

THE GUIDEBOOK

AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB



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📷 [Cover Photo] Kate Kelleghan laying it all out on *Moonlight Buttress* (5.12c), Zion National Park, Utah. Land of the Nuwui and Pueblo peoples. AAC member *Felipe Tapia Nordenflycht*

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Foster Denney

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11 SPOTLIGHTS

- 13 Filming the Future
- 21 Getting Sh*t Done
- 31..... The Foundation of our Progress
- 41..... The Ultimate Freelancer

49

MTTL

Membership Through the Lens

85 FEATURES

- 87 Protecting Pine Mountain
- 95 Prophecies Foretold
- 107 It's All Water
- 119 Rewind the Climb

135

BETA

- 137 Annual Report
- 142 Membership Benefits



📷 AAC member Caleb Timmerman

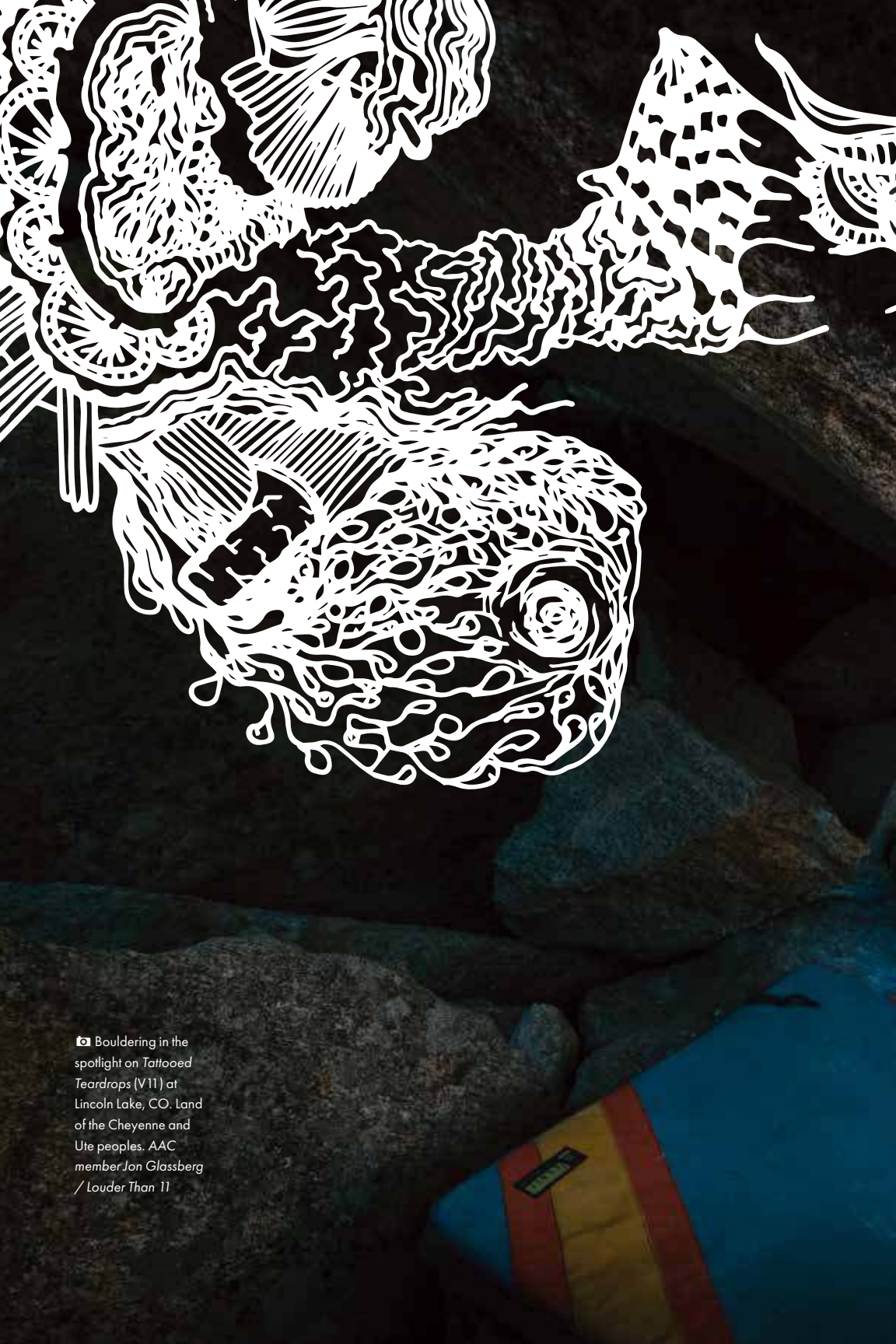


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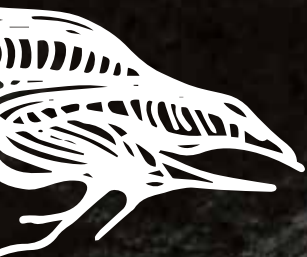
We're climbers. Gym climbers and trad climbers. Sport climbers and mountaineers. Boulderers, backcountry skiers, and alpinists. Some of us are beginners, some of us are experts. Some of us are young, some of us are young-at-heart. We're from every corner, and we're of every color. We're your friends, your belayers, and your advocates. We're your high-five throwers, and we're your biggest champions. We're just like you.

Together, we share a passion for climbing, the community it inspires, and the wild spaces that host us. When we pool our passion together we have overwhelming power and possibility: to protect our public lands, climb to new levels, educate each other on safe climbing practices, and connect with climbers of every background. With this dream in mind, the Club offers grants, accident analysis, rescue and medical coverage, community gatherings, opportunities for advocacy, and more. With you on our team we have grown one step closer to our vision of a community of passionate, engaged, educated climbers. This is your Club.

United We Climb.



📷 Bouldering in the spotlight on *Tattooed Teardrops (V11)* at Lincoln Lake, CO. Land of the Cheyenne and Ute peoples. AAC member Jon Glassberg / Louder Than 11



SPOTLIGHTS





A young Black woman with glasses and a brown crocheted sweater is sitting at a desk, smiling. She is holding a smartphone in her hands. A professional camera on a tripod is positioned in the foreground, partially obscuring the view. The background features a large green plant and a window with natural light.

FILMING THE FUTURE

Artist Spotlight: Filmmaker and Athlete
Marie-Louise Lusamba Nkashama

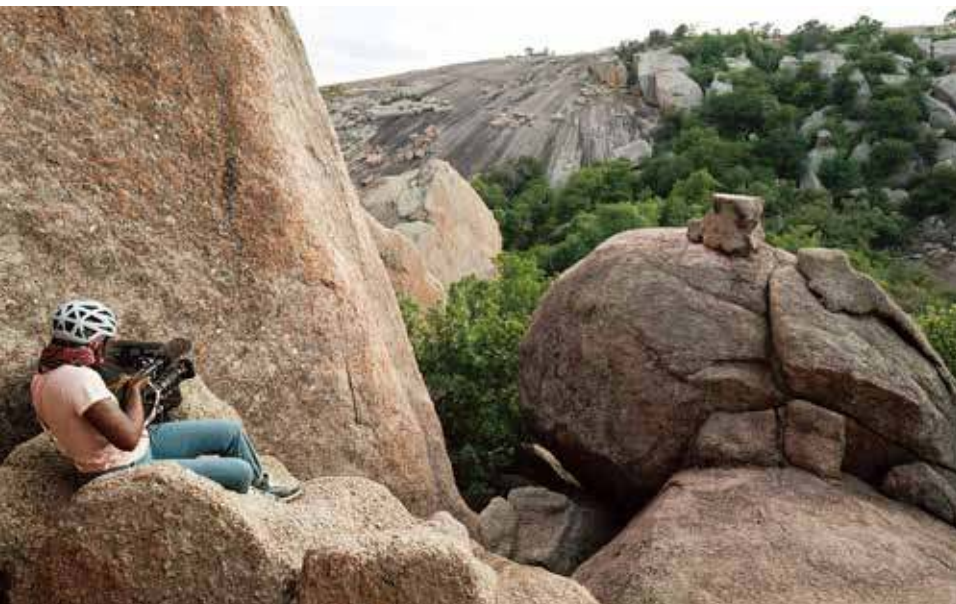
Compiled by Hannah Provost



📹 [Previous & this spread] Marie-Louise brings a causal familiarity to her interviews with Kristina Chyn while filming for the AAC's Grassroots Series. Land of the Tonkawa, Lipan-Apache, Karankawa, Comanche, and Coahuiltecan people. AAC member *Alben Osaki*







📹 [This page] Marie-Louise captures landscape footage in Enchanted Rock Park, TX. Land of the Lipan-Apache, Jumanos, Comanche, Coahuiltecan and Kickapoo peoples. AAC member Alben Osaki; [Next page] AAC member Alben Osaki

Where did this all begin for you? How did you get into climbing? Into filmmaking? Were these always linked?

Getting into film was somewhat of an accident. There was a scheduling mistake during high school, and I got put into an AV class. I've always been a writer and love telling stories through words, but when we got to the documentary part of the class, I realized I could do the same thing in a different way. I really like how film allows a fly on the wall style or cinéma vérité. This style allows you to observe people and watch how dynamics work organically. Sometimes you learn more by watching someone in their element instead of just interviewing them and putting them on the spot.

My first exposure to climbing was *The Princess Diaries*. I got this idea in my head, and I just wanted to try rock climbing. There was a gym 15 minutes away from my house that I had never known about. It was a bouldering-only gym, and I was terrified, but when I survived that first fall, I was hooked.

Climbing and film started to come together when I went to the New River Gorge. Flash Foxy was hosting a climbing festival at the AAC campground. I shot backup photography and film for the main photographer during that event. Since then, I've worked with Cedar Wright, who is a film mentor for me, and now I make films for The North Face.

What kind of stories are you most excited to tell?

I gravitate towards the human side of any story. Often we see filmmaking in the outdoor industry that is primarily about adventure or battling the external elements. Instead, I'm intrigued to know what causes a person to want to climb this climb. What did this person have to do to get to where they are in their lives?

I'm ready to tell stories with climbing as the backdrop. Having come from a traditional film school background, I feel like it's my duty to tell a story that is approachable for both someone who is a climber and someone who isn't. Does this story hold up on its own if you take it out of its particular industry?

I'm particularly proud of my film *The Traveler Comes Home* and similar stories that explore identity and the meaning of home for different people.



You have filmed and produced the first and second installment of the AAC's new Grassroots Series, which features the stories of our volunteers making impacts in their local community. How do you see Grassroots fitting into the larger outdoor film scene?

I see it as very important. These stories shine light on the communal aspect of the outdoor industry and raise the voices of people who previously haven't been represented. When filming in Michigan for the first installment of Grassroots, I felt like I was filming the future. This will only get bigger, and it was super exciting to see momentum in this community.

What do you like most about climbing?

Finding my unique path up the rock. It's one of those things where you can't be competitive because everyone has their own way of getting up the rock. Since it's so individual, I need to focus on inner strength and inner will to keep going when it gets hard. That process of going from feeling like you can't do something, and learning move by move



📹 Marie-Louise finds her own unique way up the rock in Rifle, CO. Land of the Ute people. AAC member Savannah Cummins

you can in fact do it—that’s incredible. I like asking: what did you need to do internally to do that move? All of our movement starts in the brain. Whenever I am encouraging someone, I try my best to encourage their mentality. If I set my mind to something, then I know I can do it. It’s just sometimes hard to decide to do something if you are battling fear or insecurity.

Related to that, it’s also essential to me to mentor and encourage people, especially as the first Black woman athlete for The North Face. In that sense, I am always trying to leave the door open for anyone who wants to follow, and likewise making sure an environment doesn’t feel toxic. There is still a lot for me to learn as I come into that mentoring and inspiring role.

Thanks so much for sitting down with us and making such incredible films that tell the stories of our amazing volunteers!

Thank you! I'm really grateful for the opportunity to be interviewed by the AAC. I really fangirl about the organizations that are creating change. It signals to me that the climbing industry is going towards the path of progress.

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Marie-Louise Lusamba Nkashama (she/her) is a Congolese-American filmmaker and climber for The North Face. In 2021, she received her BFA in Film/Television Production at NYU Tisch School of the Arts in New York City. Forever intrigued by the intersections of identity, her storytelling explores the pursuit of individuality and helps uplift the many stories of those underrepresented and undermined. Marie-Louise is based in her hometown of Denton, TX but travels often to remote and beautiful places to achieve her climbing goals.

📷 Marie-Louise at a student film set in New Jersey. Land of the Lenapehoking people.
AAC member Chris Felix







GETTING SH*T DONE

Developer Spotlight: Jeff Jackson

by Hannah Provost



Jeff Jackson is a man of many lives. He has lived in a yurt outside Austin, Texas, been shot at by landowners while developing routes, and now has two sons and is the de facto representative for climbing and route development on Maui, HI. He has been a rock guide, yoga instructor, and writer. He has written over 500 articles (mostly about climbing), poems, books, and screenplays and won the H. Carter Adams Literary Award from the AAC. These parts of Jackson are fascinating in and of themselves, but for Jackson, the work funds the climbing.

Jackson's route-developing resume ranges even farther than his impressive outputs in the writing world. Perhaps his most iconic climbs include putting up *El Sendero Luminoso* (5.12+) in El Potrero Chico, and *Yukon Tears* (5.12c) on Proboscis in the Cirque of the Unclimbables. But he has also developed extensively in The Narrows, Crystal River, and The Frying Pan outside of Carbondale, CO. A trad route in India; spires in Peru; bouldering in Mountains of the Moon, Uganda; routes and boulders all over Sierra de los Organos, La Popa, and Guadalajara. He opened the first limestone 5.13s in America (in Texas in the 80s) and continues developing all over Maui, where he lives now.



Anyone with their own climbing addiction can imagine what could inspire someone to be so prolific. But route development goes beyond just climbing for Jeff Jackson. It's about intimacy. Jackson loves the whole process, from the moment when climbers stand in awe of unclimbed rock faces, to the point where a crag is fully developed with public access. In the process of developing, the care you take, and the attention you employ, require that you get close to the rock, learn about the environment it is in, and slow down your time there. Pull out a brush and scrub a hold. Learn the lichen, birds, and vegetation. Imagine the movement. Feel the ridges of the holds. Scour the rock for feet.

But as much as developing is the ultimate intimacy with a rock climb, a one-on-one dance of solitude until the rock becomes known and climbable for all, Jackson also loves the puzzle of establishing access. In his extensive experience as a developer, he's learned a lot about negotiating with stakeholders and ensuring that environmental and cultural conservation concerns are addressed from the very beginning. Issues like social trails, preserving rock art and rare vegetation, determining access agreements with Indigenous communities and landowners—these are all as much part of route development as

📷 [Previous spread] Jeff Jackson on *Pig Hunt* (5.13d) in the rain forest of upcountry Maui, about 10 minutes from his house in Makawao. *Pig Hunt* was the first route Jackson bolted when he moved to Maui 7 years ago. Land of the Kānaka Maoli. AAC member Drew Sulock; [This spread] Jeff Jackson on his route *Honu Lani* (5.11), in the West Maui Mountains. Land of the Kānaka Maoli peoples. AAC member Drew Sulock



📷 Chris Janiszewski, one of the most active developers of Maui, takes a burn on *Kahikinui Sleigh Ride* (5.14b), a link up between his route *Obsidian Tooth* (5.14a) and Jackson's route *Holua* (5.14a). Land of the Kānaka Maoli people. AAC member Drew Sulock





📹 [Above] Bronwyn Hodgins and Kelsey Waters saying yes to every move on their way up the third ascent of *El Gavilán* (5.13), a route developed by Jeff Jackson on La Popa, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. Land of the Coahuiltecan people. AAC member Savannah Cummins; [Right] La Popa, Nuevo Leon, Mexico. AAC member Savannah Cummins; [Next page] Wai Yi Ng floats the 30 foot roof crack on *Goat Attack* (V5), one of many boulders developed by Jeff Jackson in east Maui. Land of the Kānaka Maoli people. AAC member Drew Sulock



trundling a loose block. Jackson believes climbers are uniquely positioned to facilitate compromises that ensure all conservation needs are met. After all, Jackson says, climbing is inherently volitional. Every move we make on the rock is a yes. It is a choice of will, a fight against gravity. That says something about climbers. “We are people who get shit done.”

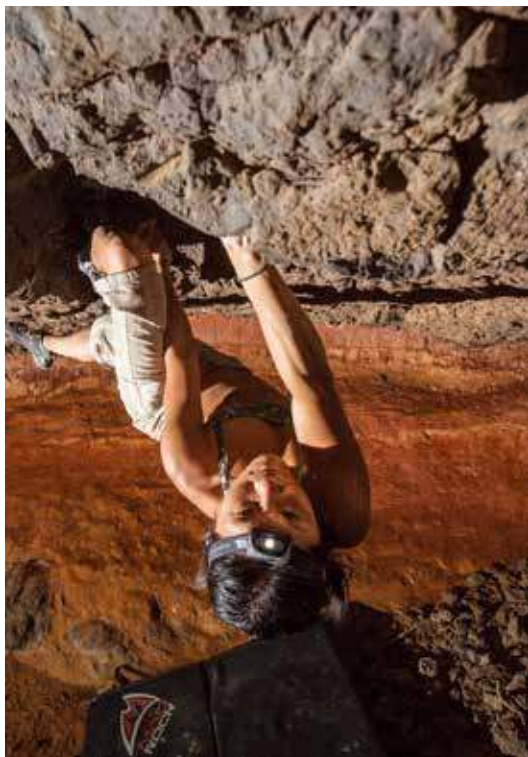
Jackson has a word of advice for any burgeoning route developers out there: “Bring your stakeholders coconuts, they love ‘em.”

For sure, Jackson has gotten a lot of shit done. And sometimes it’s been a harrowing ride. From rockfall hitting him during the process of cleaning *Sendero*, to rapping off the top of formations to scout anchor placements on walls he wasn’t even sure would hold bolts, Jackson has certainly gotten into some sticky situations when developing. “I don’t know how I’m still alive in some ways,” says Jackson.

And he has a process for ensuring he gets the first ascents that matter to him. If he’s letting anyone climb on a route that has yet to see a first ascent, Jackson is the belayer. In Maui the other week, Jackson let his young, strong friend get on one of his routes. The kid pulled the crux. Jackson locked down the belay device. “That’s far enough!”

Jackson also gives routes, and first ascents, as presents for birthdays or just to share his appreciation. And though he can be pretty territorial about the FAs that matter most to him, appreciation for community—and ensuring everyone has something to climb on—is certainly the ethic that motivates him most.

Maui is pretty nice, but really all Jackson needs is boulders these days. “I could live the rest of my life in a giant undeveloped boulder field. Just leave me with a 6-pack of Lonestar and a wire brush.”







.....

Jeff Jackson (he/him) is a climber and writer known for his first ascents in the Mainland U.S., Mexico, Canada, Peru, India, Africa and Hawaii — and for his essays about those ascents. In 2018, the American Alpine Club awarded Jackson the H. Adams Carter Literary Award for contributions made to climbing arts and letters. Jackson’s essay “Paradox in Paradise” chronicled his experience of the 2018 Hawaii false missile alert and appeared in *Best American Sports Writing 2019*. Jackson was an early proponent and practitioner of big wall free climbing. Between 1991 and 1997 he and a variety of partners established lines of over 2,000 feet with grades up to 7c+ (5.13a). He has opened around 1,000 routes and boulder problems.

📷 [Left and Above] Jeff Jackson expresses how we all feel on a high gravity day. Land of the Kānaka Maoli people. AAC member Drew Sulock





THE FOUNDATION OF OUR PROGRESS

Volunteer Spotlight: BIPOC Initiatives at
AAC Twin Cities

by Rodel Querubin

As I lower Kamilah down Bridalveil Falls, a frozen waterfall over Lake Superior, I'm struck by a few things. It's gorgeous out here, for one, with the floating icebergs near the base of the ice climb, gently rippling water below, and blue skies and favorable weather in the distance. But I'm also struck by how far we've come. I first met Kamilah at one of our indoor BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) bouldering events. She is one of our first Twin Cities Chapter BIPOC Ice Climbing Scholarship recipients, someone I now consider a friend. At this moment, she is dangling 140 feet above freezing water. It's a far stretch from where we started less than a year prior. It has been a journey to build the trust that got us here.



📷 [Previous spread] One of the AAC Twin Cities chapter's most popular events is the monthly BIPOC Climbing Mixer. Land of the Ojibwe, Šakówi and Wahpekute peoples. AAC member Rodel Querubin

Sixty-five. That's the number of climbing events that the Twin Cities Chapter of the AAC has planned, organized, or hosted for BIPOC climbers throughout 2021. Some of my early goals for our work were to make sure we were reaching new climbers and creating opportunities for individuals to grow. It has been such a joy to see relationships form, communities build, and our climbers get more confident and develop their skills.

Yet there is still work to be done to fulfill the promise of plans that we set in motion in 2020—the year George Floyd was murdered here in Minneapolis. Our home became a spark in a worldwide awakening and acknowledgment of systemic racism, bias, and inequality. Climbing is not the answer, I know that. And there are absolute titans who have been doing this work for much longer than we have, who we owe a great deal. But we are also called to do what we can, where we can, to the best of our abilities. And while I am no expert, not much of an activist, or even many times sure of the correct way forward, I knew that I was in a position with the American Alpine Club to empower and invite our BIPOC community into climbing.

* * *

We started with building a freely accessible gear cache, using extra camping and hiking gear from Midwest Mountaineering, where Steve Schreuder, our Chapter Chair and Midwest Section Chair, is a manager. We also leveraged vendor relationships with our local Arc'teryx Twin Cities store, which donated thousands of dollars worth of Gore-Tex shells and insulated jackets. With this gear cache, we've been able to help folks camp and stay warm at our North Shore Climbers' Gathering, outfit one of our members and his group to effectively enjoy and participate in the Shelf Road Craggin' Classic, and enable outdoor bouldering trips with our bouldering pads. Access to the outdoors can depend on gear that is financially out of reach for many, and I realized early on that with our connections, we could make sure our BIPOC community had us as a resource to reduce or remove that burden.

From there, we started what is now our longest-running BIPOC event: Adult Bouldering Sessions and, later, Family Bouldering Sessions at Minneapolis Bouldering Project. We partnered with Arc'teryx Twin Cities to sponsor the events so that they are free to participants. We quickly added what would become our most popular monthly event, free BIPOC Climbing Mixers at the Minnesota Climbing Co-op. These relationships were made possible by the actions of allies willing to use their influence and connections to realize our goals, graciously stepping forward when needed but knowing to take a step back without being asked.

📷 [Left] Heejae Plank and Brandon Plank at one of the AAC-TC x Minnesota Climbing Co-op BIPOC Climbing Mixers. Land of the Ojibwe and Wahpekute peoples. AAC member Rodel Querubin; [Below] Arman Sarda topping out during an AAC-TC clinic at North Shore Climbers' Gathering. Land of the Anishinabewaki people. AAC member Grace Hoskins







📹 [Top left] Arman Sarda cruises a dihedral during an AAC-TC clinic at the North Shore Climber's Gathering. Land of the Anishinabewaki people. AAC member *Grace Hoskins*; [Bottom left] An El Colegio High School student romps up a steep boulder problem during an AAC-TC indoor climbing event. AAC member *Rodel Querubin*; [Top right] Madhav Singh pushes through a bulge on Bridalveil Falls during Michigan Ice Fest. Land of the Ojéhéthi Šakówi and Anishinabewaki peoples. AAC member *Rodel Querubin*; [Bottom right] Nesret Theba and Harrison Tam check their systems at Profile Buttress, during a BIPOC Try Outdoor Climbing Event, in collaboration with Sam Elias' Cities to Crags tour. Land of the Anishinabewaki and Ojéhéthi Šakówi peoples. AAC member *Rodel Querubin*

Our chapter has designed all of these events to create opportunities for our BIPOC members. To try something new, have a pathway to growth, and to have the ability to develop and build their own community. I frequently ask during introductions what barriers people face, and while gear, financials, time, and fear of heights all come up, the most deeply felt barrier is the lack of community. Participants

tell me they need people to grow with at the same level, people they feel safe around, people they can relate to, and people they can learn from. Big banner climbing events are fun and bring the glory and fanfare, but these smaller, more frequent events are the foundation of our progress.

When we made the leap to outdoor climbing, the support of the AAC's Community Programs Director Eddie Espinosa was instrumental, guiding us through education requirements and insurance certificates. Our BIPOC events ranged from outdoor bouldering sessions to introducing folks to climbing

right over Lake Superior. We also leveraged the reach of the Craggin' Classics when we partnered with Myung Jin-Oh and the Chicago Chapter to host a BIPOC clinic at the Devil's Lake Craggin' Classic. With each of these events, I saw our indoor climbers take that next magical step onto outdoor rock or ice. Because they were introduced to climbing indoors, I saw them grapple not with the climbing but with the transition into the majesty of our outdoor spaces. They found themselves in spaces they hadn't envisioned themselves in, doing things they hadn't dreamed of.

In 2019 we began offering our first scholarships. New for 2021, we added the Twin Cities Chapter BIPOC Ice Climbing Scholarship, which resulted in sending an unprecedented 11 people to Michigan Ice Fest—including Kamilah. All of these climbers had attended our previous events, and I was so proud to see them flourish on the ice and help and support each other in navigating the festival. I was able to see their growth firsthand as I co-instructed Michigan Ice Fest's first




📷 AAC board member Nina Williams gives Aten-Wa Theba a catch at the Profile Buttress, Interstate Park, WI during BIPOC Try Outdoor Climbing Event. Land of the Anishinabewaki and Ojéhéthi Šakówi peoples. AAC member Rodel Querubin

“Intro to Ice for People of Color” clinics. I watched that growth continue as we lowered them down to Lake Superior to climb Bridalveil Falls and while ice climbing at night with the AAC’s own Eddie Espinosa and Hannah Hoetmer. I also got to know them better as individuals at the “BIPOC house”—all our scholarship winners and attendees under one roof, sharing stoke and whiskey, creating memories and friendships.

I have learned a lot through facilitating this incredible momentum and community. To start, I knew we had to head into this work with the perspective that the work is not new, that we were standing on the shoulders of giants. Early on, I wanted to make sure that we worked in cooperation with existing organizations and efforts, to empower those already doing the work. At the time, no BIPOC-specific climbing organization was present in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, but there were groups like BIPOC Outdoors Twin Cities, Outdoor Afro, and Melanin In Motion that were already doing incredible things in outdoor spaces to bring folks of color many different types of opportunities.

To support that work, I volunteered to teach free snowboarding classes through BIPOC Outdoors Twin Cities and Saint Paul Parks and Recreation. As I got involved, I had an incredible time meeting new people, learning new things, and orienting myself in the landscape of what was being accomplished by already existing, capable organizations. And by communing, learning, and serving in these spaces, I was able to offer our climbing events not to strangers but to peers. Peers that understood where I was coming from and who were excited to join together in climbing.

Though it’s been overwhelming at times, I have leaned into my community, my AAC resources, my support network, and being kind to myself and others. Dedicating mental and financial resources to the work of diversifying your local climbing community, bringing opportunity to underserved populations, and empowering the goals of BIPOC climbers and future mentors, are some of the most worthwhile and rewarding endeavors you can undertake. It also tends toward a want for perfection, toward fear of getting things wrong. And while it is important to make intentional and thoughtful decisions to not harm the very people you’re looking to empower, I have found most important is the ability to listen, to encourage radical transparency in yourself and others, and to acknowledge truthfully that you all will grow together.

 [Next Spread] Top to bottom, L-to-R - Angie Hoang, Harrison Tam, Hima Hassenruck-Gudipati, Aleksey Mason-Bradach, Kamilah Amen, Brandon Plank, Steve Asencio, Jada Ames, Autumn Han, (author) Rodel Querubin, Madhav Singh. “The BIPOC House” at Michigan Ice Fest - BIPOC. Land of the Ojéhéthi Šakówi and Anishabewaki peoples. AAC member Rodel Querubin

“I have found most important is the ability to listen, to encourage radical transparency in yourself and others, and to acknowledge truthfully that you all will grow together.”



As we continue to grow our BIPOC initiatives program here in the Twin Cities Chapter—I'm thrilled at possibly running over 100 BIPOC climbing events in 2022—I reflect on the work yet ahead. We've been so fortunate to receive the partnership of allies, sponsors, and especially the American Alpine Club. Standing with our BIPOC community and partners, I'm excited for the adventures yet to come.



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Rodel Querubin (he/him) Serves as the BIPOC Initiatives Chair for the AAC – Twin Cities Chapter. When not in the studio or on-location as a professional photographer, he spends much of his time passing on his love of climbing and snowboarding, organizing two or more events a week focusing on the local BIPOC community while also building partnerships and scholarship opportunities. He lives in Eagan, Minnesota with his wife Elaine Querubin who he leans on for guidance and inspires his work. They celebrate ten loving years of marriage in August.





THE ULTIMATE FREELANCER

Member Spotlight: Lauren DeLaunay Miller

by Hannah Provost

Many of our members have a unique relationship with the Club, finding their niche and contributing in their own way. Lauren DeLaunay Miller describes her role with the AAC as “the ultimate freelancer position.” Lauren’s contributions to the Club seem endless: she was a sound engineer and editor for The Cutting Edge Podcast and the American Alpine Club Podcast, the California editor for the *American Alpine Journal* and *Accidents in North American Climbing*, and an event coordinator for the Bishop Highball Craggin’ Classic. In addition, she’s spent three summers working for Yosemite Search and Rescue (YOSAR) and is the editor of the newly released anthology, *Valley of Giants: Stories from Women at the Heart of Yosemite Climbing*. We sat down to talk with Lauren about her time at YOSAR, her book, and the story behind her love of the AAC.



Lauren’s introduction to the AAC began with the New River Gorge campground. The AAC had just purchased the land where the NRG campground is today, and Lauren went with a group of college friends to sport climb at the New. It would be the first time she felt a sense of climbing community. At the time, there were only a few tent platforms, water, and a pit toilet, but there was also a community that made dinner together, talked beta, and sat around a campfire every night. As someone who hadn’t been outdoorsy before college, Lauren got just as excited for the shared meals and campfire as pulling moves on rock. This sense of community would define her love of climbing.

As a young climber, Lauren felt like everything around her was pulling her towards Yosemite. She was drawn to climbing the biggest rocks, and everything she read about climbing centered Yosemite as the epitome of climbing in the U.S. She began working remotely from the Valley in the summer of 2017 and quickly became embedded there. That summer, she climbed El Cap for the first time and started climbing consistently with her old friend Quinn Brett, who she had known from working and living in Estes Park, CO. Through Quinn, she learned a lot about climbing fast, a distinctly Yosemite tradition.

Though she had many great big wall mentors, Quinn and Josie Mckee were the women helping her take her climbing to the next level. In the fall of 2017, Lauren accompanied Quinn and Josie on a fast ascent of the *Triple Direct* (5.9 C2)—Lauren just trying to keep up as the three of them started up the *Free Blast*, climbed the middle section of the *Muir Wall*, traversed to *The Nose* and climbed *The Nose* through The Great Roof. But three days later, Quinn and Josie went back up on *The Nose*, and the unthinkable happened. Quinn fell 100 feet, hit the Texas Flake, broke her back, and became paralyzed.

For Lauren, it was one of those crises that makes a memory vividly obvious. Her boyfriend, now husband, was a climbing ranger, and all of her friends in the Valley were on YOSAR. Everyone she knew had sprung into action to help Quinn, whereas Lauren found herself sitting off to the side, helpless. At that moment, two things became evident. First, when other climbers are hurt, her friends had the incredible opportunity to help those climbers, thanks to their skills and training from working on YOSAR. Second, in that moment Josie was on El Cap, in a position to be a good climbing partner and save Quinn's life, thanks also to her experience working with YOSAR. In her moment of helplessness, Lauren knew it was important for her to be a good partner to her future climbing partners, and she wanted to have the opportunity to help other climbers in the Valley if they should need it. Like many climbers enraptured with Yosemite, she had dreamed about working on YOSAR, but this accident solidified her goals. She would work on YOSAR for the summers of 2018, 2019, and 2020.

📷 [Previous spread & above] Looking out at Yosemite Valley in the back of a YOSAR helicopter. AAC member Drew Smith; [Opposite] AAC member Drew Smith; [This page] Barb Eastman looks up at the last pitch of the route on the first all-female ascent of *The Nose*, 1977. Land of the Numu and Miwok peoples. Molly Higgins










From that first night at the AAC campground to working for YOSAR, it's clear that, for Lauren to be the best climber she wanted to be, she needed to prioritize community. Her community focus would ultimately lead her into even more roles with the AAC.

 [Previous spread]
Land of the Numu and
Miwok peoples. AAC
member Seth Langbauer;
[Opposite] AAC
member Jeff Deikis

During her time in Yosemite, Lauren had repeatedly badgered Andy Anderson, then editor of the *American Alpine Journal*, offering to help out with the editorial process of the AAJ. Thus deeply embedded in Yosemite, and with an editorial position newly open, Andy reached out to Lauren for help on the Yosemite Roundup, a special section of the AAJ that focuses on the cutting edge of what is happening in Yosemite. Unlike the rest of the AAJ, the Yosemite Roundup is less about first ascents and more frequently about speed records, linkups, or historic re-ascents. As Lauren got more and more involved in the AAJ editorial process, she came to Dougald MacDonald, producer of *The Cutting Edge* podcast, with a podcast idea. Dougald turned it around on her, challenging her to teach herself the sound engineering skills to host, edit, and polish the episode. When she did, she landed herself an ongoing contract with the AAC podcast team. This drive to be creative and tell important stories in new ways would ultimately lead Lauren to curate her book and shed light on the deep and intricate history of women's climbing in Yosemite.

“This drive to be creative and tell important stories in new ways would ultimately lead Lauren to curate her book and shed light on the deep and intricate history of women’s climbing in Yosemite...”

Lauren's emphasis on education and safety, her love of connecting with others through climbing, and the importance of elevating the stories of climbers who have traditionally not had their stories told—all of these things make it no surprise that she is an integral part of the AAC community.

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Lauren DeLaunay Miller (she/her) served on the Yosemite Search & Rescue team while completing her book, *Valley of Giants: Stories from Women at the Heart of Yosemite Climbing* (Mountaineers Books, Spring 2022), an anthology of stories that document the history of women's climbing in Yosemite National Park. Lauren lives in Bishop, CA where she is a founding board member of the Bishop Climber's Coalition. She is currently pursuing her master's degree in Journalism at the University of California in Berkeley.





MEMBERSHIP
through the Lens

POWERED BY



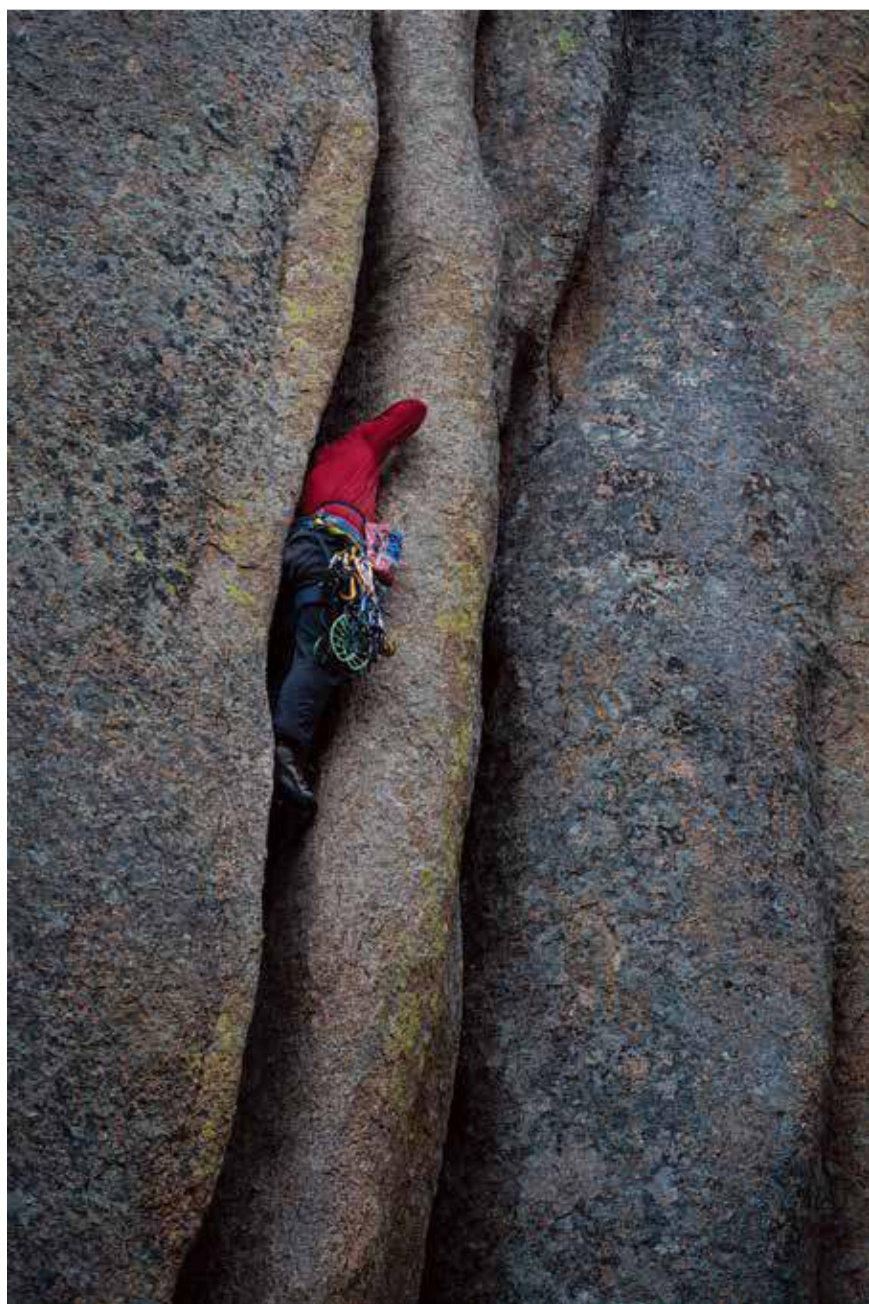




📷 [Previous spread] Dead Horse Point, UT in the the spring. Land of the Ute people. AAC member *Jeremiah Watt*; [Left] Bronwyn Hodgins in El Salto, NL, Mexico. Tufas galore! Land of the Coahuiltecan people. AAC member *Savannah Cummins*; [Above] Chalk can be fun sometimes. Latasha Dunston finds one of those times. AAC member *Kylie Fly*



📷 [Top] Jim Wright cruxing on Dreamscape (5.11 c) in Cherokee Rock Village, AL. Land of the Yuchi, Shawnee, and Cherokee peoples. AAC member Kenny Gamblin; [Bottom left] Carrots for power. AAC member Dawn Kish; [Bottom right] Brandon Belcher responsibly warming up before responsibly crushing. AAC member Caleb Timmerman; [Right] In the Voo, the crack eats you. Land of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Očhéthi Šakówi peoples. AAC member Tori Enyart





📹 Eddie Taylor turbos through solid finger jams on *Moonlight Buttress* (5.12c), Zion National Park, UT. Land of the Nuwuvi and Pueblo peoples. AAC member Felipe Tapia Nordenflycht








📷 [Left] AAC Manager of Climb United, Shara Zaia, on *Libertine* (5.11b) at Devil's Head in South Platte, CO. Land of the Ute and Cheyenne peoples. AAC member *Felipe Tapia Nordenflycht*; [Top] AAC member *Savannah Cummins*; [Right] Pouring one out for the homies at Joshua Tree National Park. Land of the Serrano and Newe peoples. AAC member *Will McKay*



 The aftermath of climbing through a storm at 1 a.m. on Volcan Cotopaxi, Ecuador. Land of the Kitu Kara and Kichwa peoples. AAC member *Drew Smith*









📷 [Left] Hangdog blues in Squamish, Canada. Land of the Coast Salish and Squamish peoples. AAC member Francois Lebeau; [Top] Daisuke Ichimiya on his way to the Ice Caves of Independence Pass, CO. Land of the Ute people. AAC member Jess Glassberg/Louder Than 11







📷 [Previous spread] Dave Searle on the North Ridge of Weissmies (4017m) at sunrise, Switzerland. AAC member Ben Tibbetts; [Top left] Trolling for the next climb. Teancum Bryant & Ty Marshall at the Great Head, Acadia National Park. Land of the Abénaquis, Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, and Wabanaki peoples. AAC member Andrew Burr; [Bottom left] There's nothing like a truck bed dinner in the desert. AAC member Andy Cochrane; [Top right] First brush. AAC member Dawn Kish; [Bottom right] Will Plantz tries hard as the sun fades on Johnny Cat (5.11+) in Indian Creek. Land of the Ute and Diné Bikéyah peoples. AAC member Will Mckay







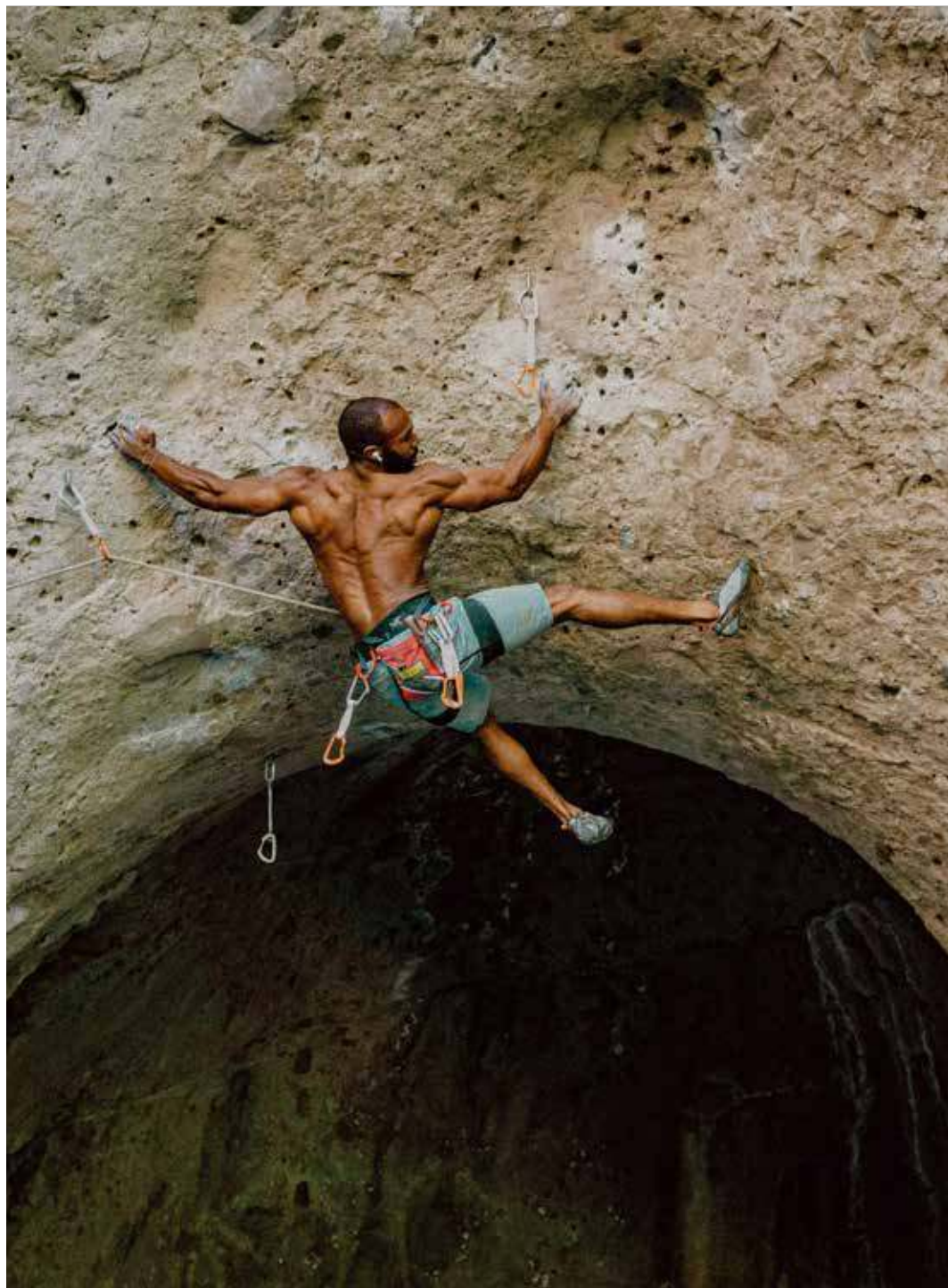






📷 [Previous Spread] Tim Emmett in a maze of icicles on *Mission to Mars* (W113) in Helmcken, BC. Land of the Secwépemc people. AAC member *Jon Glassberg/Louder Than 11*; [Opposite] Steve Rollins takes a beautiful looking whipper at Smith Rock, OR. Land of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Tenino peoples. AAC member *William Woodward*. [This page] Unnamed climber helping out with wayfinding near the basecamp of Mt. Everest. AAC member *Jon Glassberg / Louder Than 11*







📷 [Previous Spread] Pamela Shanti Pack, AAC Moab Chapter Chair, doing her thing in an off-width in Moab, Utah. Land of the Ute people. AAC member *Jeremiah Watt*; [Left] Malibu Creek, Land of the Micqanaqa'n, Chumash, and Tongva people. AAC member *L. Blount*; [Top] Happy-go-lucky for this duo in Joshua Tree, National Park, CA. Land of the Serrano and Newe peoples. AAC member *Miya Tsudome*

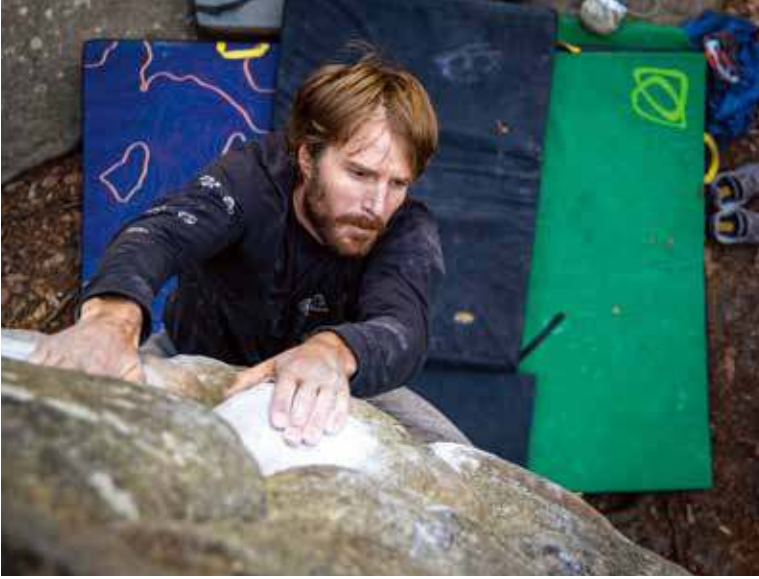




📹 Vasu Sojitra takes flight in Mad River Glenn, VT. Land of the Abenaki and Wabanaki peoples. AAC member Joe Dapp Foster







📷 [Previous spread] Nicholas Milburn on the 3rd ascent of *Algorithm* (5.14d), The Fins, Idaho. Land of the Shoshone-Bannock people. AAC member Caleb Timmerman; [This page top] All business for Drew Smith on Little Bad (V5) in Rocktown, GA. Land of the Miccosukee, Yuchi, and Cherokee peoples. AAC member Brandon Belcher; [This page bottom] Keala Johnson and Gracie Schwartz Cruising through the Matopos Hills to the local sport crag, Zimbabwe. Land of the Tshawa and Doma peoples. AAC member Kenny Gamblin; [Next page] AAC member Nathan Welton





📷 Chris Robertson takes it easy on the first ascent of *Charlie Zulu* in the Cathedral Spires of the Kichatnas, Alaska. Land of the Dënéndeh and Dena'ina Etnena peoples. AAC member Zach Lovell

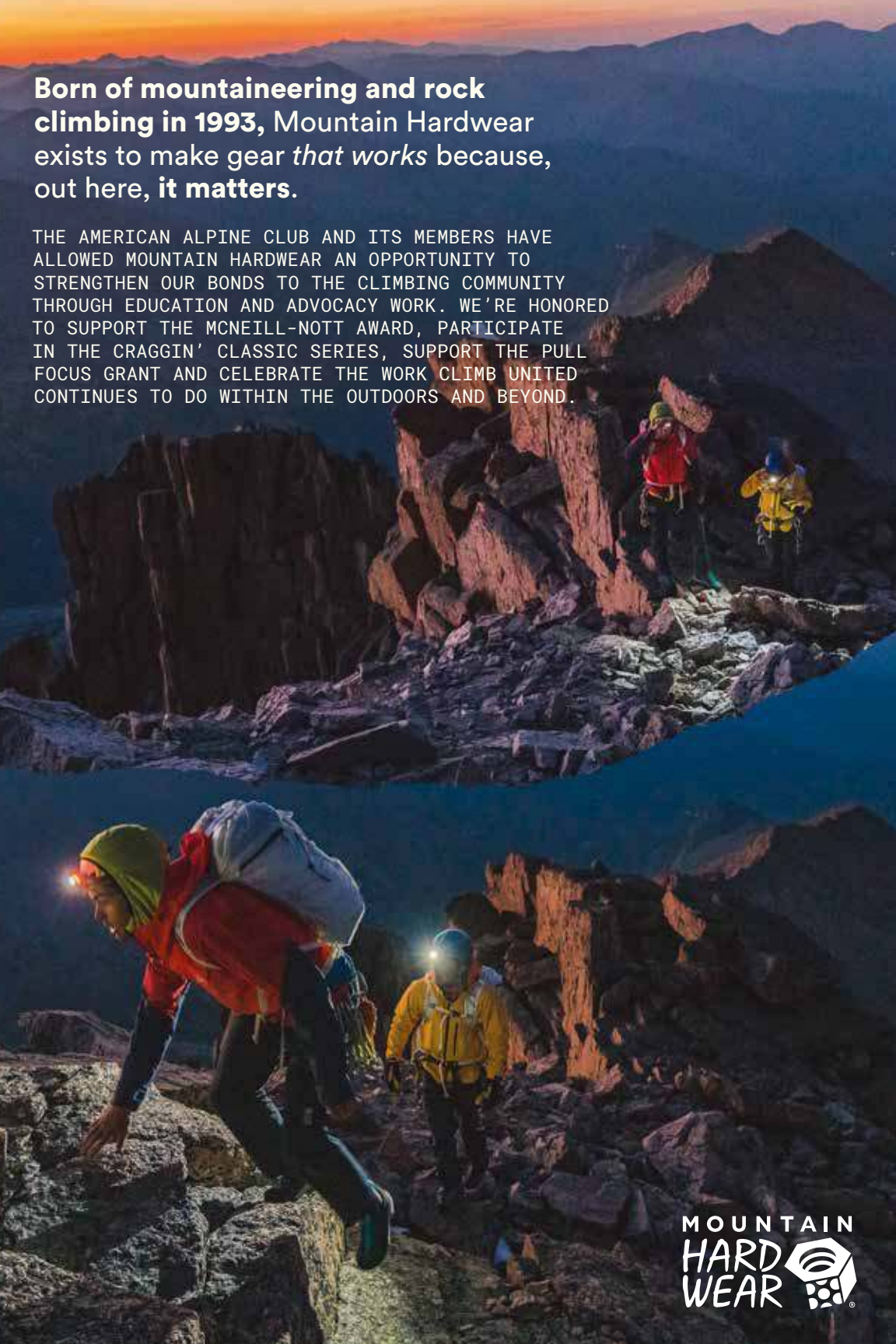




📷 AAC member Felipe Tapia Nordenflycht

Born of mountaineering and rock climbing in 1993, Mountain Hardwear exists to make gear *that works* because, out here, **it matters.**

THE AMERICAN ALPINE CLUB AND ITS MEMBERS HAVE ALLOWED MOUNTAIN HARDWEAR AN OPPORTUNITY TO STRENGTHEN OUR BONDS TO THE CLIMBING COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY WORK. WE'RE HONORED TO SUPPORT THE MCNEILL-NOTT AWARD, PARTICIPATE IN THE CRAGGIN' CLASSIC SERIES, SUPPORT THE PULL FOCUS GRANT AND CELEBRATE THE WORK CLIMB UNITED CONTINUES TO DO WITHIN THE OUTDOORS AND BEYOND.



MOUNTAIN
HARD
WEAR 



📍 Red Rocks, NY.
Land of the Nūwūwū,
Nuwuvi, and Newe
peoples. AAC member
Jessica Glassberg /
Louder Than 11



FEATURES





PROTECTING PINE MOUNTAIN

A Story from Our Policy Team

by Chris Morissette



📷 [Above] Nate Ptacek boulders during sunset at Pine Mountain. Land of the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation and the Micqanaqa'n peoples. AAC member Dylan Gordon; [All other Pine Mountain photos] AAC member Nate Ptacek.

Leaving our house in Ojai with the van packed, we embark on our trip to Pine Mountain. The road winds up through the backcountry of Los Padres National Forest, gaining elevation as we get closer to our destination. As we crest over Highway 33, we get our first glimpse of Pine Mountain. Behind us, on the southern horizon, the Channel Islands fade into obscurity, and we descend into the Sespe Wilderness. The Sespe Creek meanders at the foot of the mountains, highlighted by native chaparral and oak forests that skirt the lower flanks. I can't help but feel transported back in time. This area is part of the fourth largest roadless region left in the lower 48 and one of the last remaining viable habitats for the California condor.

My kids chatter excitedly in the back seat, unable to hold still in anticipation of our destination. We arrive at the turn-off from Highway 33, pass through the open gate and start driving the one-lane road along the narrow ridgeline. After about 20 minutes on the six-mile road, boulders start to appear in the forest and tingling feelings of excitement kick in.

It's the ridgeline that captivates me. A home to hundreds of quality boulder problems. A climbing paradise, usually uncrowded and shrouded in the welcoming shade of tall jeffrey pines and white firs. A destination that has drawn climbers from around the world for

decades. It continues to draw me now and, hopefully, will do the same for my sons in the future.

I park the van, and the kids jump out, immediately running off into the forest where they will spend the next few days exploring the ridgeline's nooks and crannies. This place is special to me. It has been a mountaintop escape for my two sons, wife, and I since my first son was born seven years ago. It was where my wife and I went on our first date over 13 years ago. It is the kind of destination where I leave the creature comforts of home behind. A place where I get to tap into nature. A place where I have the privilege to explore, climb, camp, hike, bike, and spend quiet days amongst the massive trees and boulder labyrinths with my family and friends.

Only an hour and a half drive from the coast, Pine Mountain is one of a few remaining sky islands in California, a unique geological formation that consists of isolated mountains surrounded by radically different lowland environments. At an elevation of 7,000', it is one of the best summer bouldering, hiking, and camping destinations almost anywhere in central and southern California. Numerous sandstone boulders sporting high-quality problems hide amongst the trees and stretch across the entire ridgeline. The Sespe Creek, which flows at the mountain's base, is one of the last undammed rivers in Southern California.

“Pine Mountain is one of a few remaining sky islands in California, a unique geological formation that consists of isolated mountains surrounded by radically different lowland environments”.

This land is undeveloped and open to the enjoyment of campers, hikers, bikers, climbers, hunters, and all other walks of life. The road access from Highway 33 closes from mid-December through mid-May, reducing foot traffic and creating time for nature to rest and regenerate. Sadly, despite all the inherent value of such a place and efforts to preserve and protect it, Pine Mountain is under attack.

The Reyes Peak Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project is the United States Forest Service's (USFS) plan to cut trees and clear chaparral across 755 acres on the Pine Mountain ridgeline. In short, this means that this forested camping and bouldering sanctuary could become a barren patch of tree stumps, skid tracks, and clear cuts. Despite over 16,000 comments of opposition to the USFS from Tribal groups, elected officials, organizations, businesses, rock climbers, and outdoor enthusiasts, the project moves forward. The approval was issued using a loophole that allows the USFS to bypass normal requirements to prepare an environmental assessment. The loophole, known as a Categorical Exclusion (CE), allowed the agency to avoid





analyzing any alternatives or mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid damage caused by the Fuels Reduction Project. It allows the agency to move forward without offering any formal public objection opportunity to address concerns, such as impacts to the recreational experience and the climbing resources of the area.

The Forest Service has stated that the project is intended for wildfire risk reduction despite numerous scientific studies showing remote vegetation removal projects to be ineffective in mitigating wildfires. In fact, areas where native trees and shrubs are removed with heavy equipment are also prone to infestation by non-native invasive plants, increasing wildfire risk. The harsh reality is that this project will be executed via heavy equipment to log live and dead trees up to two feet in diameter and clear rare old-growth chaparral along six miles of the prominent ridge.

This project will greatly impact the tree-shaded environment of Central California's premier bouldering destination. It will disrupt an ecosystem that supports more than 400 species of native plants as well as mountain lions, black bears, bobcats, mule deer, and numerous birds, including California condors and spotted owls (one of the rarest owl species in California). It discounts the wishes of the Chumash Tribal organizations to whom the ancestral land of Pine Mountain ('Opnow) is sacred. Finally, the USFS clear-cut project overlaps nearly 260 acres of the proposed Central Coast Heritage Protection Act, a bill that would designate the area as Wilderness.

Despite all these harsh realities, I hold hope, and so does our community. Los Padres Forest Watch (LPFW), in partnership with several other non-profit partners, submitted a 100-page technical review of the agency's proposal and met with several locally elected officials to put pressure on the administrations that approved and pushed for the project. The group has even conducted its own wildlife survey to document California spotted owls and other rare wildlife threatened by the project plan. Nearly two years ago, LPFW engaged the AAC on the issue, knowing that local climbers were joining the movement to protect Pine Mountain and ensure this unique climbing area was not lost forever. When the Forest Service chose to move forward with the project anyway, LPFW, the AAC, and several other environmental organizations took the only action they could—they challenged the decision in court.

It is clear we need to protect one of the most biologically diverse hotspots in Los Padres National Forest. It is an area rich in cultural value for the local Chumash Tribe and host to abundant carbon

reserves tucked into the soils and stems of the old-growth trees of this rare sky island, not to mention the outstanding climbing resources found there. So, the AAC, represented by the Environmental Defense Center, joined other plaintiffs to file a lawsuit against the Forest Service. Their request of the court is simple: declare the decision by the USFS unlawful and set aside the decision to approve the Reyes Peak



Project as currently proposed. At the very least, the USFS should go back to the drawing board, do their homework in the form of a robust environmental analysis, and ensure they understand the extent of environmental impacts this project will have on the unique resources of Pine Mountain. At best, they would abandon the project to ensure the natural and cultural resources of Pine Mountain, along with its ample opportunities for climbing and other forms of outdoor recreation, are preserved for future generations.

We must stand together and voice our protest. As recreational users of this land, it is up to us to save these open spaces dear to our hearts. I believe together we have the power to protect Pine Mountain and pass it along for generations to come.

.....

Chris Morissette (he/him) owns and operates Sespe Group, a sales rep agency based in Ojai, CA where he lives. His agency represents premium outdoor brands within the Southwest territory; Scarpa, Petzl, Cotopaxi, Outdoor Research, and Big Agnes. He is the chair of the Los Padres Chapter of the AAC and board member of Friends of Joshua Tree. He has spent the past nine years exploring the Sespe Wilderness and is dedicated to protecting this amazing wilderness for generations to come.





PROPHECIES FORETOLD

A Story from the Grant Archives

by Hannah Provost



📷 [Previous spread] Wolfe, Sorkin, and Ilingworth found a carabiner inscribed with McCarthy's initials during their 2010 expedition. Land of the Dënëndeh and Dehcho Dene peoples. AAC member *Emily Stifler Wolfe*; [This page] Gazing up at the intimidating wall of Mt. Proboscis, 2010. AAC member *Emily Stifler Wolfe*; [Next page] Jim McCarthy on the wall of Mt. Proboscis. AAC Honorary Member *Royal Robbins*

In 1963, the President of the American Alpine Club turned to Jim McCarthy, gave him a check for \$6,000 and said, “Do something significant.” Yvon Chouinard had just written his famous article in the *American Alpine Journal* (AAJ) that prophesied that Yosemite would be the training ground for a new era of big wall climbing in the greatest mountain ranges in the world. Jim McCarthy set off to the Cirque of the Unclimbables to prove Yvon right.

Jim McCarthy, Royal Robbins, Layton Kor, and Dick McCracken piled into Jim's Volkswagen bug, the tires flexing from the weight of their gear, and they headed straight north on the Alaska Highway. This dream team of big wall climbers, these creatures of Yosemite, were immediately inspired by the looming vertical of Proboscis. Days later, midway up Proboscis—a sweeping 2,000 foot face just as impressive as Half Dome—Jim watched as Royal Robbins departed from a crack system they were aiding, and took off on a “wild-ass” traverse. As Jim followed, and came across the bolt Royal had left behind, he thought to himself, “You know, some day this is going to go free.”

Forty-seven years later, in 2010, a team of female climbers were determined that Proboscis would in fact go free. Lorna Illingworth's expedition was also funded by an AAC grant, though of an entirely different iteration than the spontaneous check Jim had received. Having applied to the Copp-Dash and Lyman-Spitzer Grants, Lorna hand-picked an all-female team consisting of Emily Stifler Wolfe, Madaleine Sorkin, and herself to free climb the *Original Route* that Jim's team had established so many years before.

Like Jim, Lorna, Emily, and Mad were inspired by the vision of applying new tactics in remote places. Mad had just freed her first route on El Cap, Lorna had years of experience aiding in the Valley and working on YOSAR, and Emily likewise came with extensive Yosemite experience. The remoteness of Proboscis, and the challenge of weather, logistics, and interpersonal collaboration that is so important in an expedition, would prove an incredibly fruitful learning ground for Mad, Emily, and Lorna. But even as the three women cut their teeth on this route with so much meaning and history, there were also irrefutably modern and different elements of their trip. Constantly wearing a Go-Pro while climbing is one of them.



As Jim tells the story of Proboscis, he notes the intentionality of the endeavor. The team was carefully crafted. As Jim says, "I perceived Royal to be like an elevator. If you brought him along, he was going to drag you up." But beyond his skill and innovation in big wall climbing, Royal Robbins also brought along a big personality. One night, as the four men waited out some poor weather in a cave and cooked dinner, Royal and Layton Kor got into an argument about rock and roll. Rock and roll was having its moment in American culture, and Layton couldn't have been more excited about it. Royal was infuriated. For him, music started and ended with Mozart.





📷 [Previous page] Mt. Proboscis. AAC Honorary Member *Royal Robbins*; [This page top] Layton Kor on rappell. AAC Honorary Member *Royal Robbins*; [This page bottom] Jim McCarthy, Layton Kor, and Dick McCracken doing their best to stay warm. *Royal Robbins*





Interpersonal dynamics would be just as important in Mad, Lorna, and Emily's expedition. Climbing in all-female teams was a conscious choice, one which became very meaningful, allowing these climbers to be free of ingrained social dynamics. There was no internalized pressure to prove oneself by leading all the pitches, and there was no one to fall back on but themselves when the team got in a tight spot. They learned and struggled together, and shared leadership.

Emily recalls hand drilling nine bolts on the crux pitches, and hand-tightening them with a leatherman because the group forgot a wrench. Emily's knuckles were shredded and her arms were trashed from the work, but she could hand drill really fast.

Though they had originally planned to climb the route capsule-style, the team ended up settling into a projecting mentality. To get to the crux pitches, their key goal for their trip, the team had to climb the *Costa Brava* variation and rappel in. As they fixed lines, they learned quickly that they had barely enough rope to fix the route due to their change of strategy. As Mad tells it, some serious whimpering ensued as they juggled and rappelled 1,000 feet of tag line each day. Emily's fear was palpable as they attempted to trust the tag line for functions it certainly was not rated for, while Lorna, a creature of Yosemite herself, was unfazed.



Jim and his team likewise experienced a near miss on their 1963 ascent, one which breathed a whisper of the future.

The team had been forced to bivvy hanging from slings their first night on the wall, caught by surprise by the swift onset of darkness that far north. The next day, they fixed a hanging belay underneath a small roof. With Jim belaying, Layton started around the corner and over the roof. The two had decided to wear helmets, which was not common at the time. Layton—6'5", 195lbs soaking wet, and carrying 50lbs of pitons—fell. His fall ripped out the second pin he had placed, the impact on the first pin around the corner slamming Jim McCarthy upwards into the overhang.

In a world without grigris, the fact that Jim had a helmet on and was not knocked unconscious was the only thing that ensured Layton Kor was alive, and hadn't fallen the length of the rope and hit a nasty ledge.

📷 [Previous page] Mad Sorkin dances above the clouds as they free the crux pitches the last day before the season-ending storm blew in, 2010. AAC member Emily Stifler Wolfe; [This page] Layton Kor enduring a miserable bivvy mid-wall during the FA of the *Original Route* (VI 5.8 A4) on Mt. Proboscis, 1963. *Royal Robbins*

📖 [Next page top]
AAC member Emily
Stifler Wolfe; [Next page
bottom] AAC Honorary
Member Royal Robbins

The climbing on Proboscis contains many little knobs that are sculpted and interesting to climb—as long as they don't break. The route that would become *Women at Work* follows splitter cracks and peetering crack systems into the crux pitches on the face, where runout 5.12 crimping is required.

With a penchant for doing things down to the wire, it's no surprise that Mad freed the crux pitch the day before a massive snow storm blew in, ending the climbing season in the Cirque.

But climbing on the same rock, many years later, was not the only connection linking Mad, Lorna, and Emily with Jim, Royal, Layton and Dick.

* * *

As it was getting late on the day they were hoping to top out the climb, Mad, Lorna, and Emily were thrown a curve ball. The last few pitches seemed as if they required the team to head off left. It was clearly easy climbing that direction. Yet there was also a potential line of climbing straight up, on rock that seemed to be far more technical. Topos offered conflicting information. Which was the *Original Route*?

Down in camp the next day, after climbing to the summit ridge via the left path, they decided to utilize all of the resources at their disposal to satisfy their curiosity about the path of the *Original Route*. They called Jim McCarthy on their satellite phone.

Though the connection didn't stay long enough for Jim to fully relay his beta, there is something incredibly powerful about such an immediate connection between the past and the present in a remote place. The team ended up establishing *Women at Work* (VI, 5.12R), a route that freed the untouched crux pitches of the *Original Route*, but which finished up the *Costa Brava* variation.

* * *

Putting these two stories in conversation is almost all about contrast. It is the contrast of the first big wall climbing outside of Yosemite, pitons flying, with free climbing tactics practiced by badass women climbers. It is the surprise of technology like helmets in 1963, versus the hilariously modern use of a Go-Pro in 2010. Yet even in contrast, there is connection—like the use of a satellite phone to speak across a ripple in time.







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Madaleine Sorkin (she/they) is a rock climber living creatively with her wife in an off-grid home near the Black Canyon National Park in Colorado. She is the founder of the the Climbing Grief Fund at the American Alpine Club and an AMGA Rock Guide. Increasingly a self-described homebody, Mad still travels to free climb difficult, tall walls and playfully coaches climbers towards their performance edge.

Emily Stifler Wolfe (she/her) is a brand consultant and journalist focused on regenerative agriculture and social impact. She lives in Bozeman with her husband, two kids, and two donkeys.

Lorna Illingworth (she/her) is based in Bend, Oregon with her husband Hiroki. She was introduced to the mountains by her British parents on fell walks in the Lake District and has climbed in places including Patagonia, Madagascar, Australia, and Canada. She worked on YOSAR for five years and has aid climbed El Cap by 16 different routes with over 20 ascents.

Jim McCarthy (he/him) is a past president of the AAC and the motivating force behind our Legacy Series project, which collects the stories of climbing history in video and podcast form. In 1963, he established the FA of Proboscis via the *Original Route*, with his climbing partners Royal Robbins, Layton Kor, and Dick McCracken.

📷 [Previous page] The daunting wall of Mt. Proboscis. AAC Honorary Member Royal Robbins; [This page] Left to right: Lorna Illingworth, Mad Sorkin, Emily Stifler Wolfe. AAC member Madaleine Sorkin

VER ROCK THOMPSON

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- Maple Canyon Rampart Range Rocks by Anderson
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IT'S ALL WATER

A Story from Climb United

by Holly Yu Tung Chen



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📷 [Top & bottom right] Holly and Fred in the Sharp End Publishing studio. Land of the Arapahoe, Cheyenne, and Ute peoples. AAC member *Tori Enyart*; [Bottom right] AAC board member and former Climb United Director *Cody Kaemmerlen*. AAC member *Francois Lebeau*

Outside the car window speeding up I-70, the snow had started to fall. It was February, 2021. Cody Kaemmerlen, then Director of Climb United, flipped through radio channels.

He chose a song, and I didn't like it. It was too punk-rock. Strangely, I found myself listening to it over and over again in the coming months. It screamed unexpressed anger, a middle finger to the norm, anti-authoritarianism, anti-corporatism, anti a lot of things people liked. If Kaemmerlen was scared of stepping into the role of Climb United Director, he didn't show it.

We talked about the work he was beginning, about the Climb United Route Name Task Force. Kaemmerlen described certain cultural changes akin to phase transitions. In thermodynamics, phase transitions describe an element changing state without changing its base chemical composition, changes like melting, freezing, or evaporating. It's all still water.

"So, you get it?"


I do. A year before Kaemmerlen stepped into the role of Director, a web developer named Melissa Utomo was thrust into the spotlight when her work to eliminate oppressive and racist route names became a hotly debated topic in the climbing community. The topic was covered not only by climbing-centric publications like *Climbing Magazine*, but the *Denver Post*, Colorado Public Radio, and *Condé Nast Traveler*.

Utomo's idea, while not the first, is the first to take action to address the issue. Her idea kept Mountain Project's community-oriented approach. Let the community decide the definition of oppressive. Utomo, with her background in accessible UX design, suggested a community flagging feature where users identified troubling route names. She approached REI, gave a talk at Outdoor Retailer, and spoke with the founder of Mountain Project himself. Bugged down by opposition and corporate red tape, Utomo said she found herself in an endless merry-go-round of unpaid labor. Eventually, a version of her idea did get implemented, but Utomo never received the credit or compensation. This coincided with a time, after the first COVID-19 wave, when Black Lives Matter had a resurgence in public discourse. What we saw in the community was exactly what Kaemmerlen described:

"In thermodynamics, phase transitions describe an element changing state without changing its base chemical composition, changes like melting, freezing, or evaporating. It's all still water."



phase transitions. People melted, froze, evaporated. Utomo's social media posts were shared widely. Facebook comments flew off the rails. "If we rename this, what's next? *Steck-Salathe*?"

 [Opposite page] Fred Knapp outside the Sharp End Publishing office.
AAC member *Tori Enyart*

The Club has always kept a finger on the pulse of the community, and this did not go unnoticed. Kaemmerlen and his team would present the Climb United Route Name Task Force (RNTF) to the community in April, 2021.

* * *

I sat beside Fred Knapp as he poured over the first draft of the guidelines from the RNTF. He was frowning, and he pushed his lime-green reading glasses higher. Knapp is the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Sharp End Publishing, a climbing guidebook publisher operating since 1996. The publisher changed with the industry, from five-dollar pamphlet guides of Front Range Topropes to glossy, detailed guides that boast over 1000 routes just for a specific area. The community has changed since Knapp's five-dollar pamphlet guides, and so have the conversations around campfires.

"We are not censoring our writers," said Knapp when he finished reading before swiveling around to his computer to draft a very vocal email to Kaemmerlen. The original RNTF guidelines suggested publishers submit troubling route names to a committee for guidance. Knapp said he had no hard and fast ideology surrounding the topic, except he agreed that oppressive route names should disappear. However, Knapp was strongly against an approval process for route names. "If you look at the history of censorship in America, none of it has led to any lasting change," he said. "The change has to come from the ground up, it's the first ascensionist who has to change the name."

A deeper dive into the Sharp End Publishing's inner workings found Knapp had been quietly doing the work to provide an accurate representation of climbing in his guides. Action shots were his go-to. In my conversation with Knapp, he pointed out that if there was someone who looked different from the widely represented, Knapp made an effort to include them in the guides. He pointed to examples from *Enchanted Rock*, a guidebook published in 2003, long before "diversity" became a trending buzzword.

Two weeks later, on April 22, 2021, nearly 200 community members joined an online open forum with Kaemmerlen. The forum's participants included Knapp, *Climbing Magazine's* former editor Matt Samet, former AAC CEO Mitsu Iwasaki, and North Face Athlete and AAC

Board member Nina Williams. Kaemmerlen and his team analyzed the response from surveys, online forums, and comments to address the community's gravest concerns regarding route name changes.

Samet, in response to concerns that changing route names is akin to changing history, said, "History is one of constant change. Any history book will tell you of revolt and revolution." Samet said the climbing community holds a certain rigidity to route names, and wonders

where that rigidity stems from. Let's get one thing clear, no one wants to rename *Steck-Salathe* or *To Bolt or Not To Be*. The renaming conversation is not centered on changing climbing history but on making sure the history we write going forward is something the community will be proud of. "The rigidity doesn't make sense to me because it doesn't acknowledge the actual nature of reality," he said.

Samet also pointed out how the rigid mindset—this piece of rock must have this name and this grade—diminishes the experience for people. Isn't experience what climbing is about? "If a route name is so oppressive that

it denies the pleasure of the experience for other climbers, it does need to change." Samet also points out the frivolous idea that stone is permanent. Nothing is permanent in geological time. "The rock might seem like a static entity, but it actually isn't," said Samet, "even on El Capitan, entire routes have slid off."

The heart of the climbing world has not changed in the years since hemp ropes and swami-belts; the love for wild places, the desire to prove and push yourself, and the search for community, adventure, and grit. Yet the people here today do not look exclusively like Mallory or the Stone Masters anymore—they also look like the Full Circle Expedition, Ashima Shiraishi, and Jordan Canon. The heart of it is the same, and will continue to be.

Just as I continue to listen to Kaemmerlen's punk-rock playlist that I didn't like, I continue to think about his words on phase transitions. It's all still water. Kaemmerlen didn't say it, but he didn't need to. It initiated a startling self-reflection that left me with more questions than answers.



📷 [Top] Fred Knapp at the Sharp End Publishing office. AAC member *Tori Enyart*; [Right] Alan Prehmus shows Lam Thuy Vo and Tiffany Blount how to use a hammer drill and how to bolt in the parking lot of Staunton State Park. Land of the Cheyenne and Ute peoples. AAC member *Lam Thuy Vo*

It was on my mind when I called Utomo. She sat across from me, sipping on Tom Yum Soup in a homey Thai Restaurant in Boulder, Colorado. Utomo agreed to an interview. I offered to buy her lunch. She said, “no, I got it.” The South-East Asian tradition of fighting over the bill almost brought our conversation to a standstill. Utomo says her roots are in Indonesia, but she is here now, on the lands of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute people. Undeterred by the pushback she witnessed with her flagging feature, Utomo is among the women leading the charge by stepping into route development, a space previously void of people who look like her. Utomo, along with three other women, Lam Thuy Vo, Vani Sundaram, and Tiffany Blount, found an unlikely friendship with AAC member Alan Prehmus, a longtime Front Range climber who developed in Staunton State Park.

Under Prehmus’ guidance, these women developed a crag of well-bolted moderates and named it The Classroom. They developed a two-pitch climb and named the second pitch *Patterson’s Pitch*, after the first Black woman to get a college degree. They named another route nearby *Jiayou*, a popular Chinese saying that means “fuel up.” All the names were intentional. In the smokescreen of the conversation surrounding oppressive route names, route developers like Blount took a traditional approach to naming. The best route names reflect the character of the climb, an ode to legends, or something notable that occurred during the development process that would be ingrained in the oral history we tell around campfires. Mary Jane Patterson was important to Blount, the developer, and she wanted to share it with you, the climber.







Blount was hesitant during our chat when the title of developer came up. We talked through a Zoom window where she called from her home office in New York City. "It's hard to call myself a route developer," said Blount. "It's a precarious place. The knowledge is gatekept. How do you learn? If you weren't part of the old boys' club doing it, you weren't doing it at all."

I called Lam Thuy Vo, a journalist and climber based in New York City. Fast-talking, sure, and witty, Thuy Vo spoke with a skip in her voice. I asked her how she, Melissa, Tiffany, and Vani broke down



the door to the old boys' club. It turns out the old boys' club broke down their door. Prehmus read some articles Thuy Vo had written and sent them an email that said, "how [can] I (as an old white male)... make new outdoor routes more female-friendly?" Thuy Vo puts it this way, "everyone pays the same parking fees to go into state parks. Everyone should walk up to a route and feel welcome."

True to his word, Knapp placed the decision-making in the hands of the writers. No censorship. Every climbing guidebook starts with the same warning. In bold, red lettering, it would read: Warning. Read this before using this guide. Climbing is a dangerous activity. This is not an instruction manual. In March 2022, a new disclaimer was added under the danger warning in Jamie Emerson's bouldering guide:



Everyone's definition of offensive is different. The definition of oppressive is clear. As a publisher, we do not believe in censorship. Free speech is one thing

that makes this country what it is. We reached out to several first ascensionists about changing their original names during the editorial process. Some changed them, and some chose to keep them. If the first ascensionist chose to keep the oppressive or problematic name, well, their name is right there under the boulder problem too.

Emerson understood the power behind a name. The response he received from first ascensionists were mixed. “I tried to think of a more offensive name to replace [redacted], but I couldn’t. Keep the name,” said one first ascensionist. Emerson and the publisher respected his decision. “Absolutely change it,” said another first ascensionist and offered to talk to a historian friend to brainstorm a culturally respectful name. The latter type of open-minded response reigned majority.

Oppressive route names are not produced by any entity greater than ourselves. The routes were envisioned by people, bolted by people, named by people, and can just as easily be renamed. The root of most oppressive route names pokes fun at violent, tragic, and dark parts of society. The people who lived and live those experiences would not give a route such a name. For too long, the people who lived and live those experiences were not out there developing routes. But that is changing, by people like Utomo, Thuy Vo, Blount, Prehmus, by the old guard like Knapp and Samet, by people like you.

Kaemmerlen once called the sport of climbing “the young ones” in an industry of titans. We are growing up, but the heart of this community has not changed; the love for wild places, the desire to prove and push yourself, and the search for community, adventure, and grit. So what if it’s all still water? We’ve changed, haven’t we?



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Holly Yu Tung Chen (she/her) is a journalist and route setter at several Colorado climbing gyms—she enjoys the duality of these wildly opposing jobs. (Holly’s motto has always been: “keep it interesting.”) In 2019, she kick-started her career as an intern for the American Alpine Club producing content and working in the digital marketing space. Beyond the Club, her writing has been published by *Alpinist Magazine*, *Climbing Magazine*, and Sharp End Publishing.

📷 [Previous Spread] Alan Prehmus and Tiffany Blount in Staunton State Park. Land of the Cheyenne and Ute peoples. AAC member Lam Thuy Vo; [Opposite top] Melissa Utomo takes a moment to smile for the camera while bolting. AAC member Lam Thuy Vo; [Opposite bottom] Brittany Leaviit, CEO of Brown Girls Climb, works her way up *Patterson’s Pitch (5.6)* in Staunton State Park. AAC member Lam Thuy Vo





◀◀ REWIND THE
CLIMB ▶▶

First Ascent of Mt. Vinson
by Grey Satterfield



📷 [Previous spread] Snowy ridge on Gardner. 1966 AAME team; [This page] The original 1966-67 flag was created by technicians in the Laboratory of Cell Biology at Rockefeller University and designed by AAME team member Sam Silverstein. *Courtesy of the American Alpine Club Library. Photo Andrew Bradberry; [Next page] Cutting a tent platform on Long Gables; Schoening, Fukushima, & Marts (L to R). 1966 AAME team*

When inspiration for our next climbing trip strikes, we're flooded with options to seek out every last possible detail. We pour over guidebooks with full-page spreads of color topos. We log on to Mountain Project and read about every route on the cliff. We find YouTube videos with move-by-move beta of the routes and boulders we want to try. Then we hop on Google Maps and get to-the-minute estimates of how long it will take to get there. We whip out our phone and get a hyper-detailed forecast with temps, wind speed, humidity, and anything else we'd ever care to know about the weather.

By the time we arrive, there's no mystery. We've discovered everything there is to know.

That wasn't always the case. In 1966 the American Alpine Club sent ten American climbers into the heart of the unknown: Antarctica.

Back then, Antarctica was truly the end of the earth. A blank spot on the map.

That all changed in 1957, during the International Geophysical Year (IGY), an international scientific project that brought together scientists from all over the world. Antarctic exploration and geophysical research were a huge priority for the IGY. In December of 1957, an overland search party of scientists identified a mountain range with big peaks. The peaks were also spotted by a US Navy Aircraft while flying reconnaissance. Photos taken from the aircraft were eventually published in 1960, much to the excitement of the mountaineering world. It was soon determined that these mountains were the highest peaks in Antarctica.

In the 1960s, at the height of the space race, the confirmation of the final unclimbed continental summit generated intense interest from the US government, National Geographic Society, and National Science Foundation. These organizations consulted the American Alpine Club, which then founded the American Antarctic Mountaineering Expedition (AAME). In 1966, Nick Clinch was selected by the AAC to lead the expedition to the highest point in Antarctica.



Clinch was the leading American mountaineer of his day. He led the successful expedition to the summit of Gasherbrum I (8,080m), the only 8,000 meter peak first climbed by an American team. Clinch would later become the President of the AAC in 1968 after returning from Antarctica.







What would these climbers find as they ventured into the unknown?

* * *

After days of traveling, the ten climbers landed, and were finally able to set up base camp at Mt. Vinson on December 7.

The plane disappeared over the horizon. The vast white desert of Antarctica loomed. To one side an 80-mile-long wall of mountains. To the other, 450 miles to the next human being.


The team made good progress up the mountain and quickly set up Camp II at 13,800'. They enjoyed the 24 hours of daylight that accompanies Antarctica in December and surprisingly good weather. However, the weather would soon turn for the worse.

On the evening of December 15, a storm ripped through the camp. Two tents were swept away, and gear was carried in every direction. The storm raged for two days with sustained winds of over 55 miles per hour and temperatures plummeting below -25 F. Even by today's standards these are violent conditions, but back then, it was almost unbearable.

Fortunately, the storm cleared a few days later, and the team progressed up the mountain. Pete Schoening, John Evans, Barry Corbet, and Bill Long established Camp III at 14,800' on December 17. On the morning of December 18, they had summited Mt. Vinson, the highest peak in Antarctica. The climbers carried packs that weighed over 50 lbs. and moved slowly due to the high altitude of over 16,000' and the frigid temps. Yet they persevered to the summit.

In the days that followed, the remaining six expedition members would all summit Mt. Vinson. Members of the team would also establish first ascents on Mt. Shinn, Mt. Tyree, Mt. Gardner, Mt. Long Gables, and Mt. Ostenso.

To this day, the AAME is considered one of the greatest successes in mountaineering. The team journeyed into the of unknown in unforgiving conditions and was able to establish six remarkable first ascents. But what truly stands the test of time is the partnership and camaraderie shared amongst the climbers. In the 1967 *American Alpine Journal*, Brian Marts, one of the team members, reflected, "Most of all, the experiences that our ten-man society gained from sharing our efforts and our triumphs have left us with a feeling of unity that will endure."

 [Previous spread]
AAME Team back at McMurdo (left to right) Standing: Evans, Wahlstron, Clinch, Corbet, Schoening. Kneeling: Hollister, Silverstein, Marts, Long, Fukushima. 1966 AAME team; [Left] Schoening and Evans on top of Vinson (Dec 18, 1966). 1966 AAME team



📷 Mt. Gardern,
Tyree, Epperly, and
Shinn from southwest.
1996 AAME team

So the next time you plan a climbing trip of your own, leave a little room for the unknown. You won't be disappointed. Just like the members of the AAME, when climbers of today are faced with uncertainty and challenges, we rely on our partners and persevere. These experiences are the foundation of the transformative power of climbing.

The perfect campsite that wasn't in the photos, a boulder just outside the main zone, that special sequence on a sport route that must be experienced. Despite all of the modern conveniences we are afforded, there's still plenty of uncertainty and an amazing world of climbing waiting to be discovered.



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Grey Satterfield (he/him) is a climber, runner, photographer and storyteller located in Chattanooga, TN. He loves every climbing discipline and just about every type of rock, but beyond that, he loves the people, partners, and characters that make climbing unique. He believes the best climbing stories and routes are still out there, just a few more minutes up the trail.



📷 Long Gables from the northwest. 1966 AAME team







📹 [Left] Corbet showing off ropework on Tyree 1966 AAME team; [Top] Hollister and a friend at Royds. 1966 AAME team; [Right] Charlie Hollister riding a barrel of gas. 1966 AAME team



Steak at 35 below

On Antarctic's peaks

Washington

It sounds pretty soft when we hear how the Americans who conquered Antarctica's highest mountains slept until noon, dined on filet mignon, and got around by motor toboggan. But there's the other side of the adventure: the enduring of 35-below-zero temperatures, surviving a storm that blew down most of their tents, and the struggle for two weeks to climb only one peak.

Nicholas Clinch, leader of the recent American Antarctic Mountaineering Expedition, related some of the pleasures and hazards of polar mountain climbing when he reported here to the National Geographic Society, one of the expedition's sponsors.

★ ★ ★

The American Alpine Club also was a sponsor. Arrangements were made through the National Science Foundation. The United States Navy provided logistic support.

"We were like kids in a candy store," said Mr. Clinch, a Los Angeles lawyer. "Here was this unclimbed range, and there we were with everything we needed to climb it."

The 10-man expedition made first ascents of six peaks in the Sentinel Range in West Antarctica. The group climbed the Vinson Massif, 16,860 feet, the highest point on the continent; Mount Tyree, 16,290 feet, the second-highest peak; Mounts Shinn and Gardner, more than 15,000 feet high; and Mounts Ostenson and Long Gables, more than 13,000 feet.

All members of the expedition climbed Vinson, Shinn, and Gardner; various teams reached the other summits. In all, the men spent 40 days in the hostile Antarctic environment.

The first day in the field near Vinson Massif, Dec. 7, 1966, was inauspicious. The men could not find two 55-gallon drums of gasoline—fuel for the indispensable motor toboggan.

A Navy plane had landed the gasoline near the Massif the day before the party was flown in. A second plane was unable to land near the cache, and the climbers were put down several miles away.

★ ★ ★

"I'll tell you what I learned about the Antarctic," Mr. Clinch said. "It's not flat; it's like a frozen ocean. You can spot something in the distance, and it disappears and appears behind waves of ice as you walk toward it. Looking for that gasoline was like looking for a piece of driftwood in the Pacific."

After nearly two days of frustration—Mr. Clinch was about to radio back to McMurdo

Sound station for help—the gasoline drums were located.

The expedition then set up a base camp near Vinson, and established another camp higher up the mountain. A terrific storm raged for two days, flattening all the tents in base camp.

"I wondered at the time how many days we were going to have of this," Mr. Clinch said. "I was afraid it was a taste of the weather we were going to have. After the storm we had an Easter-egg hunt for our gear. We found some things two miles away."

"Actually, the storm was a good thing for us, because we had been lax in guying the tents. From then on we were more cautious. When we saw the same cloud formation that had brought the storm, we dived for the trenches. But we never got another storm as bad."

Mr. Clinch estimates the temperature dropped as low as 35 degrees below zero F. on the trip. He isn't sure, because shortly after the thermometer hit minus 26 degrees the wind smashed it against a tent pole.

By Christmas Day, the expedition had already climbed Vinson and Shinn. Everyone gathered in a large tent at base camp and had a steak dinner, part of the 120 pounds of filet mignon they carried.

"Seconds on steak, anyone?" was the battle cry of the expedition," Mr. Clinch said.

The sun never set during the Antarctic summer. "We got into the distressing habit of sleeping until noon or two o'clock, climbing for eight hours, then having dinner at 10," Mr. Clinch recalled.

★ ★ ★

The most difficult challenge was Mount Tyree. "We had an Antarctic sleigh ride trying to find a route for Tyree," said the expedition leader. "It took us two weeks. We finally had to climb the fourth-highest mountain in Antarctica—Gardner—to climb the second-highest—Tyree."

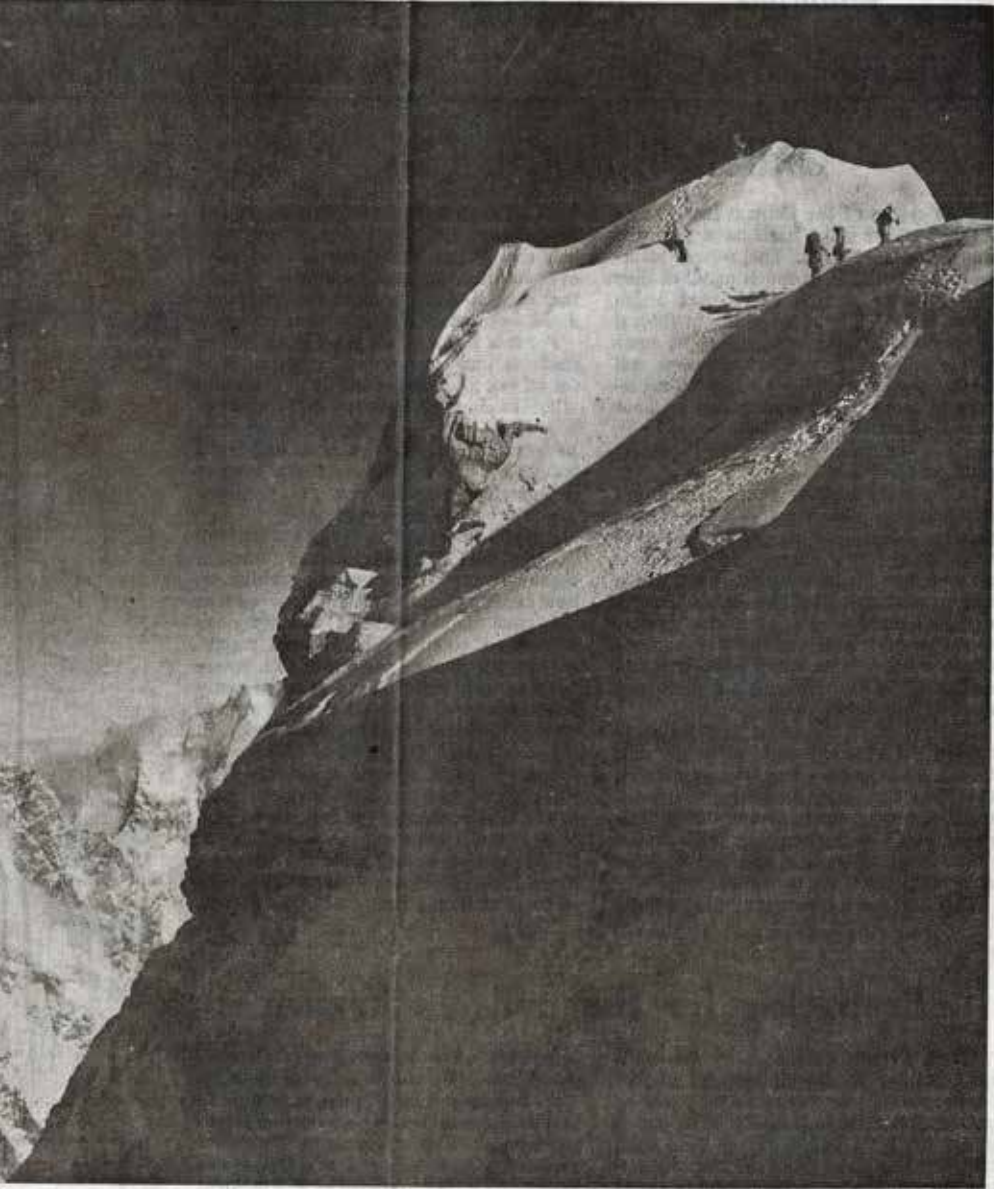
Besides climbing, the expedition made an extensive collection of rocks as part of its program of geological and paleontological research. The samples are being examined for fossils of ancient sea life.

"A big psychological factor was the knowledge that the United States Navy was standing by," Mr. Clinch said. "Otherwise it would be a ridiculous project—climbing 400 miles from anything. The only other living things we saw were a few lichens on a very few rocks."

"Our isolation was brought home to us the first night out. We were trying to reach McMurdo, and our first radio contact was Pole Station. Imagine, our first human contact was with the South Pole!"

National Geographic Society

Snowy of Mt.



profile
Gardner

Dwarfed by the eminence of Mt. Gardner, men of the American Antarctic Mountaineering Expedition approach the summit. The 10-man team made first ascents on six peaks in the 40-day period they stayed in the frigid region.



📍 Near the Diamond
in Rocky Mountain
National Park, CO. Land
of the Ute and Cheyenne
peoples. AAC member
Jessica Glassberg /
Louder Than 11

The background of the page is a golden sunset sky with soft, glowing clouds. In the lower half, there are stylized white line-art outlines of mountain ranges against a dark, gradient background that transitions from black at the bottom to a dark grey above the mountains.

BETA

A membership with benefits.



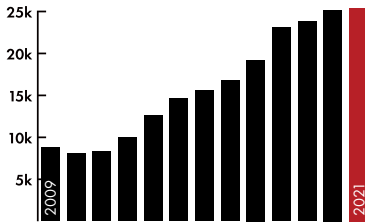


2021 ANNUAL REPORT

2021 was the endurance pitch. We have continued to bring grit and compassion to shaping our AAC climbing community. As climbers, we know that each move we make brings us closer to our goals. This last year, we have invested anew in the power of everyday members and volunteers to make a collective impact. This strategy will help us deliver on your priorities: policy and advocacy, education, and building inclusive communities. After all, this is your Club.

📷 AAC member Tara Kerzhner

MEMBERSHIP

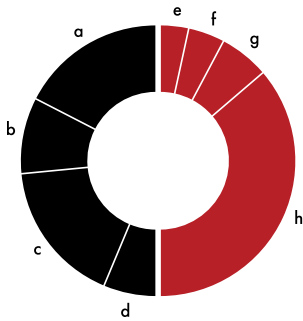


25K Sport climbers, alpinists, peak baggers, big wall climbers, boulderers, ice climbers, ridge scramblers, gym climbers, trekkers, ski mountaineers, trail runners, climbers both young and young at heart, crusty climbers, adventure lovers, nature protectors, high-five givers, and climbers of every color **united in 2021.**

FINANCIALS

REVENUE

a. Contributions & Grants	\$1,941,951
b. Programs & Events.....	\$1,013,072
c. Membership Dues.....	\$1,911,805
d. Other	\$701,890
Total Revenue.....	\$5,568,718



EXPENSES

e. General & Admin	\$285,878
f. Membership Services.....	\$367,136
g. Fundraising.....	\$501,575
h. Programs	\$3,050,285
Total Expenses	\$4,204,874

ASSETS

Cash & Equivalents.....	\$979,695
Investments	\$4,661,078
Gift Annuity	\$95,668
Building and Property	\$3,680,327
Other.....	\$74,044
Total Assets.....	\$9,490,812

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	\$62,594
Accruals & Deferrals.....	\$2,020,016
PPP Loan	\$333,970
Notes Payable	\$152,916
Annuity Liability.....	\$4,634
Total Liabilities.....	\$2,574,130

NET ASSETS & ENDOWMENT

Undesignated/Unrestricted.....	\$1,671,666
Board Designated/Restricted.....	\$3,032,710
Restricted	\$2,212,306
Total Net Assets.....	\$6,916,682
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$9,490,812

NOTED

\$180K

Awarded to **166** grant recipients (Catalyst, Cornerstone, Cutting Edge, Jones, LYD, Mountaineering Fellowships, McNeill-Nott, PIA, Research, CGF).

32K+

Total numbers of nights booked at our lodging facilities around the country and **0** cases of COVID-19 reported by any AAC lodging staff or visitors in 2021.

1K+

Climbers wrote their lawmakers in support of climate and public lands provisions in the bi-partisan Infrastructure Bill.

40+

Volunteer networks engaged in major festivals and events nationally.

1

Lawsuit filed to protect the unique climbing experience, natural resources, and cultural values of Pine Mountain, CA.

25

Climber's Advocacy Network (CAN) Volunteers activated in **7** states (CA, CO, DC, GA, MA, UT, WA) during CAN's inaugural year.

3

New issues of the *Summit Register* published, educating thousands of members and climbers on issues impacting the community and providing tools for engagement.

3

Changes to the damaging Trump era regulations against the National Environmental Policy Act. These changes ensure that federal law agencies consider the cumulative effects of their projects.

2,807

Total Craggin' Classic attendees.
2,000+ NEW Craggin' Classic attendees.

10

Written testimonies sent to Congress in support of climber values on various bills.



📷 AAC member Caleb Timmerman

DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI) TRANSPARENCY REPORT

External

CLIMB UNITED



23 Publishers, affinity group leaders, and other members of the climbing community united as the Climb United Route Naming Task Force (RNTF).

CRAGGIN' CLASSICS SCHOLARSHIP



14 Full ride scholarships awarded, prioritizing applicants demonstrating financial need and identifying with a marginalized community.

LAUNCH PAD



16 Individual spots reserved for one weekend per month at each of our locations for free, for groups that amplify the AAC's core mission – education, community, and policy – through grassroots efforts that foster inclusivity, education, and stewardship.

PULL FOCUS GRANT



This new grant provides historically underserved community members a paid internship with *Louder Than 11* a premier photo/video production studio. Recipients will have access to equipment and a studio to advance their skills and careers in this competitive space.

CATALYST GRANT



This grant funds adventure and learning opportunities for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ individuals, and other marginalized communities.

CLIMB UNITED MEETUPS



Meetups occurred at Smith Rock, Moab, and Bishop Craggin Classics, creating a welcoming space for marginalized climbers.

Internal

FALL 2021 CULTURAL & SYSTEMS ASSESSMENT

The AAC utilized a third party to conduct an internal review of systems and workplace culture.

RACIAL EQUITY INSTITUTE TRAINING

All AAC staff completed the Racial Equity Institute-Phase 1 Training.

JAN '22 SALARY EQUITY ADJUSTMENT

The AAC created new salary bands and adjusted staff's salary to bring alignment with everyone's roles and responsibilities.

JOIN

From bouldering to big walls, ski mountaineering to just discovering the sport, we're in this together. American Alpine Club memberships are tailored to serve you best, wherever you may be in your climbing journey. Regardless of your membership level, your membership itself is a contribution which directly supports our work in public policy, conservation, climber education, and community building. Join us and learn more at americanalpineclub.org/join.



I Supporter (\$45)

An entry point to Club membership, including discounts and perks as well as access to AAC grants and our library.

I Partner (\$100)

The most popular membership offering includes \$7,500 in international emergency rescue evacuation, \$5,000 in emergency medical expense coverage, publications including the *American Alpine Journal* and *Accidents in North American Climbing*, gear discounts, grant access, and more. Discounted Student, Family, & Military rates are available.

I Leader (\$250)

An upgraded membership with \$300,000 in expanded rescue evacuation coverage, all but guaranteeing you're not left holding the bill no matter where you are in the world.

I Advocate (\$500)

Includes all Leader level benefits, with an additional opportunity to deepen your support for the AAC and our work.

MEMBER PROFILE

Log in to your member profile at profile.americanalpineclub.org to take advantage of your most valuable member benefits:

- I Access exclusive discounts and benefits
- I View and print your digital membership card and proof of membership letter
- I Update any of your account settings including mailing addresses, publications, bookmail preferences, payment settings, t-shirt size, and more

CONTACT THE CLUB

Reach out to us at any time with questions or suggestions on how we could improve your AAC experience.

- ✉ info@americanalpineclub.org
- ☎ 303.384.0110

Follow us on social media to stay up to date on AAC news and events, volunteer opportunities, critical policy initiatives, and more.

- f [americanalpineclub](https://www.facebook.com/americanalpineclub)
- 📷 [americanalpine](https://www.instagram.com/americanalpine)
- 🐦 [americanalpine](https://twitter.com/americanalpine)
- 🎵 [AmericanAlpineClub](https://www.youtube.com/AmericanAlpineClub)



Levi Harrell

RESCUE SERVICES

Climbing can be a risky pursuit, but one worth the price of admission. With the enhanced emergency rescue evacuation services and medical expense benefits, you can tie in a little easier knowing the Club has got your back. Some exclusions and limitations apply. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/rescue. Partner level members and above receive:

I \$7,500 in worldwide emergency rescue evacuation services

If disaster strikes, we'll rescue you from the crag and see you all the way to the hospital. Upgrade to the Leader level membership and expand this coverage to \$300,000.

I \$5,000 in medical expense coverage

During an eligible incident, your membership covers any direct medical expenses that would otherwise be out of pocket.

I Direct expense reimbursement

We created a reimbursement process so that in the event you are unable to initiate your rescue through Redpoint, you're not left holding the bill.

DISCOUNTS

Members enjoy discounts on gear, lodging, gym memberships, guide services, and more. Please note that these discounts are all subject to change. We do our best to provide the most updated information at the time of printing, however all discounts—and information on how to redeem them—can be verified by logging into your member profile.

Featured

American Alpine Club Store	20% off
Backcountry.com	20% off
Black Diamond.....	20% off
CAMP	25% off Outlet Items
Kavu	40% off
Outdoor Research.....	25-50% off
Patagonia	20% off
Rab.....	20% off
Sterling Ropes	15% off

ExpertVoice

Access discounts on over 300 additional brands through expertvoice.com. To set up your account, follow the instructions detailed on the *Gear Discounts* page of your member profile. AAC staff favorites include:

Deuter	50% off
Diamondback.....	20% off
Garmin.....	25% off
Goal Zero	40% off
Gregory	40% off
Hestra Gloves	30% off
Mammut	40% off
Native Eyewear	40% off
Nuun	40% off
SmartWool	30% off
Smith	40% off

Climbing Magazines

These climbing and backcountry skiing publications offer AAC members the following discounts:

Alpinist	\$35 (1 yr); \$65 (2yrs)
Backcountry	\$18 (1 yr); \$34 (2yrs)
Climbing	\$12.95 (1 yr)
Climbing Zine.....	\$34.99 (2yrs); \$49.99 (3yrs)

Gyms

Many gyms offer members a range of discounts from waived initiation fees to discounted memberships. For the sake of brevity, we have only included the latter here. However, you can explore the full range of options online. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/gym-discounts.

I 10%–15% off membership

- Ascend Climbing
- Boulder Rock Club
- Edgeworks Climbing
- Green Mountain Rock Climbing Center
- Phoenix Rock Gym
- Rock'n & Jam'n
- RocVentures Indoor Climbing Area
- Salt Pump Climbing Company
- Stone Summit
- The Crag

I 15-20% off membership

- Hangar 18
- Rock Fitness
- Rock Spot Climbing

Guide Services

Traveling and need a partner with all the beta? The AAC partners with numerous guide services to offer discounts on instruction and guided trips both in the U.S. and abroad. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/guides.

- Alaska Mountaineering School
- Alpenglow Expeditions
- Alpine Skills International
- American Alpine Institute
- Backcountry Babes
- Beartooth Powder Guides
- Beverly Mountain Guides
- Blue Ridge Mountain Guides
- Buena Vista Mountain Adventures
- Chockstone Climbing Guides
- Colorado Mountain School
- Denver Mountain Guiding
- Devil's Lake Climbing Guides
- High Peaks Mountain Guides
- Iris Alpine
- Kaf Adventures
- Kingdom Adventure Mountain Guides
- Longleaf Wilderness Medicine
- Mountain Madness
- New River Mountain Guides
- Northeast Mountaineering
- Northwest Alpine Guides/Mountain Gurus
- Pikes Peak Alpine School
- San Juan Outdoor Adventures
- Sawtooth Mountain Guides
- Synnott Mountain Guides

📷 AAC member Kenny Gamblin



Huts

Members enjoy discounted access at huts owned and operated by alpine clubs around the globe, including the UIAA huts in Europe, the New Zealand Alpine Club's huts, and the Alpine Club of Canada's huts. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/aac-lodging-network.



AAC member Caleb Timmerman

BOOKS & MEDIA

Partner level members and above can receive print editions of the *American Alpine Journal* and *Accidents in North American Climbing*, delivered each autumn. Digital copies of the current editions are available anytime through your member profile. (You may also choose to opt out of printed copies of either book if you want to save resources.) You can search the archives for any article we've published since 1929 (and even share your own story) by visiting us online. Learn more at publications.americanalpineclub.org



American Alpine Journal

Published annually since 1929, the *American Alpine Journal* is internationally renowned as the world's journal of record for major climbs and ski descents. The AAJ's feature articles include detailed stories of the year's most compelling climbs, told by the climbers themselves. With hundreds of additional first-person reports coupled with captivating photography, the AAJ provides an essential historical record and feast of inspiration. Also be sure to follow the AAJ on Instagram and Facebook, for even more awesome climbing stories and a sneak peek at the upcoming volume.

ACCIDENTS



Accidents in North American Climbing

All too often in our sport, novices and experts alike are injured or killed as the result of inadequate preparation and errors in judgment. Since 1948, the AAC has documented the year's most notable climbing and ski mountaineering accidents, providing invaluable lessons to climbers. *Accidents in North American Climbing*, a keystone of the Club's educational mission, features in-depth accident reports from around the continent and thorough analysis of what went wrong, so you can learn from others' mistakes.

AAC member Dawn Kish



The American Alpine Club Podcast

That's right. You can now take a deep dive into your favorite American Alpine Club content via your headphones, car stereo, and more. The drive to work—or your favorite hang board routine—just got way more interesting.

Climb episodes are about climbs big and small, and the things they make us realize, in conversation with AAC community members.

Protect episodes will dive into the nuances of policy and advocacy issues that matter most to climbers.

Educate episodes will span the logistics of safety and accidents, as well as the history of climbing and how it can inform our present.

Connect episodes will cover the social side of our climbing community, including important conversations about equity and inclusion that have emerged from our work with the Climb United initiative. Subscribe to the American Alpine Club Podcast wherever you listen to podcasts.

The Summit Register

The Summit Register is the AAC's quarterly digital zine focused exclusively on our policy and advocacy work, and how you as a climber can get involved. Each issue features the bills and initiatives the AAC is actively advocating for, as well as stories from the crag, and how local climbers are giving back. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/summit-register

The Cutting Edge Podcast

POWERED BY: Hilleberg the Tentmaker.

The Cutting Edge podcast brings the pages of the AAJ to life, featuring in-depth interviews with the world's greatest climbers. Each month, AAJ editors interview climbers just home from cutting-edge expeditions, highlighting the tactics, techniques, and epic moments of great new climbs. Find The Cutting Edge online, wherever you download your podcasts.



LODGING NETWORK

AAC members enjoy access to a worldwide network of lodging options. From discounts at an array of partner facilities to the benefits of member rates at hut systems like the Alpine Club of Canada to our own great locations—AAC members find shelter in the mountains and at crags around the world. Learn more and book your stay at americanalpineclub.org/lodging. Our lodging facilities are open to the general public but heavily discounted for members at the partner level and above.

Grand Teton Climbers' Ranch

Moose, WY

Located inside Grand Teton National Park, the Climbers' Ranch offers the most affordable and accessible lodging for climbers visiting the Tetons.

Gunks Campground

Gardiner, NY

Located a short walk from the Trapps. Includes 50 drive-in and walk-in campsites for visiting climbers.

Hueco Rock Ranch

El Paso, TX

Located just three miles from Hueco Tanks, the Rock Ranch offers climbers both bunk-style accommodations and tent sites nearby some of the best bouldering on the planet.

New River Gorge Campground

Fayetteville, WV

The AAC campground at the New River Gorge resides on a 40-acre parcel adjacent to National Park land and within walking distance of popular crags.

Rumney Rattlesnake Campground

Rumney, NH

Located across the street from the main parking lot for Rumney Rocks, only minutes from your tent to the crag. Tent sites and bunk-style accommodations are available.

Snowbird Hut

Talkeetna Range, AK

The Alaska Section's Snowbird Hut is beautifully situated in the Talkeetna Mountains on the northern edge of the Snowbird Glacier. The hut is open to the public at no cost.



GRANTS

Since the first ascent of Mt. Logan in 1925, the AAC has aided climbers seeking to reach new summits. Over \$200,000 in climbing, conservation, and research grants are awarded annually to those pursuing climbing dreams, expanding their skillset, pushing the boundaries of the sport, and

working to understand and protect our mountain and crag environments worldwide. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/grants

Catalyst Grant

In an effort to break down barriers of racism, sexism, homophobia, and other forms of discrimination—and to ensure that all have access to the resources necessary to pursue their outdoor adventure goals—the Catalyst Grant funds the dreams of BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and persons with seen and unseen disabilities who face barriers in accessing the climbing community. Grants support all climbing disciplines, including mountain running, ski mountaineering, peak bagging, or any other challenging outdoor endeavor.

Applications open in January. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/catalyst-grant

Cornerstone Conservation Grant

The Cornerstone Conservation Grant, powered by REI, funds infrastructure projects that work to protect and conserve climbing areas across the United States. Specifically, the grant is awarded to local climbing organizations who work collaboratively with national organizations such as the Access Fund, government agencies, and individuals. This work ensures our outdoor spaces can be enjoyed for generations to come. **Applications accepted in Spring 2023.** Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/cornerstone-conservation-grant

Cutting Edge Grant

The Cutting Edge Grant, powered by Black Diamond, supports advanced, seasoned climbers undertaking high-level climbing and mountaineering objectives in remote areas, including unclimbed peaks, difficult new routes, first free ascents, or similar cutting-edge pursuits that push the sport's known boundaries.

Applications open in October. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/cutting-edge-grant



📷 AAC member Dawn Kish

Jones Backcountry Adventure Grants

The Jones Backcountry Adventure Grant & Live Like Liz Award, powered by Jones Snowboards, support multi-day splitboarding expeditions with exploratory and adventure components, with special consideration given to human-powered objectives. These two grants offer recipients both funding and equipment, including a new splitboard, skins, and touring pack. The Live Like Liz Award is limited to female-identifying applicants. **Applications open in October.** Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/jones-splitboarding-grants

Live Your Dream Grant

The Live Your Dream Grant, powered by The North Face, is a grant that serves all climbers, regardless of experience level, supporting the unforgettable experiences that allow one to dream big, to grow, and to inspire others. Our most popular offering, since 2012 the Live Your Dream grant has awarded more than \$375,000

to over 725 recipients from across the nation who went on to climb, ski, send, and pursue their climbing dreams both domestically and abroad. The Dillon Blanksma Best Day of the Year Award—in loving memory of Dillon Blanksma, an avid climber and former staff member of AAC—is granted to one grant recipient to further support their climbing objective that focuses on education, community, and safety. **Applications open in January.** Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/live-your-dream-grant

Mountaineering Fellowship Fund

Started in 1966, Mountaineering Fellowship Fund has long encouraged young, up-and-coming climbers to go into remote areas and seek out climbs more difficult than they might ordinarily have the resources to do. Unexplored mountain ranges, unclimbed peaks, and difficult new routes are looked upon with favor. **Applications open in October.** Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/

McNeill-Nott Award

The McNeill-Nott Award, powered by Mountain Hardwear, funds amateur female-identifying individuals exploring new routes or unclimbed peaks in small, lightweight teams. **Applications open in October.** Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/mcneillnott

Partner in Adventure Grant

The Partner in Adventure Grant, powered by TINCUP Mountain Whiskey, seeks to fund educational opportunities and courses. This grant is open to duos—a partnership—of all experience levels, with awards applying to the educational opportunity of their choice. This grant program seeks to support both Club members looking to expand their skills as well as the nation's mountain guides, who have dedicated their lives to fostering these learning opportunities in others. **Applications open in October.** Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/partner-in-adventure



Pull Focus Grant

The Pull Focus Grant is a partnership between the American Alpine Club and Louder Than 11. The grant will provide historically underserved community members the opportunity to intern with a premier photo/video production studio. Recipients will have access to equipment and studio space to further their skills and advance their careers in this notoriously competitive space under the guidance of industry leading mentors Jon and Jessica Glassberg. **Applications open in January.** Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/pull-focus

Research Grants

Our research grants support scientific endeavors around the world which contribute vital knowledge of our climbing environments, enrich our understanding of global climber impacts, and support and improve the health and sustainability of mountain environments and habitats. The AAC seeks research that will broaden knowledge in the following policy priority areas: climate change and protecting public lands. **Applications accepted November 15 to January 16.** Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/research-grants

Rocky Talkie Search and Rescue Award

Rocky Talkie will be giving a total of \$25,000 to four SAR teams who responded to 2021 incidents in exceptional and inspirational ways. The goal of this award is to give back to teams for their invaluable service to our community and raise awareness of the rescues that regularly occur outside the public eye (many of which are performed by volunteers)! **Applications open in October.** Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/rocky-talkie-award

Zack Martin Breaking Barriers Grant

The Zack Martin Breaking Barriers Grant seeks to achieve a dual-purpose objective: projects must include both a humanitarian-aid component as well as a climbing project. The humanitarian effort is focused on topics surrounding sustainability, education, or health, and provide benefits to local people well after initial implementation. **Applications open in January.** Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/zmbb

RESOURCES

Library

Located in Golden, Colorado, the Henry S. Hall Jr. American Alpine Club Library, established in 1916, remains one of the oldest and largest alpine libraries in the world, housing more than 173,000 unique climbing guides, books, archives, maps, artifacts, and ephemera. Members can browse the collection in person, or browse the online catalog and borrow items via Bookmail. Additionally, Club staff and volunteers assist with research and trip planning for AAC members, aiding in information-gathering crucial to larger expeditions and first ascents. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/library

Bookmail

AAC members can borrow up to 10 items (5 max audiovisual items) at a time for a period of 35 days. Books may be checked out online and sent anywhere in the U.S. You pay only for return shipping. Use our online Guidebook Finder map to check out the guidebook you need for your next trip at americanalpineclub.org/guidebooks or search the full catalog at booksearch.americanalpineclub.org

Exhibits

Exhibits is an online community resource that shares the specially curated, digital collections organized into exhibits. Past exhibits have included the History of the Yeti, Desert Climbing Pioneers, Yosemite Through the Years, and Women in Climbing History. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/explore

Museum

A joint venture between the American Alpine Club and Colorado Mountain Club, the Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum in Golden, CO, is the only museum in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to mountaineering and

rock climbing. The museum hosts rotating exhibits and showcases a scale model of Mt. Everest, the ice axe Pete Schoening used to save five falling climbers on K2 in 1953, and equipment from the first American ascent of Mt. Everest in 1963. Stop by to browse at your leisure, or join us for one of our many events. Learn more at mountaineeringmuseum.org



📷 AAC member Jon Glassberg
/ Louder Than 11

EVENTS

The AAC brings our community together at hundreds of events throughout the year, from the Annual Benefit Gala, which attracts members from across the country, to the Craggin' Classics, which attract climbers from around the world, to locally organized Section and Chapter events happening on the grassroots level. AAC members enjoy discounted access to most events.

Craggin' Classic Series

The Craggin' Classic Series, powered by CAMP Technical Adventure Equipment, unites climbers at world-class destinations to climb, learn, connect, care for their crags, party, dance, and generally live it up. In its heart of hearts, the Series is a nation-wide celebration of the sport and culture of climbing. All it's missing is you.

Rumney, NH	Sept 16–18
New River Gorge, WV	Sept 23–25
Smith Rock, OR	Sept 30–Oct 2
Devil's Lake, WI	Oct 14–16
Shelf Road, CO	Oct 21–23
Moab, UT	Nov 4–6
Bishop, CA	Nov 11–13

With seven stops coast-to-coast, the Craggin' Classic Series is the country's largest climbing festival series. Each event features clinics taught by pro athletes and guides, films and slideshows, vendors and deals, dance parties and tomfoolery, local food and craft beer, auctions, raffles, camping, and more all presented over a jam-packed three-day weekend throughout the fall climbing season. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/craggin-classics

Hueco Rock Rodeo

El Paso, TX Feb 16–29, 2023
 This is the premier outdoor bouldering competition in the country, drawing competitors from around the world to test their skills on some of the most complex and classic boulder problems in the world. The weekend-long event also features pro-taught clinics, stewardship projects to give back to the park, a wild dance party, bonfire, karaoke, a dyno comp, gear demos, food, film screenings, music, raffles, and more. Rodeo staff work with Hueco Tanks State Park and Historic Site and Climbers of Hueco Tanks Coalition to ensure respect to this historic desert area. A portion of the event proceeds go back to the Park. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/hrr

Annual Gathering & Benefit Gala

New York, NY Mar 11, 2023
 The largest annual gathering of the AAC community, the Gala brings together members, athletes, and industry leaders to celebrate the Club and climbing community. Attracting over 800 attendees from across the country, the stacked

weekend features a climbing kickoff party, keynotes, panels, and workshops hosted by past and present climbers of note, a cocktail reception, the gala dinner, and an online auction featuring gear provided by Club partners. Past keynote speakers have included Yvon Chouinard, Kris Tompkins, Tommy Caldwell, Gerlinde Kaltenbrunner, Conrad Anker, and the remaining members of the 1963 American Everest team.

The Annual Benefit Gala also includes the presentation of the Club's long-standing Climbing Awards—recognizing outstanding achievements in conservation, climbing, and service to the climbing community. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/annual-benefit-gala

Section Dinners, Chapter Gatherings, & More

Each year, the AAC and Club volunteers host hundreds of events all around the country. Stay up to date on local happenings—including section dinners, presentations, movie nights, and more—by keeping an eye on your section emails and the AAC events calendar. Learn more on your local section or chapter's social channels. For more information, please contact hhoetmer@americanalpineclub.org



📷 AAC member Jessica Glassberg / Louder Than 11

CLIMB UNITED

Climbing culture is rich in symbolism, history, tenacity, and the triumph of human spirit—a culture for which the AAC is proud to be a standard-bearer. However, it is without doubt that this culture also centers and celebrates the experiences, perspectives, and bodies of some, while allowing for the marginalization and exclusion of others. In doing so, it signals that not all are welcome.

Through the Climb United initiative, the AAC is convening climbers, climbing organizations, and iconic climbing brands to strengthen our sport's culture. We're engaging the climbing community across difference, discipline, and locale in a process of collective reflection, learning, and growth.

Our aim is to accelerate cultural transformation in the climbing community and demonstrate the power and promise of diversity, equity, and inclusion in outdoor recreation.

Climbing is for everyone. Learn more at climbunited.org

CLIMBING GRIEF FUND

The Climbing Grief Fund (CGF) works to evolve the conversation around grief and trauma in the climbing, alpinism, and ski mountaineering community and connects individuals to effective mental health professionals and resources. The CGF acts as a resource hub for grief and mental health in our community through a variety of programming including individual therapy grants for those directly impacted by grief related to climbing-related incidents, a nationwide therapist database, psycho-education tools and workshops on grief and resilience, the Story Archive Project which records and collects community member

stories related to grief and resilience, and direct individual and small group support from CGF's Therapeutic Director following a tragedy. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/grieffund

Climbing Grief Grant

The Climbing Grief Grant, a component of the Climbing Grief Fund's work, provides financial support to individuals in need of mental health services. **Applications accepted on a rolling basis.** Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/grief-grant

PUBLIC POLICY

The AAC was founded—and still exists today—because the mountains hold great power. As members of a broader social and environmental ecosystem, we have a responsibility to protect our climbing communities and landscapes. We believe that the future of climbing depends on the health, access, and vitality of public lands. We also acknowledge that environmental issues are deeply tied to social justice issues and firmly believe that all people have a right to safe and equitable access to these spaces.

At the AAC, we view climbers as both drivers and beneficiaries of change. That's why the Club is working to grow and convene a community of civically active climbers, empower them with information, and partner with them in advocacy. Therefore, our vision—where we're headed with this work—is to empower 5 million climbers across the country to protect their climbing communities and ecosystems. The AAC needs your help, your voice, and your energy to achieve these goals for the betterment of all climbers. **Get involved today.** Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/conservation

📷 AAC member William Woodward



📷 AAC member Brandon Belcher



📷 AAC member L. Blount

VOLUNTEER

We are an organization founded, influenced, and supported by dedicated and competent volunteers, and it is volunteerism that has guided every major idea, decision, effort, and achievement for the past 120 years.

Chapter and section volunteers work around the country at a grassroots level to create positive change in their climbing communities. Volunteers host and sponsor social events, organize crag stewardship projects, amplify local and national policy initiatives, mentor and educate climbers, and partner with local climbing organizations and affinity groups. It is AAC volunteers who preside over the Club's Board of Directors, serve on grant selection committees, contribute and assist in writing and editing of the AAJ and ANAC publications, and much more. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/volunteer

Current Club Sections

Alaska, S. Appalachia, Arizona, Cascade, Deep South, Front Range, Great Lakes, Hawaii, Heartland, Idaho, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, Montana, New England, New Mexico, New York, North Central, Oregon, Sierra Nevada, Southwest, Texas, Utah, Washington D.C., Western Slope, Wyoming

Current Club Chapters

Arkansas, Asheville, Atlanta, Austin, Baltimore, Bend, Boone, Boston, Boulder, Bozeman, Brooklyn, Central PA, Charleston, Charlotte, Chattanooga, Chicago, Colo. Springs, Columbia, Delaware Chapter, D.C. University, Denver, Durango, Flagstaff, Fresno, Gunks, Houston, Lehigh, Los Angeles, Los Padres, Miami, Moab, North Texas, New Hampshire, New York City, Northern, Northern Texas, Oklahoma City, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Pittsburgh, Richmond, San Diego, San Francisco, Sandhills, Southeast Michigan, Seneca Rocks, Salt Lake, San Jose, Seattle, South Carolina Highlands, Tahoe, Triad, Triangle, Tucson, Twin Cities, West Michigan, Yosemite

GIVING

Your tax-deductible gift to the American Alpine Club helps members and volunteers pursue the mission and core programs of the Club. From policy and conservation to education, social justice, and community enrichment, your donation works to protect the climbing experience for generations to come.

Options for giving include a one-time gift, monthly giving, matched gift, stock donation, planned gifts, or a Great Ranges Fellowship contribution. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/ways-to-give

Piolet Society

The Piolet Society honors the extraordinary donors whose estate-giving solidifies their commitment to the climbing community, our wild places, and the sustainability of the American Alpine Club. Most estate gifts come as a bequest through a will or living trust, or as a beneficiary designation of an IRA or life insurance policy. Each of these options allows you to retain full control of your assets during life. Through the Piolet Society, you can leave a legacy as timeless as the mountains themselves. Learn more by contacting our advancement team at donations@americanalpineclub.org

Great Range Fellowship

The Great Ranges Fellowship (GRF) is the Club's way of recognizing our most engaged donors. With a total donation of \$1,250 or more annually, Fellows enjoy perks such as communications from the CEO, direct staff access, customized limited-edition gear and products, and personalized invitations to special events and trips worldwide.

Additionally, gifts made to the Club directed at operating programs—such as the AAJ, the AAC Library, the Grand Teton Climbers' Ranch, and others—qualify towards your annual Fellowship membership. Learn more at americanalpineclub.org/great-ranges-fellowship.

Fellowship levels include:

Teewinot Fellow \$1,250

One-year Advocate-level AAC Membership; \$1,000 is tax deductible; exclusive Great Ranges Fellowship gear; VIP invitations to events and climbing trips in your area—and around the world; invitations to AAC Town Halls featuring Club leadership, volunteers, and behind-the-scenes organization presentations; one year subscription to *Alpinist*; insider communications on key Club issues, recognition in the AAC Guidebook.

Robson Fellow \$2,500

All the benefits of a Teewinot Fellow, plus:
A special hardcover edition of the *American Alpine Journal*; recognition in both the AAC *Guidebook* as well as the *AAJ*.

Alpamayo Fellow \$5,000

All the benefits of a Robson Fellow, plus:
A private tour of the Henry S. Hall Jr. American Alpine Club Library or the Bradford Washburn American Mountaineering Museum in Golden, Colorado.

Eiger Fellow \$10,000

All the benefits of an Alpamayo Fellow, plus:
Our Eiger-level Fellows enjoy more personalized benefits. We'd like to work with you—or your business—in crafting your unique Club experience at this level of investment. For more information on how to customize your Eiger-level membership experience, please contact the Club at: donations@americanalpineclub.org





2021 Great Ranges Fellowship. Thank you for your support.

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📷 AAC member Will McKay

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PARTNERS

The American Alpine Club is committed to supporting and inspiring everyone who loves climbing. The work we do has the endorsement, in the form of financial and in-kind contributions, from outdoor industry leaders, brands, media outlets, and creatives. These contributions are essential to our core operations and our ability to deliver on national policy and conservation efforts, member rescue and medical services, publications such as the *American Alpine Journal*, and grassroots community development. Thank you for supporting those who support us.

Media Partners

Alpinist • Andrew Burr • Austin Siadak • Bedrock Film Works • Christian Pondella • Climbing Magazine • Climbing Zine • Dawn Kish • Drew Smith • Felipe Tapia Nordenflycht • Fixed Pin Publishing • François Lebeau • Jeffrey Rueppel • Jeremiah Watt • Jim Aikman • Ken Etzel • Krystle Wright • Luis Cordova • Mountainweather • Outback Media • Reel Rock • Samuel Crossley • Sender Films • Sharp End Publishing • SNEWS • Top of the World Books • Truc Allen Media • Wolverine Publishing

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Corporate Partners

Summit: \$100,000



High Camp: \$50,000



Base Camp: \$25,000



Leader: \$15,000



Belayer: \$10,000



Anchor: \$5,000



Sustainer: \$2,500



Supporter: \$1,000





patagonia

STILL COMMITTED

We started this business championing the vertical wilderness and putting style over summit.

50 years later, we still are.

In 1972 Chouinard Equipment bet the farm, urging climbers to stop using the company's bestselling product to protect the rock. Clean climbing—making the switch from pitons to chocks—fundamentally changed both the art of the sport and the ethos of the community. It was climbing's first environmental movement and instilled the values that drive Patagonia to this day. But more importantly, it was a challenge—what were climbers capable of achieving in order to protect the places they love?

50 years later, we're asking that question again. We're still committed to clean climbing and putting style over summit. We climb to feed our souls, not our egos. Celebrating the ethic laid down in the 1972 Chouinard Equipment catalog means bringing humility, intention and creativity to every climb and inviting all climbers to build this legacy with us. It's a commitment to the sport we love, to everything we make and to the planet we're still working to save.

Learn more at www.patagonia.com/cleanclimb



Photo: Eliza Earle © 2022 Patagonia, Inc.