



2009 CIVILIAN
PROFESSIONAL SUMMIT

Lines: The CWA Newsletter

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Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

The weather is changing! That means more people seeking solace from the cold and wet inside your gyms. While we know this is a busy season for many of our members, we hope you will not forget to keep the 2010 Climbing Wall Summit in mind for next spring.

In addition to the weather, the CWA has been changing too. We've added a new staff member, Nikki Keeney who has taken over the executive assistant position. You can read a little more about Nikki and her climbing experience below.

We are still hard at work on our first regulatory intervention on the federal level with the drafting of a petition on behalf of our manufacturing members regarding the Consumer Protection Improvement Act of 2008. You can read an article about the petition [here](#).

Finally, get those workshop proposals and sponsorship applications in. The sooner you submit your proposal or application, the sooner you solidify your spot among the climbing industry elite at the 2010 Climbing Wall Summit. Sponsorship applications can be found on our web site. See below for information on workshops proposals.

Have a great day.

Sincerely,

Bill Zimmermann,
Executive Director

Call for workshop proposals

The workshop proposals have already started coming in to the CWA office. Last year, over 30 experts presented on 25 topics ranging from risk management and legal liability to programming and marketing. Over 200 gym owners, managers, equipment and wall manufacturers took advantage of pre-conference and conference workshops at the 2009 Climbing Wall Summit. The CWA anticipates an even larger turnout for the 2010 Climbing Wall Summit which is set to take place May 13-16 in Boulder, Colorado.

On the first day of the conference, pre-conference workshops will take place either at the UMC or at one of Boulder's local climbing gyms. Pre-conference workshops are designed to provide attendees with an in-depth or hands-on approach to a particular subject. Last year, pre-conference workshops covered topics like routesetting, adaptive climbing, structural inspection and climbing gym start-up and expansion. Pre-conference workshops can be half or full-day events and may take place at Boulder's local climbing gyms. Please note: presenters MUST arrange for their own space if presenting off-site.

Conference workshops will take place Friday-Sunday of the Summit. Workshops run 90 minutes and will take place in lecture-style conference rooms at the University Memorial Center. In the past, conference workshop topics have included but are not limited to: marketing, advertising, insurance, risk management, legal/liability, hiring quality employees, modern climbing gym designs and more.

To submit a pre-conference or conference workshop proposal, [click here](#). Note: the application for both the pre-conference and conference workshop is the same. Simply indicate which type of presentation you are interested in giving.

Workshop presenters enjoy a significant discount on conference admission and access to conference events. Submissions are due by December 30, 2009.

Four years after woman falls to her death, company faces manslaughter charges

In 2005, 24-year-old Stacy Sarrette attended the WKLB Country Music Festival in Mansfield, Mass. Four days later, Sarrette was pronounced dead, having suffered severe head, neck and back injuries after falling off of an inflatable climbing wall. Sarrette had been racing her cousin up the wall, which had been provided by the Just For Fun rental company, when she fell. According to a May 28, 2005 article by the Boston Globe, Sarrette was wearing a harness when she fell but was not wearing a helmet.

According to the Globe article, "Just For Fun Rentals of Danvers, the company that owns the 28-foot inflatable rock-climbing wall 'was in clear violation of a number of our regulations that were designed to

prevent just this sort of thing from happening,' Katie Ford, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Public Safety told the Associated Press."

In June 2009, an indictment siting corporate manslaughter was issued against Kaplan and Robbins, Inc. (doing business as Just for Fun). Sutter told The Sun Chronicle, "Our lengthy investigation into this incident revealed this corporation, through its egregious conduct, failed to protect Ms. Sarrette [...] When a corporation offers entertainment or rides that have some risk for patrons, the company must ensure that it has taken all necessary steps to ensure the safety of those who participate. In this case, that clearly was not done. The corporation's actions with respect to the lack of training provided to its employees and the location of the ride, were both reckless and wanton."

"Tragic accidents invite regulation, which can end up being intrusive on activities which should not be lumped in with the "target" activity," CWA Board member and attorney Robert Angell says. "This case is a prime example. Inflatable climbing toys are not sport climbing facilities and shouldn't be treated as such. It's a never-ending job to educate regulatory agencies on the differences. The only common element is climbing. Logically, then, we should regulate trees, because people climb them, too."

Although the CWA does not anticipate being involved in these criminal proceedings, it is important to inform our members of these happenings and encourage everyone to review their safety procedures.

CWA welcomes new Executive Assistant

The CWA team is growing with the addition of Nikki Keeney hailing from Glastonbury, Conn. Keeney moved to Boulder in 2007 to devour the local climbing both indoors and out. Keeney began climbing in 2004 at Prime Climb climbing gym located in Wallingford, Conn. From her first climb, Keeney was hooked.

Keeney began working for the CWA in August 2009, taking over the Executive Assistant position. "I'm very excited to be working with the CWA," Keeney says. "I've never had a job working in the climbing industry and I'm excited to learn more about the sport."

Welcome Nikki to the club: nikki@climbingwallindustry.org.

Attention Routesetters!

Note: Provided by USA Climbing

Chris Danielson and Molly Beard, USAC National Routesetters, are instructing a Level Two Routesetting clinic at Clubsport climbing gym in Portland, Oregon. The clinic will take place December 5th and 6th of 2009. Please click [here](#) for information and registration.

The Level 2 USAC Clinic is a competition-specific clinic designed to train, test, and certify setters, specifically to set for ABS Regional and SCS Divisional level events. If you are a Level 1 Certified setter, or have experience setting Regional/Divisional Level USAC events and can work a minimum of V5/5.12, this clinic will help you advance your competition setting skills for both youth and adults.

The clinic is two full days and the cost is \$300.00. A \$39 USAC Routesetter Annual Membership is also mandatory, and if you are not already a member, you may also purchase the membership online. Successful participants in the clinic will receive Level 2 Certification with endorsements in one or more of the competition areas: Youth Bouldering, Adult Bouldering, Youth Sport, and Adult Sport.

With any questions regarding this clinic, contact Chris Danielson directly at cdanielson@gthi.com.

For more information about USA Climbing or routesetting clinics, visit usaclimbing.org.

Member Profile: TnT Climbing Walls

Based among the granite cliffs of Index, Wash., TnT Climbing Walls began operating in 2005. A welder by trade, TnT founder and owner Tobey Seslar, along with his wife Cobi (a former river/mountaineering guide and Outward Bound instructor) decided to focus on building climbing walls full time.

"The more [a] gym expands the more your business expands," Cobi Seslar stated in an email. "TnT specializes in custom building to the needs of the business. TnT climbing walls has assisted multiple gyms in expanding their bouldering and top rope terrain."

When the Seslars aren't busy meeting their customers' needs, the two can be found playing in and around Index or traveling around the country and abroad to get their climbing fix.

"Tobey has climbed five routes on El Cap including a 19 hour ascent of The Nose," Cobi stated. "[I've] worked as a mountaineering guide on Denali and in Antarctica."

The Seslars have been able to incorporate their love of natural rock features into the designs of their walls. "We incorporate slabs and over hangs, sculpted cracks at various difficulty levels," Seslar said.

"We copy natural features from our favorite climbing areas creating dihedrals, aretes, pillars and chimneys."

TnT's latest achievements include working with Earth Trek's on their expansions of both the Timonium and Columbia locations. TnT has also worked with the Portland Rock Gym in Portland, Oregon.

More information on TnT is on their website www.tntclimbingwalls.com.

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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.