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Dear Vermont Climbers,

The time is finally here, The Bolton Dome is officially open! Of course it's still winter, but we wanted to fill everyone in on where we are.

The first thing to know is that no, we haven't magically constructed a parking lot in the middle of the winter. Some of you know we've been holding off on opening with plans to build a climber's lot. As it turns out, these plans are pushing beyond our means, and while we will continue to work to make a designated climber's lot exist in the future, we don't want to delay the opening of the cliff any further. So we're cutting the rope... er... ribbon!

Without a climber's lot we will use the current right-of-way we've established with our neighbors for foot travel only. While perhaps not as convenient as a climber's lot, we are still very excited by the prospect of opening this new cliff and are asking for your cooperation as we launch into this new chapter of Vermont climbing so as to ensure smooth transition and collaboration with our new neighbors in Bolton. Instructions for how to access the cliff can be found at the end of this letter.

This project brings to life one of Bolton's most historic climbing venues. Efforts to re-open this cliff have spanned decades and has been the tireless work of dozens of individuals in that time. Whether it's experienced climbers scaling 5.13, or kids climbing on their first 5.3, this cliff has both to offer and we can't wait to see climbers enjoying it this spring and for countless years to come.

Thank You!

Of course, this announcement cannot be made without extending thanks to the many people who helped make this project happen. Time and money are what all big projects need and this initiative was the largest we've ever attempted. Whether you gave \$5 or \$500, five minutes or countless hours, we appreciate your generosity to CRAG-VT. We also want to thank The Access Fund for providing us with hours of guidance and insight and obviously the enormous loan to buy the land. Specifically we want to name Joe Sambataro and Mike Morin at The Access Fund for their efforts.

To the companies and organizations who have provided support to this project:

Halyard Brewing (Kenny Richards) for providing drinks at our events, Petra Cliffs Mountaineering Center (Andrea and Steve Charest) for hosting events, Timber Homes LLC (Mikey Perkins) for donating wood and constructing our beautiful climber kiosk. We of course must thank The Outdoor Gear Exchange staff for coordinating grant money and directly donating to the project as well as organizing and hosting events and providing the local stoke to Vermont climber's for decades; specifically we want to name Mike Donahue and Carolyn Lawrence for their concentrated efforts with OGE/Gearx.com.

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To Mountain Hardware for their donation of \$2,500 in products for raffling, to The Grassroots Alliance for their \$2,500 grant, to The Access Fund (again) for their \$5,000 grant, to the Conservation Alliance for their grant of \$40,000, the single largest donation we've received. Thanks to the ASCA for donation of hardware to update the bolts and anchors at the dome and to Greg Kuchyt for his time and meticulous efforts to install it. Thank you to The Archives Bar for hosting climber game night and to American Flatbread for their Benefit Bake. To the anonymous granting organizations and individuals who gave to this project, you know who you are, we thank you.

Distinguished individual efforts not already noted:

To Fraser Query and Colby Yee for creation of promotional materials and videography to promote donations and information about the project. To Jeremy Gilchrist for drone footage and photos for topos. To Brian Diezel for allowing us to use his photo for a shirt designed for free by Dylan Fant who donated his time and artistic abilities used for promotion and fundraising. To Thom Corrado for providing food at our events and for event coordination efforts. To Dr. Richard (Dick) Katzman who deserves immense recognition for his many hours spent behind the scenes as a retired board member attending meetings, coordinating maps, signs, and many other logistical tasks over the past 18 months, although his efforts on this project have realistically been spread out for decades. To Duncan Robb for donating a lawn tractor to sweeten the deal of the house sale. And to anyone else who has given efforts specifically to this project, I'm so sorry I may have missed you!

As I compile this list I am overwhelmed with positivity and excitement about Vermont climbing. I would also be remiss to not specifically name and thank my fellow and past board members who have seen this project through. Seth Maciejowski, Andrea Charest, Rob Fleming, Travis Peckham, Steve Charest, Tim Farr, Mischa Tourin, Roderick Russell, Emily Harwood, Andrew Schumer, John Casari, Sarah Fox, and Kel Rossiter. Your support to this project cannot be overstated. It took dozens of meetings, hours of deliberation, hundreds of emails, a few sleepless nights, advice, insight, and positive energy when things got complicated. This community and myself thank you!

With appreciation,
Kris Fiore
CRAAG-VT President

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How to climb at The Dome:

We're planning an opening party with The Outdoor Gear Exchange in the spring so we can talk about the project, eat some food and cake, celebrate, and show everyone around. Until then, here are the details!

Access/Parking: To access the Bolton Dome, park at the Smilie School on Route 2 or at The Bolton Quarry and walk east on Route 2 to Champ Ln. Turn left up Champ Ln. until you reach 122 Champ Ln. on the righthand side. From here there is a sign for the foot trail that will bring you up to the Bolton Dome. Do not drive or park on Champ Ln. All parts of Champ Ln. are private property that is not owned by CRAAG-VT and parking on Champ Ln. will result in your car being towed. This includes the driveway of 122 Champ Ln. The walk is 22 minutes from the school to the base of the cliff.

Property Restrictions: In the spring we will schedule a formal trail day to shore up some of the trails that connect the various walls and climbs and show people around the property. Also know that the cliff is abutted on both sides by private land. Feel free to explore the woods above the dome as well, and if you want to, please hike along the western side of the cliff and up into the woods. CRAAG-VT's new property extends north all the way until you reach Green Crow Logging Company property which is the site of the 82 Crag. Property and Trail maps will eventually be posted online and at the CRAAG-VT kiosk at the Dome. This is now a huge loop of recreational land!

Rules:

- The cliff is open for climbing from dawn until dusk.
- Do not park anywhere on Champ Ln. including the driveway of 122 Champ Ln.
- Please limit noise while climbing.
- Group use policies apply to the Bolton Dome consistent with all other CRAAGVT properties.
- No campfires are permitted at the Bolton Dome.
- All rules applicable to other CRAAG-VT properties apply to The Bolton Dome.