

# RRGCC eNewsletter

July 2006

## Own It. Everyday.

Contributed by Stephanie Meadows  
Edited by Paul Vidal

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The past few years have seen worlds of change in the Red River Gorge. In less than five years, the number of routes has nearly doubled, the RRGCC made a monumental land purchase, and the U.S. Forest Service began the [Limits of Acceptable Change \(LAC\)](#) process - all incredible progress from the "Trails and Toilets Strategy" that initiated the start of the coalition ten years ago.

With the change has come a new dynamic relationship across the climbing community. As climbing gains popularity throughout the nation and in the region, cars pile into the parking lots and crowds pile up at the crags. Waiting an hour or more for popular climbs at Roadside, Torrent, or Military Crag isn't unheard of in the Red. Although this rising popularity of the Red has brought character and commerce to the area, the unfortunate reality is the challenges that accompany the ever-increasing number of crowds: parking issues, accelerated erosion at the crag base, errant trash, loud and boisterous behavior, and increased equipment wear. While the Red is expansive and lends itself to dispersed use, the effects of crowding are beginning to show at nearly all of the crags in the region. Call it the fate of the famous or the irony of success, the change is indisputable.

Since its inception, the Red River Gorge Climbers Coalition (RRGCC) has expanded its purpose not only to stewardship projects and ensuring climbing on Forest Service land but also to purchasing land to protect climbing from closure. While it may seem ambitious, such a colossal goal has only a simple purpose stated on T-shirts and bumper stickers you see now in parking lots visible around the Gorge: "If we own it, they can't close it." Stepping up to meet these needs, the RRGCC is undergoing its own metamorphosis to continue its vision of protecting climbing throughout the region.

These challenges, however intimidating, present us new opportunities. And we're seizing these opportunities. This year, for instance, represents the first year the climbing community as a whole funded the first annual Pendergrass-Murray Recreation Preserve (PMRP) payment. There are also more helping hands at the trails days, more voices in the region to educate and represent the cause of climbers, and more brains drumming up new ways to help the RRG region. And with a larger user base, our purpose of securing access throughout the region becomes more practical to local and state officials as well as large businesses.

In response to requests by climbers and other members of the community, the RRGCC is making progress to keep communication clear and open.

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### *In the next issue, look for:*

- *interviews with the Tackett's and other helping with re-equipping the Red*
- *Our financial breakdown*
- *How the Access Fund is working in the Red*
- *New route and event updates*

Continued on Next Page

**NEWSLETTER  
EDITOR**

Paul Vidal

**CONTRIBUTIONS  
TO THIS ISSUE**

Stephanie Meadows  
Morgain Sprague  
Bill Strachan



**LEAVE NO  
TRACE**

Burying your waste, packing out your TP, and picking up trash, yours and others, helps keep the Red clean, gives climbers a good image, and helps ensure out continued access to popular crags.

Follow the trails as strictly as possible. This helps concentrate impact and minimize the erosion. Also, always follow switchbacks, no matter how heavy your pack or how many seconds you'll trim from the hike.

Be considerate of other visitors in the area. The RRG is host to hundreds of visitors who don't climb but enjoy the Red in other ways. Respect their right to enjoy the area without screaming or yelling.

For more on Leave No Trace ethics, click the above image or visit [www.lnt.org](http://www.lnt.org).

Restructured by Blake Bowling and Board member Charlie Rittenberry, the [RRGCC's Web site](#) has a new look and will continue providing a user-friendly, informative, and interactive site for users of the Red River Gorge. It will go to serve as the face of the RRGCC in today's internet driven society. Users can also anticipate a bi-monthly e-newsletter with the latest news from the region, access updates, and reports on what the Coalition is doing to secure climbing in the Red.

One of the most exciting and important changes that occurred with the RRGCC is the [recognition as a 501\(c\)\(3\)](#) charitable organization. This IRS classification, which is retroactive to September 3, 2003, solidifies the RRGCC's legitimate standing within the climbing realm as well as in the corporate realm and opens a wealth of opportunities to help fulfill the Coalition's vision. Already, this recognition is paying off with corporate sponsorships secured in June from two renowned climbing companies: Petzl and PraNa. At the forefront of this triumph is the new Bentley Brackett, who has almost single-handedly spearheaded the corporate fundraising efforts. Bentley, an accomplished climber himself, brings industry resources, contacts, and experiences that will power the RRGCC down the long road of corporate support.

Individual ownership and responsibility is the future for the RRGCC. No matter how large any coalition may be, it is the constituents that will always be the core of energy and motivation. This year has been particularly successful on this front. [Morgain Sprague](#), a long time supporter and volunteer for many of the RRGCC's past events, and [Dwight Bradburn](#), a key attendant at the LAC meetings, are filling seats five and six of the seven seats on the RRGCC's Board of Directors. Other examples of this success abound: Michelle Ellington (2005 Volunteer of the Year) and her fundraising success; Wes Allen getting the word out through his traveling slideshows; Kenny Barker developing several hard lines, including the now famous Purgatory, and his work on trails and the Sore Heel parking lot; and Matt Tackett coordinating with the mountain biking community and organizing productive trail days. Tackett, along with Charlie Rittenberry, secured a \$7K grant from the state for this effort. These noteworthy accomplishments along with many other contributions have made 2005 a significant year for the coalition and the future of climbing in the Red. Excited and energized by the movements, the RRGCC is making good use of the surge of momentum created this spring. Along with increasing communication and coordination, the Coalition is always looking for new ways to encourage volunteers, support individuals as they find new ways, and invent new ideas that help the community reach its goals.

Last, and certainly far from the least, the recent social gatherings have proven the Coalition's penchant for fun and building camaraderie among the climbers. Whether it be a film premiere, an impromptu female push-up contest while raffling off "schwag," contests like sumo wrestling and Slip'n Slide, or visits from internationally known climbers, the RRGCC is "putting our best foot forward in developing more dynamic, exciting events for our members while focusing the climbing world's attention to the PMRP purchase," said Sprague.

Undeniably, the future for the Coalition and climbers alike is more promising than ever. "The RRGCC is riding a real streak of an upturn," said Shannon Stuart-Smith, co-founder of the organization. With the strongest and most supportful community the RRG has arguably ever seen, the time is now to reinforce community ownership. The time is now to build a broad support structure to see access secured in the face of adversity. The time is now to seize opportunities to build the realities we envision. The time is now to step up, step out, and show that you **own it**, too.

**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.

## Red River Rendezvous 2006 Roundup

Contributed by Morgain Sprague, Board of Directors  
 Edited by Paul Vidal

Thanks to all who made the RRGCC's spring event this year a terrific time. Held on Memorial Day weekend, May 27-29, the Rendezvous had close to 200 attendees. [Miguel's Pizza](#) graciously hosted the event, donating time and money to our continued effort to raise money for the PMRP. I especially want to thank our volunteers. The parking attendants were considerate and organized; the lovely women at registration welcomed people warmly and registered them efficiently. Not to be outdone, the staff at Miguel's went above and beyond the call of duty all weekend. And our trashy trash bag distributors were patient and generous enough to give up climbing to help. And our judges were terrific. A special thanks to Morgan Burton who worked tirelessly on the set stage and design, manned the control panel and worked 10-12 hour days to make the event more than memorable.

Saturday morning started off with event registration including sign-ups for our trash collecting contest. Plenty of climbers signed up taking bags to collect trash at Military/Left Flank and Funk Rock City. At the end of the day, five people produced very interesting pieces of garbage hoping to present the most interesting piece of trash and win a pair of [LaSportiva](#) shoes. Drowned in garbage, a few clever climbers passed off Mark Ventura as their award winning trash. In the end, though, we had to disqualify the entry because Mark is actually just too precious. The winner cashing in with a men's white paten leather "Wayne Newton" shoe he found along the trail at Funk Rock City. Also on Saturday, Arno Ilgner provided his mental expertise free to climbers at his famous [Warrior's Way](#) clinic, focuses on the controlling the mental aspects of climbing to help leaders realize their full potential both on and off the rock

Saturday evening "DJ Mike", "Joe's Neighbor", "Neville Pohl", & "Matt Martini w/ Jeff Dion" laid down the beats while Wes Allen provided a new version of his slide show. Not to be confused with the local strongman by the same first name, Wes Powell graciously premiered his video "[Homestyle](#)" with resounding success. Brittany Griffith made a surprise appearance at the festival conducted the raffle with Bill Strachan, Stephanie Meadows and Dario Ventura. Bill and Brittany beamed climbers in the head with various schwag causing minor injuries and a lot of laughter. Michelle Ellington received the 2005 Volunteer award for her extraordinary [fundraising efforts](#) that enabled the RRGCC to make our 2006 PMRP mortgage payment and for encouraging climbers to initiate individual fundraising endeavors. **THANK YOU** for your generosity, energy and monumental effort, Michelle. Ryan Adams, outgoing BOD Treasurer, was also recognized for his years of contribution to the RRGCC. **THANK YOU** Ryan and enjoy the trip!

Sunday was the day of the climbing competition. Ten entrants participated in various categories so everyone walked away with a prize! Early summer weather brought humidity covering the entrants like a wet blanket. Despite the conditions, the competitors had a great time and pulled hard. See the inset to the right for results. Sunday evening Miguel's presented a pizza eating contest and the contestants wasted no time before stuffing their faces full of cheese, crust and sauce, all in the name of a spiffy new rope. Many in the audience claimed foul when the contest winner turned out to have won ANOTHER rope Saturday in the raffle. But hey, so the guy is lucky. Let's hope the ropes are too!

**THANK YOU SO MUCH** for making this event a success.  
 Stay tuned for Rocktoberfest 2006!

### CLIMBING COMP RESULTS

#### Men's Open

First Prize (\$200 + an Access Fund Lexan Water Bottle): **Adam Taylor**  
 Second Prize (\$100 + a case of Ale 81 & 2 climbing DVD's): **Grady Bagwell**  
 Third Prize (\$50 + 2 climbing DVD's):  
**John Powell**

#### Women's Open

First Prize (\$200 + an Access Fund Lexan Water Bottle): **Kasia Pietras**

#### Men's Advanced:

First Prize (\$50 + an Evolv Shoe Gift Certificate): **Nick Greenwell**  
 Second Prize (Rock Warrior's Way & a Mark's BBQ Gift Certificate): **Roger Bess**

#### Women's Advanced:

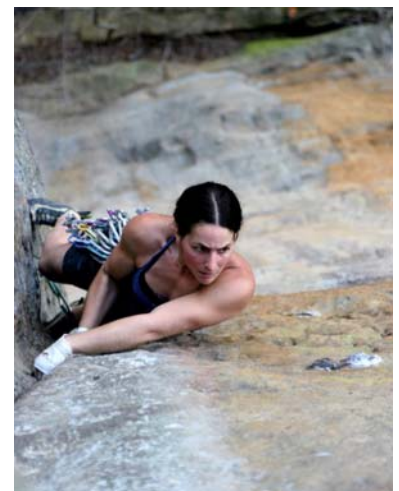
First Prize (\$50 + a 5.10 Shoe Gift Certificate): **Lesley Ladlad**  
 Second Prize (Rock Warrior's Way & a Mark's BBQ Gift Certificate): **Jimie DeMonte**

#### Men's Novice / Intermediate

First Prize (\$50 + Free RRO Breakfast & a Wolverine RRG Guidebook): **Joe Gorse**

#### Women's Novice / Intermediate:

First Prize (\$50 + Free RRO Breakfast):  
**Dana Weller**  
 Second Prize (Wolverine RRG Guidebook & a Via Ferratta Gift Certificate): **Erika Skaggs**



Michelle Ellington, 2005 Volunteer of the Year. Photo by [Wes Allen](#).

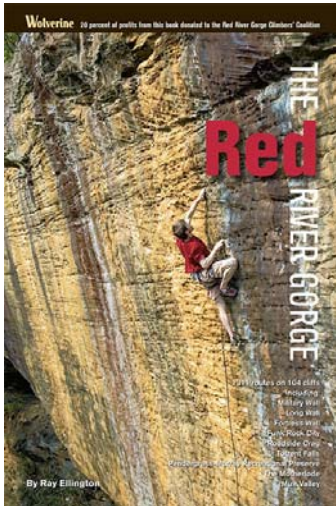
### OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

[Miguel's Pizza](#), [Red River Outdoors](#), [Torrent Falls](#), [Wolverine Publishing](#), [Phillip Gall's](#), [Pedal the Planet](#), [RockQuest](#), [Climb Time Cincy](#), [The Access Fund](#), [Black Diamond](#), [Prana](#), [Petzl](#), [Evolv](#), [LaSportiva](#), [Montrail](#), [Patagonia](#), [Mountain Gear](#), [DrTopo](#), [Gore-Tex](#), and [Clif Bar](#)



## The LAC process and the RRGCC

Contributed by Bill Strachan, Executive Director  
 Edited by Paul Vidal



Ray Ellington, author of the new "Red River Gorge Guidebook", and Dave Pegg (Wolverine Publishing) have generously donated 35% 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**

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*The next workshops will be on July 25 and August 8 from 6pm-8:30pm. For more on the LAC process, visit [rgcc.org](http://rgcc.org).*

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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](#). In addition to myself, RRGCC Board members Shannon Stuart-Smith and Dwight Bradburn have been consistent LAC Workshop attendees since this process began in summer 2004. Jim Holzman, Steve and Jill Kaufmann, Jeff Kennedy, and Chris Carr are other climbers involved with these workshops. Chris, a graduate student and Ph.D. candidate in Recreational Ecology at the University of Cincinnati, studied climbing impacts in Red River Gorge for his masters thesis and assisted the USFS in conducting a Resource Inventory during Step 4 of the LAC.

To conduct the LAC Resource Inventory USFS employees, interns, and volunteers used high end GPS units to locate all trails, campsites, destination points, archaeological sites, and climbing areas in the Gorge. Data concerning the conditions of these resources was also measured and recorded. The end product of Step 4 has been an amazing geographic information system (GIS) database that can be queried and manipulated to produce maps and charts of recreational use and impacts. Recently, in May 2006, LAC participants and USFS personnel went on a field trip along the Osbourne Bend trail to Moonshiner Wall, Moonshiners Arch, and then back along the Douglas Trail to get a first hand feel of how actual conditions on the ground relate to the GIS database.

Currently, the process is in Step 5, which focuses on determining measurable standards or limits defining acceptable resource conditions. Further on, in Step 7, management actions to bring impacted areas back to within acceptable standards will be developed. Steps 6 and 8 of LAC will likely have the most influence on the future of rock climbing. In Step 6, LAC Workshop participants will map the Gorge into zones according to different levels of recreational opportunity and experience. Six distinct opportunity zones have been determined by the LAC group for which standards are being developed: Pristine, Primitive, Semi-primitive, Roaded, Natural, Concentrated Use, and Critical Resource / Habitat. Several opportunity zone alternatives will be developed in Step 6, then in Step 8 a preferred alternative will be selected by the group.

LAC workshops are normally held at the Clark County Cooperative Extension Service in Winchester, KY. The next workshop is scheduled there for Tuesday June 20, 2006 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. It is not too late to become involved and newcomers are always welcome. If you are unable to attend the meetings you are encouraged to learn as much as possible about LAC through browsing the information on the Daniel Boone National Forest website. The RRGCC also welcomes any climber inquiry, comment, and input as our involvement will ultimately have a significant influence on the future of climbing in Red River Gorge.

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 [rgcc.org](http://rgcc.org) for more updates as progress continues.

## Char-Broiled

**Charlie Rittenberry** is one of the newer members of the BOD. This year, he fills the position of Vice President and is helping with the Volunteer Coordination position. If you know him, you'll understand why you're guaranteed a smile and an excited hop if you mention iPods, concerts, home-cooked meals, and VW Buses.

**Me:** What brought you to Lexington?

**Charlie:** Came to Lex for school in '92 at Transylnd [Transylvania University] and have been here ever sense. Work and climbing and bars I know made this place very homey for me.

**Me:** Anything in particular that you look for in a climb?

**Charlie:** Uh, fingerlocks and handjams? Chossier the better?

**Me:** Why the RRGCC?

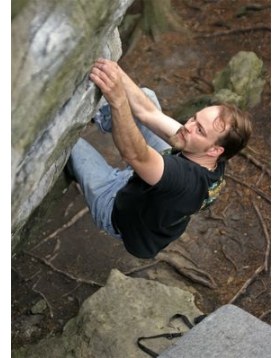
**Charlie:** Once I realized how much money and effort Dr. Bob had put into the PMRP it occurred to me that I could not let all the effort he and Johnny [Bronaugh], Shannon [Stuart-Smith], Bill [Strachan], and all the other people had put into this place go to waste. I remember when the [Forest Service] was about to shut down climbing in the red, Shannon and Johnny stepped up and created a working relationship with the FS. After the PMRP was purchased and it became clear to me that we could lose it I figured it was time to put some effort into the things have given me so much joy over the years.

**Me:** What do you hope to bring to The Coalition?

**Charlie:** I'm just trying to fill in the gaps. Everyone on the BOD has special talents but there was a serious communication gap and it seemed that many of the projects that got moving were never completed. I also felt that a lot of the climbers in the red were somewhat divorced from the RRGCC. I was hoping I could bring some of my skills and contacts into the BOD and minimize that.

**Me:** Other than the PMRP, what are issues are you looking forward to dealing/helping with most?

**Charlie:** Right now most of our focus is on the PMRP -- raising money, engaging the mountain biking community, raising awareness of both the potential we have with the PMRP and the risks associated with it. I'm also putting a good bit of effort into getting some more info on [rgcc.org](http://rgcc.org) and organizing our membership database for both electronic newsletters and snail mail periodicals. Other than that i'm trying to expand our membership and help utilize all the talents we have right here in our backyard. The fundraising efforts from [redriverclimbing.com](http://redriverclimbing.com) and the grant applications from Diane Loeffler are just two of the many recent successes coming purely from climbers around here that stepped up and volunteered their efforts.



*Charlie brings 10 years of climbing experience to the Board. Photo by [Wes Allen](#).*

### **RRGCC BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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*Terry L Kindred*

*July 16, 1954– May 28, 2006*

*Born in Berea, KY*

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Terry being "goofier 'n hell"



Terry with friends Blake Bowling (center) and Mark Jackson (right) after Blake sent his long standing project, "*All That Glitters*". Terry would often drive down to the Red with only a harness and Gri-Gri just to belay Blake.

## The RRG community mourns the loss of Terry Kindred

On May 28, 2006, the Red River Gorge lost a vital member of the community. Climbing in the area for more than ten years, Terry Kindred came to be known as a gifted first ascensionist and route developer while also being proactive with the ever present need for route maintenance. His eye for lines was among the best the RRG has ever seen, spotting lines like "Random Precision" at The Gallery and "All Things Considered" at Military Wall. If you had ever had the opportunity to share a crag with him or a pizza with him after a weekend, you'd surely know that Terry had an unlimited and exacting memory of the best beta for seemingly every route in the Red.

Always striving to expand his horizons, Terry was also an active hiker, boater, and scuba diver, not to mention his career as a private pilot. At the bar, he'd often reach into his pocket and pull out his personal set of darts. There was no discipline too mundane for Terry's demanding mind: he made it his purpose to understand everything to the fullest extent. In darts, he would explain the importance of arc, velocity, and trim feathers. Even the art of sandwich creation didn't slip from his mind's exacting grasp, explaining that a horizontal cut is the only way to finish a masterpiece. His skills and efforts as a bolter, climber, and friend will be missed deeply, leaving a hole that can't be filled.

Terry L. Kindred of Lexington, age 51, was born in Berea, KY, to his mother, Mildred Kindred of Mt. Vernon, KY, and the late William "Bill" Kindred. Beside his mother, he also leaves behind his daughter, Kolbie Kindred of Columbus, OH; his two brothers, Jeff Kindred of Mt. Vernon and Tommy Blackburn of Berea; his two sisters, Mrs. Sue Kindred of Custer, KY, and Mrs. Lori Miriacle of Mt. Vernon. His former wife, Mrs. Deborah Kessler also survives him.

On a personal note, Terry was a close friend of many members of the BOD. His passing brings tremendous sadness to us all. While I knew him for a much shorter time than most of the BOD, he left a deep impact on my life. His spirit and volunteerism taught me a great deal, not the least of which was the power of action. His "up or off" attitude was a philosophy that he took to climbing and life: either commit completely to your energy or withdraw yourself fully and focus your energy elsewhere. I saw him always either focused on his send or diligently, even religiously brushing holds and figuring out beta for his climbing partners, the loyal, if unofficial members of Team Suck. While I knew him for what seems now to have been such a short time, and while I was never a member of Team Suck (or at least I don't think I was), Terry seemed to me like a friend I'd known for a lifetime. There was never any distance between us in understanding.

I'll never forget the way he'd grin wryly when I'd walk up to a crag. Or the way his ears would pull back when he'd smile. Or the way we could share Pink Floyd's "Wish you were here" and he'd point to his arm and say, "See that: goosebumps!" I'll miss him swimming around this fishbowl.



## 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 much of the 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, such as [Torrent Falls](#), to maintain relations and ensure that climbing access will remain while the needs of the landowners are also met. 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.

### JOHN BACHAR AT ROCKTOBERFEST

Each fall the RRGCC holds a fundraiser known as "Rocktoberfest". With the Red at it's prime conditions, the RRGCC, thanks to help from the owners of [Hoosier Heights](#), will host a slideshow presented by climbing legend, John Bachar. Come and join us as we take in a bit of climbing history on Saturday evening, October 14. Please visit [rgcc.org](http://rgcc.org) for updates as the date nears.

## **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 nearly 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



## SEASON OF GENEROSITY

When December 2005 rolled around, the RRGCC was looking at a long drive to hit the necessary \$30,000 for the yearly PMRP payment. Then, in less than a month, through efforts on [redriverclimbing.com](http://redriverclimbing.com) and elsewhere, more than \$10,000 was raised. With June now upon us and this year's payment made, it's our chance to breathe a sigh of relief and say **THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** that donated money or time to help the RRGCC and the community! While the outpouring of support wasn't necessarily surprising (we all know how **AWESOME** you people are), it still **AMAZES** us how capacity you have for caring and helping the community. I'd love to list each of you and call you out for being the generous, thoughtful people you are but there simply isn't room (believe me, I've tried)!

**THANK YOU!**

## 2005 VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

This year, the RRGCC recognized **Michelle Ellington** and her efforts through [redriverclimbing.com](http://redriverclimbing.com) as well as events, auctions, and sale items as she helped raise thousands of dollars towards the PMRP payment. Thank you from the entire climbing community!

## RYAN ADAMS RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS ON BOARD

While not as famous nationally as the musician, **Ryan Adams** the RRGCC BOD Treasurer has given years of time and effort to the Coalition. This summer he's packing his things and heading off for a nine-month road trip with his girlfriend with stops including Veedavoo, Squamish, Indian Creek, Yosemite, and Hueco, to name a few. For those nights spent scrutinizing tables and figures trying to make the most of every donated dollar, we thank you for the years you've helped and wish you the best on your trip! Hope to see you in nine months...

## FOREST SERVICE 9A/9B RE-OPENS

After much needed repairs were made, Forest Service road 9A/9B reopened to motorized traffic this spring. More than just patching a pothole, the repairs included cutting into the cliffside, adding a metal retaining wall, and installing a drainage system under the road. In effect, the repairs essentially reopen nearly 300 climbs in the Lower Gorge Region. While access to these climbs was never directly compromised, the hike out to most of the walls prevented many from climbing there. Be sure to visit the region and get on some of the RRG's classic routes. For pictures of the repairs, visit [redriversaga.com](http://redriversaga.com).

## NEW ROUTES IN THE PMRP

*Skunk Love 11b (Sport)*  
*All That Glitters 12c (Trad)*  
*Sugar Magnolia 13d (Sport)*  
*Hellraiser 12c (Sport)*  
*Gluttony 12a (Sport)*  
*Happy Trails 10b (Sport)*  
*The Gimp 10a (Sport)*  
*Calm Like A Bomb 13b (Sport)*  
*Bessie 11c (Sport)*  
*Cheaper Than A Movie 8 (Trad)*  
*The Spice of Life 10b (Trad)*  
*No Redemption 13b (Sport)*

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

## MUIR VALLEY EXPLODES!

OK, it didn't actually explode, but with more than 100 new routes in the past year, it tore its way through the scene. Along with the PMRP, it was featured in Justin Roth's article in *Urban Climber* magazine in Spring 2005. Check out [muirvalley.com](http://muirvalley.com) for more information on climbing in the area and be sure to thank Rick and Liz Weber for their continued support of climbing on their land. And please remember, Muir Valley is private land. Use your head!

## Wall and Route Closures and Reasons

### Area and/or Routes

#### At Hen's Nest:

Finger Lickin' Good; Sultans of Stem; Close to the Edge; The Edge (TR)

#### At Western Sky Bridge Ridge:

Refraction; Guideline; Icarus; The Great Arch; The Hook and the Pendulum

#### Pocket Wall

#### Arena, In-Between Wall, Oil Crack

### Reasoning

Protection of Sensitive Resources

Protection of Archeological Sites

State Park Property

No Foot Traffic Permitted on Charmane Oil Company land

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.

<a href="#">2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Johnny &amp; Alex Crag Day</a>	August 5 & 6	PMRP
The G.A.T.H.E.R.I.N.G.	September 23 & 24	<a href="#">Muir Valley</a>
Rocktoberfest	October 13-15	<a href="#">Torrent Falls</a>

## Flashes

### Access Awareness:

Because of recent climber behavior, climbing at Torrent Falls is in danger. While it will remain open to climbing, that privilege is only on the premise that the current rules continue to be followed. Please be sure to:

- Absolutely no pets.
- Please use the public restroom either at the BBQ or the portajohn at the bottom of the road. Do not try to use the bathroom in the Bed and Breakfast.
- Pick up any trash you might see, yours or others.
- Stick to the main trail; erosion is a serious problem at Torrent.
- Please refrain from excessive or boisterous obscenity; Torrent Falls is a family resort.

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

### 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.

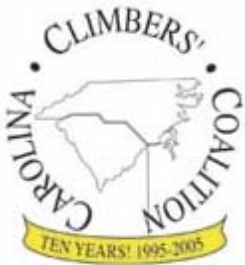
2. Closures often are in place to help prevent damages to sensitive resources in the area. For instance, white-haired golden rod is an endangered species that is sometimes near climbing area. If you notice a sensitive resource in a climbing area, please contact us at [rgcc.org](http://rgcc.org).

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 1993, there has been a bolting ban for new routes on Forest Service land in the Red River Gorge. A few routes (about 26 routes) were permitted after having gone through an application process. For now, new route applications won't be reviewed until the [LAC process](#) is completed, another reason for the importance the RRGCC places on the LAC. Existing routes are still maintained re-equipping previously existing hardware is still permitted. For more information on the bolting regulations, please visit [Forest Service website](#) and the or [rgcc.org](http://rgcc.org) for updates on how the LAC is affecting climbing.

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, The G.A.T.H.E.R.I.N.G., on September 23-24, 2006. They've also taken an inventory of the bolts throughout the Valley and have been in the process of maintaining and re-equipping hardware. 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** has been a busy pack of hooligans recently. They have purchased a total 25.22 acres of climbing at three different crags. The Boat Rock Preserve in Georgia (12.3 acres), Kings Bluff, Tennessee (9.78 acres), and Jamestown, Alabama (3.14 acres) are all now open to public access thanks to the hard work and successful efforts of the SCC. Also, access to Castle Rock, Tennessee has also been re-established after long negotiations with the landowners and eventually a deal that leases cliffline and hiking access for \$1,500 a year. For more information on the SCC and how you can help, please visit [seclimbers.org](http://seclimbers.org).

Also active recently has been the **Carolina Climbers' Coalition**. Years of fundraising and negotiating materialized on February 15, 2006 with the purchase of Laurel Knob, the tallest wall east of the Mississippi. With nearly 1200 feet of granite, this truly is a monumental acquisition for the climbing community. Congratulations to all involved in this historic purchase! To learn more about current access at the cliff and other news in the Carolina region, visit [carolinaclimbers.org](http://carolinaclimbers.org)

On the weekend of May 19 through the 21<sup>st</sup>, the [Water Stone Outdoors](#) hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> annual **New River Rendezvous**, a fundraising event for the New River Alliance of Climbers (NRAC). With events like live music from local star ODUB, the always popular Dessertapalooza, a bouldering and dyno competition, Arno Ilgner's [Warrior's Way](#) Clinic, and Sumo wrestling, it's no surprise this event ends up packed every year with excited climbers and motivated sponsors. The donations collected go to anchor replacement and trail maintenance. 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.

