

The Arizona Mountaineer

April 2010



**Scott Frankel tip toes up
“Who’s First” at J-Tree
Story on Page 8**

The Arizona Mountaineering Club

Meetings: The member meeting location is:

Phoenix Country Day School
3901 E. Stanford Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253.

The meeting time is 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Board Meetings: Board meetings are open to all members and are held two Mondays prior to the Club meeting.

Dues: Dues cover January through December. A single membership is \$30.00 per year: \$35.00 for a family. Those joining after June 30 pay \$15 or \$18. Members joining after October 31 who pay for a full year will have dues credited through the end of the following year. Dues must be sent to:

AMC Membership Committee
6519 W. Aire Libre Ave.
Glendale, AZ 85306

Schools: The AMC conducts several rock climbing, mountaineering and other outdoor skills schools each year. Browse the AMC website for information on schedules and classes.

For More Information:

Website:

www.amcaz.org

Mail:

Arizona Mountaineering Club
4340 E. Indian School Rd., Ste 21-164
Phoenix, AZ 85018

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Robert England	480-688-5412
Vice-President	Bill Fallon	602-996-9790
Secretary	Erik Filsinger	smorefil@aol.com
Treasurer	Kate Nason	480-286-8222
Director-2	Eric Evans	602-218-3060
Director-2	John Gray	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Director-1	Steve Crane	xxx-xxx-xxxx
Director-1	Kim McClintic	480-213-2629
Director-1	Curtis Stone	602-370-0786

COMMITTEES

Archivist	Jef Sloat	602-316-1899
Classification	Nancy Birdwell	602-770-8326
Elections	John Keedy	623-412-1452
Equip. Rental	Bruce McHenry	602-952-1379
Email	Curtis Stone	602-370-0786
Land Advocacy	Erik Filsinger	480-314-1089
Co-Chair	John Keedy	623-412-1452
Librarian	Richard Kocher	480-966-5568
Membership	Rogil Schroeter	623-512-8465
Mountaineering	Bruce McHenry	602-952-1379
Newsletter	Robert England	480-688-5412
Outings	Frank Vers	480-947-9435
Programs	Kim McClintic	480-213-2629
Trng & Schools	Bill Fallon	602-996-9790
ORC	Bill Fallon	602-996-9790
Anchors	Justin York	480-229-8660
Lead	Mike Knarzer	602-751-1701
Web Site	Robert England	480-688-5412

The AMC Land Advocacy Committee: The Committee works by itself and with the national Access Fund to maintain public access to climbing areas. If you know of areas that are threatened with closures or climbing restrictions, please notify the Land Advocacy representative Erik Filsinger, 480-314-1089.

The Access Fund: This is a national, non-profit, climber's organization that works to maintain access to climbing areas nationwide. Climbers can join The Access Fund by mailing an annual, tax-deductible donation of \$35 or more to: The Access Fund, P.O. Box 17010, Boulder, CO 80308, or calling 888-8MEMBER or giving it to the AMC Club Treasurer to be sent to The Access Fund in your name. A donation of \$35 or more is needed to receive Vertical Times, The Access Fund newsletter. One can also join electronically at https://www.accessfund.org/secure/joinnow/join_indiv.php or at <https://accessfund.org/join/indiv.php>.

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Newsletter

The Arizona Mountaineer is published monthly by the AMC. Members are encouraged to submit articles and photos about their climbing- or mountaineering-related activities. Submit items for publication (subject to approval) to: AMC Editor, 2267 W Periwinkle Way, Chandler, AZ 85248 or through email to robert_england2@yahoo.com. Digital photos should preferably be in JPG format and 300 dpi. Articles can be in any standard word processing format. For more info call or write the editor at (480)-688-5412, robert_england2@yahoo.com.

Advertising in the Arizona Mountaineer is accepted, subject to approval, at the following rates. Personal ads are free to members. Business ads are \$5.00 for a business card, \$10.00 for half page, \$20.00 for full page, and \$25.00 for inserts.

Hot Stuff !!!

**The
Newsletter
is going
Digital!**

Library

You must be an AMC member; i. e., your name must be on the most current membership list.

The circulation period is one month. Materials are due at the next general club meeting. The overdue fine is \$2 per title per month. Please contact the librarian if unable to return your books and tapes.

The circulation limit is three titles per person. One of these may be a videotape, for which a \$50 deposit is required. Each guidebook requires a \$25 deposit.

MAY NL Deadline: 21 APR

April Birthdays

Mike Knarzer 8, Julie Sharp 9, Gretchen Hawkins 10, Grant Loper 10, David McClintic 17, Erik Filsinger 21, Ryan Zahn 21, Randi Folwell 25, David Everett 26, Frances Everett 26, Joshua Sherko 27

Discount Directory

These merchants offer a discount to AMC members:

- **Arizona Hiking Shack** - 11645 N. Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85020, (602) 944-7723. Show your AMC membership card and get a 10% discount.
- **AZ on the Rocks Gym** - 16447 N. 91st St., Scottsdale, AZ 85260. 480-502-9777. Gym membership 10% off for AMC members.
- **Phoenix Rock Gym** - 1353 E. University, Tempe, AZ 85281. 480-921-8322. 10% off membership to AMC members.
- **AZ Cliffhanger** - at the Phoenix Rock Gym. 480-642-9507. 10% off membership to AMC members.
- **Climbmax Gym** - 1330 W Auto Dr, Suite 112, Tempe, AZ 85284 - 480-626-7755. 10% off membership, Grand Opening 15% off through 4/30.
- **APE Index Rock Climbing Gym** - 9700 N. 91st Ave Suite 118 Peoria 85345 Phone 623-242-9164 10% discount for Day Pass and Membership. Show AMC Membership card.

Rental Equipment

EQUIPMENT	Qty	\$Dep	1-3day	4-7day
MSR Alpine snowshoes	5	32	10	16
Ice Crampons	5	26	8	13
Ice axes (70 cm)	6	16	5	8
Ice axes (90 cm)	5	14	5	7
Snow shovel	1	8	3	4
Avalanche Kit (probe & shovel)	2	10	5	8
Curved Ice Tools (pair)	2	40	20	35

Call Bruce McHenry at (602) 952-1379 for information on how to rent AMC equipment.

Treasurer's Report

Arizona Mountaineering Club Income Statement Period Ended February 28, 2010

INCOME

Advertising.....	200.00
Dues 2009	2,768.00
Mountaineering Schools	550.00
Rental Equipment.....	105.00
ORC Spring 2010.....	1,925.00
<u>Lead Spring 2010.....</u>	<u>1,125.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	6,673.00

EXPENSES

Admin	425.78
Capital Expenditures	69.02
Land Advocacy	30.32
Newsletter	115.67
<u>Programs Monthly Meeting.....</u>	<u>600.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,240.79
OVERALL TOTAL.....	5,432.21

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Checking	6,067.01
CD Account	15,000.00
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	21,067.01
<u>AMC Outing Gear.....</u>	<u>3,467.43</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	24,534.44

AMC Board Minutes - March 8, 2010

Board Members Present: Robert England, Bill Fallon, Erik Filsinger, Kate Nason, John Gray, Steven Crane, Curtis Stone, Kim McClintic

Committee Chairs Present: Bruce McHenry

Call to Order: Robert England called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Special Presentation on Risk Management. Bruce McHenry gave an overview and update to the Board concerning outdoor recreation liability issues and the club's risk management perspective and obligations. He covered the insurance policies the Club carries and how each fits into our strategy. Board members asked questions and Bruce provided answers.

Minutes: The Minutes of the February 8, 2010 meeting of the Board were approved. Prior to the next meeting Erik and Kate will present a possible protocol for approval of Board meeting minutes prior to publication in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: Kate Nason presented the Treasurer's Report. It was approved as presented.

Committee Reports:

- Membership – At the end of February each year the non-renewed “members” are purged from the membership list. So far in 2010 there are 177 paid members.
- Programs – Kim McClintic stated that about 80 individuals, many of whom were non-members, attended the February Member meeting with Pat Ament. CAMRA will present the March Member Meeting.
- Mountaineering – No report.
- T&S – Bill Fallon stated that the Lead School weekend activities were weathered out and that a make-up session will be sought. Outdoor Rock School starts this week. All permits are in hand. Anchors schools may have to find a new home for week night classes because of City of Phoenix budget cuts. Kim McClintic has arranged for an Outing Leader First Aid/CPR class on April 8. After OL's have a chance to sign up, any remaining slots will be offered to club members at large. The cost will be \$20, with the club covering the cost of Active OL's. Bill discussed a large gear purchase for the various schools.
- Outings – Susan Harnage will coordinate the AMC Annual Birthday Climb and Party. Permitting for various locations will be sought.
- Classifications – No report.
- Newsletter – Robert England stated that the new policy with regard to electronic distribution, with a few hardcopies being available, is being instituted. The Club thanks Kim McClintic for her service in Newsletter distribution, but would like to find a new party to handle that activity.
- Land Advocacy – Erik Filsinger gave an update on developments with regard to the Preserve Commission and policies potentially impacting AMC activities in the McDowells. He also covered recent developments with regard to the Land Exchange at Oak Flat (See elsewhere in this Newsletter for a report of QCC activities.)

Old Business:

AMC Board Minutes - February 8, 2010 (cont.)

- Gear Storage. The Board authorized President England to take a budget override vote to the next Member meeting for the purpose of allocating \$1,000 to pay for the storage unit.
- Club Documents. Erik gave an overview of the status of club documents on the web site. A subcommittee of Erik, Steven Crane, John Gray and Robert England will review the current status of the club's policies and procedures and undertake an update of their organization and presentation.

New Business:

No new business was brought forward.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m

Spring Lead School Participants

Students

Chelsea Beechel

Kyle Brayer

Hanna Breetz

James Clarkin

Erin DiMaggio

Eric Dimmery

Julie Dimmery

John Farrell

Cat Isfan

Li Jiang

Lance Morris

Nicole Rodriguez

Tyler Sharp

Tom Stanczyk

Ryan Zahn

Instructors

Ronald Auerbach

Nancy Birdwell

Bill Fallon

Mike Knarzer

Rich Kocher

Mark Tallan

Stephen VanHerpen

NEW MEMBERS: *Climbers - Please Welcome*

Cynthia Arellano

Andrew Baumgardner

Cheryl Beaver

Emerson Beishline

Jeff Crosby

John Farrell

Brian Feldmeier

Gretchen Hawkins

Tricia McKee

Angela Mick

Stacy Nieves

John Rague

Tristan Wimmer

AMC Schools Need You!

The 2010 Spring Schools are coming up quickly and you are needed. In April we start the next round of Anchors.

If you've taken any of the classes, please consider volunteering to assist as an instructor. We have some of the finest schools available and that is true only because of the incredible volunteers. Volunteering as an instructor is a terrific way to refresh your knowledge and skills, share that knowledge, and HAVE FUN.

Here's the Spring Schedule:

Anchors April 13, 15, 17, 18 Lead Instructor – Justin York

If you're ready for a class, get enrolled. If you've been there, please come back and as an instructor. Your help makes the schools happen and everyone has something to offer, so don't be shy. Feel free to contact me anytime (bill.fallon@cox.net) or the following for specific schools:

Anchors Nancy Birdwell at amcanchorsschool@gmail.com

CAMRA Sponsored Wilderness First Aid Class

I am helping Mike Englund of Mtn Rescue (CAMRA) to organize another Wilderness First Aid course (WFA).

He has scheduled the next course for April 24 and 25. It will be at a teaching facility at Lake Pleasant. More details will be sent once you are registered for the course.

The cost will be \$150.00 and it does include the SOLO Wilderness First Aid text book that you will need for the course. You will receive a certification card which is good for 2 years upon successful completion of this course.

Please respond at your earliest convenience if you are interested and I will send you the Pay Pal information.

The class size will be limited to app. 20.

Thank you and please respond with any questions.

LORI DEL SECCO / ldelsecco@gmail.com / (480) 290-5511

J-Tree Weekend

I hate weather forecasters.

February and March are supposed to be prime climbing season in the Phoenix area. This year we were forced to endure weekend storm after weekend storm. I'm blaming the forecasters for messing up our weekend rock climbing fun.

Finally during the weekend of March 13-14th the weather forecasters were being generous. Sunny skies and warm temperatures were the rule. They were practically begging us to go climb up Pinnacle peak or the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.

We ended up at Joshua Tree National Park. Turned out it was a good move.

Having never been to J-Tree, Team Sue (Suzanne and Susan), Karen, and I planned a trip out to this Mecca of climbing. Thumbing through Randy Vogel's epic 600+ page guide book of J-Tree clearly illustrated the biggest challenge of the trip... choosing which routes to climb. A happy twist of fate solved this dilemma for us, as we ended up camping in Indian Cove.

The Indian Cove campground is on the North side of the park, just south of the town of Twenty Nine Palms. Surrounding the campsites are at least 14 climbing areas. In our campsite, we shared a small canyon with two other camping groups that had its own climbing area known as "Spider Wall". This wall had three 5.9 climbs and a 5.8 climb, perfect for our climbing level. Best of all, we could throw a rock from our campsite and hit the climbs.

If you wish to climb behind someone's campsite in Indian Cove, courtesy requires you ask them before you head for the climb. Our neighbors (climbers themselves) were happy to allow us access to these climbs and the following morning to our delight, both of our neighbors had deserted, leaving us sole temporary possession of this wall.

In our eagerness, we quickly set up top ropes on four climbs: Boris the spider (5.9), Spider's Web (5.8), Poppa Spider (5.9), and Momma Spider (5.9). We were all in agreement that Poppa Spider was the most fun, but the best part was the 10 second walk to our car and lunch. It's true luxury climbing when you can drag your camp chair over to the wall for your belay station.

If you're planning on using Randy Vogel's book Rock Climbing Joshua Tree as a guide, keep in mind that the latest edition is from 1992. So much of the beta is a bit dated. The chapters on Indian Cove Campground in particular are all referencing the wrong campsites for the climbs listed. Luckily, there are a number of pictures, so you can still match the climbing routes in the book with the wall. We realized this as we were slowly driving around the campground the following morning to see if anyone was vacating any good climbing walls. We finally ended up at Pixie rock.

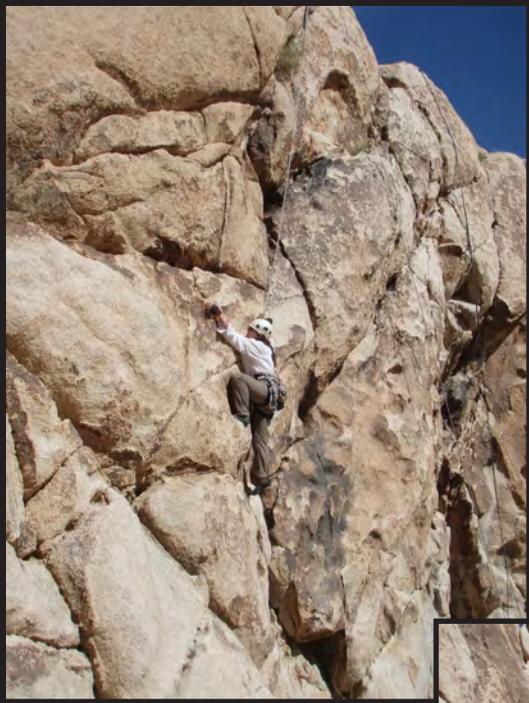
Pixie rock is at the very front of the campground with no campsites around it. After scouting it, we realized there was another climber setting up a top rope on Who's First (5.6). After talking with him a bit, he explained he was hoping some other climbers would wander by so he could borrow a belayer. We were all too happy to indulge, so we set up three other climbs: Rhythm of the Heart (5.8), Vaino's Lost in Pot (aka the scam) (5.7), and Silent Scream (5.10a). All of our finger tips were pretty tender by the second day, but they would have to suffer as these climbs were too tempting to ignore. Silent

J-Tree Weekend (continued)

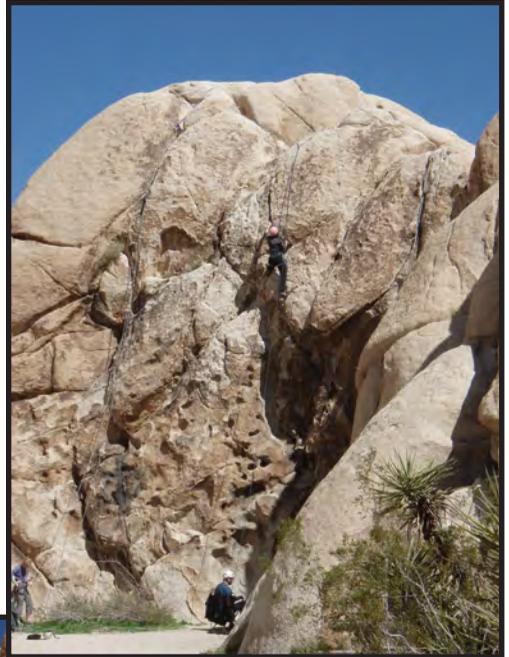
Scream is a three star climb that we particularly enjoyed thrashing around on.

The sheer multitude of quality rock climbing areas in this National Park is a bit overwhelming. If our brief weekend sample of climbs is any indication, Joshua Tree National Park truly lives up to its reputation as a climbing paradise. If you haven't been there, go... and if you have, now is the time to go back!

Scott Frankel



Karen climbing Spider's Web



Suzanne on Poppa Spider

Susan working up
Silent Scream



Queen Creek Update

January 12, 2010 – QCC met with RCM to present list of items related to Concerns and Possible Solutions with the Oct 2008 RCM Offer Proposal.

January 19, 2010 – QCC met to work on the rest of the Concerns and Possible Solutions with the Oct 2008 RCM Offer Proposal.

January 30, 2010 – Members of QCC met with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Vilsack in Superior, Arizona.

February 2, 2010 – QCC met to finalize the Concerns and Possible Solutions with the Oct 2008 RCM Offer Proposal.

February 8, 2010 – QCC delivered to a Response to RCM of the Concerns and Possible Solutions with the Oct 2008 RCM Offer Proposal. The full text of the QCC Response is included below.

February 8, 2010 – RCM sent QCC a letter of initial responses to QCC's concerns (arrived Wednesday the 10th). The issues covered involved the Pond parcel and MSHA.

February – second week – Representatives of the QCC and the AF held meetings in Washington DC with key congressional staff members

February 16, 2010 – QCC met to discuss items and information gained since previous meeting. It will continue on the dual tracks of continued negotiations with RCM to address concerns and possible solutions as well as pursuing its legislative track with congressional contacts.

QCC Response to RCM Offer

February 2010

The QCC board is hereby responding to the full list of items contained within the RCM Offer of October 10, 2008.

(Note: The writing convention adopted herein is for the existing RCM Offer language to appear

in black italicized text with the QCC evaluation, concerns and proposed solutions following in regular but blue text.)

Preface:

The QCC would like to see a timeline of RCM's major steps in the development of the Mine starting from the passage of the legislation to formal commencement of ore extraction under full operational status. A Gantt chart with critical path items based on those major steps would be an optimal means of communicating that time line.

Issues to be addressed by congressional legislation

Item (1) of the CCR states that: "As part of RCM's land exchange with the United states, RCM will transfer to the United states three parcels of RCM land, totaling approximately 365 acres, known as i) the "Pond"; ii) "Dripping Springs"; and iii) "Apache Leap South End." These three parcels will be transferred to the United States regardless of the values of any other lands or cash equalization involved in the exchange."

QCC's current concerns here lie not with RCM, but rather with the USFS and potentially ADOT. The USFS does not want to take the Pond parcel under the terms of the current exchange language, which specifies that the parcel must be actively managed as a climbing area.

Action: QCC will ask RCM and, in parallel, congress to restate the language in the bill so that the USFS would take the parcel and merely allow recreational use of the land. If USFS still believes that taking the Pond parcel is not in the public interest, QCC will approach both RCM and congress with the idea of transferring the Pond to another party--instead of the USFS.

Queen Creek Update (continued)

Also, the USFS recently informed the AF that ADOT may have issues with climbers parking at the existing Pond parking lot and then crossing the highway to the north to access the climbing area. I don't believe there are any specific actions here, as we do not know the validity or nature of the ADOT objections. QCC can certainly provide solutions however, including signage indicating that the correct approach to the Pond is via the path going under the bridge at the base of the Pond--instead of crossing on top of the highway.

Finally with respect to the Pond, highway 60 may eventually be re-routed outside of Queen Creek canyon, essentially "land-locking" the Pond inside RCM private property.

Action: QCC will ask RCM to guarantee access to the Pond even in the eventuality that existing highway 60 reverts to RCM ownership.

Dripping Springs Action: QCC will ask that this parcel be conveyed to the BLM with access.

Apache Leap Action: QCC will ask RCM and congress that the QCC be added to the groups that are named in the legislation tasked with developing the future management plan for Apache Leap.

Action: The Local Climbing Affairs subgroup of the QCC will explore the possibility of expanding both the 95 acre size of the Pond Parcel and also the acreage of the Atlantis parcel, that falls under the long-term license agreement with RCM.

Action: The QCC will continue to push for at least a "primitive" campground above the Pond area.

Item (2) of the CCR states that: "RCM will pay the sum of \$1,250,000 to the USFS in the land exchange, and will ask congress to add language to the legislation specifying that the USFS shall use these funds for the construction or improve-

ment of access roads, turnouts, trails, camping, parking areas and other facilities to promote and enhance rock climbing and bouldering opportunities in the areas near Superior, Arizona known as the "Pond," "Upper Pond," "Inconceivables," and "Chill Hill" areas."

Action: The QCC will ask RCM and congress for similar language changes as in Item (1) above, removing the specific requirement that the USFS "promote and enhance" rock climbing on the parcels in question.

Action: QCC will explain to both RCM and congress that the improvements to the parcels in this section are imperative and that it should not be "our" problem if the USFS will not agree to use the designated funds for the stated purposes. Further, we will ask that these specific improvements be provided, whether \$1,250,000 is sufficient for this purpose or not.

Action: QCC will clarify that these improvements be provided to "passenger car" standards.

Item (3) of the CCR deals with surrender and withdrawal of mineral rights for the Pond and Apache Leap South End parcels.

Action: Rick Cecala has agreed to provide a legal opinion of the language contained in the current draft legislation.

Item (4) of the CCR states that: RCM will ask congress to specify that the USFS allow reasonable climber access to Apache Leap from the west as part of the Apache Leap study process already in the legislation.

Action: QCC will continue to ask RCM and congress that this language be included in the legislation.

Issues to be resolved by amended climbing license and/or other means.

Queen Creek Update (continued)

Item 1) Access to the Pond, Upper Pond and Devil's Canyon. This section basically says that RCM will work with ADOT and QCC to identify and construct safe turnouts and access to these climbing parcels from highway 60. Further, the section says that this work will be done by RCM at its own expense and in addition to the \$1.25M previously mentioned for other purposes.

Action 1 - Separate Pond issues from Devil's Canyon issues.

Action 2 - Question RCM regarding how the Pond "improvements" can be constructed without USFS approval/support of the construction.

2. Atlantis climbing parcel: This 74 acre parcel is existing RCM private land, and is under existing license to the Access Fund. RCM believes this area may be needed for tunnels or other mining facilities in the future, but that any such uses are unlikely to interfere with climbing activities for any significant period of time. Therefore, RCM will extend the existing license for the Atlantis parcel until 2060. If the Atlantis parcel is no longer needed for mining activities at the expiration of the license, RCM will consider a transfer of the land to the U.S. Forest Service or other governmental entity at that time. Otherwise, the license may be renewed on similar terms, for 10-year periods.

Action 1: The QCC would like to work with RCM to evaluate the currently proposed 74 acre parcel with an eye on expanding it to cover all the climbing that is currently on RCM lands (exclusive of the Pond parcel) in the general area of Atlantis proper, including climbing crags north of Highway 60 that may not be included in an expanded Pond parcel.

Action 2: As stated in item 10 below, the QCC has concerns with the current License Agreement.

Jason Keith of the Access Fund will be taking the lead on this item.

Action 3: As stated in item 11 below, the QCC would like to receive an addendum to the MSHA letter of December 9, 2008. The addendum to that letter should also cover the roads, trail heads, trails, climbing crags and associated easements that will be on future RCM lands after the Land Exchange is finalized.

3. Central Oak Flat: This 234 acre parcel, and access thereto, will be under license to the Access Fund once RCM acquires it in the land exchange. RCM will extend the existing Access Fund license for this parcel until 2019, with an option for renewal.

Action 1. The QCC would like to work with RCM to evaluate the currently proposed 234 acre parcel with an eye on expanding it to cover all the climbing that is currently on RCM lands or will be owned by RCM after the Land Exchange is finalized. The QCC will work with RCM to identify continued climbing areas adjacent to the parcel based on their proposed Mining Plan of Operations

Action 2. As stated in item 11 below, the QCC would like to receive an addendum to the MSHA letter of December 9, 2008. The addendum to that letter should also cover the roads, trail heads, trails, climbing crags and associated easements that will be on future RCM lands after the Land Exchange is finalized.

Action 3: As stated in item 10 below, the QCC has concerns with the current License Agreement. Jason Keith of the Access Fund will be taking the lead on this item. In any case, the time period in this item should be changed from the time certain of "2019" to a "10 years from the passage of the legislation."

Queen Creek Update (continued)

4. “Eurodog Valley”: The area is on land that is either already owned by RCM, or land that will be acquired by RCM in the land exchange. RCM will grant a license allowing access to and use of this area for rock climbing and bouldering until 2019, with option to renew. Reasonable access and parking on RCM land will be provided by RCM. RCM presently expects that a new Shaft 9 access road (to replace the Magma Mine Road) will be constructed, and will be licensed for climber access to Eurodog Valley once completed. RCM also agrees to be able to license Lower Eurodog (i.e. the portion below any new Shaft 9 road) for climbing on a long term basis, similar to the Atlantis license, if upon completion of RCM’s feasibility studies for Lower Eurodog, it does not appear to be needed for mining activity.

Action 1: Change the sentence, “Reasonable access and parking on RCM land will be provided by RCM. RCM presently expects that a new Shaft 9 access road (to replace the Magma Mine Road) will be constructed, and will be licensed for climber access to Eurodog Valley once completed, to, “Reasonable access and parking on RCM land will be provided by RCM when RCM builds the new Shaft 9 access road (to replace the Magma Mine Road). RCM will also provide under the license for climber access to Eurodog Valley once the new road is completed.”

Action 2. As stated in item 11 below, the QCC would like to receive an addendum to the MSHA letter of December 9, 2008. The addendum to that letter should also cover the roads, trail heads, trails, climbing crags and associated easements that will be on future RCM lands after the Land Exchange is finalized.

Action 3: As stated in item 10 below, the QCC has concerns with the current License Agreement.

Jason Keith of the Access Fund will be taking the lead on this item. In any case, the time period in this item should be changed from the time certain of “2019” to a “10 years from the passage of the legislation.”

5. The “Mine Area”: Portions of the rock climbing area known as the “Mine Area,” including but not limited to Upper Looner Land, Lower Looner Land, Magma Gardens, The Arena, Simpsons Hall, and the Grodens, are located on land that either currently belongs to RCM, or that will be acquired by RCM in the land exchange. RCM will grant a license allowing access and use of this area for rock climbing and bouldering until 2019, with option to renew.

Action 1: The QCC wants to clarify and represent on a map what the proposed road and parking access would be to the “Mine Area”, including the existing road to Lower Devils Canyon which exits off of the current Mine Road.

Action 2. As stated in item 11 below, the QCC would like to receive an addendum to the MSHA letter of December 9, 2008. The addendum to that letter should also cover the roads, trail heads, trails, climbing crags and associated easements that will be on future RCM lands after the Land Exchange is finalized.

Action 3: As stated in item 10 below, the QCC has concerns with the current License Agreement. Jason Keith of the Access Fund will be taking the lead on this item. In any case, the time period in this item should be changed from the time certain of “2019” to a “10 years from the passage of the legislation.”

6. Apache Leap and access from the East: RCM will grant a license allowing climbers reasonable access to Apache Leap from the east (top side) across RCM property. Further, those portions of

Queen Creek Update (continued)

Apache Leap, if any, which are property of RCM following the land exchange, or which thereafter become property of RCM through any means, will be subject to a license allowing access and use of such area(s) for rock climbing and bouldering until 2019, with option to renew.

Action 1: Change the text of item 6 to read: “Apache Leap access from the East: RCM will grant a license allowing climbers reasonable access to Apache Leap from the east (top side) across RCM property.” (with additional language on duration and character of license below).

Action 2: Include the climbing areas north and south of the three electric poles on the edge of the Leap within the Licensed Area.

Action 3: Clarify where the road access, parking and trailhead will occur on a map.

Action 4. As stated in item 11 below, the QCC would like to receive an addendum to the MSHA letter of December 9, 2008. The addendum to that letter should also cover the roads, trail heads, trails, climbing crags and associated easements that will be on future RCM lands after the Land Exchange is finalized.

Action 5: As stated in item 10 below, the QCC has concerns with the current License Agreement. Jason Keith of the Access Fund will be taking the lead on this item. In any case, the time period in this item should be changed from the time certain of “2019” to a “10 years from the passage of the legislation.”

7. Apache Leap Westside Access: RCM will grant an access easement across its property in the Cross Creek drainage on the west side of Apache Leap to allow climber access to Apache Leap from the west. Use of the easement will be contingent on the Forest Service approving access on its land to the east and west of the RCC
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easement area – a matter which will be examined in the Apache Leap study process already in the legislation.

Action 1: (1-12-10) The QCC expressed its concerns that while RCM was promising to give access and easements across its land under a license, in point of fact a related issue was an easement across the USFS parcels and the related construction and long term maintenance costs involved in coming up the hill to the Leap. Therefore, the QCC was not sure how much value there was in an agreement that had that amount of uncertainty.

What is needed is for the parties (e.g., RCM and USFS) who own lands and interests along the potential access roads, trails and parking to identify the optimal alignment for road, parking, trailhead and trail easements and to agree on a solution which includes granting of easement rights to a suitable entity, construction of the related infrastructure, and provision for long term operating and maintenance costs.

Action 2: The QCC would like RCM to place the historic climbing into any relevant documents concerning Apache Leap during the NEPA process.

8. Upper Devils Canyon: RCM will grant a public access easement on the existing “power line road” to the existing trailhead and trail (near the 500KV power line) which access upper Devil’s Canyon. The easement may be extinguished and replaced by another easement of similar character, conferring equivalent access, without cost to the easement grantee and at RCM’s sole expense, if relocation of the existing access road becomes necessary to accommodate future mining activities.

Action 1: (1-12-10). The QCC expressed concerns that ADOT might not allow a turn-out near

Queen Creek Update (continued)

the curve where old highway 60 left the new alignment. Instead, it might be necessary to come off the current Mine Road after it leaves Highway 60 and then head east to Upper Devils through the Exchange Parcel.

Action 2: The QCC would like to clarify on maps that the easement offered will extend to the Beach, Bingham Land, and the Boy Scout Trail.

9. Lower Devils Canyon: RCM will license use of the Magma Mine and “drill roads” until 2019, or until new access to Lower Devils Canyon becomes available via an improved Rawhide Road on east side of Devil’s Canyon and/or via an improved road from Highway 177 into Oak Creek. RCM will make reasonable efforts to assist and encourage the Forest Service to keep any such improved roads open for recreational use.

Action 1: (1-12-10) The QCC stated that it wanted to be sure that proper access to Lower Devils Canyon was secured. It also had concerns about access across the State Trust Land to the rock crags.

David stated that there will be at least two access routes to Lower Devils Canyon due to the monitoring wells that Resolution must install. An east side approach (down the current Rawhide Road) will place a monitoring well at the north edge of the State Trust Land. The QCC stated that if such were to occur, it would want the road taken down the approximate 1 mile to the edge of the canyon itself. David said that he would approach the State Land Department to investigate extending recreational roads on State Trust lands past the Monitoring well.

David stated that the other access to Lower Devils would be from the south. The existing four-wheel dirt road that comes up from Highway 177 would be improved to allow Resolution to access a

monitoring well on the western side of Lower Devils Canyon.

The QCC stated that it would want all of the roads being discussed as Monitoring Well roads, and other access roads, to be drivable by 2-wheel drive vehicles. David said that that should be easy enough, unless USFS standards for grades made it impossible without the addition of switchbacks. If the road was steep and drivable to access their wells, the USFS might not want them to cut additional road footage in the form of switchbacks. He will investigate this further.

Action 2: It is imperative that RCM and the rock climbing community have a means of communicating when the access roads deteriorate due to man-caused or natural occurrences and that RCM institute a rapid response to address and correct the deterioration.

10. License terms: Each license agreement described herein shall be in a form and contain provisions acceptable to QCC and Access Fund, and, except as otherwise specifically provided in this Letter of Intent, neither QCC nor the Access Fund shall have any obligation or duty hereunder prior to their approval and acceptance of such license agreements. The privileges granted under any license shall not be unreasonably suspended by RCC, but may be temporarily or permanently suspended if necessary to: 1) accommodate RCC’s mining operation needs in a specific area or areas; 2) to protect public health and safety; and/or 3) if licensee or its members utilize a licensed area in a manner so as to significantly damage the climbing resource or environment, or engage in consistent and repeated behavior that violates the terms and conditions of the license and/or creates risks to the licensees or to public health and safety.

Queen Creek Update (continued)

Action 1: (1-12-10) The QCC stated that it wanted a new or amended predetermination letter from MSHA stating that all of the climbing parcels, climbing paths, access roads, and trailhead facilities were not within lands MSHA would consider lands of “active mining operations.” This in effect would remove MSHA concerns from the climbing parcels.

David stated that they already had such a letter from MSHA. The QCC handed him the letter and stated that it was specific to the Town of Superior and a hiking path up Queen Creek Canyon from the Town. The QCC stated that they felt it did not necessarily cover the climbing areas, etc. They urged David to take another look at the letter and perhaps get an “addendum” addressing the specific climbing areas as not being under MSHA oversight.

11. MSHA: RCM will work with QCC and the Access Fund in an attempt to insure that MSHA regulation does not interfere with activities authorized under any climbing license or licenses granted by RCM.

Action 1: (1-12-10) Given that a number of the items above would be covered in a revised License Agreement (current signed License Agreement allows for continuing climbing for a 5-year period but is unilaterally revocable), the QCC and David discussed moving forward with taking another look at the License Agreement Language and beginning to make some changes. Jason Keith, Policy Director the Access Fund would be the primary party representing climbers in this process.

12. Tam O’Shanter: It is acknowledged that existing law permits the State of Arizona and/or local government to apply to BLM for an RPP Act conveyance of Tamo land in the future. Once

RCM acquires the Oak Flat Federal land in the land exchange, and if and when the State and/or a qualified unit or units of local government make a written request to RCM, RCM will provide \$1 million to assist the entity(s) making the request for Tamo lands. RCM will also work with climbers and others to consider providing additional funds to such entity to assist in the development of a Tamo climbing area upon the transfer of Tamo land to the State and/or unit(s) of local government.

Language remains as is:

13. The Drip, Steamboat Mountain, Land of Lost, and The Homestead: RCM has been advised of access issues with regard to these areas and agrees to consult with representatives of the climbing community and State or local governments, after RCM receives mine plan approval, regarding creation of a memorandum of understanding pursuant to which RCM would assist efforts to preserve or enhance climbing opportunities in these areas.

Action 1: The QCC would like to work with RCM and the State Land Department concerning access easements to the Homestead through the State Trust Land parcel.

14. Boulder relocation: RCM and QCC agree to discuss relocation of a limited number of boulders and/or a limited amount of vegetation, off-site, from land currently owned by RCM or which will be owned by RCM following completion of the land exchange.

Language remains as is:

15. Route development fund: RCM will furnish \$50,000 upon signing of this Letter of Intent to be used as a fund to purchase hardware for developing new rock climbing routes and/or the maintenance of established routes, subject to a memorandum of understanding acceptable to

Queen Creek Update (continued)

RCM governing the custody and disposition of the funds.

Language remains as is:

16. Queen Creek greenbelt: RCM agrees to facilitate meetings with QCC, Forest Service, Town of Superior, State and ADOT to discuss and develop a long-term memorandum of understanding pursuant to which a greenbelt in and near Queen Creek Canyon can be established and maintained.

Language remains as is:

17. “Co-existence” agreement: Each license referenced herein shall recite that RCM intends for climbing and mining to co-exist in Queen Creek Canyon and environs to the greatest extent possible consistent with reasonable safety and mining operation concerns, and this Letter of Intent and any agreements which it contemplates shall be interpreted so as to give effect to this intention.

Language remains as is:

18. Insurance: All future insurance premiums for insurance required by any license agreement referenced herein, if RCM elects not to self-insure, shall be paid by RCM.

Language remains as is:

19. Scope of Agreement: Except as otherwise specifically provided, the provisions of this Letter of Intent are conditioned on passage into law of S.3157 or a measure substantially similar to it, with the modifications described herein, prior to the end of the 111th Congress. If that does not occur, then the provisions of this Letter of Intent shall expire at the end of the 111th Congress, unless extended by the parties. Further, it is hereby agreed that upon signing of this Letter of Intent, QCC and the Access Fund will promptly sign a letter of support for the proposed legislation, with the modifications described herein, and send the

letter to the Arizona Congressional delegation.

Action 1: The sentence, “Further, it is hereby agreed that upon signing of this Letter of Intent, QCC and the Access Fund will promptly sign a letter of support for the proposed legislation, with the modifications described herein, and send the letter to the Arizona Congressional delegation,” will be changed to read, “Further, it is hereby agreed that upon signing of this Letter of Intent, QCC and the Access Fund will promptly sign a letter of cooperation with regard to the proposed legislation, with the modifications described herein, and send the letter to the Arizona Congressional delegation.

III. Additional Issues to be resolved by amended climbing license and/or other means.

Northern Devils Climbing Area.

Action 1. RCM and the QCC will add an additional item to the Agreement. This item will cover RCM’s commitment to work with the QCC, ADOT and any other party with the goal being roadway, trail head and climbing crag access and any required easements thereto with regard to the area known as Northern Devils Canyon on Marty Karabin’s climbing maps.

For additional information or to express ideas, please contact Erik Filsinger at smorefil@aol.com or John Keedy at jwkeedy@cox.net, respectively Chair and Vice Chair of the AMC Land Advocacy Committee and members of the QCC Board.

THE NEWSLETTER HAS GONE DIGITAL

With the exception of distribution to local gyms and climbing gear retailers throughout the valley, a few climbing organizations throughout the country with whom we share information, and members who live in the outback and do not have access to the internet, AMC newsletters are no longer mailed.

The newsletter will continue to be available to members through a link to the newsletter archives page on our website. Instead of a hardcopy arriving in your mailbox, you'll receive an AMC email each month with a link to the latest newsletter.

Contact Rogil (rogil@cox.net) to make sure your email address, and dues, are current. AMC emails are only sent to members whose dues are paid.

BIGWALL CLINICS



Intense two day workshops in Sedona

Spring Schedule

April 17-18

April 24-25

May Dates TBA

Instructed by Ron Raimonde

Call 928 821 0715

Or E Mail for more info roncwi@esedona.net

**Only \$195.00
Per person
Limit 6 People
per class**

Climbing Anchors School

Arizona Mountaineering Club - Spring 2010

The AMC Climbing Anchors School teaches participants how to set climbing anchors for top-roping. This course is the logical next step for AMC Basic Climbing School graduates.

Class curriculum:

- Tuesday: Anchor components, anchor types, knots and hitches.
- Thursday: Anchor system characteristics and construction.
- Saturday: Set anchors in “hands-on” scenarios.
- Sunday: Set real anchors on an optional climbing day.

Class schedule:

Apr 13	Tuesday	6:00 pm - 9:30 pm	*N. Mountain Park (Phoenix), Yavapai Ramada
Apr 15	Thursday	6:00 pm - 9:30 pm	N. Mountain Park, Yavapai Ramada
Apr 17	Saturday	8:00 am - 4:00 pm	Sullivan’s Canyon, Chino Valley
Apr 18	Sunday	7:00 am - 5:00 pm	The Promised Land, Chino Valley

*North Mountain Park is located at Peoria and 7th St, 5 miles north of Camelback on 7th St. Turn west into the park.

Experience required: AMC Basic School graduate or equivalent, which must include knowledge of how to belay, rappel, prusik, tie a figure-8-on-a-bight and figure-8-on-a-follow-through, and make a girth hitch.

Cost: \$75 plus membership if not already a member (Single membership is \$30, Family is \$35). Membership is good through Dec., 2010. Register on the AMC web site using PayPal or by sending a check payable to ‘AMC Anchors School’ to PO Box 11883, Tempe, AZ, 85284. The registration fee is fully refundable if you cancel. Contact Nancy Birdwell by email: amcanchorsschool@gmail.com for more info. The class size is limited to 36.

Equipment required for the class:

- 2 non-locking “D” or oval carabiners (at least 2, bring more if you have them)
- 3 locking carabiners (at least 3, one of which should be a parabiner)
- 1 rappel/belay device (Trango Jaws, Black Diamond ATC, Trango Pyramid, Figure-8, etc.)
- 1 climbing harness
- 1 ea 4’, 6’, 10’ 6mm prusiks (untied length)
- 2 ea 5’, 10’, 20’ slings (1” tubular webbing, untied length, AKA runners)
- 1 or 2 personal anchor slings (commercial daisy chains or 4’ sewn Spectra runners or equivalent)
- 1 helmet—required for Saturday and Sunday sessions, helmets are available if you do not have one.

(The slings and harness are the only additional equipment needed over the Basic School requirements)

In order to become independent and set your own anchors, you should start acquiring anchor gear. The following gear is not required for Anchors School, but if you have some, you will be able to practice setting it in class. All of the gear recommended below can be used for Lead School, and none of it will be wasted if you intend to set your own anchors. All gear should be marked prior to bringing it to class to prevent confusion between it and other people’s gear.

Other gear you may want to bring:

- Any pro you may have (hexes, nuts, camming devices, Tri-cams, etc.)
- Extra biners (regular D’s, ovals, and lockers—stay away from specialty biners at this time)
- Extra slings (perhaps four 5’, two 15’ slings, untied lengths)

For more information: Visit the Arizona Mountaineering Club website at www.amcaz.org.

Outing Leaders

Requirements for becoming a leader: take the Basic, Anchors and Lead classes (or equivalents), be a member for at least one year, complete a basic first aid and CPR class (8 hours or more), and be approved for leadership by at least five current leaders through formal application process and by the Board of Directors. Contact Nancy Birdwell at (602) 770-8326.

Outing Leader

Contact Info

Jodie Bostrom	480-286-8222	
Robert England	480-688-5412	robert_england2@yahoo.com
Bill Fallon	602-996-9790	bill.fallon@cox.net
Erik Filsinger		smorefil@aol.com
Jason Garvin.....	480-734-6801	beach_bum43@hotmail.com
John Keedy.....	623-412-1452	jwkeedy@cox.net
Mike Knarzer	602-751-1701	thrashndangle@gmail.com
Grant Loper	602-684-3042	grantloper@loperandassociates.com
David McClintic.....	602-885-5194	david.mcclintic@cox.net
Bruce McHenry.....	602-952-1379	
Monica Miller	623-362-0456	
Rogil Schroeter	623-512-8465	rogil@cox.net
Frank Vers	480-947-9435	climbroy@gmail.com
Justin York.....	480-229-8660	

Your Name Here!



Calendar of Events - Outings/Schools/Events

Mar 27 - Queen Creek Cleanup and Climb Tiina and John Perlman will coordinate the cleanup, Jodie Bostrom will lead the apres cleanup climb.

Apr 13 - Anchors School (April 13, 15, 17, 18)

Apr 24 - AMC 46th Birthday Event - Stay tuned to email for updates.

Footnotes: Car-pooling is optional on all outings and is not part of the outing. The outing begins at the trailhead designated by the Outing Leader and ends at the same place. Each participant should bring a First Aid kit. If you leave the outing, with or without the leader's permission, you are considered to be on your own until you rejoin the group. Each participant will be required to sign an AMC Activity Release Form at the beginning of the outing. Participation in AMC outings requires club membership. Outings vary in degree of danger. When you participate in an outing you should be both physically and mentally prepared and equipped with the appropriate gear. You should always be aware of the risks involved in outdoor activities and conduct yourselves accordingly. The Outing Leader is not responsible for your safety; you are. Please contact the Outing Leader before going on an outing, discussing your capabilities with the Outing Leader. You must be over 18 years of age to participate, or must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult, and obtain prior consent from the Outing Leader. Those accompanying minors are responsible for the minor's safety.

Billboard—Other Scheduled Events

Outings listed in this section are not AMC sanctioned outings. Any AMC member can list an event he or she is planning and which is open to other AMC members. The member does not have to be an approved AMC Outing Leader. If you wish to participate you should be physically and mentally prepared with the appropriate gear and should contact the member planning the outing. You are responsible for your own safety, not the person leading the outing. You should always be aware of the risks involved in outdoor activities and conduct yourself accordingly.

Mondays **Ape Index Gym Climbing - AMC Members \$10 admission with ID card.**
Rogil Schroeter (623) 512-8465

Wednesdays **North Mountain hikes after work. Rogil Schroeter (623) 512-8465**

May 1 **Salome. Short (5 mile) canyoneering trip. Hot hike, icy swims, slippery footing, bouldering & one rappel. Limit 30. Contact Rogil@cox.net or 623-512-8465 no later than April 24.**

April 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> NOTE: Celestial events occur about 10 minutes earlier on Arizona's eastern border; 10 later on its western edge. </div>				1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Sunrise 6:08 Sunset 6:53 M-rise 2:21A	8	9	10
11	12 Board Meeting	13 Anchors	14 Sunrise 5:59 Sunset 6:58 M-set 7:33P	15 Anchors	16	17 Anchors
18 Anchors	19	20	21 Sunrise 5:51 Sunset 7:04 M-set 1:16A	22	23	24 Birthday Climb and Party
25	26 Member Meeting	27	28 Sunrise 5:43 Sunset 7:09 M-rise 7:51P	29	30	



Arizona Mountaineering Club
4340 E. Indian School. Ste.21-164
Phoenix, AZ. 85018

