

VERTICAL TIMES

The National Publication of the Access Fund
Winter 15/Volume 104
www.accessfund.org

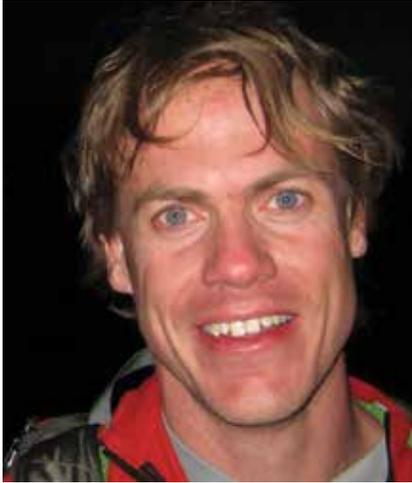
Too Important
to Fail:
The Problem
of Aging Bolts
page 8



SIX THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU CLIMB IN THE DESERT 5

INSIDE SCOOP: INDIAN CREEK 6

CLIMBERS PARTNER WITH CITY TO OPEN NEW DULUTH ICE PARK 7



A year ago, we shipped off several three-ring binders, each with over 500 pages of documents, to the Land Trust Alliance (LTA) Accreditation Commission. This was our final application to become an accredited land trust—the culmination of six years of preparation that started with our adoption of the LTA standards in 2009. The accreditation process is so thorough that the LTA recommends hiring an external consultant just to help amass the necessary documentation. They generously awarded Access Fund a \$2,500 grant to do just that.

We're very proud to announce that we are now one of 317 accredited land trusts in the United States. After launching our revolving loan program to support climbing area acquisitions in 2009, and after more than two decades of supporting land acquisitions across the country, we decided it was important for Access Fund to embody the highest standards for a land trust. Our work involves consulting with and supporting local climbing organizations (LCOs), and we want to give the best advice and serve as an example. LTA accreditation is important to us, to our network of local organizations, and to the climbing community. And it took a lot of work! We aren't planning to throw ourselves an accreditation party, but I wanted to share a little of the backstory.

We also have decided to step up our work addressing a huge and growing problem facing our community: bad bolts. Our main story in this issue of the *Vertical Times* covers this challenge and our evolving strategies to address it. We recently received 19 applications for our new Anchor Replacement Fund, and this fall we distributed \$10,000 in grants to support local organizations' rebolting efforts.

Holiday season is around the corner, and Access Fund has put together some great items for the climbers in your life. Buying products through our store supports our brand and helps fund our work. Take a look at the back cover for a sampling of what's available.

See you out there,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brady Robinson".

Brady Robinson
Executive Director



ACCESS FUND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President, Mark Baum, VA
Vice President, Kenji Haroutunian, CA
Treasurer, Ryan Gellert, Amsterdam
Secretary, Alex Kutches, WA

BOARD MEMBERS

Elaina Arenz, WV
 Lyn Barraza, CA
 Jeff Buhl, CO
 Peter Croft, CA
 Hillary Harris, NH
 Jonah Harrison, WA
 Perry Norris, CA
 John Winsor, CO
 Jessica Yates, CO

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

Rick Accomazzo, CO
 Larry Gustafson, TX
 John Juraschek, NC
 Michael Kennedy, CO
 Armando Menocal, WY
 Dave Rosenstein, NJ
 Bill Supple, VT
 Randy Vogel, CA

ACCESS FUND STAFF

Michael Allen
Development Director
 303.545.6772 x106
 michael@accessfund.org

Jim Chase
Operations Director
 303.545.6772 x107
 jim@accessfund.org

Peter Dodge
Membership Manager
 303.545.6772 x103
 peter@accessfund.org

Danielle Estabrook
Bookkeeper
 303.545.6772 x107
 danielle@accessfund.org

Katie Goodwin
Public Lands Associate
 katie@accessfund.org
 303.545.6772 x113

Travis Herbert
Education Director
 303.545.6772 x102
 travis@accessfund.org

Jason Keith
Sr. Policy Advisor
 303.819.2969
 jason@accessfund.org

Zachary Lesch-Huie
National Affiliate Director & Southeast Regional Director
 828.545.7362
 zachary@accessfund.org

Mike Morin
Conservation Specialist
 720.624.6051
 conservatiionteam@accessfund.org

Erik Murdock
Policy Director
 720.588.3512
 erik@accessfund.org

Amanda Peterson
Conservation Specialist
 720.624.6051
 conservatiionteam@accessfund.org

Brady Robinson
Executive Director
 303.545.6772 x101
 brady@accessfund.org

Joe Sambataro
Access Director & Northwest Regional Director
 425.218.8234
 joe@accessfund.org

Curt Shannon
Policy Analyst
 480.382.1445
 curt@accessfund.org

Holly Smolenski
Communications & Marketing Director
 303.545.6772 x100
 holly@accessfund.org

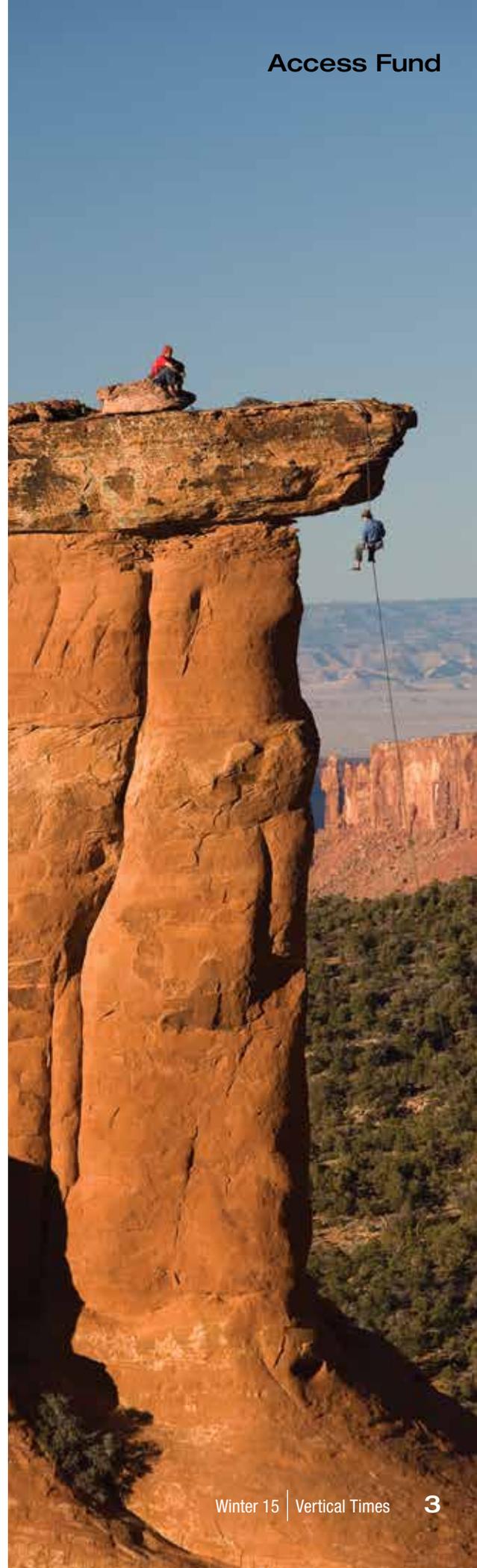
Jenna Snyder
Office Manager
 303.545.6772 x104
 jenna@accessfund.org

Anneliese Thies
Development Associate
 303.545.6772 x114
 anneliese@accessfund.org

Ty Tyler
Stewardship Director
 206.351.9239
 ty@accessfund.org

GENERAL COUNSEL

Chris Archer



LCO 101: Using the New Online Resource Center

Whether you're an individual climber taking care of your local crag or a longstanding board member of your local climbing organization, our new online resource center is your stop for tips, guides, and sample documents to get you moving in the right direction. Explore the resource center at: www.accessfund.org/educate-yourself.

For Climbers. Organized by three principal climbing environments—desert, forest, and alpine—this resource library gives climbers tips and information to better protect climbing environments. LCOs can use these educational resources on their websites, social media, or educational presentations at gyms.

For Advocates. Here's the good stuff you need—everything from how to reach out to younger climbers to how to run your LCO to ways to optimize fundraising. We even added a new section on best practices for replacing fixed anchors.

For Land Managers. This is the source for climbing management best practices for planners, private landowners, and public land managers. Topics include natural resource protection, risk management, and how to work with local climbing communities.

Have an idea for content to include in the Resource Center? Contact us at localsupport@accessfund.org.



Stewardship Training Wraps Up in Red River Gorge

Following successful workshops in Yosemite and Salt Lake City, Access Fund's 2015 Stewardship Training Series wrapped up in Red River Gorge, KY, this September. Attendees of the three-day workshop included land managers from Daniel Boone National Forest and representatives from many LCOs in the region. After classroom sessions, participants went into the field to assess climbing sites at Miller Fork, Military Wall, and Muir Valley. The training finished with a volunteer project at the popular and heavily used Guide's Wall at Muir Valley. More training is planned for 2016, so stay tuned.

New River Gorge Climbers Ramp Up Trail Work



New River Alliance of Climbers (NRAC) is stepping up its trail work game in one of the East's best climbing areas. In May, NRAC rallied a week-long event where crews tackled the Sandstonia trail, rehabbing one of the area's most heavily used approaches. In September, NRAC led more than 25

volunteers to improve the trail to Butchers Branch. NRAC is also working closely with the National Park Service on long-term stewardship of the area's numerous climbing approach trails. Keep up the great work, NRAC!



Climbing Advocacy Grows in New Hampshire

We are excited to welcome two New Hampshire climbing organizations to our affiliate network. Friends of the Ledges is dedicated to the stewardship of climbing areas in the eastern White Mountains of New Hampshire and Maine, including the nationally renowned Cathedral Ledge. Monadnock Region Climbers Coalition focuses on stewardship and access for the wide variety of high-quality, yet off-the-radar, rock and ice climbing areas in the southern part of the state. We're excited to expand our work in NH with these groups.

SIX THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU CLIMB IN THE DESERT

Indian Creek. Hueco Tanks. Joshua Tree. Red Rocks. Joe's Valley. The desert environment is home to iconic climbing destinations. Characterized by little precipitation and sparse populations, the stark landscape of the desert is uniquely fragile and full of life. As such, the desert environment demands some specific minimum-impact practices to protect its sensitive and historically significant terrain.

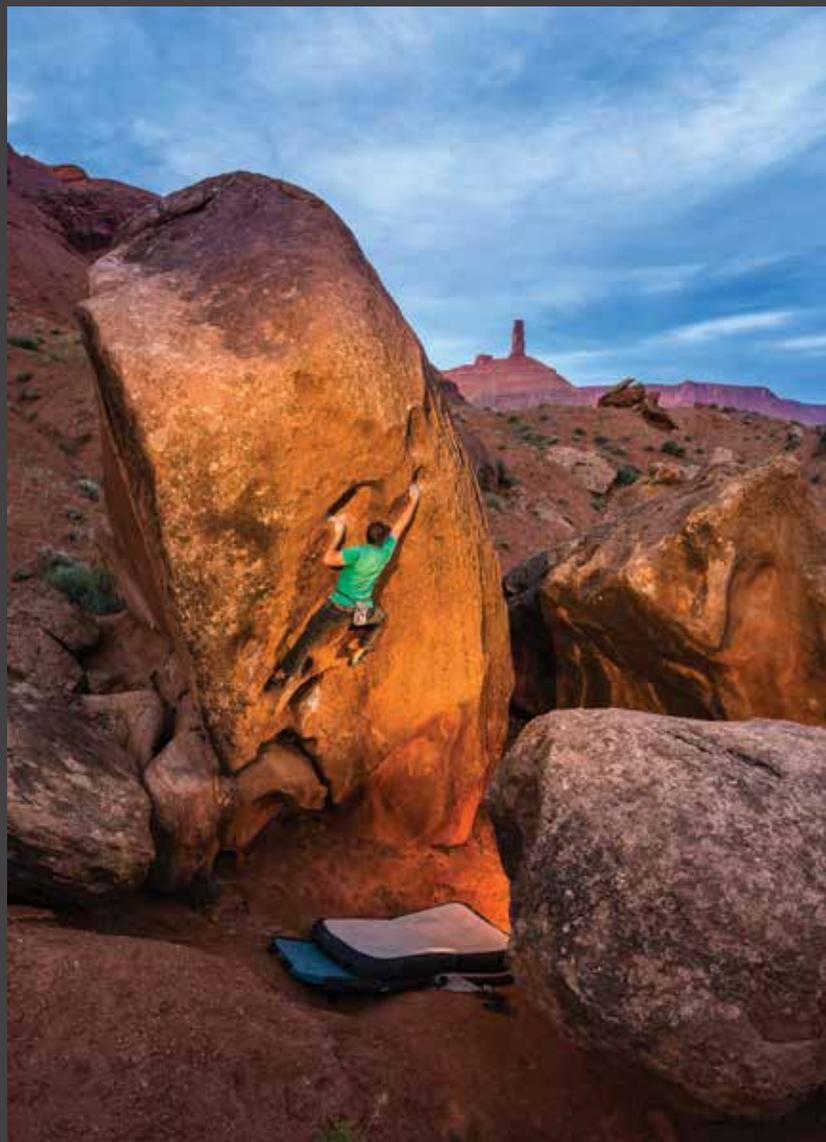
As you are planning your next desert adventure to climb splitter cracks and towers or wrestle beautifully shaped and colored boulders, keep these six things in mind.

1 Cryptobiotic soil, or living biological crust, can be destroyed with a single step. This dark, crumbly looking soil is a living crust that plays an important ecological role in many desert environments by drawing nutrients into the soil while protecting it from erosion by wind and rain. Stay on established trails and durable, low-impact corridors to avoid crushing this delicate crust, which can take decades to regenerate.

2 Desert soil lacks the microorganisms to biodegrade human waste. Use facilities where available or pack out your poop. We recommend the RESTOP bag, which is easy to use and seals the stink.

3 The desert is home to sites of cultural and historical significance. Look, but don't touch. Not only does the Archaeological Resources Protection Act make it a federal crime to steal or destroy artifacts, but the oils on our fingers, the chalk on our hands, and the rubber on our shoes can ruin these resources. Access Fund works with land management agencies to ensure a balanced approach to protecting culturally significant resources, such as petroglyphs and Native American sacred sites, and maintaining climbing access. Respect all closures.

4 Climbing on wet sandstone can forever alter the rock and cause gear placements to fail. Always wait 24–48 hours after a rain to climb on sandstone to avoid damaging the rock and risking weak gear placements.



5 Plant communities are highly sensitive and stressed. Searing heat, low water, and high winds regularly abuse desert plants. Pay careful attention to gear sprawl, pad placement, and off-trail travel to avoid additional challenges for these special plants.

6 Horsehair brushes are best for cleaning chalk and debris from sandstone. Use one to avoid damaging the porous rock surface. ■

THE INSIDE SCOOP: INDIAN CREEK

If you're like most climbers, you pore over guidebooks for weeks or even months when planning a climbing trip. You educate yourself on routes, descents, gear, and camping. But what about the local ethics, issues, and challenges at your destination crag? Part of being a responsible climber is knowing how to tread lightly—both socially and environmentally. In this *Inside Scoop* series, we'll connect

you with local climbing access leaders at some of the country's top climbing destinations for valuable insight into local ethics and issues.

Destination: INDIAN CREEK, UTAH

Local expert: LISA HATHAWAY, PRESIDENT OF FRIENDS OF INDIAN CREEK

What does the access situation look like in Indian Creek?

Access remains great at Indian Creek, and for that we are incredibly fortunate. But that can always change. Climbers need to respect and adhere to the policies. I have seen entire crags closed (notably, Donnelly and Supercrack!) and reopened, so we must always be vigilant! Access is earned, not given!

Are there currently any threats to climbing access?

No, but there have been many administrative turnovers at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and in the Canyonlands area—any time this happens, there may be shifts in field office policy. One of the greatest challenges in advocacy is maintaining relationships with stakeholders, especially when personnel revolve. It is imperative that climbers understand this and do their best to exceed expectations in any given area, as the next land manager may not be as keen to give us liberties.

Does the Creek experience overcrowding? If so, how do you address it?

That's a tough question. Indian Creek is vast and can accommodate large numbers of visitors, particularly if

folks disperse. But the infrastructure only goes so far. Waste management (human and other), camping, and parking are the biggest concerns. Carpooling and dispersing from the most popular areas on busy days always helps. Climbers should never park along the side of the road or in front of a gate if a parking lot is full.

What's the deal with new camping fees? Why are they necessary?

Visitation to Indian Creek has skyrocketed over the past decade, and the BLM can no longer bear the entire expense to maintain the campgrounds. Waste removal alone is a huge financial burden. If visitors don't step up to help cover this expense, the resulting impacts will damage this delicate desert environment. The BLM has proposed a fee structure for campsites in the corridor—the effective date is still to be determined.

What's the best way to dispose of human waste in the Creek?

Plan as best as you can to use the loos. If you have to go and there isn't a toilet around, pack it out. Desert soil can't biodegrade human waste. We recommend that all climbers carry a human waste disposal bag, like a RESTOP bag.

How is the relationship between climbers and the land managers?

In recent years, our relationship has been solid. We strive to keep it that way.

What are the local ethics at Indian Creek?

As I mentioned earlier, most of the policies revolve around camping, parking, and waste management. When climbers respect all of these policies, as well as any closures, and follow The Pact, all is well.

Any words of wisdom for folks visiting the Creek for the first time?

Be a self-contained unit and pack it all out! Also, don't co-opt a route for hours. If the crag is crowded and there's a queue, keep your party moving. If you've fallen or hung three times and others are waiting, be respectful and come down.

How can people support Friends of Indian Creek?

You can become a joint member of the Friends of Indian Creek and Access Fund with a single membership! Just visit www.accessfund.org/join. If you're signed up for Access Fund emails, keep an eye on your inbox for volunteer opportunities. ■

Climbers Partner with City to Open NEW DULUTH ICE PARK

A forgotten old quarry in east Minnesota, suffering from dumping and vandalism, is about to be revitalized into a destination ice park.

For nearly three decades, climbers have been visiting Casket Quarry, located within the city limits of Duluth, to climb the handful of ice lines on its steep walls. Local climbers Mike Dahlberg, James Loveridge, and Adam Daly have established new challenging mixed lines in the last 10 years, making it a worthy spot to climb, even during a dry Minnesota winter. Local climbers have done their part to keep the area clean. Yet access remained uncertain, because the quarry sat on both private and county tax-forfeited land.

Then in 2014, the City of Duluth teamed up with Minnesota Land Trust to revitalize the St. Louis River corridor through the city's new "half and half" tax—\$18 million in revenue specifically allocated to create and enhance recreational opportunities in the region.

Local climbers recognized this as an opportunity and quickly organized the Duluth Climbers Coalition (DCC) and submitted a proposal to the city for developing the quarry into the West Duluth Ice Park—a city park with ice farming infrastructure that would turn the modest quarry into an ice climbing destination.

"Climbers envision a protected green space around the quarry that will be utilized by hikers, mountain bikers,

picnickers, dog-walkers, and others attracted to the rock amphitheater's unique environment and expansive vistas," says DCC Board Member Dave Pagel. "In winter, when spectacular ice formations form on the quarry walls, the park will be a destination-quality venue for ice and mixed climbing."

DCC garnered support from Access Fund and worked with the city to advocate for the ice park. Earlier this year, the city unanimously approved the proposed climbing park. "We need to encourage people to get outside," says Minnesota Land Trust Executive Director Kris Larson. "If our next generation doesn't spend time outdoors, they're not going to care what happens to natural areas."

In the two-phased proposal, the city will acquire the private and county land where the quarry is located, improve the existing parking lot, and establish trails in and around the quarry. Access Fund awarded matching funds to help the city acquire the west side of the quarry and sent the Access Fund–Jeep® Conservation Team out to assist with trail planning.

The second phase is to install ice farming infrastructure on undeveloped, shorter, and lower-angled sections of cliff, thereby expanding the climbing opportunities for intermediate and beginner climbers. DCC will operate and manage the ice farming system.

Hansi Johnson, director of recreation lands for the land trust, is shepherding



© Hansi Johnson

the process and working with mountain bikers, climbers, cross-country skiers, and paddlers across the region to mobilize. "Transforming the quarry into the West Duluth Ice Park is one of the key projects to unite recreation, conservation, and economic development in the region," says Hansi.

Access Fund worked with DCC and the city to address concerns related to liability and management of the park, illustrating to the city that DCC has the full support of the national climbing advocacy organization. DCC also has been working with Minnesota Climbers Association (MCA) to learn about how MCA partners with the city to manage the Sandstone Ice Park.

Congratulations to DCC, the City of Duluth, and the Minnesota Land Trust for partnering to protect and promote climbing and recreation in their region. ■



TOO IMPORTANT TO FAIL: The Problem of Aging Bolts

By Laura Snider and Jason Haas

In August 2009, Brad Carter climbed past the first bolt on Calling Wolfgang, a challenging, aesthetic line at Index in Washington. At the second bolt, he hung, brushed off some holds, and continued on.

At the third, he hung again, intending to do the same. But as he weighted the hanger, it snapped. Carter plunged, falling an estimated 40 or 50 feet and breaking the hanger on the second bolt on his way down as well. Ultimately, the first bolt arrested his fall, and he avoided a grounder—but barely.

Since the first expansion bolt was placed on a rock climb—when four Bay Area climbers made the first ascent of New Mexico’s Shiprock over four days in 1939—climbers have largely breathed a sigh of relief after clipping a bolt on a route. Bolts mean safety, we tell ourselves. Bolts give us the courage to keep pushing higher. Bolts also let us travel up lines that we otherwise couldn’t protect and let us take falls we otherwise wouldn’t hazard.

But bolts can—and do—fail. The examples of bolt catastrophes are mercifully rare, but they happen: rusty bolts break,

corroded hangers crack, bolts installed in incorrectly sized holes pull out, and over-tightened bolts snap. As the huge number of bolts placed during the 80s and 90s, when sport climbing exploded onto the scene, begin to reach their 20th and 30th birthdays, the stories of failure are sure to increase.

The two hangers that snapped in Carter’s fall, thought to have been placed by the first ascensionists around 1990, were eventually found to be so corroded that their insides had dissolved into flakey leaves of metal. This kind of “exfoliation corrosion” can attack aluminum hangers that are heavily worked, especially in a wet climate like Index. The situation was made worse because the hanger and the bolt were made of mismatched metals, which is a recipe for more corrosion and one of the biggest problems with bolts today.

Learning to evaluate bolts instead of blindly trusting them is a critical skill for any climber, and it could save your life. Learning how to replace a bolt correctly and with the least impact—or supporting others’ efforts to replace bolts—is also critical to sustaining our climbing routes and crags

and to maintaining access. Accidents caused by bolt failures could endanger access, just as replacing (and placing) bolts without regard for the best practices in a particular area can endanger it as well.

The State of Bolts in America

In the early days of bolting, climbers were venturing into the unknown, using a wide variety of construction bolts. Early climbers establishing new routes weren't necessarily thinking of climbers who would follow them. And they lacked a clear understanding of how different bolts perform under the loads generated by a fall, which bolts work best in which types of rock, and which bolts are more susceptible to the mysterious and complex forces of corrosion in various climates.

Without standards or reliable data, decisions on what bolting hardware to use were often driven by ease of use and accessibility, personal preference, and cost. Still, if placed correctly, most bolts used in climbing were reasonably safe *on the day they were placed*. However, the metal in every bolt chemically reacts with its environment over time—though the reaction can be faster or slower depending on the climate and rock type—and the metal composition of many bolts has proven to be ill suited for its climbing application.

Stainless steel bolts, the standard we recommend in most cases today, are fairly resistant to corrosive forces. But the bolts of yore were not stainless steel, which means they were plated steel. In layman's terms, plated steel is more affected by the elements and more susceptible to corrosion—much more.

Even plated steel bolts placed as little as five years ago in the Owens River Gorge and at Joshua Tree, two of the driest climbing areas in the United States where you might assume rust wouldn't be an issue, have significant rust problems under the surface.

In other words, age alone cannot be used to determine whether a bolt is in good condition. The importance of age really has to do with how long the elements have been impacting the metal. While most climbers think of this impact as water and thus rust, corrosion can be caused by other elements in the environment. Salt, for example, which contains chloride, can cause stress corrosion cracking. Many climbers know that salt has had a huge impact on seaside cliffs near the ocean, but salt also can be an issue with inland karst formations, such as limestone and dolomite.

Climbers in the 80s, concerned about water speeding up the corrosion process, began sealing the bolt opening with glue. This not only prevented people from chopping their routes during the great bolt wars of the time, but it also kept

Can You Trust that Bolt?

All bolts become weaker with age and exposure to the elements, but there are two types of bolts that are the most typical junk you'll find in the rock—though there is a virtually endless amount of hardware-store mank that can be found on routes. Climbers should be wary of these types of bolts and report their presence to their local climbing organization or anchor replacement group.

BUTTON HEADS: There are numerous incidences when these types of bolts have been removed with little more than a few hard jerks using a quickdraw. These bolts can vary in pullout strength in granite, but consider them downright dangerous in softer rock such as sandstone or limestone.



STAR DRYVINS: Typically called star drives, these bolts can be identified by the star stamped on their heads. Star drives tend to have a greater degree of variability in terms of how bomber they are, but they have been known to come ripping out of the wall with a quickdraw yank.



Can You Trust that Hanger?

Climbers also should learn to evaluate bad hangers. Here are a few to watch out for.



LEEPER HANGERS: These hangers are easy to identify by their typically blackened color and semi-sharp edges, compared to the rounded shape of a modern hanger. Leeper hangers were the first commercially made hanger designed specifically for climbing and eventually were recalled.

HOMEMADE

HANGERS: Homemade pieces range from hacked-off bedframes to full-on weld jobs. Because these types of hangers are homemade and vary greatly, their ultimate strength cannot be known, making their safety questionable.



SMC HANGERS: These hangers came in two widths. The thin hangers—which are almost exactly the width of a single quarter—were used from the late 70s to early 80s and are nearly as bad as Leeper

hangers. The newer, thicker hangers placed later in the 80s are about the width of two quarters and are stronger.

COLD SHUTS: These have been used on routes as recently as the 90s and should be added to the list of suspect hardware. There are two types of cold



shuts, open and closed, and both are dangerous. Many cold shuts were welded in a climber's garage. Explaining the danger of that, Sandor Nagay wrote in *Climbing* magazine, "None of us would climb on a rope that our buddy wove in his garage, but many of us trust cold shuts implicitly."

water out—or so they thought. In fact, it sometimes did the opposite by trapping moisture in the hole, as rock is porous and water can still work its way to the bolt. In those cases, the water just had a harder time leaving, creating unsafe bolts sooner than may have otherwise happened.

Even bolts placed in the 80s in relatively dry climates without concern for water or salt are likely much less safe today. Colorado State University professor Paul Heyliger has been testing the sheer strength of old bolts and found that bolts placed in the 80s in the granite of Colorado's South Platte, a place with minimal moisture and far from any other corrosive concerns, such as ocean salt, have been weakened by more than half. Their sheer strength—the amount of force it takes to snap off the bolt right inside the hole—now averages only 4,000 pounds, compared to about 8,000 pounds when new. That's quite a big difference when you realize that a 175-pound climber can generate 3,200 pounds of force or more during a lead fall.

The combination of non-stainless steel bolts, climate, rock type, and well-meaning but sometimes counterproductive installation techniques means that, today, the quality and safety of fixed hardware ranges from very good to abysmal.

Introducing a New Anchor Replacement Fund

The problem of bad bolts will eventually become an access issue, if not addressed. "While bolting standards continue to evolve, there is an immediate need to address aging and inadequate fixed anchors and increase support for local and national partners leading these efforts," says Access Fund Executive Director Brady Robinson.

To address this need, Access Fund is proud to announce a grant program, in collaboration with the American Alpine Club, available to LCOs and anchor replacement groups seeking funding for fixed anchor replacement at climbing areas across the United States.

The Anchor Replacement Fund will further support the great work that volunteer organizations like the American Safe Climbing Association and numerous local climbing organizations have accomplished over the years. For decades, these volunteer groups have made significant investments and progress in anchor replacement, and we are excited to join this effort and hope that the Anchor Replacement Fund can help extend the reach of these initiatives.

This grant program is made possible by corporate support from ClimbTech, Petzl, and Trango. ■



Access Fund Awarded Elite Land Trust Accreditation

We are proud to announce that, earlier this year, Access Fund was awarded land trust accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance.

Since 1991, Access Fund has supported 55 land acquisitions in partnership with land trusts, public entities, and local climbing organizations, totaling 15,943 acres across 27 states. Our signature acquisitions in the 90s, including Unaweep Canyon, Golden Cliffs, and Rumney Rocks, were executed under a separate land holding entity called the Access Fund Land Foundation. In 2009, Access Fund adopted national land trust standards, absorbed these holdings, and launched the Climbing Conservation Loan Program to provide bridge financing and transaction expertise to LCOs and land trusts looking to protect America's climbing areas.

"Land trust accreditation is an important milestone for the Access Fund," says Access Fund Executive Director Brady Robinson. "It helps strengthen our land acquisition and

protection program, and it illustrates to local climbing organizations, landowners, and partners that Access Fund is the leading organization in land conservation standards, tools, and resources when it comes to protecting and stewarding America's climbing areas."

Access Fund is proud to employ innovative conservation strategies that directly protect climbing areas like Jailhouse Rock in California, the Holy Boulders in Illinois, and more recently, the Homestead climbing area in Arizona. This expertise in land conservation and stewardship, coupled with land trust accreditation, makes Access Fund a leader in the field of conservation, public access, and recreation.

Access Fund is one of 317 land trusts across the country that have been awarded accreditation since the program's inception in 2008. Accredited land trusts are authorized to display a seal indicating to the public that they meet national standards for excellence, uphold the public trust, and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent. The land trust accreditation seal

is a mark of distinction in land conservation.

"Accreditation provides the public with an assurance that, at the time of accreditation, land trusts meet high standards for quality, and that the results of their conservation work are permanent," says Commission Executive Director Tammara Van Ryn. Each accredited land trust submitted extensive documentation and underwent a rigorous review. "Through accreditation, land trusts conduct important planning and make their operations more efficient and strategic," says Van Ryn. "Accredited organizations have engaged and trained citizen conservation leaders and improved systems for ensuring that their conservation work is permanent."

"We are proud to display the accreditation seal and continue our tradition of protecting threatened climbing areas," says Access Fund Access Director Joe Sambataro. "With climbing growing in popularity, it is paramount that we protect and steward these resources for future generations to enjoy." ■

CLIMBERS RALLY TO SAVE DONNER SUMMIT

The world-class climbing at Donner Summit in California features finely textured granite with deep chimneys, low-angle slabs, overhanging test pieces, and splitter cracks. The climbing was established more than 50 years ago and still offers some of the most dramatic terrain in the Truckee-Tahoe region, boasting stunning vistas.

“Standing guard above Donner Lake, Donner Summit hosts some of the highest concentration of the best traditional climbing in the country,” says longtime local climber Jim Zellers. “It’s the reason climbers have it on their obligatory road trip stop, the reason many move here, and the reason I will never leave.”

But the 11.9-acre property, privately owned since the mid-1800s, was put at risk when the landowners decided to sell due to liability concerns. Earlier this spring, the Truckee Donner Land Trust and Access Fund teamed up to work with the landowners to protect this superb climbing resource and landmark forever.

Earlier this spring, the Truckee Donner Land Trust and Access Fund announced a deal to purchase a significant climbing area on Donner Summit. The acquisition would protect the popular and historic Black Wall, Peanut Gallery, and Road Cut climbing areas, as well as the access trail to the popular Space Wall and Stealth walls, all easily accessible from Old Highway 40.

Local climbers and partners banded together to meet the fundraising goal and raise over \$300,000 in just seven months to make the acquisition a reality. A group of local

climbers, including Gary Allan, Dave Nettles, Tom Herbert, and many more, came together to fundraise. Local gyms Planet Granite and Touchstone Climbing played a lead role in fundraising, encouraging their members to match their donations toward the effort. Athletes gave slideshows, outdoor partners donated gear for auctions, and hundreds of climbers and local residents donated toward the acquisition, stewardship, and additional trailhead improvements for Black Wall and the greater Donner Summit area.

The Truckee Donner Land Trust is now set to acquire the property by December 2015, with Access Fund recording and holding a permanent conservation easement to assist in stewardship and climbing management. With support from local climbers, the Truckee Donner Land Trust and Access Fund will steward and provide public access to the property, minimize environmental and visual impacts from climbers, build new trails and trailheads, provide informative signage, and protect nesting peregrine falcons in the area.

“Access Fund is excited to work alongside the land trust and local climbing community to protect this iconic and important climbing resource,” says Brady Robinson, Access Fund Executive Director. “This is a unique opportunity to pair our resources for the benefit of future generations.”

Thanks to all who have donated to make this project happen. Stay tuned for opportunities to help steward Black Wall and neighboring crags of Donner Summit. ■



INSIDE THE TOUR



Corporate Partners

Mountain Project has been the go-to online resource for climbing beta for the last 10 years and is committed to sharing information on closures and critical issues. Earlier this year, Mountain Project invested \$50,000 to help grow membership at Access Fund, and we thank the organization for its support and leadership in the climbing community.



These partners are businesses that put their money where their mouth is to support the future of climbing. Please consider the important contribution these partners make to your climbing future. They support the Access Fund and you. We encourage you to support them!

ABOVE THE CLOUDS - \$100,000+

Jeep® Brand/ Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, LLC
Rabble + Rouser

TITANIUM - \$50,000+

Black Diamond Equipment, LTD
Clif Bar & Company
Mountain Project
Recreational Equipment, Inc. (REI)

DIAMOND - \$25,000+

Patagonia
Planet Granite
The North Face
Touchstone Climbing, Inc.

PLATINUM PLUS - \$15,000+

Archer Law Offices, P.C.
Earth Treks Climbing Centers
Mountain Hardwear
Outdoor Research
Petzl

PLATINUM - \$10,000+

eGrips Climbing Holds
GORE-TEX® Products
Jason Keith Consulting
Osprey
prAna
Stanley
Stonewear Designs
Thermarest
Trango

GOLD - \$5,000+

Falcon Guides
La Sportiva
SCARPA North America
Sender Films
The Spot Bouldering Gym

SILVER - \$2,500+

Adidas Outdoor
Arc'teryx
Avery Brewing Company
BlueWater Ropes
Mammut
Marmot
Metolius
Mountain Gear
Omega Pacific
Outdoor Retailer
RAEN Optics
Sea to Summit
Sterling Rope Company
Stone Age Climbing Gym

MAJOR - \$1,000+

ASANA
CAMP USA
Carhartt
Drive Current
Evolve Sports
Goal Zero
Grivel
High Point Climbing and Fitness
Jagged Mountain Craft Brewery
Louder Than 11
Liberty Mountain Climbing
Mountain Khakis
Movement Climbing and Fitness
MyClimb App
New Belgium Brewing Company
Pacific Edge Climbing Gym
Phoenix Rock Gym
RESTOP
Skratch Labs
SuperTopo.com
The Crash Pad
The Warrior's Way
Treasure Mountain Inn
Upslope Brewing Company

CONTRIBUTING - \$500+

Aiguille Rock Climbing Center
Armaid
Backwoods
DMM Excalibur
E&J Gallo Winery
Fixed Pin Publishing
FrictionLabs
Green Peak Promotions
Hapa Sushi
Kingflyer Collective
KNS Reps, Inc.
Mountain Tools
Rok Haus Indoor Climbing Gym
Slo-Op Climbing
Tahoe Oral Surgery & Implant Center
Tom K. Michael, DDS, PS
Travel Country Outdoors
TRUBLUE Auto Belays
Vertical Dreams
Vertical Endeavors
W.W. Norton & Company Inc.
Xcellence

SUPPORTING - \$250+

Amarillo Rock Climbing House
Backbone Media
Cadillac Mountain Sports
Call of the Wild Adventures
Climbingweather.com
Doylestown Rock Gym
Forest Oil Corporation
Forte Creative Media
Full Contact
Joshua Tree Skincare
Law Firm for Non-Profits
Moosejaw
Origin Climbing and Fitness
Rock Fitness
The Gravity Vault Indoor Rock Gyms
The Mountaineer
Trailspace.com
Your Cause Sports

IN-KIND PARTNERS

Alpinist Magazine
Climbing Magazine
Dead Point Magazine
Rakkup
Rock & Ice Magazine
Schoeller



Lisa Hathaway bouldering near Moab, Utah. | © Whit Richardson

Whit Richardson

Whit has been lugging a camera around on his travels since the early 90s. He shoots a combination of landscapes and outdoor adventures, and has shot over a billion dollars' worth of architecture and real estate in the last 10 years. His inspiration comes from dramatic and wild landscapes and the challenge of creating unique photos.

You can see more of Whit's photos at www.whitrichardson.com. ■



Protect America's Climbing

The Access Fund
207 Canyon Blvd., Suite 201S
Boulder, Colorado 80302



HOLIDAY ITEMS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE STORE!

Half Dome Hoodie

A new Access Fund favorite! This pullover hoodie is a cozy poly/cotton blend with a kangaroo pocket in the front and a custom black-and-white print of Half Dome on the back. This soft but durable hoodie's comfortable fit is the ultimate choice for chilling out.

ROCK Project Gear

Did you miss the ROCK Project Tour? Don't worry, you can still be part of the hype by getting your hands on our favorite pieces of ROCK Project gear,



including a trucker hat, water bottle, and T-shirt.

Wear and carry them with pride to show your commitment to promoting responsible outdoor climbing practices.

Holiday Memberships Galore

The wait is over. Holiday Packs are here! And some of your favorite Access Fund swag now can be paired with a gift membership to make the perfect present for the climbers in your life.

Visit www.accessfund.org/store and check out our exciting new line of products.