

# RRGCC eNewsletter

Fall 2006

## Climbing Access in Focus

### Inside This Issue

- 1 [Climbing Access in Focus](#)
- 2 [Rocktobefest Success](#)
- 3 [Why the RRGCC?](#)
- 4 [The LAC Process](#)
- 5 [JACD2 WrapUp](#)
- 6 [Torrent Falls Closure](#)
- 7 [What is the RRGCC?](#)
- 8 [How you can help](#)
- 9 [Around the Red and RRGCC Financials](#)
- 10 [Closures and News Flashes](#)
- 11 [Around the region](#)

*In the next issue, look for:*

- *interviews with the people re-equipping the Red*
- *Featured Crag*
- *PMRP Environmental Description*

Whether you liked it or not, “never trust one piece” and “always be redundant, always” have probably been branded into your head over the years. The reasons: safety, security, and support. Not surprisingly, these same qualities motivate organizations to coordinate their efforts towards common goals. In this spirit, the [Red River Gorge Climbers’ Coalition](#) (RRGCC) and the [Access Fund](#) often find themselves working together to create and sustain climber access in the region. At any one time, certain regions have greater needs than others do. Pulling from a national level, the Access Fund is able to direct time, effort, and energy to the areas that need it most. The size and scope of the organization also allow it to create relatively large amounts of revenue that can be directed to priority regions.

With such a broad organization, though, it’s often difficult to focus intently on any one area. That’s where the RRGCC comes in strong. Focused solely on the Red River Gorge, the RRGCC can engage the follow-through on the local level. The RRGCC’s knowledge of the region, contacts in the area, and base of support make it an excellent agent for change and action specifically for this region. Think of the two like a high-end camera, the AF the long-zoom lens and the RRGCC the finely-tuned aperture. Alone, any chance of discerning the objective is impossible. Together, though, they can make a distant goal a clear and beautiful reality.

### Focusing In: The RRGCC and the AF Together

In 2003:

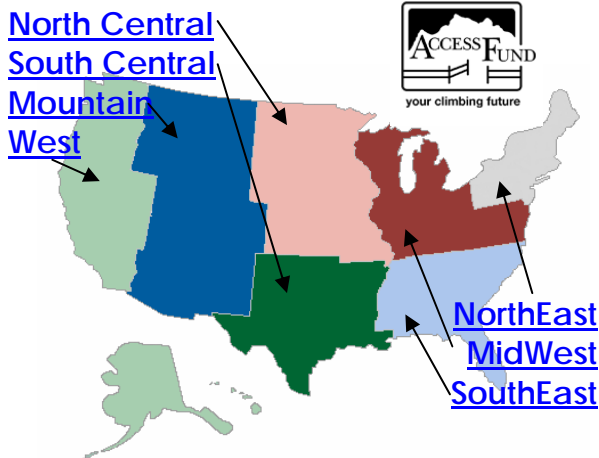
- Worked with cultural resource consultants to find positive solutions to protect archaeological and historical values in the RRG.
- Provided a \$7,500 grant to the RRGCC to support the acquisition of 700-acres of privately owned land named the Pendergrass-Murray Recreational Preserve (PMRP) containing significant climbing opportunities in the Red.

In 2005:

- The University of Kentucky Research Foundation received a grant to conduct a research project to test the effects of intentional site burial using geo-textiles on cultural resources found in two rock shelters in the Red River Gorge. The results of this study will provide needed information on whether previously closed areas can be opened up to some types of recreational use following placement of geo-synthetic material.

In 2006:

- The RRGCC was awarded a grant to assist with the acquisition of the PMRP climbing area. The Pendergrass-Murray area is a regionally and nationally significant rock climbing area containing almost 75% of the existing open climbing in the Southern Region of the Red River Gorge.



## Roctoberfest Success

Contributed by Morgain Sprague  
Edited by Stephanie Meadows and Paul Vidal



Bill Strachan and the Loeffler family were just a few of the hundreds in attendance. Photos by [Wes Allen](#).

### **RRGCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Dr. Robert (Bob) Matheny, Jr. -  
President

[mathenybob@aol.com](mailto:mathenybob@aol.com)

Charlie Rittenberry - Vice President  
[crittenberry@gmail.com](mailto:crittenberry@gmail.com)

Shannon Stuart-Smith - Secretary  
and Acting Treasurer  
[rawkjock@gx.net](mailto:rawkjock@gx.net)

Dwight Bradburn - Board Member  
[dspyder@aol.com](mailto:dspyder@aol.com)

Morgain Sprague - Board Member  
[spragumm@hotmail.com](mailto:spragumm@hotmail.com)

Mark Jackson - Board Member  
[snakejackson@gmail.com](mailto:snakejackson@gmail.com)

### **RRGCC DIRECTORS**

Bill Strachan - Executive Director  
[cpstatyk@pipeline.com](mailto:cpstatyk@pipeline.com)

Matt Tackett - Local Rep Network  
Director  
[redriveroutdoors@gmail.com](mailto:redriveroutdoors@gmail.com)

For the past seven years, the RRGCC has held a fall gathering that's come to be known as Rocktoberfest. This year, the Coalition worked especially hard to bring some unique and exciting events to the Red. It proved so inviting, in fact, that it attracted the first cold front of the season. Still, despite dropping temperatures, climbers flocked from as Washington to get in on the fun.

Held the weekend of October 13-15, Rocktoberfest kicked into gear Friday night at Miguel's Pizza with the "[ReelRock Movie](#)" premier of *First Ascent* and *Dosage IV*. As they rolled in, climbers shuffled to the field behind Miguel's where they found the glow tiki torches and a theater-style hay bale arrangement, courtesy of Dario Ventura, Morgan Burton, and the Miguel's crew. [Petzl](#) offered Red Bull and Vodka refreshments and Kris Hampton ("[ODUB](#)" as rap-lovers might know him) made an appearance to announce the films. By the animated looks on the faces of the viewers, *First Ascent* was a huge hit. *Dosage IV* was similarly well received and ran into the night while the rest of Miguel's stayed hoppin'. After the films, the crowd gathered around the fire to hang out with Jason Kehl.

Thumbing their noses at the morning frost, several climbers thawed out their tired bones and participated in sunrise yoga taught by Yoga Sanga. Elsewhere, Janet Cain of Hug-a-Pup Training shared her knowledge with climbers on how to train their crag dogs. Thanks to the success of the clinic, Cain intends to take the class one-step further at next year's Rocktoberfest by visiting crags to work with owners on specialized crag training. Graciously present also was Arno Ilgner to present, free of charge, his famous [The Rock Warrior's Way](#). Lending his skills to the aspiring shutterbug was [Wes Allen](#) as he held his photography clinic that helped explain and describe the intricacies of climbing photography.

With the afternoon left open for climbers to wander around the Gorge, Saturday evening began at Mark's Mountain Barbeque and a [slideshow by Jason Kehl](#). Barbeque and endless Blue Moon in their weary and tattered hands, climbers gathered beneath the Torrent Falls amphitheater to watch Jason's slideshow adventures. Jason proved his gracious and humble nature by happily conversing with climbers all weekend on subjects ranging from rock climbing to true bourbon, which he agrees comes only from Kentucky. Sweaty fingertips and dropped jaws testified to that his slideshow was one of the most entertaining and innovative presentations climbers have seen.

Despite the Red's reputation as a sport and traditional destination, what's a climbers' festival without the energy and comedy of a dyno comp? Hampton provided amusing commentary and an occasional toss of schweg to the audience while participants took their turns launching themselves to a hopeful prize-winning place. Kasia Pietras styled her way to win the women's dyno and Trevor Sutherland showed much skill by reserving his flare for the final dynos in the men's comp. With a performance larger than his small stature, John Schrader garnered the best fan club by far! However, Nick Redinger was the surprise standout who dynoed in his lime green underwear only to meet defeat when he was smacked off the top holds by local troll, Matt Massey. All of these antics ensued to the wonderful bluegrass tunes of an outstanding bluegrass band...no name folks, please.

As the competition finished and the temperatures dropping to near thirty degrees, people began making their way back to the cars when flames burst suddenly from the parking lot. By no means an accident, it was a fire juggler from California, Derek. Shirtless and briefly heckled, Derek braved the temperatures to juggle fire and tossing a few punny jokes. Precariously balanced, oddly contorted, and absently playing with fire, he made everyone forget the cold for a few minutes and skillfully stole the closing show.

A second round of morning yoga started Sunday as climbers prepared for their projecting or a few of the final clinics. One such clinic was a women's climbing clinic taught by Katie Brown. Instructed and supported by one of America's best female climbers, women took serious whippers and learned to lead belay at Torrent Falls. One climber who had never lead even a 5.10 mustered up the courage with the women's support to lead *Bandolier*, a breakthrough 5.11. The other Sunday clinic was an aid climbing clinic taught by Bart Bledsoe and assisted by Matt Massey and Blake Bowling. At this clinic, participants learned how to place pins to hold body weight, jug a line, and several other quality aid techniques.

All told, over 300 people from across the U.S. rolled into the Gorge for this year's Rocktoberfest, making this one of our best events yet! Thanks to all the participants for making this a great event. A special thanks goes to our volunteers and sponsors for making this our most successful event to date!

## What have you done for me lately?

Contributed by Morgain Sprague  
Edited by Paul Vidal

With so much climbing throughout the Red River Gorge, you may have asked yourself at some point, "Why *should* I join the RRGCC?"

Simply said, the reason to join the RRGCC is because climbing freedom isn't free. The Amazing climbs litter the Gorge, from the far north to the remote south there are hundreds of high quality climbs. Nearly as prolific as the climbs, though, are issues that threaten access. The RRGCC, however, fights to keep climbing access open to all.

### WHAT HAS THE RRGCC DONE FOR YOU?

- In 1996 the RRGCC formed as an organization the Forest Service and local land owners could contact to remedy problems with rock climbing before closing areas to climbing.
- In working with the Forest Service on impact issues, the RRGCC secured grant money and volunteers to build new trails that comply with Forest Service standards:
  - Trail to Military Wall, 1997 plus two new bridges added to the Martin Fork trail as a "gift" to the public from climbers
  - Trail to Left Flank, 1998
  - Trail to Pebble Beach, 1999
- In 2000 the [U.S. Forest Service](#) decided to close Military Wall entirely. The USFS was concerned about erosion, preserving delicate archeological resources and climbers' failure to follow Forest Service rules, eg: no camping under rock houses. Shannon Stuart-Smith negotiated a partial closure to preserve archeological resources but continue climbing. That partial closure persists today and the RRGCC continues to work with the Forest Service to reopen those areas that are closed.
- In February 2000, the RRGCC negotiated a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Forest Service. The parties work together to solve potential conflicts between the Forest Service and rock climbers. Some of the issues in which the RRGCC has intervened include: 1998 white-haired goldenrod survey; 2001 climbing area endangered bat survey; and the archeological cliff line surveys 2002 and 2003.
- In 2000 the RRGCC organized Forest Service Trail Seminars for climbers and the fire ring brigade and trash cleanup. Trash cleanups were also organized in 2001, 2002 and 2006 at the Red River Rendezvous.
- In working with the Forest Service to maintain access to popular climbing areas, the RRGCC organized rehabilitation projects and mitigation projects in 2002 and 2003 for Military Wall, Left Flank, Fortress Wall and Phantasia.
- In 2004, the RRGCC purchased 700 acres of prime climbing land in Lee County Kentucky. Named the [Pendergrass-Murray Recreation Preserve \(PMRP\)](#), it is the single largest land acquisition by rock climbers.
- An RRGCC representative attends all Forest Service LAC meetings and responds to proposals arising from those meetings.
- The RRGCC works with local land-owners to preserve access. Recently the coalition was told that the Motherlode had been sold. A coalition representative approached Tom Hall and verified that the surface rights remain with him and his partner Steve Mays; and that the Motherlode property is still available for recreational use by the public.
- RRGCC members and volunteers work tirelessly to preserve access to quality rock climbing in the Red River Gorge area.
- Since 1996 the RRGCC has put time, effort and money into maintaining access to rock climbing in the Red River Gorge area. RRGCC volunteers bring the strength similar to the Red's climbs: power, endurance and dedication.

So when you ask yourself "why should I join the RRGCC" the real question should be, "why haven't I joined the RRGCC yet?"

## SENDING SEASON

The season of giving and sending is upon us. With coffee in your cups and hats on your heads, you're probably putting off shopping to work your latest project in the woods. Time and holidays catch up to us all, though. Here are a few gift ideas to make your trips to the store (or website) go a little more quickly

1. [A year-long RRGCC membership](#) - it's a gift for you, too, since it saves your climbing!
2. Down Booties - helps convince reluctant and cold belayers
3. Chalk blocks - stocking stuffer only (you can't get away that easily)
4. Kneepad - for the dedicated sport climber
5. Athletic Tape - for those addicted to cracks
6. Quickdraws - for the aspiring leader
7. Down Jacket - for only the *especially* nice
8. GriGri - really for you if you have a project
9. Ankle Brace - for the retired boulderers
10. A Gift Card - great if you've spent too much time climbing and not enough time shopping



Kenny Barker on his line "Paradise Lost", 13b, at Purgatory. Photo by [Wes Allen](#).

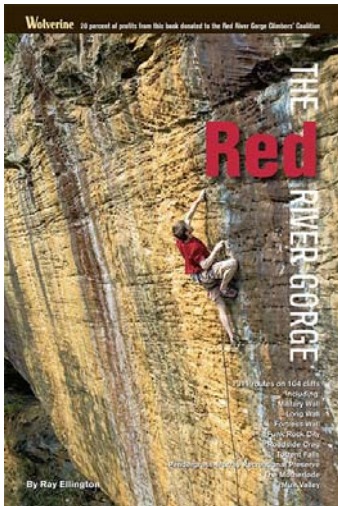
## Climbers' LAC Proposal Accepted

Contributed by Bill Strachan  
 Edited by Paul Vidal

At the Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) Workshop held on October 24, 2006 in Winchester, Kentucky, climbers presented a proposal regarding standards for climbing in Red River Gorge. This proposal was accepted by the overall LAC group with no changes except for the correction of a couple of typographical errors. At the beginning of the meeting RRGCC Board member Shannon Stuart-Smith made a presentation first about climbing in general and then specifically about climbing in Red River Gorge. This was followed with Bill Strachan presenting the LAC standards developed by climbers.

The proposal developed by climbers sets limits to the amount of ground impact that can occur both at a "climbsite" and at a "climbing area" before a management action must be considered by the Forest Service. A "climbsite" is a staging area at the base of one or more climbing routes and a "climbing area" is a grouping of closely spaced "climbsites". In addition to these limits on the amount of ground impact, the proposal includes limits on trash, tree damage, and fire rings. The proposal allows for the installation of new bolts in areas authorized by the Forest Service except for areas located in a "Pristine" zone (installation of new bolts in [Clifty Wilderness](#) is already prohibited). For areas that are located in a "Pristine" zone, existing bolts will be allowed to remain or be replaced. Integral to this proposal is the understanding that after the LAC process is complete the Forest Service will look at approving new climbing on an area basis instead of the current route by route basis. All existing climbing areas within the scope of LAC are considered to be authorized pending the completion of surveys for cultural and biological resources. However, any new areas proposed to be opened by climbers after LAC will have to undergo a survey and authorization process before climbing development can proceed.

Many thanks go to everyone involved in the climbers working group that put together the proposed LAC standards for climbing. This working group consisted of current RRGCC Board members Shannon Stuart-Smith and Dwight Bradburn; past RRGCC President, Jim Holzman; Chris Carr; Rita Wehner; and myself, Bill Strachan. Many hours were spent in meetings and in phone calls hashing out the final proposal. The non-climbers involved in the LAC process offered compliments on the thoughtfulness and effort made by climbers in putting together their proposal.



Ray Ellington, author of the new "Red River Gorge Guidebook", and Dave Pegg (Wolverine Publishing) have generously donated more than \$4500 of their profits to climbing organizations in the RRG area. Already Dave Pegg has donated over \$3000 to the RRGCC! Visit [wolverinepublishing.com](http://wolverinepublishing.com) or the "Buy Now" link below to purchase your copy.

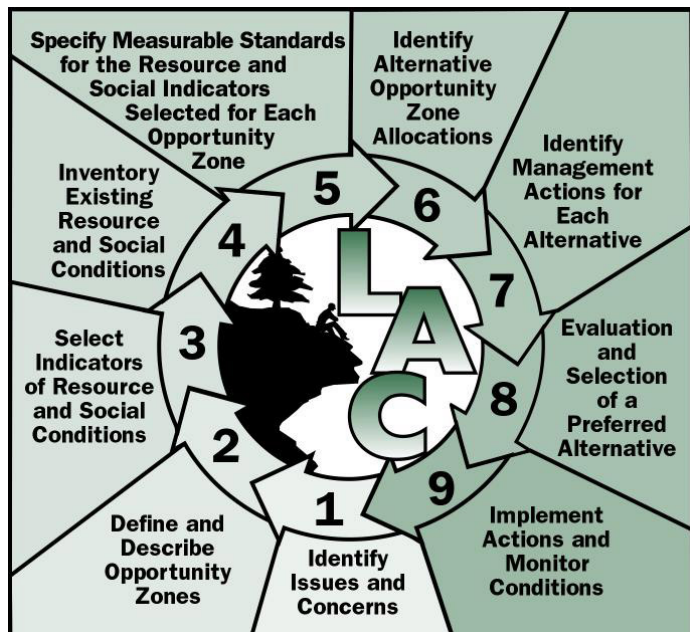
**Buy Now**

The LAC is currently on Steps 5 and 6. For more on the LAC process, visit [rrgcc.org](http://rrgcc.org).

### The LAC

Limits of Acceptable Change (LAC) is a nine step U.S. Forest Service planning process that is currently being conducted for the [Daniel Boone National Forest](#). For more information on the past meetings, LAC progress, and the LAC process as a whole, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/boone/lac/> and be sure to visit [rrgcc.org](http://rrgcc.org) for more updates as progress continues.

Helpful Links  
[The Gorge Process Workshops](#)



## Johnny and Alex Crag Day WrapUp

Contributed by Morgain Sprague

Edited by Paul Vidal

The Johnny and Alex Crag Day on August 5 was a huge success. Over 70 volunteers joined to cut several miles of trails to the [North 40](#), [the Shire](#), [What About Bob Wall](#), [Rival Wall](#), and [Courtesy Wall](#). Many new routes were established thanks to Matt Tackett and crew who diligently identified potential routes and installed anchors before the event. The tireless volunteers worked diligently from nine in the morning to five in the afternoon. Thank you all. Of course, Miguel's helped everyone out with the tastiest hummus sandwich wraps generosity can provide. Everyone raved about the fresh garden tomatoes! For the RRGCC, The hard work was a huge payoff. The quality trails and routes enhance access and keep the PMRP experience high class.

Not to let hard-work go unrewarded, the RRGCC treated the volunteers to a fun-filled night at [Lago Linda's](#). Linda kindly allowed us to set up a slip-n-slide for playing. We had a 70 ft x 10 ft. slip-n-slide that dumped right into the lake. Jen Vennon's novel idea of using construction grade plastic, dish soap and water proved perfect. Despite a few bruised hips and pasty thighs, the cool ride down the shore was a welcome reprieve from the days labors. Jarrod Hancock won first prize for sliding from the beginning all the way into the lake without stopping. Mike Cole took second prize, not for almost making it, but instead for dumping Del, a notoriously giddy crag dog, into the lake on one of his attempts. Moya Hallstein took third prize as the best femme attempt. She may still have the bruises to prove it. [Mark's Mountain Barbeque](#) and Miguel's Pizza provided wonderful fare for dinner that disappeared as quickly as the cold beer. Live bluegrass music from an unnamed, somewhat impromptu but no less skilled band kept spirit light and feet happy. All of our sponsors donated tons of schwag from ropes to draws to T-shirts and the raffle helped end the night on a perfect positive note! Thank you sponsors!

The most important part of the day was remembering John Bronaugh and Alex Yeakley. John worked tirelessly to secure access to climbing. He was one of the first Red River Gorge bolters to focus on establishing moderate routes for everyone. People remembered John's tireless enthusiasm, biting wit, and dedication to his family. Alex, John's stepson, was a beautiful young man and gifted rock climber who will be remembered for the friendships he cherished. Tina, Jesse and their family participated in the trail day reminding us that those who are gone will never be forgotten in our community.

### **NEWSLETTER** **EDITOR**

Paul Vidal

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO** **THIS ISSUE**

Morgain Sprague  
Stephanie Meadows  
Matt Tackett

### **CLASSIC** **JOHNNY AND** **ALEX**

Father and Son – Global Village  
The Battlement – Fortress Wall  
Whiteout – Emerald City  
Make A Wish – Drive-By Crag  
Game Boy – Long Wall  
Synergy – Mariba Fork  
Brontosaurus – Pebble Beach  
Electric Cowboy – Purple Valley  
C Sharp or B Flat – Roadside Crag  
Andromeda Strain – Roadside Crag  
Trouble Clef – Roadside Crag  
Just Duet – Roadside Crag  
Monkey Bars – The Playground  
Armadillo – The Zoo  
Edgehog – The Zoo  
Skin the Cat – The Zoo  
Family Tradition – Volunteer Wall  
Cold Shot – Wall of Denial  
Wishbone – Wolfpen

To name just a few classics!

## **JACD 2 HIGHLIGHTS**

- Trails to several new crags in Sore Heel
- Free gear given to volunteers
- Several new routes at [The Shire](#), [What About Bob Wall](#), [Rival Wall](#), and [Courtesy Wall](#)
- Great food, music, and time afterwards!
- Momentum to repeat the successes next year!

### **Liketa Write?**

We can use helping hands everywhere and the newsletter is no exception. Whether it's an interview, an observation, or just some tips and tricks, we'd love to hear what you have to contribute. Contact [Paul Vidal](#) or [Mogain Sprague](#) to see how we can incorporate a piece into an upcoming newsletter.



## Torrent Falls Closure Threat Becomes Reality

From [RRGCC.org](http://RRGCC.org)

In response to continued disrespectful behavior by some climbers, the owners of [Torrent Falls](http://Torrent Falls), a popular Red River Gorge crag, have decided to close the area to unrestricted climbing. Guests renting a cabin at Torrent Falls resort may still climb on the property. This closure was announced and made effective on Friday, November 24, 2006. When closure was first threatened earlier in the spring, the RRGCC convinced the owners to write set of rules and give climbers a chance to show that they could follow them. Unfortunately not all climbers were following the rules. Recent flagrant incidents cited by the owners in explaining their reasons for moving forward with the closure included someone who leashed their dog to a "No Dogs Allowed" sign. Another disturbing incident occurred when the owners were showing close friends around their property and came across a woman urinating out in the open despite the fact that the owners have provided a port-o-let for use by climbers. In addition to the Torrent rules having been posted in the parking area as well as the RRGCC kiosk at Miguel's, the rules and the tenuous situation at Torrent was made widely known to the climbing community on various websites, in the [Access Fund e-news](#), and in the RRGCC newsletter. All indications are that 2006 was the busiest season yet for the Red River Gorge. While the RRGCC will look at ways to improve climber education about access issues during its' planning for 2007, we are somewhat at a loss as to how to deal with climbers who blatantly disregard very simple and common sense behavioral guidelines. We ask that climbers please respect the tough decision made by Mark and Kathy Meyer to discontinue open climbing access at Torrent. Also please remember that disrespectful behavior and failure to follow rules at any climbing area in Red River Gorge, whether on private or public land, has the potential to negatively affect access. Know whose property you are climbing on and what is expected of you as a guest on that property. Detailed information on the various areas and guidelines are readily available in Ray Ellington's [Red River Gorge guidebook](#).



Picture taken from [torrentfalls.com](http://torrentfalls.com).

## Routes Lost from Closure at Torrent Falls

Route information from Ray Ellington's [Online Guide](#)

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <a href="#">1. Hmmm 5.2 *</a>                     | <a href="#">18. Paranoia 5.13b *** (S)</a>                           | <a href="#">33. Sport for Brains 5.11d ** (S)</a>                                     |
| <a href="#">2. Cordelia 5.8 * (S)</a>             | <a href="#">19. It's Alive 5.10d ** (S)</a>                          | <a href="#">34. Ode To Poopie Head 5.11b * (S)</a>                                    |
| <a href="#">3. Dream Of A Bee 5.8 (S)</a>         | <a href="#">20. Reanimator 5.10b *** (S)</a>                         | <a href="#">35. Poopie Head 5.10b ** (S)</a>  |
| <a href="#">4. Wadcutter 5.9+ ** (S)</a>          | <a href="#">21. Rest Assured 5.10a ** (S)</a>                        | <a href="#">36. Stool Sample 5.10a ** (S)</a>   |
| <a href="#">5. Bandolier 5.11a ** (S)</a>         | <a href="#">22. Family Value 5.10d * (S)</a>                         | <a href="#">37. Rectal Exorcism 5.11a ** (S)</a>                                      |
| <a href="#">6. Centerfire 5.11c *** (S)</a>       | <a href="#">22a. Last Resort 5.10c ** (S)</a>                        | <a href="#">38. G'sUs 5.11c ** (S)</a>  |
| <a href="#">7. Receiver 5.11b *** (S)</a>         | <a href="#">23. Tourist Trap 5.9 ** (S)</a>                          | <a href="#">39. Onaconaronni 5.11d ** (S)</a>   |
| <a href="#">8. Recoil 5.11d *** (S)</a>           | <a href="#">24. Smoke Screen 5.9 *</a>                               | <a href="#">40. Who'sier Buddies 5.12a ** (S)</a>                                     |
| <a href="#">9. Racer X 5.12d *** (S)</a>          | <a href="#">25. Impossible Choss 5.12c (S)</a>                       | <a href="#">41. Livin' in the UK 5.11c ** (S)</a>                                     |
| <a href="#">10. Steelworker 5.12c *** (S)</a>     | <a href="#">25a. Sam's Line 5.13a * (S)</a>                          | <a href="#">42. Mad Porter's Disease 5.11c ** (S)</a>                                 |
| <a href="#">11. Bare Metal Teen 5.12a *** (S)</a> | <a href="#">26. Windy Corner (to topout) 5.11b R ***</a>             | <a href="#">43. My How Things Change 5.11d ** (S)</a>                                 |
| <a href="#">12. Big Money Grip 5.12b ** (S)</a>   | <a href="#">27. Windy Corner (to first set of anchors) 5.11b ***</a> | <a href="#">44. Retroflex 5.9 **</a>  |
| <a href="#">13. Burcham's Folly 5.8 *</a>         | <a href="#">28. Us and Them 5.12a ** (S)</a>                         | <a href="#">45. Hired Guns 5.7 ** (S)</a>   |
| <a href="#">14. Neither 5.11a</a>                 | <a href="#">29. Del Boy 5.11b ** (S)</a>                             | <a href="#">46. Physically Strong, Mentally Awake, and Morally Straight 5.5 * (S)</a> |
| <a href="#">15. Hydro Shock 5.12c (S)</a>         | <a href="#">30. Pocket Pussy 5.10d ** (S)</a>                        | <a href="#">47. Be Prepared 5.8 ** (S)</a>  |
| <a href="#">16. Torrential 5.12c* (S)</a>         | <a href="#">31. Sex Show 5.11d ** (S)</a>                            | <a href="#">48. The Last Boy Scout 5.7 ** (S)</a>                                     |
| <a href="#">17. Into The Mystic 5.12+*** (S)</a>  | <a href="#">32. Seek the Truth 5.11d ** (S)</a>                      | <a href="#">49. Stacia's Back in Town 5.6**</a>                                       |

## What is the RRGCC?

The [Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition](#) was organized in November 1996 as a local climber's advocacy group to protect climbing at the Red. Rock climbing in the Red River Gorge area had originally occurred primarily on the public lands of Daniel Boone National Forest and was therefore subject to the jurisdiction of the U.S. Forest Service. In 1996, the Forest Service issued for the first time ever a Rock Climbing Management Guide (RCMG) for the Red River area. However, most climbers saw the RCMG as incomplete and Draconian, focusing mainly on bolting and bolt placement. As a direct result of the issuance of the RCMG, two local climbers decided to form a climbers' coalition to champion climbers' interests and to try to improve relations between the Forest Service and climbers. Their main concern was two-fold: re-writing the RCMG to include climbers' input, thereby "improving" the RCMG, and educating and empowering climbers to ensure the long-term future of climbing.

Fast forward to 2006 and the RRGCC is a strong, all volunteer advocacy group that continues to work throughout the Red River Gorge region to ensure access for recreational uses, not the least of which is climbing. Given that the majority of climbing in the area is on [USFS](#) and [State Park](#) land, the Coalition has worked tirelessly to improve relations with both parties to work toward a common ground. The Coalition has also worked with private landowners to maintain relations and ensure that climbing access will remain while the needs of the landowners are also met. There are also The RRGCC focus has been from its inception, protection and promotion of responsible climbing. This goal has taken many forms, from building environmentally friendly climber trails to popular crags, to articles on top-rope safety. Climbing continues to grow in popularity and, as it grows, it faces new challenges. For people to continue to enjoy the freedom to climb on public and private land, innovative and creative solutions will have to be found. On February 7, 2000, the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition and the U.S. Forest Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding, The signing of this MOU represents a significant breakthrough for Red River Gorge climbers and the Forest Service after years of skepticism, mistrust, and alienation. And on January 20, 2004, the RRGCC closed on what is now the Pendergrass-Murray Recreation Preserve. This purchase of over 700-acres of land represents the largest ever direct acquisition of land by a coalition of climbers. Fundraising efforts are now underway to complete the finances on this world-class climbing destination and secure access permanently.

Please remember, we are all good-will ambassadors for the sport. Climbers will always have to vigil about their climbing. If we do not protect it, no one else will. Climbing is not a right; it is a privilege we enjoy at the discretion of others.

### PMRP

More than just an acronym and a lot of land, the PMRP represents security, freedom, and a future for climbing in the Red River Gorge. Since land use is always subject to the owner's discretion, the only way to guarantee climbing access is by owning it. The PMRP is owned, managed, and [payed for by the RRGCC and climbers like you](#). If we **own it**, they can't close it

## **RRGCC MISSION STATEMENT**

### **PREAMBLE**

The Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition Incorporated (RRGCC) is a group of rock climbers who have come together to protect, promote and ensure responsible climbing at the Red River Gorge in Kentucky. We are committed to preserving and appreciating the natural environment in which we practice our sport, as well as respecting others. We will accomplish all this through self-awareness, education, support, and dedicated efforts with one another, non-climbers, and land managers, alike.

### **PURPOSE**

The intended effect of the RRGCC is to ensure open public access to quality, climbing opportunities that meet the needs of the recreating climbing public in, and around, the Red River Gorge of Kentucky on public and private land, while encouraging the conservation of the natural environment.

### **BUSINESS**

We will accomplish this by dedicating ourselves and this organization to protecting, promoting, and ensuring responsible climbing.

### **VALUES**

We intend to achieve this goal through trusteeship-holding climbing at the Red in trust for the public good-acting cooperatively as good stewards and strong civic and community leaders with a commitment to mission, personal responsibility, mutual respect, personal integrity, and taking the initiative.



*Blake Bowling on his route, "All That Glitters" at The Gallery, one of several crags in Sore Heel Hollar. Photo by [Ben Cassel](#).*

## How you can help...

There are about as many ways to help the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition as there are routes in the RRG. Given the breadth of our purpose, there are many fronts that are in need of a few good foot soldiers. Trails will always need maintenance, routes will always need re-equipped, flyers will always need to be developed and distributed. All present themselves as opportunities for you to give back to the Red and take ownership of what you enjoy. With so many different options, there's surely a niche for you to fill; one that will challenge you, help you develop personally, and reward you with a sense of ownership and action.

### Represent!

Your behavior is one of the most influential ways you can help secure access. Please be kind and courteous to everyone you meet. Remember, you're an ambassador for the sport.

### Get the word out!

Help the cause by educating people about the situation. Most people don't realize the current access issues facing the Red. Update them on current closures, area rules, and the latest RRGCC efforts. Consider being an area/region representative. And be sure to direct them to one of our BOD or to [rrgcc.org](http://rrgcc.org).

## IN THE TRENCHES...

### VOLUNTEER FOR THE RRGCC

Please help us in our effort to secure climbing in the PMRP and at the Red River Gorge by volunteering. To volunteer, please contact Morgain Sprague at [spragumm@hotmail.com](mailto:spragumm@hotmail.com). Below are some areas in which you can help.

**Access:** Attend LAC meetings and work with BOD members to secure access on USFS land and parks.

**Stewardship:** Participate in trail days and bolting clinics to develop and preserve our climbing areas.

**Membership:** Help with mailing lists and distributing important RRGCC information to keep climbers updated.

**Pinch-Hitter:** Volunteer at our fundraising events to keep them running smoothly.

### Make a Donation

## COME ON! COMMON SENSE

Access is an extremely sensitive issue in the RRG with much of the climbing on USFS and private land. Recently, Torrent Falls was closed due to climber behavior. Here's the easiest way how you can help keep climbing open in these areas.

### 1. Know where you are.

Do you know where to park? Are there people nearby that are seeking quiet? Are there route closures at the wall? Should you bring your pets? If you're unsure about the area's rules, ask the landowner. Visit the [RRGCC Forum](#) for any answers to most any question you might have.

### 2. Leave *No* Trace.

Stay on existing trails. Pack out what you pack in. If there isn't a portajohn or designated bathroom for the area, please bury your waste and pack out any TP. All trash should be cleaned from the area. And yes, that includes banana peels and apple cores.

### 3. Make momma proud.

You may be the only climber some people meet. That makes you an ambassador for the sport. Remember, how you act impacts our access in the Gorge and nationwide. Please be courteous to landowners, neighbors, hikers, campers, workers, and anyone else you might see around the area. Remember, *climbing on private land is a privilege, not a right.*

## Support the RRGCC – Become a Member!

The RRGCC is a 501(c)3 organization, meaning your donations are tax-deductible. And all donations will go to helping preserve and expand access throughout the Red River Gorge area. Mail your membership to PO BOX 22156, Lexington, KY 40522-2156 or donate online at [rrgcc.org](http://rrgcc.org).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I'd like to join!

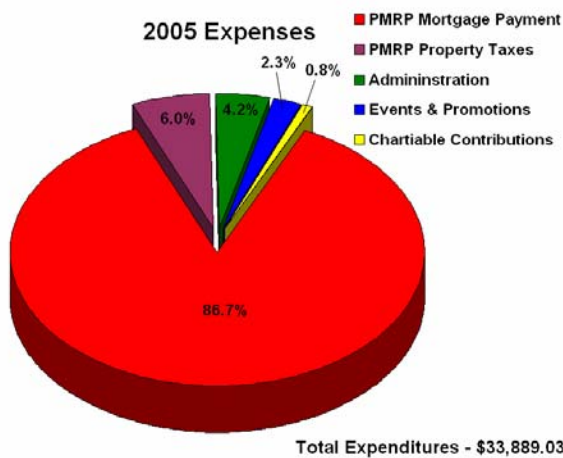
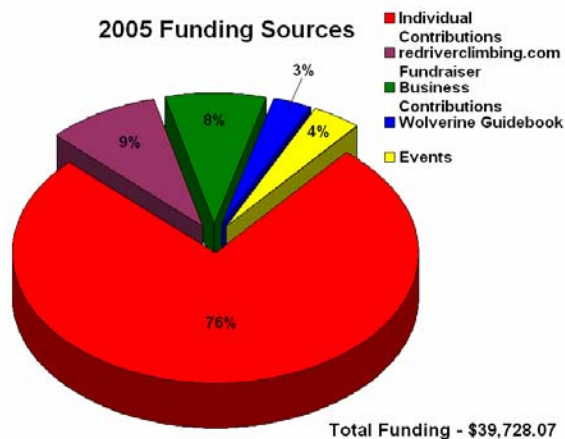
\$25  \$50  \$75  Other \_\_\_\_\_

My check, payable to RRGCC, is enclosed

## RRGCC 2007 STRATEGIC MEETING

Help Make 2007 Our Most Successful Year Ever! It's hard to believe we've been around this long, but in 2007 the Red River Gorge Climbers' Coalition will celebrate its 10-year anniversary! Please consider making this our most successful year ever by participating in our 2007 strategic planning process. Climbers who have worked with us in the past, or any one who intends to volunteer this year are especially encouraged to be involved. This process will kick-off in a meeting at the Lexington Public Library, 140 E. Main St., Lexington, KY from 1pm to 4 pm on Saturday, December 9, 2006 in Conference Room A. Free parking is available in the library garage (See <http://www.lexpublib.org/central/> for directions). The RRGCC has a strong history of strategic planning and has a well developed vision, mission, and strategy for securing climbing access. In the December 9th meeting we will review what was accomplished in 2006, what our current issues are, and what goals and strategies we will pursue in 2007. Though we have obtained new levels of success in 2006, we have much potential for growth and improvement in 2007. Membership feedback and participation in developing the RRGCC's future strategy is a crucial component in carrying this momentum into 2007. Please RSVP to the RRGCC's Executive Director, Bill Strachan, <mailto:bill@rrgcc.org>, if you plan on attending the December 9th meeting. Even if you cannot attend, please e-mail Bill your comments and information if you are interested in being involved in the strategic planning process.

### RRGCC 2005 Financials



From the [2005 Annual Report](#).

### NEW ROUTES IN THE PMRP

- Rinse and Repeat, 7 (Sport)*
- Brown Eyed Girl, 10a (Sport)*
- STD, 8+ (Sport)*
- Kaleidoscope, 13c (Sport)*
- Summer Breeze, 8+ (Trad)*
- Lobster Claw, 11d (Sport)*
- Paradise Regained, 13b (Sport)*
- Monobrow, 10a (Sport)*
- Listerine Girl, 9 (Sport)*
- All That Quivers, 10b (Trad)*
- The G-Man, 10c (Sport)*
- Stuck Buckeye, 8 (Trad)*
- Kindred Spirits, 11a (Trad)*

There are plenty more routes not on this list for the simple reason of space constraints. For a more complete list, visit [rrgcc.org](http://rrgcc.org) or Ray Ellington's [online guide](#).

### MUIR VALLEY

As always, the drills are firing throughout Muir Valley. For more information on walls, routes, and access, visit [MuirValley.com](http://MuirValley.com)

### OTHER GORGE DEVELOPMENT

Keep your eyes open! Routes have been going up everywhere, including "established" crags like [Indian Creek Crag](#), [Adena Wall](#), and [Muscle Beach](#).

## Wall and Route Closures and Reasons

<u>Area and/or Routes</u>	<u>Reasoning</u>
At Hen's Nest: Finger Lickin' Good; Sultans of Stem; Close to the Edge; The Edge (TR)	Protection of Sensitive Resources
At Western Sky Bridge Ridge: Refraction; Guideline; Icarus; The Great Arch; The Hook and the Pendulum	Protection of Archeological Sites
Pocket Wall	State Park Property
Arena, In-Between Wall, Oil Crack	No Foot Traffic Permitted on Charmane Oil Company land
Torrent Falls	<a href="#">Landowner's Request</a> ; Climber Behavior

Several routes in Muir Valley have been closed for maintenance or for safety reasons. For Closures in Muir Valley, please visit [muirvalley.com](http://muirvalley.com).

## Upcoming Events

Here are a few of the events that will be taking place in the RRG during the next few months. Please visit [rgcc.org](http://rgcc.org) for more information.

[Spring Festival](#)                      April 20-22                      Miguel's Pizza

## Flashes

### Access Awareness:

### Torrent Falls Closed to Climbing

The owners of [Torrent Falls Bed and Breakfast](#) have closed public access to climbing on their land at the Torrent Falls Crag. Climber behavior in the area proved unacceptable to the owners and their interests. Climbing will be permitted only to those who rent a cabin.

For more information and to view the landowners requests, please visit the [RRGCC "Closures"](#).

### Nada and Surrounding Communities:

Please consider the families in the region during the holidays. Save your winter clothing and canned food for collections this fall and winter season. If you're interested in helping families in the area, please contact Paul Vidal at [redriverhelp@gmail.com](mailto:redriverhelp@gmail.com) or Matt Tackett at [redriveroutdoors@gmail.com](mailto:redriveroutdoors@gmail.com).

## **WHY YOU NEED TO RESPECT THE CLOSURES**

1. Respecting the closure shows both the wall's landowners and other landowners around the area that we will respect them and their wishes. In the future, this could help us negotiate with them to set up rules and regulation with access.

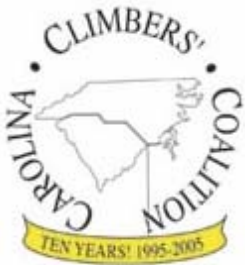
2. Closures often are in place to help prevent damages to sensitive resources in the area. For instance, white-haired golden rod is an endangered species that is sometimes near climbing area. If you notice a sensitive resource in a climbing area, please contact us at [rgcc.org](http://rgcc.org).

3. Some closures are temporary. For instance, with funding from the Access Fund, there's currently research underway that's exploring ways to protect the archeological resources around Military Wall while still allowing recreational access to the cliff.

## **BOLTING ON FOREST SERVICE LAND**

Since 1996, there has been a bolting ban for new routes on U.S. Forest Service land in the Red River Gorge. However, existing routes are still open and re-equipping previously existing hardware is still permitted. Also, if you are interested in bolting a new line, there is an approval process that will allow you, upon review and approval, to establish a new route. For more information on the bolting regulations and new route application process, please visit [Forest Service website](#) and the [RRGCC](#) for the new route application packet.

Click on the images to visit the donations pages.



## Around the region...

The Friends of Muir Valley, a local organization focused on issues facing Muir Valley as well as participating and supporting action around the Red River Gorge, will be hosting their annual trail day and appreciation event, This September 23 and 24, the FoMV helped host the G.A.T.H.E.R.I.N.G. Despite bad weather, dozens of volunteers braved the rain to help create new trails, reinforce struggling trails, and stabilize cliff bases. For more information on the FoMV and upcoming events, please visit [muirvalley.com](http://muirvalley.com). Also, please remember this is private land owned by Rick and Liz Weber. Please be sure to respect their [warnings and rules](#) as outlined on their website and in the waiver you must fill out before climbing there. [Click here](#) for the legal release form.

The Southeast Climbers' Coalition, crazy as always, has been tireless this fall. On November 11, the SCC hosted a Jamestown Trail day that brought more than two dozen volunteers and a great deal of improvement to the newly accessible crag. Also, on November 18, the SCC had another trail day at Castle Rock, another crag the Coalition gained access to recently. All this in addition to the annual [Triple Crown Bouldering](#) Series, this year being the fifth year the competition/fund raiser has been held. A [Huntsvegas Brewfest](#) is scheduled for December 2 and a [Boat Rock Trail Day](#) is set for January 6. For more information on the SCC and how you can help, please visit [seclimbers.org](http://seclimbers.org).

The Carolina Climbers' Coalition, after the landmark purchase of Laurel Knob, is wrapping up the draft management plan for the same area. The plan was put together with the help of Dr. Aram Attarian and with comments, review, and discussion of many. To read more about the management plan, [visit this site](#). To learn more about current access at the cliff and other news in the Carolina region, visit [carolinaclimbers.org](http://carolinaclimbers.org)

Currently, the New River Alliance of Climbers' site is down for maintenance and renovations. They're still taking donations, though, that will go directly to replacing hardware throughout the area. For more information on the events and issues in the New River Gorge, please visit [newriverclimbers.net](http://newriverclimbers.net).

For more news about issues facing climbers and climbing access around the nation, please visit [accessfund.org](http://accessfund.org) or read up on the [Vertical Times](#), the AF's national publication.

