

WESTERN MONTANA



# CLIMBERS COALITION

## Spring 2015 Newsletter

Our first newsletter is finally here! Thanks for your patience as WMTCC has gotten organized over the past few months. There's been a lot going on and we're excited to share with you all what we've been up to. To stay up to date with things, be sure to check our website ([www.wmtcc.org](http://www.wmtcc.org)) and our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/westernmontanaclimberscoalition](http://www.facebook.com/westernmontanaclimberscoalition)) for the latest information about access issues, area openings/closures, events, and contests. Until then, we hope everyone has a great spring enjoying some of the best climbing weather Montana has to offer.

## Membership

Thanks to everyone who has joined WMTCC! Your membership helps strengthen the bonds within our small but growing climbing community and show organizations such as the Forest Service that climbers are more than just recreationists – we are dedicated to the sustainability of our sport and want climbing to be accessible to people of many ability levels and ages. In the future, we hope to leverage our funds to acquire grants to help maintain sustainable access trails and belay areas.

**Membership benefits include:** 15% off Missoula Park's and Recreations MORE courses and 25% off all Aerie Backcountry Medicine courses and retail items and.... best stickers around, generously donated by Michael Farr and his company **FARR SIDE SIGN!**

**Membership options:** \$10 – WMTCC Only (join in person at Freestone or online at [wmtcc.org](http://wmtcc.org))  
\$35 WMTCC & Access Fund joint membership [www.accessfund.org/joinwmtcc](http://www.accessfund.org/joinwmtcc)



The Access Fund has been really helpful and supportive as we've worked through some complicated issues with Mill Creek. Please show them some support by becoming a member.

## Meet the Rangers Event

Seventy-five climbers showed up on April 8 to ask District Ranger Dan Ritter and Wilderness and Trial Ranger Deb Gale questions about climbing on the Bitterroot National Forest. One of the major goals of organizations like the WMTCC is to develop positive working relationships with land managers. The event at Freestone was a good step in that direction. Dan and Deb were impressed by the number climbers in attendance and appreciated the quality of questions and dialogue. We made a good impression. Most of the questions focused on the Mill Creek. Deb Gale sees repairing the base area at the Tick Farm and an official trail to the climbing area as priority this summer. However, she does foresee some challenges in getting this project approved and the process may take a while. Dan Ritter pointed to some basic philosophical differences about the use of fixed protection on National Forest land between some concerned citizens (who also happen to be on the board of the Friends of the Bitterroot) and climbers. This will likely be an ongoing issue with potentially broad implication. Climbers should keep an eye out for any developments on this issue. The WMTCC thanks everyone for showing up and appreciates the courtesy extended to Dan and Deb. Thanks to Walt and the Freestone team for advertising and hosting the event.



## Bolt and anchor maintenance

Thanks to your donations and the hard work of some dedicated individuals, you'll notice some shiny hardware in the Bitterroot:

**Kootenai:** New bolt and new anchors on the Tempest, new anchors on 11<sup>th</sup> Commandment, camouflaged permadraws and steel biners on Cowboy Ejector Seat. Big thanks to Erik Pallister for getting those done.

**Mill Creek:** The anchors at the top of Snaggletooth are now fixed and many of the 1<sup>st</sup> bolts that were damaged on the Tick Farm have been replaced with glue-in bolts. Thanks to Cole Lawrence, Kurt Krueger, Dave Jones, and others for fixing these dangerous bolts.

See some dicey hardware that needs replacement? Contact us and we'll do our best to get it fixed.

## Cheers for Charity



On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, we participated in a Draught Works Cheers For Charity fundraising event. Thanks to all who showed up and drank beer – we raised **\$180**. And thanks to **Draught Works** for their support (and the fantastic beer)!

## Winter Photo Contest



Tyler Lau won WMTCC's first annual photo contest for a photo of himself climbing the "Plumbers Crack" in Red Rocks, NV. He won a Brother's Wilde designs chalk bag made by Missoula's own Carson Wilde. Thanks to all who entered!

## Help wanted

**WMTCC** is looking for an independently-motivated individual to be our events director. Your primary task will be organizing this year's **Boulder Bash**, an outdoor climbing festival, which in year's past has been held in Lost Horse Canyon.

If you are seriously interested in getting involved, please contact us! We'd really like to see this event happening, but our current board members are maxed out with to-dos. This is a volunteer gig, but will provide you with great experience at event planning!

**Defying Gravity**, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, is holding the Gnar Pirate's Booty Bash, a youth bouldering competition on October 17th, 2015 and is looking for volunteers to help run the event. It's a great time to see young crushers and engage with other climbing communities.

If you are interested in pitching in or supporting the Booty Bash, e-mail Defying Gravity: [defyinggravityclimbing@gmail.com](mailto:defyinggravityclimbing@gmail.com). To learn more about the organization, check out [defying-gravity.org](http://defying-gravity.org).

**Have questions? Feedback? Concerns? Contact us:**  
**[wmtclimberscoalition@gmail.com](mailto:wmtclimberscoalition@gmail.com) | [www.wmtcc.org](http://www.wmtcc.org)**