

WESTERN MONTANA



# CLIMBERS COALITION

Summary of 2017 activities

## Permanent Photo Exhibit at Freestone a Success!

It started last Spring. Walter Hailes, the owner of Freestone, aware of the large amount of white wall space in his new gym, wanted to adorn it with something. Maybe some photos illustrating the many aspects and landscapes of climbing in Western Montana? Dane Scott immediately saw there an opportunity for WMTCC to get involved in something fun, for a change (access issues can be a little burdensome at times!). With the help of his daughter Katy, a student at the Glasgow School of Photography, a poster was designed and a contest was launched: send us your best shots representing the 3 Cs of climbing, Crags, Cranking, and Community!

**PHOTO CONTEST**  
CELEBRATING CLIMBING  
IN WESTERN MONTANA

CATEGORIES  
-Lifestyle  
-Action  
-Landscape

TO BE DISPLAYED IN WMTCC  
PERMANENT EXHIBITION  
AT FREESTONE

SUBMIT UP TO 5 HI-RES PHOTOS WITH  
NAME OF LOCATION TO:  
WMTCCCLIMBERSCOALITION@GMAIL.COM

**DEADLINE:**  
**OCTOBER 1, 2017**

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:  
WMTCC.ORG

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While semi-pro and amateur photographers alike combed through their files, WMTCC board members looked for local sponsors to help defray the cost of printing and mounting. At \$500 a piece, these elite sponsors would be rewarded with permanent advertisement in the gym. Donations from Active Physical Therapy, Downing Mountain Lodge, EarthCare Cleaning, Higher Ground Brewing Company, and Freestone allowed us to collect enough funds to print 27 large photographs, as well as a banner with a collage of many more. Betterroot Cidery and Hunter Bay Coffee also donated prizes for contest winners.

Over several evenings, WMTCC board members perused over the submitted photographs and made their selection, the goal being to represent our local climbing diversity of crags, styles, and people.

After Katy helped with photo editing, Tim Karst was instrumental in turning the jpegs into actual prints through his contact with Todd Taylor of Big Prints Plus; Alex Wardwell designed the banner, which was printed at Farr Side Signs. We also owe Alex our fun flyer!

And finally, the big unveiling for Freestone's first-ever First Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Over one hundred people came to discover the photographs, eat delicious pizza generously donated by Pie Hole, and drink the great beer donated and poured by Higher Ground Brewing Company's owner Fenn Nelson. Local band Wojtek added a musical component to the fun atmosphere of the evening, making it a complete sensory experience!

During the course of the evening our treasurer Kati Burton signed on 15 new members, ensuring continued growth of our organization.



A few days later, the exhibit got additional publicity in the form of an article in the Missoulian:

[http://missoulian.com/lifestyles/territory/eye-on-high-rock-climbers-present-pictures-of-their-passion/article\\_af22a6d3-afd6-570c-9759-e652a3e17f08.html?utm\\_content=buffer83675&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_campaign=LEEDCC](http://missoulian.com/lifestyles/territory/eye-on-high-rock-climbers-present-pictures-of-their-passion/article_af22a6d3-afd6-570c-9759-e652a3e17f08.html?utm_content=buffer83675&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=LEEDCC)

If you haven't seen the exhibit yet, don't fret – it's there to stay. A few of the photos are on the wall by the training room, but most adorn the hallway leading to the bathrooms. And we're hoping to make this a growing exhibit, collecting additional sponsorship money and asking for more photos from our members and the climbing community – stay posted!



# Access Issues: What's going on at Rattler Gulch?

As most of you know, the lower part of the Rattler Gulch climbing area -- an area that was already private land -- was bought by a Texas family last year. The family erected a fence and posted the property, which includes the Diver's Wall and the wall that holds St. Louis Direct and a few other climbs. The family has no plans to live on the property, but does plan to run cows on the acreage.



*Close to Drummond, Rattler Gulch presents a fine example of Madison limestone.*

Since that time, the Western Montana Climbers Coalition has been working with the family, the Access Fund and the Bureau of Land Management on a possible solution. The BLM is very supportive of climbing continuing in the gulch, but climbing is something the family knew little about.

For WMTCC, the family's lack of knowledge about climbing has been our first concern, so there's been a lot of education over the phone. Now, however, we're making some headway on a possible solution to keep climbing available on the property. Those possibilities range from liability waivers to conservation easements to an outright purchase of the property. The latter would be a fantastic outcome, but the finish line is still not in sight.

We'll keep you updated on the status of Rattler, and we'll keep working to make sure that climbing on important places like the Diver's Wall remains viable.

*Contact: Michael Moore 406-546-2478*

# 2017 Bolt Updates

## Kootenai:

- New bolts on Low Fat Turkey Dog
- New sport anchors on The Hilti

## Rattler Gulch:

- The two 5.10 routes on Shredder's Wall, Shredder and Steppin' Out, have been rebolted with glu-ins. A separate anchor was added for Shredder, and a bolt was added to Steppin' Out to alleviate the potential for hitting the deck.
- The plan for 2018 is a full rebolting of Diver's Wall, as well as the two upper 5.8s (Snake Eye and Don't Put Your Hand in it), all with glu ins.

## Maiden Rock:

Route development continues! Many bolts and anchors were updated, and many sport routes added to what now constitutes one of the finest sport climbing crag in western Montana.

## Misc. Bitterroots:

- Rebolted and replaced the anchor on the right-most route at Bass Creek Crag;
- Several new multi-pitch routes have been bolted; information will soon be released.

**Thank you Cole Lawrence,  
Erik Pallister, Michael  
Moore, Kurt Krueger,  
Dave Jones, etc!**



# 2017 Financial Summary

*Kati Burton, Treasurer*

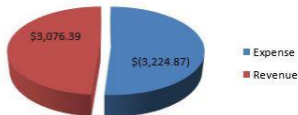
We grew quite a bit in 2017!

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Almost \$1000 was spent on keeping our climbing routes safe
- Led a climbing photo competition that raised over \$2,000, just enough to print and display at Freestone Climbing Center
- Continued to increase membership for WMTCC, a \$10 lifetime membership fee through social events and word-of-mouth (thank you Claudine and Michael Lee Moore!)



- Exp: Route Updates (bolts/anchors)
- Exp: Photo Competition & Exhibit
- Rev: Fundraising (Major Donors/Access Fund)
- Rev: Fundraising (Membership)



***Thank you to everyone who became a WMTCC member, donated funds, replaced gear, and advocated for Western Montana climbers!***

## **Outdoor Alliance Montana**

Along with Winter Wildland's Hilary Eisen and IMBA's Eric Melson, WMTCC board members Kurt Krueger and Claudine Tobalske met with the new Forest Service Region 1 Recreation Coordinator, Joe Alexander.



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**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.**

**Keep spreading the word – it's still only \$10 for a lifetime membership! Or, you can do a yearly joint membership with the Access Fund for \$50; go to <http://wmtcc.org/membership.html>.**

**Have questions? Feedback? Concerns? Contact us:  
[wmtclimberscoalition@gmail.com](mailto:wmtclimberscoalition@gmail.com)**