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Lines: The CWA Newsletter

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June 10, 2008

Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Earlier this month, over 200 climbing gym owners, vendors, and equipment manufacturers converged on the city of Boulder for the second annual Climbing Wall Summit. Attendees came from all over the globe including Canada, Bulgaria, and Malaysia to take part in this one-of-a-kind event.

Before the official start of the conference, attendees had the opportunity to participate in several pre-conference events including the much anticipated Climbing Wall Instructor Certification course. Other pre-conference workshops included Gym Start-up Planning, Routesetting, and Emergency Response and Rescue. The CWA hopes to provide even more opportunities for hands-on workshops in the 2009 Climbing Wall Summit.

During his keynote speech to mark the start of the conference, Phil Powers, Executive Director of the American Alpine Club, reminded attendees that although the scope of the climbing industry is changing, it is more important than ever to stick together and be proactive about the challenges which we face. Summit attendees took this message to heart and for four days, were able to meet and network with their colleagues and gain valuable information from a variety of workshops including a Q&A session with CWA staff and Board of Directors as well as a Legal Plenary session with three well-versed lawyers.

In addition to the 30-plus workshops offered, conference attendees were able to participate in after-hours events put on by conference sponsors. Activities included an opening reception, A Fun Night at the Spot (sponsored by Great Trango Holdings), and A Night on the Town at The Attic Bar and Bistro (sponsored by Entre Prises USA and Rock and Ice magazine). The conference concluded with a raffle with prizes donated by several conference sponsors.

The CWA hopes to capitalize on the enthusiasm and excitement generated by conference attendees. Next year, the CWA hopes to provide workshops pertaining specifically to colleges and universities, parks and recreation centers, and youth programming and community building. The CWA welcomes feedback from conference attendees as well as suggestions for next year. Feel free to send your thoughts to Andrea Sutherland at Andrea@climbingwallindustry.org or myself at Bill@climbingwallindustry.org.

Best Regards,

Bill Zimmermann,
Executive Director

The Conference is Over...Now What?

How you can get involved with the CWA

In an effort to capitalize on the success of the 2008 Climbing Wall Summit, the CWA wants to provide members the opportunity to have an active role in this organization. Conference attendees expressed their desire to discuss a variety of topics at next year's conference but why wait til next May?

The CWA is planning to organize several committees to address various issues including (but not limited to): trends in the climbing industry, software development for climbing gyms, business development for new and existing gyms, engineering standards, and a Canadian chapter of the CWA. By participating in these groups, you can voice your opinions directly to the CWA and help shape the outcome to these pressing matters. The planning for these committees is in its infancy but if you would like to get involved in one or more of these groups, please contact Bill Zimmermann or Andrea Sutherland.

Can't commit to a Committee? Here are a number of ways you can contribute and spread the news about the CWA and its efforts.

1. Ask for materials. The CWA has a number of resources available for members to pass along including postcards, posters, and brochures. Email your Bill or Andrea to request these materials.
2. Participate in the CWA Blog. Read and comment on the latest quips, anecdotes, and theories from CWA Board member Rich Johnston.
3. Participate in the CWA Bulletin Board. There are an infinite number of topics to discuss on this forum. You can ask questions and voice your concerns about industry trends with other CWA members, gym owners, and even the Board of Directors.

4. Read your emails and newsletters. The CWA tries not to flood your inbox with unnecessary emails. Please take the time to read important press releases and newsletters as they pertain to you.
 5. Contact the CWA directly with your opinions, concerns, and ideas. Contact Andrea at Andrea@climbingwallindustry.org or Bill at Bill@climbingwallindustry.org. The CWA is here to serve you and we thrive on your feedback.
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Carabiner Severs Rope in Czech Climbing Gym

Last April, a climber in an indoor climbing gym in Prague fell to the floor after his rope was severed by a worn carabiner. Fortunately the climber was uninjured as he fell a short distance to the ground but the two-week old rope was cut in two. The Czech Mountaineering Union reminds climbing gym owners to remain vigilant in checking their equipment to prevent future incidents. To read the complete article, [click here](#).

Member Profile: The Gravity Vault

The Gravity Vault Indoor Rock Gym welcomed its newest member into the world on April 15, 2008. Ella Kovalcik was born to proud parents Lucas and Anna, and is pictured here with her new dad and surrogate Uncle Tim, both owners of the The Gravity Vault.

Located in Upper Saddle River, New Jersey just 17.5 miles outside of New York City and less than an hour from the famed "Gunks" of New Paltz, NY, The Gravity Vault is a popular indoor climbing destination for both the urban climber as well as the traditional climber from the Gunks. The Vault consists of 13,500 plus sq. ft of climbing terrain, including 45 top rope stations with 35+ foot heights, two large boulders that peak at more than 15ft, a cardiovascular training area, extensive lead routes and a large relaxing lounge.

The Vault's route-setting team is led by Matt Stark, a well-known route-setter who has an uncanny ability to set routes from 5.5 to 5.13 that keep climbers on their toes. The Gravity Vault is a community partner with the Access Fund, a contributor to the preservation of The Gunks and has long recognized the importance of the CWA.

"As we see things, the CWA continues to be a strong voice of reason and creator of community for indoor climbing facilities nationwide," owner Tim Walsh says. "Additionally, they are spearheading the

many important issues that indoor climbing facilities face while continuing to advocate the sport of climbing."

The CWA congratulates The Gravity Vault on their new addition and is certain that Ella will enjoy years of climbing at this fantastic facility.

The Gravity Vault
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Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458
P 201.934.ROCK (7625)
www.gravityvault.com

Introducing the Climbers GripMate™

In climbing, you are only as good as your gear. Are you taking care of your body the way you take care of your climbing equipment? With the Climbers GripMate™, climbers can work individual joints and fingers in addition to their wrists and forearms, anytime, anywhere. With hundreds of pinch and grip exercise options, climbers are sure to find a routine that works for them. And if the Climbers GripMate™ doesn't deliver the desired results, just return the product to Wilson's Company, Innovative Fitness Inc. within 180 days for a full refund.

For more information on the Climbers GripMate™ and other products, check out www.climbersgripmate.com.

About the Climbing Wall Association, Inc. (CWA). The CWA is a 501(c)(06), non-profit, trade association incorporated in May of 2003 for manufacturers of climbing wall equipment, builders of climbing walls, operators of climbing walls, and others involved in the climbing industry.

The CWA is the only trade association addressing the needs and interests of the climbing wall industry and climbing wall operators. The mission of the Climbing Wall Association is to support the growth, health and independence of the climbing wall industry, and to promote the sport of climbing.