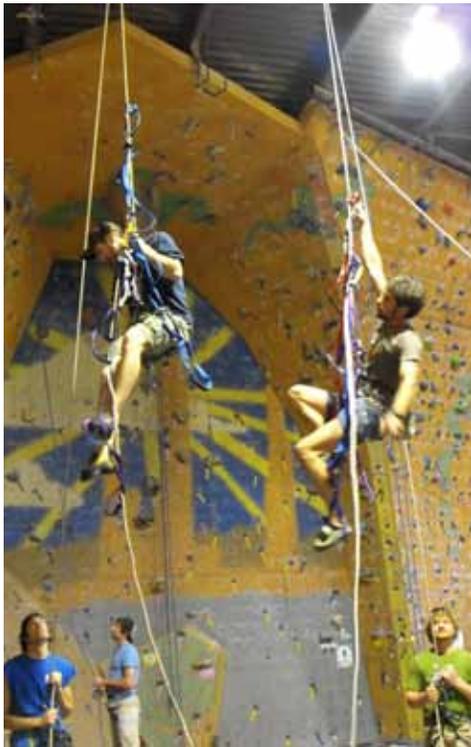


SINISTER SIX SUCCESS

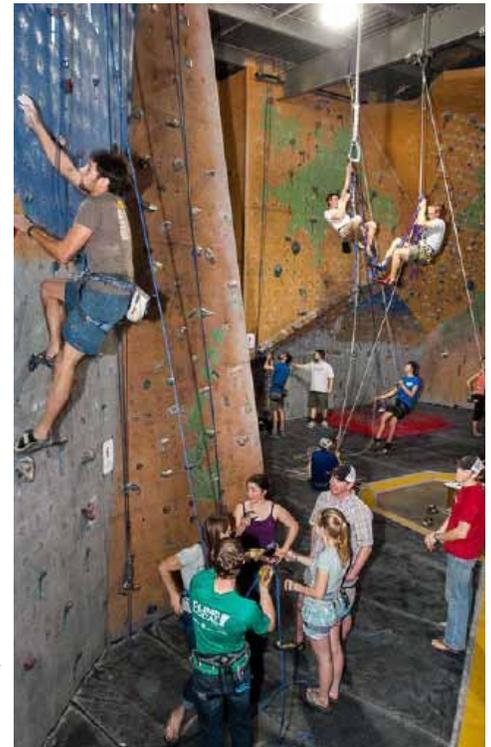
OVER \$800 RAISED TOWARDS THE BOLTON QUARRY DRIVEWAY REBUILD



Steve Charest and Jake List juggling during the timed event.

Photo: Ross Perry

Sinister Six participant quickly working on equalizing a trad anchor.

Photo: Ross Perry

Sinister Six participants and spectators enjoying the event.

Photo: Paul Hansen / paulhansen.com

Dozens of participants stepped up to the climbing challenges CRAG-VT threw at them

Admittedly, we planned our spring fundraiser for that uncertain shoulder season: when most of the ice has fallen down (or will with the next swing of your tool) and most of the rock is still wet and seeping, when the roads turn to a chaos of muddy ruts, and when what would have been a foot and a half of snow a month earlier is now an inch and a half of rain. What better time of year to bring climbers together and get them fired up, right? What better thing to do than go to the gym and join in some roped shenanigans and maybe win a prize, right? Well when the mercury reached 81 degrees--the fourth day in a row above 75 degrees, and the average for this time of year is 41 degrees?!--and the sun came out (again), we worried this event was going to be a total

bust. So we were pretty stoked when over a dozen participants stepped indoors for a competitive evening of speed/lap climbing, dry tooling, knot tying, weighted climbing, aid climbing, and anchor building. With burgers and dogs on the grill and volunteers aplenty, participants moved from station-to-station in whatever order they preferred. "I shouldn't have done the lapped climbing right before the jumaring," one participant moaned. "I don't know what to do with these things," said another at the anchor building station, "I'll just take the five minute penalty." "Blindfolded?!" cried another at the knot tying station. Good times! Between participants' entry fees and donations, as well as the silent auction, CRAG-VT raised over \$800

towards the Bolton Quarry Driveway Rebuilding Campaign. Thanks to all of the spirited participants and volunteers that came out for this event. Thank you to Petra Cliffs Climbing Center for hosting yet another CRAG-VT fundraiser. And thanks to the following companies that donated gear and/or services for prizes and silent auction items: Mammut, Climb High, Eastern Mountain Sports, Julbo, La Sportiva, Sunrise Mountain Guides, Alpine Guides International, Petra Cliffs, and Green Mountain College. Word on the street is another event is in the works for the future: The Nasty Nine...or perhaps, The Dirty Dozen...stay tuned!

—Dennis Delay

MEMBERSHIP GUIDEBOOK DEAL

As most of you may already know, Travis Peckham has published the first rock climbing guidebook for the state of Vermont. When you become a member of CRAG-VT at the \$100 level, you will receive a signed copy of *Tough Schist* with your membership. Thanks for helping us protect Vermont rock climbing!

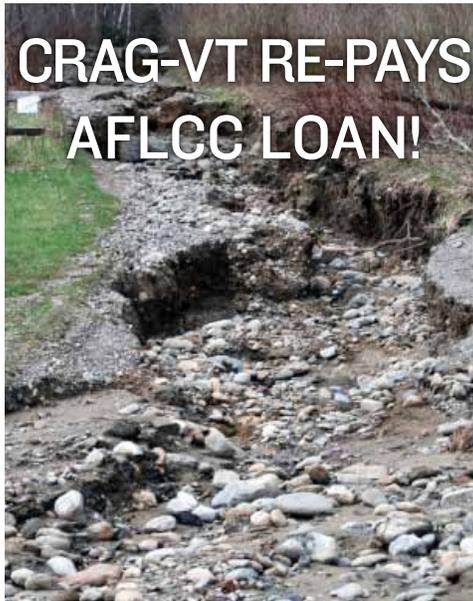


Photo: Dr. Dick Katzman

The Climbing Resource Access Group of Vermont (CRAG-VT) made their final payment in June on their Access Fund Land Conservation Campaign (AFLCC) loan. The loan, given in July of last year, was for emergency stewardship action to repair the access road to major local crags (including Bolton Quarry, 82 Crag, and the recently acquired Carcass Crag) after it was washed out in a flood last June, blocking climbing access. The Access Fund amended its AFLCC loan policy last summer to allow for emergency stewardship funding, and CRAG-VT was the first organization to benefit from this amendment. CRAG-VT is the fourth organization to fully pay back their AFLCC loan, returning funds to the revolving loan program where the Access Fund will loan the money out again to save another threatened climbing area.

—Seth Maciejowski

A FEW THANKS

CRAG-VT wouldn't exist without an engaged community of members and supporters – *like you*. It's that support that makes it possible for this organization to undertake important access, conservation, education, and acquisition projects. This issue, the following folks deserve particular thanks:

- Outdoor Gear Exchange – Outdoor Gear Exchange for their “nickel-a-bag” donation program and to KeyBank for their matching contribution;
- Access Fund – for their \$8,000 loan to CRAG-VT;
- Access Fund – for their \$3,500 contribution for the Bolton Quarry access road repair;
- American Alpine Club - for their \$2,000 Cornerstone Grant contribution toward the Quarry access road repair;
- An anonymous donor – for their recent contribution of \$1,500;
- Dr. Dick Katzman – for his many visits and work on flagging the trail to the 82 Crag;
- Everyone who contributed to the Bolton Quarry Trail Day, especially Kel Rossiter for planning it all, Dennis Delay for directing trail crews to needed areas, and the 27 volunteers who showed up to work on a raw, soggy day;
- VYCC for their ongoing willingness to loan us tools for trail maintenance;
- Liv Perry, for the construction of the 10' wooden ladder which was placed in the upper Quarry;
- Bill Menning, for his donation of the picnic table at the Quarry; and
- Town of Richmond/Camels Hump Middle School – for allowing us to use the school year after year for our monthly meetings.

ATTENTION ICE CLIMBERS:

Because of financial constraints and the high cost of keeping snow cleared during heavy snow years, CRAG-VT will not be plowing the access road to the Bolton Quarry during the 2012-2013 ice climbing season. The best location for parking this winter is the Smilie School. Simply walk along Route 2 and up Green Mountain Drive to the Quarry - it's a great warm-up!



AFFILIATE

THE CRAG RAG is the official membership newsletter of Climbing Resource Access Group of Vermont (CRAG-VT).

Fall 2012 | Volume 9 Number 3

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

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL CRAGS and get other great membership benefits when you join or renew online today at WWW.CRAGVT.ORG

CRAG-VT BOARD MEMBERS

- Seth Maciejowski – *President*
- Ross Perry – *Vice President, Conservation & Stewardship Committee Chair*
- Andrea Charest – *Treasurer*
- Dennis Delay – *Secretary*
- David Crothers
- Matt Ernst
- Nate Furman
- Paul Hansen – *Webmaster, Membership and Education & Outreach Committee Chair*
- Dr. Richard Katzman – *LWB Land Steward*
- Travis Peckham
- Kel Rossiter – *Access & Acquisitions Committee Chair*

CRAG-VT ADVISORY BOARD

- Mike Anderson
- Heather Furman
- Job Heintz
- Pam Moreau
- Alden Pellett
- Adam Sherman

CONTACT INFORMATION

PO Box 614
Richmond, VT 05477
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. Please call or email to confirm the time and date.

Website hosting provided Ecopixel
www.ecopixel.com

Newsletter layout by David Crothers
www.davidcrothers.com

The Choss Pile

Vermont Climbing News



Photo: Travis Peckham

Seth Maciejowski reaches for excellent finger locks on Pitch I (5.9) of Boneless Chicken 5.10d 230' Marshfield Ledge

The winter of 2011-2012 will be marked as the winter that never was in many parts of New England. As bad as conditions were, strange seasons make for strange routes forming. Up in Smuggs, Bert Severin's excellent Happy Birthday (M4, WI3+) formed in really great condition with a number of locals snatching up repeat ascents of this great line. Matt McCormick, knowing that truly "mixed" weather conditions often mean great climbing on Cannon, teamed up with New Hampshire climbers Bayard Russell and Freddie Wilkinson to snatch the coveted second ascent of Will Mayo and Andy Tuthill's masterpiece Mean Streak (M7, WI6) after a five year wait. As poor weather cycles persisted through the season, Matt took advantage of the "Scottish" conditions to establish another Cannon mixed route with Bayard Russell and pulled off the ascent of a significant new variation on Icarus called The Minotaur (M6, WI4+) which climbs thin smears on the right side of the Duet Buttress and takes the line of Icarus to the summit. Nice work Matt and Bayard!

While the winter was pretty poor for ice climbing, particularly at Lake Willoughby, it made for a late end to the fall rock season and an early March start to the spring season.

After climbing a bunch of the routes on the left side of Marshfield ledge in September, Travis Peckham and Seth Maciejowski spotted a potential line in the vicinity of Parula. Over the next six months, Peckham and Maciejowski established the four pitch route Deadline (5.10c 450'). This new line was put in ground up and starts at the toe of the ledge and reaches the summit in four pitches (5.8, 5.10a, 5.10c, and 5.9) and offers up great face and friction climbing. During repeat trips in which the last pitch was established and freed, Peckham and Maciejowski noticed a beautiful crack line just to the right of Deadline's second pitch. After some cleaning, the 2 pitch variation Boneless Chicken (5.10d 230') was established. The fantastic 5.9 finger crack on the first pitch is destined to be a classic, while the thin gear crux on the second pitch may slow a few people down.

Lack of ice didn't prevent the energetic Mainer Josh Hurst from establishing a new 4 pitch mixed line at Lake Willoughby. With partner Ryan Brooks, Hurst spent over 50 hours on the road cleaning and bolting Road Warrior (M8) which climbs an enormous dihedral between The White Strip and Bullwinkle. Hurst, in an interview with

Climberism exclaimed "Road Warrior is hands down the best mixed route I've been on at Lake Willoughby." Hopefully someone can get on the route next winter and provide a second opinion. With decent protection and steep climbing, this line is destined to be popular.

SM with help from TP, MM, Neice, Climberism and others



Photo: Bob Yates

Travis Peckham free climbing Pitch 4 (5.9) of Deadline 5.10c 450' Marshfield Ledge



Tough Schist

VERMONT'S FIRST ROCK CLIMBING GUIDEBOOK

Writing a rock climbing guide to Vermont was not really my plan from the outset. Sure, I suppose I'd flirted with the idea on and off since moving home after college in 1993 but never with any serious intent. I'd kept a few notes about new routes that were done, and I did my best to explore as much of Vermont's climbing as I could, but more with the expectation that someday a guidebook author would knock on my door looking for information. I didn't expect to be using it in a book I would write myself.

Working with the CRAG-VT crew over past ten years has been amazing. In that time, dozens of people have brought their talent and hard work to projects that have protected Lower West, Upper West, the Bolton Quarry, the Carcass Crag, and the 82 Crag. What's more, CRAG-VT has worked with the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources to maintain access to places like Smuggler's Notch, Marshfield Ledges and Mount Pisgah. But despite the time and energy spent by our board members and volunteers, I have always been surprised by how little these

people knew of the cliffs they were protecting. Knowledge of Vermont's climbs has been the purview of a very small number of people and often unknown even to those working hard to protect the cliffs where they are located.

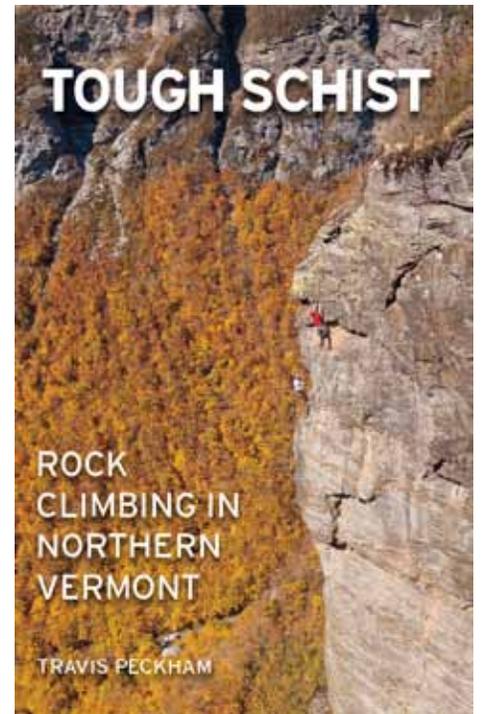
In the fall of 2009, I decided that it would be a great idea to write up a mini-guide to Bolton covering the cliffs CRAG-VT had worked to protect. Making this information available to our community was something I could do to help pay back those that had worked hard to protect access to these places. After documenting the Bolton crags, I decided to add Smuggler's Notch; a place with secure access and many excellent, yet under-visited, routes. While I was working on Smugg's, word of my project had begun to spread and soon people were emailing me with questions like, "Will Marshfield be in the guide?" "How about Deer Leap?" "Wheeler Mountain?" "Have you spoken to so-and-so yet?" The project quickly took on a life of its own, with people sending me pictures, route information, and invitations to climb.

After three years of effort, it's finally done. Needless to say, finding the time to document over 500 routes on cliffs all over the state was a difficult challenge with the demands of a more-than-full-time job and raising young children. Most of my writing time was squeezed into 5AM to 7AM before-work sessions, much to the detriment of my sleep and exercise. It's been a long road, but a rewarding one. I've done some great climbing, met some incredible people, and worked as hard as I've ever worked in my life. The tremendous support and encouragement I've received from our climbing community has been a great honor, and it has allowed me to unearth a lot of our history and rediscover classic climbs I hadn't known existed.

While the existence of a climbing guide to Vermont will bring more attention to the area and probably affect the character of some of our crags, it's my sincere hope that it will also strengthen our knowledge and appreciation for these places and encourage us to protect them in the future. My motivation for writing this book has been driven by my love of this place, its people, and its climbs. I hope that in sharing some of the best experiences of my life, I can help you find some of the best experiences of yours.

Have fun and climb safe!

—Travis Peckham



LOCAL FACES: Kris Barrowman

I've been mountaineering since I could walk, and was introduced to more technical climbing in the Adirondacks by college friends back in 1990. I took to technical ice and rock wholeheartedly in 1992 (when I gave up ski racing) and started leading the same year.

My favorite rock climbing areas are Cannon, Wallface, and Wheeler, but I also enjoy the no-traffic multi-pitch climbing available throughout the Adirondacks, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Any long, traditional route with solid stone and good gear will do! I'm also satisfied climbing rocks just beyond my dooryard.

I started leading during my senior year of high school, mainly in MA with the occasional trip to NH. I remember my first time leading *Moby Grape* on Cannon Cliff and it taking my friend and I all day long, like 12 hours or something! We were completely destroyed afterward for days.

My favorite rock route was an absolutely beta-less climb I had walked up to outside of Dunkeld, Scotland. I had no information other than a one-time relation's exclamation of "there's some rocks on that hill." It followed an awesome hand-crack through an over two-body-length roof; above that was unknown. With 160 feet of climbing bliss, it was surely a many-starred difficult route. I never bothered finding it in a guidebook, nor do I want to.



Kris double-checking Lief's gear before climbing at Prospect Rock in Johnson.

I've also done lots of first ascents throughout the northeast, always gleaned what I can by studying the wall from below.



Kris leading a steep pillar at the Workout Wall at Smuggs

My favorite ice climbing areas are Katahdin and Willoughby, but I do spend a lot of time at Smugglers Notch, my home crag. I really like big ice, which I've found while enjoying routes in Alaska, Canada, Switzerland, Italy, and France. I'd also like to climb some Norwegian behemoths someday.

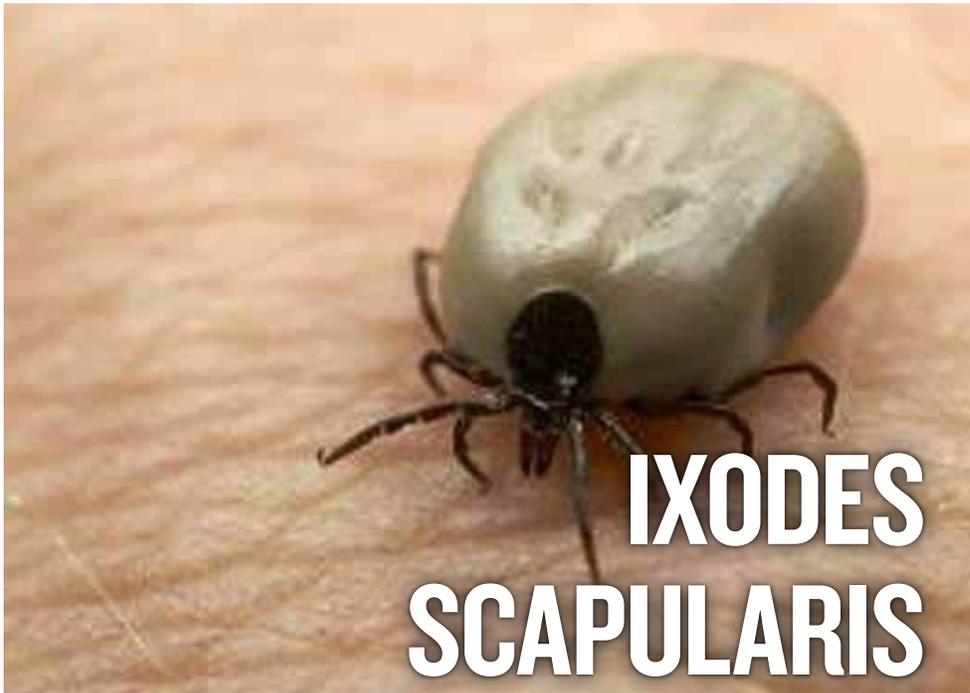
My favorite ice climbing route is the next one I'm headed for; I really don't have a favorite. One memorable ascent was during a thin-ice year in 1998 while leading *Remission* at Cathedral. It was repeated much later in the season by only two parties, according to the IME guide I had befriended as a partner. Another memorable one was a five-pitch first ascent in 1995 in Smugglers Notch; the lower pitches later were dubbed *Tri-Scam* and the finishing pitches were over the classic rock route *Quartz Crack*. Not only were the middle pitches entirely condition-dependent and mixed, but the moves from beyond *Tri-Scam's* ending roof onto the face were unforgettable.

The scariest whipper I've taken was on a solid A4 unclimbed aid route, after a good nut placement some 35 feet below. All of the moves above this nut were hooked, protected with a couple of manky nuts, a nest of well-pasted heads, and a solid pecker. At the apex of where I had climbed to, I placed three equalized small nuts. After agreement, my belayer came

off the anchor to attach a forgotten haul-line to another line I had just lowered. Like a nightmare as my belayer unclipped, the stone exploded in multiple places in front of me like a gunshot. As I floated down in freefall and the seconds added up, I just kept feeling these pops as more gear successively pulled. I had time to wonder if my flight experience would stop slowly or suddenly on the ledge below.... When I stopped, I had taken over a 70-foot whipper, ripping all the gear down to the solid nut and dragging my belayer across the belay ledge to the cliff. He looked at me and his first words were, "Kris, should I lower you now?" I looked back at him quizzically with a demented smirk, not saying a word as I began bouncing up and down with my feet actually touching the ground. Perhaps completely demented, we laughed hysterically with each other for many minutes. Finally, the reality of what had happened set in and we were just glad to still have each other as living, uninjured friends. Jason Denner and I climbed together on many other local first ascents for a few more years; although, neither of us climb A4 above ledges anymore. Both of us were amazed he held the fall relatively unbeaten.

The progression of Vermont climbing has gone from unearthing the next ascent as the older generation pass along their gems to a much larger community of folks, including

Photo: Ross Perry



TICKS 5.14 AT UPPER WEST BOLTON/ INFECTS CRAG-VT BOARD MEMBER

The deer tick is not known for its climbing abilities, but recently, a local climber and CRAG-VT board member learned just how capable the critter is at infecting humans with the bacteria that causes Lyme disease. As our climate warms, the list of serious infections that the black-legged tick can transmit also includes Anaplasmosis and Babesiosis (huh?) as well as some viruses. But Lyme disease remains the most commonly reported tick-borne disease in the country, and the number of cases in Vermont is steadily rising.

Ticks feed once during each life stage. After you've been bitten, they usually stay attached and feed on your blood for up to five days. They become engorged, visibly larger, and regurgitate the infectious bacteria into your bloodstream while feasting. It takes a while for the tick to transmit Lyme disease; there's not much risk if it's attached for less than 36 hours. The longer it's there, the higher the risk; overall, the chance of getting Lyme disease after a tick bite is about 5%. The best way to prevent disease is to prevent tick bites: remove ticks promptly, avoid places where ticks like to be (don't go climbing so I don't have to wait to do the routes I want), don't wander lost through grassy and brushy areas, and stay on trails. After an outing, do a careful tick check and don't forget your pets: include from head to toe, the scalp, armpits, groin, back, and backside of the legs (the critters love warm

areas, but can't make it past tight garments like socks, underwear and belts). The best way to remove a tick is to grasp it close to the skin with a pair of tweezers and pull up steadily until it comes out intact; there are many removal tools you can buy, but not all of them work well.

Repellents are very effective in preventing tick attachment. Make sure what you're using is effective against deer ticks. DEET is safe when used properly in concentrations up to 30%; higher concentrations are not really better. Permethrin is a repellent and insecticide that can be applied to clothing and gear, sprayed on, and is very effective even after going through the washing machine. Wearing light clothing makes it easier to spot ticks, and stylishly tucking pants into socks with a tight weave can help prevent bites.

Most of the time, no treatment is needed after a tick bite unless symptoms develop. If you don't have symptoms, routine use of antibiotics or blood tests aren't recommended. Current guidelines support using a single dose of the antibiotic doxycycline to prevent Lyme disease in adults and children 8 years and older if a deer tick has likely been attached for more than 36 hours and the medicine can be taken within 72 hours of tick removal. Treating Lyme disease and its long-term impacts on the nervous system, the heart, and the joints is another matter entirely. Your best bet,

Local Faces Continued: Kris Barrowman

therefore, is prevention. world-class stars that have now have put Vermont on the map. Now with CRAG-VT and many other dedicated folks' contributions, we have a modern foundation for the next generation to launch skyward from. The new guidebook, *Tough Schist*, will not only document Vermont's climbing history, but also give everyone a place to start on their next new adventure!

Speaking of *Tough Schist*, Vermont really needed a guidebook! Through the years, many partners and I logged and reported routes all over Vermont, New Hampshire, and New York. I had lost interest in reporting anything, as I found history only mattered to those profiting from it from some way, either financially, socially, or egotistically. I've heard it time and again through the years: "Oh, we climbed that decades ago with wooden pegs, a few chockstones in our pockets, and some clothesline on which we pre-strung drilled out railroad nuts!" Many of these stories in Vermont and elsewhere were obviously true, many stories have been lost, and I'm sure more than a few embellished with beer or other substances. Travis and many others I know kept their own logs for their own use and to share with friends. I was glad to contribute much of what I could add from my own publications and notes to Travis's new guide. Travis's book will show that if you can climb here in New England and Vermont, through all it has to dish out, you can climb anywhere. The well-proven corollary can be attested to by any seasoned/travelled skier!

Kris Barrowman lives in Jeffersonville with his wife Judy and son Lief. He enjoys sharing the passion of climbing with his son year-round throughout the northeast.

—As told to Ross Perry



Photo: David Crothers

Stiff competition this year with all the participants with a tie-breaker between Andrea Charest, Janet Bergman, and Melissa McNell

The 6th annual Smuggs Ice Bash, held January 27th through the 29th, was an overall success. Climbers from near and far were in attendance, and all were presented with a variety of activities throughout the weekend.

On Friday night, the 2nd annual Vermont Drytooling Comp was held at Petracliffs in Burlington. Jake List and Andrea Charest took the top of the podium

with their killer performances. It was an exciting event with a lot of great competition and company! The 2013 Smuggs Ice Bash is just around the corner so start training!

On Saturday, plenty of ice was available for climbing in Smugglers Notch, even with the inconsistent weather patterns that led up to the event. Gear demos, clinics, and on-site tech representatives were available to help climbers sort through the

multitude of gear available to try out, while many guides were out and about with their clients. Saturday night's festivities were held at the Village Tavern in Jeffersonville, where attendees were enlightened by a talk and slideshow presentation from Freddie Wilkinson and Janet Bergman, both from the North Conway area. Freddie first spoke about a trip to Nepal that he made with Ueli Steck, and followed with his trip to India to climb the world's second highest unclimbed peak, Saser Kangri II. After being wowed by the stories and photos from Freddie's impressive ascent, a gear raffle finished off the night. The raffle consisted of generous contributions from local guiding services, gear shops, and equipment manufacturers. The \$490 made from the raffle directly supported CRAG-VT's efforts to repay a loan for repairs made to the Bolton Quarry access road, which was severely damaged from a strong storm in late May 2011. Luckily, the repairs held up well, as Tropical Storm Irene followed in late August and left no damage to the access road.

Once again, a very special thank you goes to Bert Severin and Sunrise Adventure Sports, for six years of providing a great ice climbing festival and winter sports trade show in Vermont! Thanks also to the sponsors who contributed to the weekend: Alpinist, Climberism Magazine, NEice.com, Black Diamond, Kayland, Sterling, Isis, Nemo, Julbo, La Sportiva, Mammut, MSR, Petzl, Climb High, and Outdoor Research.

Next year's Smuggs Ice Bash will be held on January 25-27, 2013, so mark your calendars!

—Ross Perry and David Crothers



Photo: David Crothers



Photo: David Crothers



Photo: David Crothers



Photo: David Crothers



Photo: David Crothers

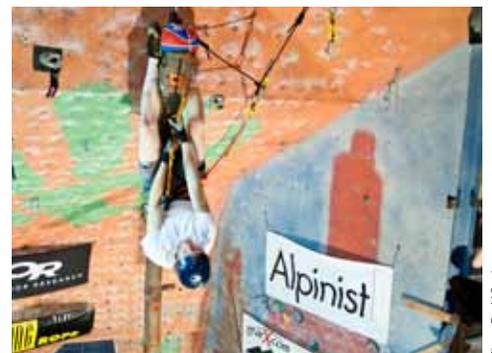


Photo: David Crothers