



WE DID IT! Bolton Quarry Protected for Climbing

CRAG-VT closed on the Bolton Quarry purchase on December 20th. This 30-acre parcel includes stunning vertical ice pillars and aesthetically pleasing rock climbs. CRAG-VT's acquisition of the Quarry is the first land conservation purchase specifically for rock and ice climbing in Vermont, and one of only a few in the United States.

Funding for the acquisition was provided by the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB), the Vermont Recreation Trails Grant Program, The Access Fund, and Climb High/Mammut.

CRAG-VT's more than 125 member donors were also critical to the project's success.

CRAG-VT's membership can continue to help by following the "Quarry Rules" (right sidebar) and passing them on to friends during this interim time, when parking is difficult and neighboring landowners may be sensitive to climbers. We apologize if

these rules seem stringent, but CRAG-VT must continually balance the needs of climbers *and* neighboring landowners to ensure the success of current and future projects.

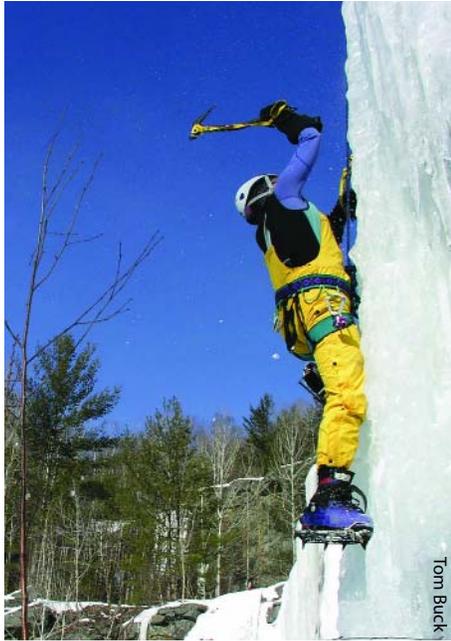
Also, the Quarry acquisition project received tremendous press locally and (*Burlington Free Press, Seven Days, NE Cable News*) and nationally (*Rock & Ice, Climbing Online and Access Fund Vertical Times*). While the publicity is great, it also means that many folks, who are new to CRAG-VT's mission and the sensitivity of the Quarry project, may visit. Please help welcome them and acquaint them (politely) to the special concerns of this property.

The Quarry will be permanently protected for climbing and recreation under a conservation easement held by the Vermont Land Trust and VHCB. CRAG-VT has drafted an interim management plan, and will improve the road access, create a park-

ing area, and build a small information kiosk next spring. CRAG-VT will also communicate with neighboring landowners to discuss their concerns regarding the Quarry management.

We also expect to hold a ribbon cutting event next fall. Stay tuned!

-Nicole Ballinger



Pam Moreau hammers up some Quarry ice. Tom Buck

Important Quarry Rules

Please help us ensure continued access to the Quarry by following these rules:

PARKING INFORMATION:

- ☼ DO NOT PARK ANYWHERE along Green Mountain Road, except at the brown W&CV Telecom hut.
- ☼ DO NOT BLOCK TRUCK ACCESS to the telecom hut. If there are already 3 CARS in the parking space, park at the Smilie School (on Rt. 2 at the foot of the Bolton Valley access road) and walk to the Quarry via the roads. DO NOT trespass across anyone else's land. If the lot's full, climb elsewhere.
- ☼ DO NOT block ANY driveways, roads or access—you will be towed.
- ☼ DO NOT TRESPASS across anyone else's land.

WHILE AT THE QUARRY:

- ☼ Keep noise to a minimum & respect neighboring landowners.
- ☼ NO camping or fires.
- ☼ Carry out all your trash.
- ☼ Reminder: Climbing is dangerous—you climb at your own risk.

Thank you to everyone who helped protect the Quarry. CRAG-VT will begin working on a better parking situation next spring. We appreciate your cooperation and hope you'll help ensure good relations with our neighbors.

THANK YOU Adopt-A-Craggers!

Over 35 people volunteered at the second annual CRAG-VT Adopt-a-Crag on September 25th. Participants restored trails at Lower West, which CRAG-VT owns, and a trail at the Upper West Bolton cliffs, which are privately owned. As an Access Fund Affiliate, CRAG-VT joined hundreds of other climbing organizations nationally in events that protect our most valuable resources! Trail day was supported by Healthy Living, Climb High, the UVM Outing Club, Bolton Conservation Commission, the Green Mountain Club, the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps, and Petra Cliffs.



Working on trail erosion control at upper west.

Paul Hansen/ecopixel.com

THE CRAG RAG

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

Issue Vol. 3 No. 1 - March 2005

CRAG-VT Board - 2005

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Nicole Ballinger - *Vice President*
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Alden Pellett
Ross Perry
Scott Conchieri

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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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

Welcome, Scott!

Scott Conchieri was voted on to the CRAG-VT Board at December's annual meeting. Scott says his involvement with CRAG-VT is driven by the love of climbing, and the desire to conserve the local climbing resource. Welcome aboard!

CRAG RAG Correction: In the August 2005 (Vol. 2 No. 2) "Everest Challenge" article, the Wilderness First Responder course was in fact donated by IREMS, the Initiative For Rural Emergency Medicine. IREMS is an initiative of the UVM School of Surgery, and is dedicated to education in emergency medicine in rural and remote areas. Visit www.uvm.edu/~irems/index.htm for more information on this program.

A Big THANKS to...

- * **The Vermont Housing & Conservation Board** for the grant for the Quarry Project.
- * **Vermont Land Trust** for holding the Quarry easement and helping with documentation.
- * **Job Heintz** for his volunteer work drafting the Quarry interim management plan.
- * **Scott Conchieri** for helping wade through the 2004 tax forms.
- * **Outdoor Gear Exchange** for newsletter and brochure printing.
- * **Ecopixel.com** for hosting and maintaining our website and email lists.
- * **The Bolton Adventure Center & Chip Schlegal** for providing space to hold the annual meeting at Bolton Valley.

CRAG-VT Celebrates & Looks Ahead

On December 1st, 45 climbers braved the early winter elements and ascended the Bolton Mountain road to discuss Vermont's climbing future at CRAG-VT's Annual Meeting, held at the Bolton Mountain Resort. Climbers came from as far away as Woodstock to hear about CRAG-VT's work over the past year and to talk about the future. Board members presented the details of the year's biggest news: CRAG-VT's purchase of the Bolton Quarry. In addition, Scott Conchieri was elected as a new Board member and officers were re-elected for another term.

Attendees suggested several issues facing Vermont's climbing community. Among the most pressing concerns was a continued and enhanced dialogue with the State of Vermont on the access and management of Smugglers' Notch and other State-owned lands.

Climbers also questioned climbing and route development at Upper West Bolton and other crags on private land.

CRAG-VT presented a synopsis of its informal work with landowners at Upper West, noting that a 2001 "handshake agreement" between climbers and local landowners prompted a bolting moratorium that continues to this day. CRAG-VT stated that all suggestions would be strongly considered as it formulated a plan for the coming year. As always, CRAG-VT encouraged climbers to communicate with others in the climbing community about existing routes, as well as to learn the history of an area and the climbers who came before them.

Thanks again to everyone who participated at this year's annual meeting!

~Tom Buck & Heather Furman

President Resigns

The President of CRAG-VT, Heather Furman, announced her resignation in late December. Although stepping down as president, Heather will remain on the Board to assist CRAG-VT's new President and continue CRAG-VT's grant reporting responsibilities. The Board plans to announce a new President in the coming months.

Under Heather's watch, CRAG-VT evolved from a loose-knit group of concerned climbers into one of the nation's model grassroots organizations. Heather managed the acquisition of Lower West Bolton and the Bolton Quarry purchase.

"Heather was a great motivator and her professional knowledge of land protection helped CRAG-VT accomplish an astonishing amount in a short time," said Nicole Ballinger, CRAG-VT Vice President, who is currently acting as interim President.



Paul Hansen/ecopixel.com

Heather wielded a pulaski axe with style at the Lower West Trail Day last fall.

"I hope Heather now has more time to do what she loves—climbing!"

On behalf of the Board and its members, CRAG-VT thanks Heather for her tremendous service to Vermont's climbing community. The Board looks forward to many years of continued work with her.

- Tom Buck

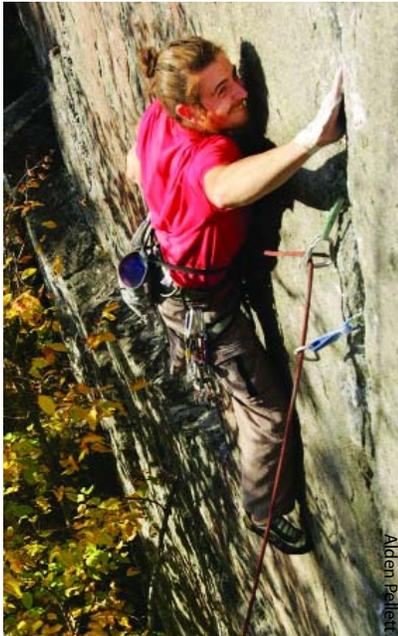
The CHOSS PILE Vermont Climbing News...

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

ROCK

The 2004 rock season was a wet one, with many routes in Smuggler's Notch barely drying out enough to see ascents. Despite the general drench, Derek Doucet completed an excellent new route called Leaver Beaver (5.11-). The climb tackles a line of impeccable rock up fantastic square-cut holds to join the first belay of the Big Daddy Arete, making an excellent direct-start to the route.

Peter Kametsis continues to set the pace and define himself as the area's strongest climber. Last summer, Kametsis became the first person to properly free one of the last great problems in the Adirondacks—Zabba on the Spider's Web. This route has a long-standing reputation for having thwarted many world-class climbers and has not previously seen a proper lead. Kametsis placed all of his protection on lead while undertaking teetery, off-balance climbing and blind cam placements. After skipping the crux bolt, Kametsis finished the pitch with a very long run-out over an RP. Kametsis said that he felt the pitch was 5.13b and indicated that it had tricky protection. To close out the year, Kametsis added another hard tick to his resume by bagging Parallel Universe (5.14a) at Rumney on a "warm day" in December.



Pete Kametsis on Zabba (5.13b) at the Spider's Web wall in the Adirondacks.

ICE

The end result of a stop-and-go early season is, of course, fat ice. Several local climbers have mentioned unpleasant overcrowding this year, both in Smuggler's Notch as well as in Chittenden County's new hotspot—the Bolton Quarry. Hopefully, this is an anomaly caused by a rather lackluster ski season, but we'll have to wait and see.

While virtually all of the trade-routes have formed up and seen ascents, one of

particular interest is the second ascent of Cloak and Dagger (WI 6) by Alden Pellett and Ryan Stefiuk. Pellett, who lead the crux 4th pitch leashless, described the route as "incredible." Pellett's other accomplishments this season include the first ascent of a new line left of Norton-Gibney in Smuggler's Notch. Illogical Hydrology (WI 5) tackles thin ice and rock to gain a belay below a small free-hanger. After pulling this short section of overhanging ice, grade 4 pillars lead to the top.

While climbers are seeing very few new flows this season, one rarity did form up. Derek Doucet and Garrett Bywaters established Cuando Para Mucho (WI 4) on Deer Leap above Bristol, VT. Ascending a very thin runnel of ice in a left-facing corner system, this 45-meter pitch is only likely to come into shape very, very rarely. Bring thin ice pro and some rock gear for protection if you're lucky enough to see this excellent route form again.

Finally, Will Mayo's exploits are certainly worth noting. Mayo has accomplished an impressive series of ascents this winter both local and afar including first ascents of M8 in the Adirondacks, repeats of M9 and bold solos of routes up to WI6. One story worth mentioning: after leaving a bouldering session at my place around 9:00pm, Mayo drove to Cannon and soloed the Black Dike with a headlamp.

BOULDERS

Out bouldering in this weather?... Give yer fingers a rest and send some news to the Choss Pile about the problems you've been sending!

MORE LOCAL NEWS...

On November 20th at the Sandstone Quarry pullout off the loop road in Red Rocks, NV, on a natural ledge just before reaching the Trophy formation, (biggest holds you'll ever fall off!) Liam Griffin and Ara Finlayson tied the knot, in a ceremony

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.



Vermont climbers Ara Finlayson and Liam Griffin tied the knot last fall at Red Rocks, NV!

conducted by Rich Wilson, a.k.a "The hiking reverend." Climbing took place after the event at the Mass Production, Holiday Walls, and Sandstone Quarry. The bride wore white capris and a white sport top! Congratulations and "on-belay" to Ara and Liam from CRAG-VT!

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

- The Choss Pile was compiled by Travis Peckham. Many thanks to those who helped: AP, DF, DD, WM and others.

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.

Meet the CRAG-VT Board

The CRAG-VT Board met recently for a day-long retreat to plan and prioritize goals for the future. We'll talk about that in coming newsletters, but in the meantime, here's a mugshot of nearly the whole gang.

Pictured are: (back, left to right) Ross Perry, Paul Hansen, and Tom Buck; (front, left to right) Scott Conchieri, Nicole Ballinger, Pam Moreau, Dick Katzman, Alden Pellett, Dave Furman, and Heather Furman. (Nancy Koenig-Peckham and Travis Peckham also attended the retreat, but had to leave before the photo was taken.) Thanks to John Abbott of the UVM Outing Club for letting us use the club's cabin in Bolton for the day.



Ross Perry

We hope to see you climbing soon. Or, stop by a Board meeting sometime. Meetings are typically held at 6:30pm on the first Wednesday of each month at the Camel's Hump Middle School in Richmond. Check the website for schedule changes, or call (802) 229-0140 to confirm.

Upcoming Events...

☼ March 9, 2005 @ 7:00pm: **The First Ascent of Adi Kailash**, Climb High, 2438 Shelburne Rd, Shelburne. Info: 802-985-5055.

☼ March 16, 2005 @ 7:00pm: **Backcountry Skiing in the Southern Andes**, Climb High, 2438 Shelburne Rd, Shelburne. Info: 802-985-5055.

☼ June 25 & 26, 2005: **Women's Rock Day**, North Conway, NH. Info: 603-356-7064 or www.ime-usa.com/womensrockday.



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THE CRAG RAG
MARCH 2005