



## Join CRAG-VT & Get Gear Discounts!

As in years past, CRAG-VT continues to receive the generous support of local outdoor retailers. This year we are pleased to announce that CRAG-VT members now receive amazing discounts at local stores! *There is no club card, just ask for the CRAG-VT discount at checkout.*

**EMS:** 15% off anything in the store!

**Outdoor Gear Exchange:** 20% off Mammut and 10% off other climbing equipment!

**Climb High:** 20% off Mammut and 10% off other climbing equipment!

For just \$15 you can help support local climbing and get these awesome discounts! Join CRAG-VT or renew your membership by mailing a tax-deductible contribution (see last page), or visiting [www.cragvt.org](http://www.cragvt.org).

**CRAG-VT thanks Climb High, OGE, and EMS for their generous support. Climb local—BUY LOCAL!**

## CONNECT WITH VT CLIMBERS ONLINE!

Go to [forums.cragvt.org](http://forums.cragvt.org)! It's a free discussion site hosted by CRAG-VT for climbers and boulderers to talk about the latest news in Vermont and nearby crags. Contribute to local rock and ice reports, find climbing partners, and learn about CRAG-VT projects and events! Oh yeah, it's free!

**Board meetings:** CRAG-VT now meets on the first Tuesday of every month at the Richmond Elementary School—members are welcome to attend!

## 2006 Adopt-A-Crag Day!

**A**nother fun Adopt-a-Crag Day was held at Lower West on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Two dozen volunteers built steps to combat erosion near the entry kiosk and spruced up areas near the base. A lot of attention was paid to the *Harvest Moon* belay—LWB's classic and most popular climb.

Volunteers were kept well-fed with fabulous sandwiches made by Dick Katzman and Alden Pellett with food donated by Healthy Living and Shaws Supermarkets. Raffle items were donated by Alden Pellett Photography, the Access Fund, Statik Mountain Co., and the University of Vermont Outing Club (Telluride Film Fest tickets). Thank you to all sponsors and volunteers!

Check [www.cragvt.org](http://www.cragvt.org) for next year's trail day—to be held at a Vermont cliff near you next fall!



This fall's crag day tackled erosion at Lower West.



Photos by Paul Hansen/Epochel.com

## Northeastern Vermont Climbers Alliance News

**T**he Northeastern Vermont Climber's Alliance (NEVCA) is a new not-for-profit organization seeking to support and maintain access to climbing areas in Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. Formed in the fall of 2005, here's what we've been up to lately.

Last fall, NEVCA volunteers built and installed a first aid cache at the base of the cliffs on Mount Pisgah. The cache, which contains a rescue litter and basic first aid supplies, is located near the south end of the cliffs, between *Zephyr* and *Left Tablet*. The project was made possible thanks to climbers from New England and beyond, who contributed to a very successful fundraiser organized by Massachusetts climber Richard Doucette. The donations paid for first aid supplies, two rescue litters, and the materials to build two shelters. The second shelter will be built this fall and installed near the base of *The Last Gentleman* amphitheater.

Over the summer, we started a comprehensive assessment of fixed anchors at Wheeler mountain. Dubbed the Anchor Replacement Initiative, the project's goal was to identify and replace high risk and high impact fixed anchors. Fourteen anchors on dead or dying trees, amongst migrating blocks, and in high use areas were replaced with new, two bolt ring anchors.

This fall we held our Adopt-a-Crag day at Wheeler, working on trail maintenance and clearing an area of major tree fall that blocked the trail and access to one route.

NEVCA is looking forward to another productive year, and is grateful for the support of The Access Fund and CRAG-VT. To get involved with NEVCA email Matthew Elliott at [matthewelliott@gmail.com](mailto:matthewelliott@gmail.com)

~ Submitted by Matthew Elliott

**CRAG-VT is an organization for climbers and landowners. We encourage both to contact us with concerns about access problems, landowner liability, and natural resource issues. For more information visit [www.cragvt.org](http://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. 2 - January 2007**

### CRAG-VT Board - 2007

Travis Peckham - *President*

Ross Perry - *Vice President*

Seth Maciejowski - *Secretary*

Scott Conchieri - *Treasurer*

Paul Hansen - *Webmaster*

Dr. Richard Katzman - *LW Land Steward*

Alden Pellett

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 Tuesday 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*

## QUARRY WINTER PARKING & PLOWING

If we ever have a real Vermont winter this year, there will be snow on the Bolton Quarry access road. Fortunately, the neighbor next to the Quarry has agreed to plow again for CRAG-VT (*your membership pays for this—hint!*).

If the road is not yet plowed and/or your car can't make it—DO NOT park on Green Mountain Drive, or block the access road in any way. Instead, park down Rt. 2 at the Smilie School and walk back via the roads to the Quarry, or use the trail through the woods—but keep your dog leashed, as this is private property. And please lay off the gas too—the speed limit on Green Mountain Drive is 10mph—you'll be zooming up the fat ice soon enough!  
- THANKS!

## A Big THANKS to...

- ✿ **Outdoor Gear Exchange** for printing this newsletter.
- ✿ **Ecopixel.com** for hosting and maintaining our website and email lists.
- ✿ **Ross Perry** for organizing the Lower West Bolton trail day.
- ✿ **Travis Peckham** for his leadership and enthusiasm as CRAG-VT president.
- ✿ **Dave Furman, Pam Moreau, Tom Buck, Nicole Ballinger & Derek Doucet** for their time as Board members—happy retirement!
- ✿ **Seth Maciejowski** for joining the Board and volunteering as Secretary.

## Upcoming Events...

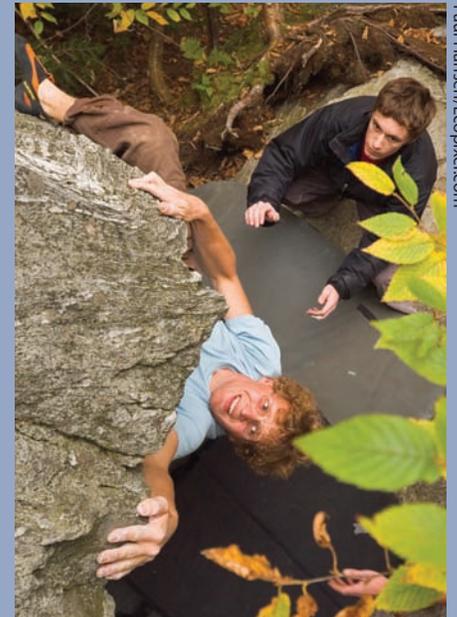
- ✿ January 12-14, 2007: **Adirondack International Mountain Fest.** Info: 518 576-2281 or [www.mountaineer.com](http://www.mountaineer.com).
- ✿ February 2 & 3, 2007: **Banff Mountain Film Fest.** Tickets from Ski Rack, Burlington. Info: 802-658-3313
- ✿ February 16-18, 2007: **Festiglance du Quebec.** Info: [www.festiglance.com](http://www.festiglance.com)
- ✿ March 3, 2007: **The Frigid Infliction Winter Adventure Race.** Bolton Valley Resort. Info: 802-865-9895 or [www.gmara.org](http://www.gmara.org)

## Smugglers' Notch Bouldering Town Meeting

On April 22, 2006, CRAG-VT hosted the Smugglers' Notch Bouldering Town Meeting at Petra Cliffs Climbing Center in Burlington, Vermont. The focus of the meeting was to discuss a variety of topics with individuals who use the Smugglers' Notch area. The event was planned after receiving numerous comments and concerns about impacts to the Notch.

The agenda included discussing the following: the responsible and effective stewardship of the area; the high levels of use and accompanying environmental impacts; and the concerns about the unique and fragile (some threatened) flora and fauna. Participants also helped brainstorm ways to solve problems and identify areas where efforts can best be applied to help ensure that Smuggs will remain open to bouldering and climbing in the future.

Many attendees offered their perspective of the area as well as suggestions for what could be done to better protect it. The following conclusions were reached: the area of concern where the main impacts have increased is within the upper portion of the Notch from the stone hut/parking lot area to just over the Notch to the south; the majority of impact to the area was thought to be tourism-based (i.e. car-based gazers who walk within a few hundred feet of their vehicle); chalk use is not much of an issue; there is no need for trail work at this time; and CRAG-VT should contin-



Paul Hansen/Ecopixel.com

**Solving one of the many excellent boulder problems in the Notch.**

ue an open dialogue with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, which owns the property. CRAG-VT is planning to work with the ANR this spring to develop an environmental brochure for people who use the Notch.

Twenty-eight people were in attendance at the height of the meeting, and while most were boulderers and rock/ice climbers, some were not. There were plenty of opinions expressed, and CRAG-VT is thankful for those who came and let their voices be heard.

~ Submitted by Ross Perry,  
CRAG-VT Vice President

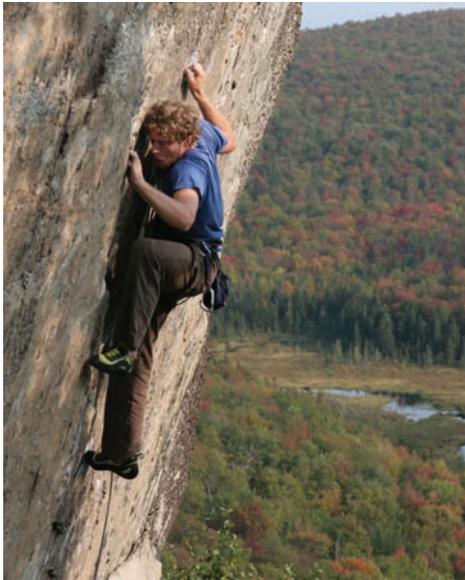
# The CHOSS PILE Vermont Climbing News...

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 News

After taking four months off to recover from a wrist injury, Pete Kametsis returned to continue schooling locals on all that's left to do on rock. After warming up by red-pointing a half dozen or so 5.13ds, Kametsis took down five 5.14s including *Livin' Astro* (5.14c), *Astroglide* (5.14c), *SuperNova* (5.14b), *Synesthesia* (5.14a) and *Alphabeta* (5.14a) at Rumney, Wild River and Orford. Perhaps more significant to Vermont climbers was Kametsis's completion of his project in Smugglers' Notch called *Something Wicked*. According to Kametsis, "[It] felt harder than the 13ds I did so it might be 14a ...hopefully someone else will come send it." Go ahead, drive up there in the spring and see if you can pull off the ground...

After clipping the hardest bolts in New England, Kametsis spent a month in the Adirondacks freeing two old aid lines on Moss Cliff. His new routes, *Fire in the Sky* (5.13c) and *Illuminescence* (5.13d) tackle perhaps the steepest and most imposing face in the 'Dacks. They and are undoubtedly among the hardest and most spectacular climbs in the northeast.



Dave Vuono

Zach Landis uses some delicate footwork on *High Grade* (5.13a) in Groton, VT.

In Vermont, Zach Landis opened up some high-quality pitches in Groton this summer including an awesome three-pitch line. The final pitch on Landis' route rebuffed the attempts of several strong climbers before Kametsis came and freed it on his second try. The route is 5.12c, climbing up to a V5 boulder problem off a granite pocket to a big slap out onto the arête; finishing with super-airy 5.11 to the top. Kametsis named the route *The Groton High Grade* (5.13a) and said it was "5-stars". While on *High Grade*, Kametsis noticed several other far-harder possibilities on the same wall—I expect we'll hear more next summer.

Back in the realm of mere mortals, Travis Peckham established two new routes in the Bolton Quarry. *Second Thoughts* (5.10a) climbs the vertical black face to the right of the Schoolyard wall. On the first ascent, spray from the cliff's seasonal waterfall turned dust on the holds into a greasy slurry which added an element of "fun". Inspired by the abilities of the next generation of climbers, Peckham teamed up with his son Flynn (age 4) to establish *Duckling* (5.2); a short, enjoyable solo/top-rope route near *Grumpy*. Nearby, Adam Sherman teamed up with his preschoolers to work a proud line behind the Lower West cliff.

Cheers and congrats to Leslie McCarthy for on-sighting her first 5.10 trad climb. McCarthy climbed the thin classic *Seventh Seal* (5.10a) on Whitehorse. Nice lead Leslie!

*Accomplish a personal best in climbing? We're psyched for you! Send in your reports to the next newsletter—we need your info!*



Dave Vuono

Pete Kametsis pulls 5.13 freeing a steep aid line on Moss Cliff in the Adirondacks.

## 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.

## ICE NEWS

On the last day of winter 2006, Dennis Delay and Nick Johnson climbed what they described as a "rather obscure line" in Hazen's Notch. The route forms right of the cliff's central buttress and follows three pitches of snow, ice, mixed turf, and brush. Delay recalls, "at times we felt like we were bushwhacking more than ice climbing." The route contains all that we expect from Vermont: variable ice, from thin and rotten to wet and plastic; and variable rock, from reliable cracks to rotten garbage. Considering the long tradition of Vermont ice climbing, it would be no surprise to find that the routes in Hazen's have seen other ascents though it's possible this line may have been neglected. Since nothing was previously known of this climb, Delay and Johnson called it *Turf Warfare* and graded it WI3. Once again, Delay's sprit of adventure leads him to the Northeast's most obscure and forgotten lines.

This May, Vermont local Will Mayo teamed up with Canadian Maxime Turgeon to climb a new route on Mount Foraker in Alaska. Their significant new route (WI 5+, M6, A0) climbs the southwest side of the

# 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](http://www.cragvt.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Yes, I'd like to join!

\$15  \$25  \$50  other \_\_\_\_

To pay by credit card please visit [www.cragvt.org](http://www.cragvt.org)

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

French Ridge to the right of the Infinite Spur. After joining the French Ridge and continuing to 13,500 feet, the team decided to descend their line of ascent to escape threatening weather. Ten hours of rappelling and down climbing exhausted their rack and spare cord but delivered them safely to the glacier—and just in time; a few hours after the team completed their descent, a huge serac broke off from high on the route and devastated the line with ice and debris.



Dennis Delay

**Turf Warfare (WI3) in Hazen's Notch—fought by Dennis Delay and Nick Johnson last March.**

This fall, as early as October, deprived, winter-starved ice climbers were out scratching their way up desperate early-season ice. The ice has been ephemeral, but has provided opportunities for those vigilantly watching the conditions. *The Black Dike* has already seen at least one ascent as have routes in the Adirondacks, Whites and Smugglers' Notch.

On December 10<sup>th</sup> Alden Pellett sent a much coveted line left of Elephant's Head Gully in Smugglers' Notch. "*I have a dream...*" is the result of two years of observation and a prior attempt involving a 25' whipper from the upper free hanging icicle. The route climbs thin ice to a belay below and right of a prominent free hanging icicle about 100' left of *Watership Down*. It then follows thin ice to drytooling in frozen turf and cracks to a



Seth Maciejowski

**Alden Pellett sending "I have a dream..." in early December.**

nice overhanging finger crack leading up and behind the freehanger. Climb this to gain the icicle and the top. A mixed grade of M7a/b has been proposed. The climb was named in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. since December 10<sup>th</sup> was Human Rights Day.

Whether you like it thin or fat, we have a great season ahead of us. Tell us about it this spring! *The Choss Pile* was compiled by Travis Peckham with help from ZL, LM, PK, DV, WM, DD and others.



A F F I L I A T E



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**THE CRAG RAG**  
 JANUARY 2007