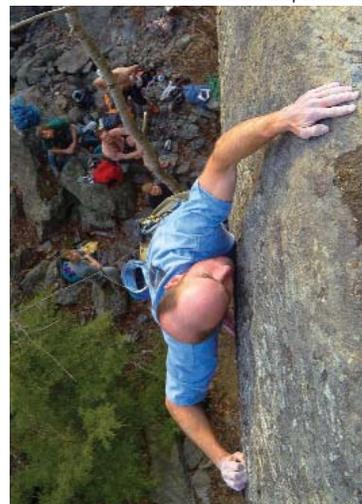


2006 McAllisterPhoto.com

ROCK

CRAG-VT's reopening of the Bolton Quarry to climbers prompted a flurry of new route development last spring. With snow still on the ground, Travis Peckham and Paul Hansen established four new routes on the Quarry's entrance wall. *It's Only Interment* (5.11-), *Pussy Galore* (5.10), *The Cat's Ass* (5.11), and *Off Night* (5.11) are short, steep routes that grace an always dry, south-facing band of schist to the right of the quarry access road. *Interment* was a particularly nice find that follows a striking right-leaning finger-crack through a committing finish. The first ascent used a tricky-to-place nest of micro-nuts on the upper thin section to guard against an "unpleasant looking" ground-fall onto the talus.

Also in the Quarry, Alden Pellett and Paul Hansen teamed up to establish *Wandering the Halls* (5.8) and *Playground Bully* (5.9) on a wall in the back of the



Garrett Bywaters climbing *Cat's Ass* in the Bolton Quarry.

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.

Paul Hansen/Ecopixel.com

upper Quarry that they dubbed *The Schoolyard*. Pellett gets extra-credit for envisioning the lines and spending hours to clean the loose rock. In the same area, Derek Doucet and Paul Hansen established *Dodgeball* (5.7) just to the right of the previous routes. This new collection of climbs will almost certainly become popular this summer, thanks to the impressive trail improvements from the last CRAG-VT Adopt-a-Crag day.

Smuggler's Notch passed a fairly wet and quiet summer

seeing only one new line, albeit an excellent one. *Fragglissima* (5.10+), established by Travis Peckham and Dave Furman is a 100' direct start to *Fraggle Rock*. Hopefully it will see a second ascent next summer.

A small quartzite crag was discovered by Dennis Delay and Michelle Cournoyer in Hinesburg, where they promptly established *Book of Toad* (5.7) and *Toad Crack* (5.6). The cliff is about 40' tall and the climbing is

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.

reportedly quite fun. Elsewhere, the adventurers Delay and Cournoyer waded across Tirrell pond in the Adirondacks to bush-whack up to what is likely a new climb. *Autumn Revelator* (5.6) is a 350' slab climb up shallow cracks and flakes with beautiful views of the pond. According to Delay, "The real appeal is climbing this slab in peak foliage, with the view across Tirrell Pond and Blue Mountain rising abruptly from the other side. Mmmm, good stuff!"

BOULDERS

Bouldering in Smuggler's Notch maintained a fever pitch again last summer with many new problems. A few highlights include Colin Rickert's *Beejezus* (V4), a classic face problem around the corner from the *Chicken Head Arête*. *Bat Flake* (V2) and *Poacher's Paradise* (V4) add a couple of brilliant high-ball problems near *General Patton's Arête*. The blunt arête, *Porn Star* (V4) was seduced by Bill Patton on the rock next to *Pac Man*.

The new line was revealed when a tree blocking the problem was cut down last winter by an unknown party. Climbers in the Notch need to be very aware of the area's fragile ecosystem; this is a unique area with many rare and threatened species. Climbing in the Notch is a privilege, not a right, and bouldering is allowed only by the permission of the state. Please use low impact practices when climbing. Cutting down trees and damaging plants is unacceptable and could threaten future access to this excellent area.

GYM

Last October, Petra Cliffs hosted an American Bouldering Series Competition, an event that was attended by over 60 climbers and spectators. Each competitor had three hours to redpoint as many problems as possible, with the top five hardest problems scored for final ranking. Mélissa Lacasse landed first place in the advanced women's division, while Pierre Jean-Sebastien took advanced men's first place.



A F F I L I A T E

Sebastie Lazure and Jen Lloyd took first place in men's and women's intermediate respectively. Check www.petracliffs.com for competition schedules and results.

This winter, the Petra Cliffs Junior Climbing Team started practice with its largest team to date. Sixteen climbers now participate under the Petra Cliffs banner. CRAG-VT wishes them a successful season!

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

*-Compiled by Travis Peckham with thanks to:
AP, WM, DD, DD, DF, PH, EW, BP*



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THE CRAG RAG
FEBRUARY 2006