



Lines

Newsletter of the
Climbing Wall Association

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Intro

The Climbing Wall Summit is fast approaching and we're getting excited. It's shaping up to be the best one yet ... from every aspect: content, sponsors, networking time, and fun stuff.

A quick reminder: Register by Friday April 13th to save \$100 to attend the Climbing Wall Summit. New this year, register a group of three or more attendees to Save 10% off current Summit registration prices! [Price and Registration Details](#).

Thanks for reading,

Bill Zimmermann,
Climbing Wall Association

Government Affairs: Legal, Regulatory and Legislative Issues

As a non-profit trade association the CWA can lobby on behalf of its members to improve the business conditions for the entire industry. CWA has been busy this spring advocating for members in a number of states including Massachusetts, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia.

Massachusetts

The CWA continues to monitor important regulatory developments in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through a representative on the Department of Public Safety's Advisory Board. The Board met recently to review changes to inspection procedures and inspection-related record keeping. The changes to the inspection program will by and large not affect challenge courses or climbing walls in the Commonwealth. We also met with the Commissioner of the Department of Public Safety and the Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel to present the CWA Climbing Wall Instructor Program. Participation in the CWA Certification Program [CWI link] will fulfill the Commonwealth's requirements regarding staff training.

Delaware

CWA worked with The Delaware Rock Gym on a multi-year effort regarding employee classification for workers' compensation. We wrote and testified on behalf of the gym to reclassify the gym employees from "Amusement, Indoor" to "Health or Exercise Club." The reclassification effort, if successful, would result in lower workers' compensation insurance premiums. After an exhaustive and exhausting effort by the gym's owner Matt McCorquodale, the hearing officer found in the gym's favor stating "I assigned weight to the evidence of record establishing that rock climbing facilities have 'similar exposure to hazards' as exist in more traditional health clubs." Congratulations to Matt and the Delaware Rock Gym.

Pennsylvania

The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has begun to approach many YMCA's with climbing walls with a demand to submit to inspections for the purposes of amusement licensure. We are collaborating with our YMCA members and the Government Affairs/Public Policy staff of the national YMCA to support those Y's affected by this regulatory move. While it is too early to predict the outcome, we believe that we will be effective in advocating for our YMCA members.

West Virginia

Finally, we have written to the State of West Virginia Department of Commerce, Division of Labor, Safety Section which has attempted to regulate a new bouldering facility under West Virginia's amusement licensing statute. The State issued a cease and desist letter to the owner/operator until the appropriate application, fees, and inspection could be conducted. We are working with the gym's legal counsel to seek an administrative finding that the gym, and recreational climbing walls in general, are not subject to licensing as an amusement attraction. A model letter detailing our position on the matter will be posted to the CWA web site shortly.

Your State

If you are aware of proposed legislation, rulemaking processes or high-profile civil cases that could adversely affect the indoor climbing industry, or if you are facing regulatory challenges and would like CWA support, please contact Bill Zimmermann [link] or Robert Angell at the CWA. We need to be informed of what is happening in your area – you are our eyes and ears. The industry is experiencing ongoing regulatory pressures and your vigilance as a member will help us to represent your interests with regulatory agencies and legislators. If we all work together through organizations like the CWA, we have a chance to be effective in states and provinces across North America.

Seeking Service Crew

CWA seeks 6-8 Service Crew members to provide logistical support during the 2012 Climbing Wall Summit www.climbingwallsummit.org. Service crew members will have the conference registration fee waived and may to attend workshops as the schedule permits. Service crew benefits do not fund travel, lodging, or other incidental expenses associated with attending the conference.

Service crew selection will be based on skills & experience, membership status, and professional development considerations. Please see the application for more information, applications are due March 30, 2012! View the application (docx file)

http://www.climbingwallindustry.org/images/uploads/cws_2012_ServiceCrew_Application.doc.

Routesetting Workshop adds Second Section

The hands-on routesetting workshop filled-up as quickly as a single-pitch rappel. So we've worked with the instructor to offer a second round of the popular pre-conference workshop on Wednesday, May 16th. Registration is available online ... until these 14 slots are filled. More beta.

http://www.climbingwallindustry.org/index.php/events/summit/summit_sessions/route_setting/

This workshop will focus on the challenges and goals of effectively managing a routesetting program in a commercial climbing gym. Beginning by looking at climbing wall routes as the primary product of a climbing gym, participants will discuss route management and planning, organizing routesetting and the roles of both Routesetter and Head Routesetter in the climbing gym.

Participants will explore fundamental and challenging questions for the climbing gym industry:

- How do we best define the role of the Routesetter in a commercial climbing gym? Head Routesetter?
- How can we best structure routesetting programs to maximize organization, efficiency, and measure performance?
- How do we better connect our routesetting programs to the interests and needs of the consumers of our product, the gym users?

Sponsors Bolster Summit

Please join us in thanking the dedicated companies who sponsor the Climbing Wall Summit. These sponsors allow us to keep Summit attendance costs low and attract such a broad spectrum of climbing wall operators. The result is a vibrant meeting ground for sharing ideas, learning from peers and training staff.

An added bonus is that attendees can meet suppliers in person, see new products first-hand. Please come say "howdy" to these true industry supporters. If you vendors are not listed, ask them to support the 2013 Climbing Wall Summit.

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Product News

Eldorado Climbing Wall Design Contest

At Eldorado Climbing Walls, touts its blue sky design, "If you can dream it, we can build it. The heart of our innovative climbing wall designs is our Design and Creative Director, Jason Thomas."

In conjunction with the 2012 Climbing Wall Summit, Eldorado is holding a design contest for prospective and current climbing gym owners. They will choose one winner to receive three design concepts from Jason. Please complete the form below by May 7th to be considered for this opportunity.

<http://eldowalls.com/2012-climbing-wall-summit-design-contest/>

Eldorado Climbing Walls returns as a Lead Sponsor of the 2012 Climbing Wall Summit for the third year in a row.

Clip 'N Climb - Climbing for pre-school kids to retired kids

The first Clip 'N Climb centers opened spring of 2005 in New Zealand and have now welcomed over 1 million visitors. Now, centers are also operating in Canada, Australia, UK and soon in Asia. The latest Clip 'N Climb center opened its doors in Exeter, UK, just before Christmas. It attracted a steady flow of visitors getting their first taste of climbing.

Clip 'N Climb centers aim to bring climbing to the masses. They come in a variety of sizes and offer over 30 themed climbing challenges with auto belays. All challenges are inspired by real climbing situations and aim at introducing people to climbing in a fun and exciting environment. Like in Exeter, attached to a standard climbing gym, these new type of climbing centers can become a great business complement and a perfect way to attract more people.

In the USA, contact Entre-Prises to learn more about this new concept or view the video clip on <http://www.clipnclimbexeter.co.uk/>

INSERT PHOTO HERE

About CWA

The mission of the CWA is to promote the growth, health, independence and professionalism of the climbing wall industry.

The CWA provides valuable benefits and services to the climbing community. We protect the industry from harmful regulation, promote sound risk management, and publish standards and practices in engineering, inspection, operations and certification. We are also the premier resource for insurance services, employee training and professional development.

The CWA network includes 400+ private climbing gyms, college programs, athletic clubs, and recreation facilities; as well as climbing wall and climbing equipment manufacturers, media, and industry leaders.

Together we're stronger.

www.climbingwallindustry.org