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# Lines: The CWA Newsletter

**Vol. 5, No. 1**

**February 12, 2009**

## **Welcome**

Dear Colleagues,

We have passed a couple of big milestones with our trade association in the past week.

After many years of sporadic attempts by other groups and two years of focused effort by the CWA Engineering Standards Committee, we have published a new engineering standard to supersede the old CWIG standards!

The industry now has access to an up-to-date engineering document for structures built in North America. Members renewing via the Web site will now be able to select which document they would like at renewal, including the new engineering standard. Orders for the new standard are shipping today. Thanks very much to those of you who participated by submitting comments.

In another milestone, the Engineering Standards Committee has released a draft structural inspection specification for public review and comment. The draft specification is the first of its kind in the world for climbing walls and has already seen brisk downloads from the CWA Web site. If you are interested in reviewing the draft and submitting comments, you can do that here.

Finally, we have opened conference registration and have our first attendees on the roster for this year's conference. We are working hard to develop fresh content and promote new presenters. We encourage you to submit a workshop proposal -- public speaking is actually way easier than climbing 5.13...

If you are interested in conference sponsorship or exhibiting, all the information you need, including the exhibitor prospectus, is on the web site.

Happy climbing.

Regards,

Bill

Bill Zimmermann,  
Executive Director

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## Early Conference Registration Opens

Early registration for the 2009 Climbing Wall Summit is open! Members and non-members can take advantage of significant discounts with early registration. Of course, members get the lowest registration rates. Conference attendees can register for the conference [here](#).

Pre-conference workshops include a three day Coaching Climbing workshop given by professional rock climber Timy Fairfield and professional trainer Chris Wall. Malcolm Daly and Paradox Sports will provide a full day workshop devoted to adaptive climbing, and Darren Flagg, M.S. will lead a workshop on foundational movement assessment and posture.

Other pre-conference workshops include climbing wall structural inspection with Bill Zimmermann and Rich Klajnscek, P.E., climbing gym start-up and expansion with Cort Gariepy of Rockwerx, climbing performance improvement instruction with Dan Hague, building gym community with Heather Reynolds, and an outstanding routesetting workshop with Chris Danielson.

In addition to addressing these pre-conference topics, the CWA plans to focus on conference topics like marketing, technology, the new engineering standards, regulatory updates, business development, training, and running a business in tough economic times.

Finally, we are still accepting conference workshop applications! Please download the workshop proposal application [here](#), and submit them to Bill or Andrea.

The 2009 Climbing Wall Summit will take place April 30-May 3 at the Boulder Outlook Hotel in Boulder, Colorado.

## **Chris Warner to Speak at 2009 Climbing Wall Summit**

For over 20 years, Chris Warner, founder and director of Earth Treks, has climbed several of the world's most treacherous peaks. With the help of his climbing partners, Warner has successfully summited the West Face of Ama Dablam (22,494 ft.), Cho Oyu (26,902 ft.), the South Face of Mt. Shishapangma (26,368 ft.), K2 (28,251 ft) and Mt. Everest (29,029 ft) as well as 95 other peaks over 19,000 feet.

Warner has transferred his success on the mountains to success in the business world. In 1990, Earth Treks, Inc. opened for business in the Washington DC area. According to Warner's Web site, the climbing school teaches over 19,000 people each year and the Earth Treks' mountaineering and climbing guide service has led over 130 skill development expeditions since 1992. Over 70 of these trips have been to the Andes of Ecuador, Peru, and Argentina.

In 1997 Earth Treks opened its first of three indoor climbing centers. Located in Columbia, Timonium and Rockville Maryland, the gyms serve over 200,000 visitors each year. A 1999 issue of The Baltimore Business Journal named Warner one of the "Top Forty Under Forty Business Leaders" for his success with Earth Treks. In 2005, he was named one of "Twenty Five Business Leaders We Admire" by SmartCEO magazine.

Warner recently co-authored High Altitude Leadership with Don Schmincke. The book incorporates Warner's lessons from the mountains into eight lessons focused on business success. High Altitude Leadership has received rave reviews and is currently ranked as one of Amazon's Top Ten Leadership books.

Warner will be sharing his expertise and insights as the keynote presenter for the 2009 Climbing Wall Summit.

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## **US Department of Education Grant**

Carol M. White PEP Grant Funded, Applications Open.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools offers a competitive grant program entitled the Carol M. White Physical Education Program (PEP).

The Carol M. White Physical Education Program provides grants to community-based organizations to initiate, expand, or enhance physical education programs, including after-school programs, for students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Grant recipients must implement programs that help students make progress toward meeting state standards. Funds may be used to provide equipment and support to enable students to participate

actively in physical education activities. Funds also may support staff and teacher training and education.

For more information please see the Department of Education Web site: [here](#).

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## **CWA to Participate in Virginia Rule-making**

The CWA has been invited to participate as the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DCHD) initiates a review of its regulations governing climbing walls beginning in March or April.

On behalf of a member gym, the CWA last spring requested that the DCHD not define recreational climbing venues as amusements in Virginia, and exempt those venues from inspection by amusement ride inspectors. During those discussions, the DCHD notified the CWA of its 2009 rule review and invited the Association to participate.

Virginia law defines an amusement device as "a device or structure open to the public by which persons are conveyed or moved in an unusual manner for diversion." The DCHD's position is that this definition (particularly the phrases "open to the public" and "conveyed or moved in an unusual manner for diversion") is sufficiently broad as to cover sport climbing gyms, and it has historically drawn no distinction between recreational climbing facilities and walls or inflatable climbing devices in amusement venues.

The DCHD has indicated to the CWA that it is willing to consider a separate regulatory scheme for inspection of sport climbing venues, and has expressed interest in examining the CWA's Industry Practices and Engineering Standards, as well as the inspection standards that are now being finalized.

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## **Member Profile: Thread Climbing Consultation**

Chris Danielson, a longtime friend and new member of the CWA, brings his routesetting and climbing expertise to benefit all affiliates of the climbing industry.

The New York native has spent years bouldering both indoors and outdoors in the nation's most terrestrially diverse areas and is thankful to have climbed in over five continents around the globe.

Danielson's expertise has helped climbers and gym owners alike and has helped inspire countless climbers around the nation. Since the mid-1990s when he began routesetting, he has taught and

coached climbing, organized competitions, built walls, and consulted for gym owners. In 2005, Danielson founded THREAD Climbing Wall Consultation.

"As a routesetter and climber, I was always fascinated with imagining and deciphering challenging movement, coming up with creative ideas and solutions," Danielson says. "With Thread Climbing Consultation, my goal is much the same, but applied to wall operations as a whole. With thoughtful research and consideration, I am always looking to find creative, efficient, and effective solutions to challenges and opportunities that face climbing wall owners and operators."

Danielson has also worked in the industry as a sales representative, selling top of the line climbing products to climbing walls nationally, but remains ever eager to learn all he can about the climbing industry. In fact, he has admitted he would be dissatisfied simply climbing recreationally. He enjoys the challenge of routesetting and sharing his knowledge with others, whether for competition or fun. For Danielson, "the challenge of creating the movement is as fulfilling as actually doing the movement itself."

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**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.