



Y220CIVILION  
PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY

# Lines: The CWA Newsletter

**Vol. 4, No. 6**

**December 23, 2008**

## Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Happy Holidays to you all!

I would like to extend a special thanks to the CWA members volunteers that made 2008 a good and productive year. Special thanks to the members of Engineering Standards Committee who have worked consistently for the past two years on a difficult project.

We are busy preparing for the 2009 Climbing Wall Summit set to take place April 30-May 3, 2009 in Boulder, Colorado. Registration will open after the first of the year and we are very excited to bring you new and fresh content for pre-conference and conference workshops.

Finally, we have put a CWA member logo for use on your web sites. Please consider displaying your membership in the CWA and linking to our site. You can find the logo in the member area of the site.

Happy Holidays!

Bill Zimmermann,  
Executive Director

## Conference Call for Proposals

Have an idea for a conference workshop? Want to present at the 2009 Climbing Wall Summit?

Submit your workshop proposals to the CWA by January 31, 2009. Entries must be received via email or fax. Please type or print legibly. Presenters will receive complimentary admission to the 2009 Climbing Wall Summit.

Last year's conference workshops focused on topics like marketing, business planning, growing your business, insurance, risk management and facility design.

In addition to addressing these topics, the CWA plans to focus on issues like structural inspection, the new engineering standards, regulatory updates, and business development in tough economic times.

Please download the workshop proposal application and submit them to Bill or Andrea by January 31, 2009.

---

## Engineering Standards Review Process

The Climbing Wall Association has announced that a proposed draft of the "General Specification for the Design and Engineering of Artificial Climbing Structures, First Edition" has been released for public review and comment.

The purpose of the engineering specification is to assist designers and builders of climbing structures by providing a modern specification to replace the dated and unmaintained CWIG standards. The engineering specification has been developed through a collaborative effort by members of the climbing industry over many years. The proposed draft was completed by the CWA Engineering Standards Committee.

The proposed specification has been subject to professional engineering review and is now undergoing public review and comment. The comment period will close on January 10th. You can download a copy for review and make comments via our web site, just navigate to the standards area. The new specification should be released in January.

## CWA Certification Standards Committee

The CWA is in the midst of forming a climbing wall instructor certification standards committee in preparation for the development of a CWA certification program.

The CWA, in cooperation with its members, has developed the basis of a national certification training program for climbing wall instructors which has been successfully piloted over the last two years. Candidates who have already completed one of the certification courses through the pilot program will be offered certification through the CWA once the program is launched.

Applications have been strong and we are excited to get moving on an important piece of work to support the climbing wall industry. Parties interested in applying for membership on the CWA certification standards committee should download an application [HERE](#) and return it to the CWA, attention Bill Zimmermann at: [bill@climbingwallindustry.org](mailto:bill@climbingwallindustry.org).

---

## Rockin' Out: News from the Non-Profits

This September, Keith Ferguson became the new Executive Director of USA Climbing. Ferguson has spent several years working on Olympic committees both domestically and internationally.

Ferguson has some hefty goals for USA Climbing including boosting membership and participation among gyms.

"Last year, 8 million people climbing on an artificial wall," Ferguson said. "Our goal is to get this large audience interested in competition climbing."

USA Climbing already conducts over 250 climbing competitions and events including four national championships, one world cup, ABS comps, Youth Nationals, and the Bouldering World Cup. The non-profit also hosts a collegiate climbing series that includes five regional and one national competition.

Ferguson hopes to increase the competition circuit among high schools. "Colorado already has a high school champ series," he said. "Our goal is to make this nationwide." Ferguson also hopes to increase the education of coaches, routesetters and competition judges.

USA Climbing's ultimate goal: to see climbing named as an olympic sport.

## Member Profile: Baylor University

Colleges and universities across America have started building rock climbing walls in their recreational facilities in large numbers. In 1999, Baylor University in Waco, Texas, built a rock wall to meet the needs of their students, staff and faculty.

Baylor's 52-foot climbing wall, dubbed "The ROCK," stands in the McLane Student Life Center. The ROCK boasts a dozen top ropes, sport lead routes, a natural climbing area and routes ranging from 5.6 to 5.13. The facility also features a bouldering section with plenty of problems for students to keep busy.

In addition to community events, the ROCK hosts a bouldering and climbing competition as part of the Collegiate Climbing Series. Visit Baylor at [www.baylor.edu/campusrec/oa](http://www.baylor.edu/campusrec/oa)

Baylor University  
1 Bear Place 97100  
Waco, TX 76798  
(254) 710-ROCK

---

**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.