



Rush Hour at Mt. Baldy

2023

in review

We started the year by welcoming new board members Casie Wall, Matt Giles, Kyle Hatcher and Miles Johnson.

A few notable projects included time spent building and maintaining relationships with land managers of our local climbing areas and supporting local volunteers to update old crusty hardware at Quartz and the Refuge.



WMCC Board Members with Refuge staff, Amber and Quinton

Community & Education

In November, the WMCC president, Kenny Wall presented alongside Amber Zimmerman, Manager of the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge, at the Access Fund's Climbing Advocacy Conference in Bentonville. Together they presented on the relationships between LCO's and Land Managers.

Several board members were able to attend the conference, which was a great learning opportunity.

What you can do

To ensure that open access, minimal regulation, and a healthy environment the WMCC encourages you to commit yourself to "minimum impact" and "**leave no trace**" ideals. Always remember to represent the climbing community well when you visit local climbing spaces.

If you'd like to learn more about protecting local climbing resources you can reference our website or email us.

Following **The Access Fund** is a great way to stay in the loop on what's happening with climbing advocacy and policy at a national level.



Kenny Wall and Amber Zimmerman at the Conference



Kenny and Amber present at the Access Fund Conference



WMCC Board Members at the Conference



Graffiti removal before and after

Trail work

2023 saw several productive trail days, and volunteers representing the climbing community worked hard to clean up graffiti throughout the Refuge.

These improvements can't happen without volunteers dedicating their time. Thank you to the Oklahoma chapter of the American Alpine Club for supporting and hosting trail clean up events.

- Spring Quartz trail work day
- Fall Quartz trail work day
- National Public Lands Day trash clean Up
- Graffiti removal



WMCC volunteers at the Refuge for National Public Lands Day



WMCC volunteers at Quartz for a trail clean up

The Gathering

The Fall and Spring Gathering, saw record attendance this last year. The Gathering is a wonderful time for new and old friends to reconnect.

If you are attending in 2024, don't forget you can now pay your camping fee online. The WMCC collects fees on behalf of QMSP and all fees go to the park.

We were stoked to host the talented Marcus Garcia to present "Vulnerability is a Superpower" hosted at Threshold Climbing in OKC. He also made it out for the Spring Gathering.

A huge thank you to everyone involved who sponsored this event including [Threshold Climbing](#) for sponsoring and hosting.



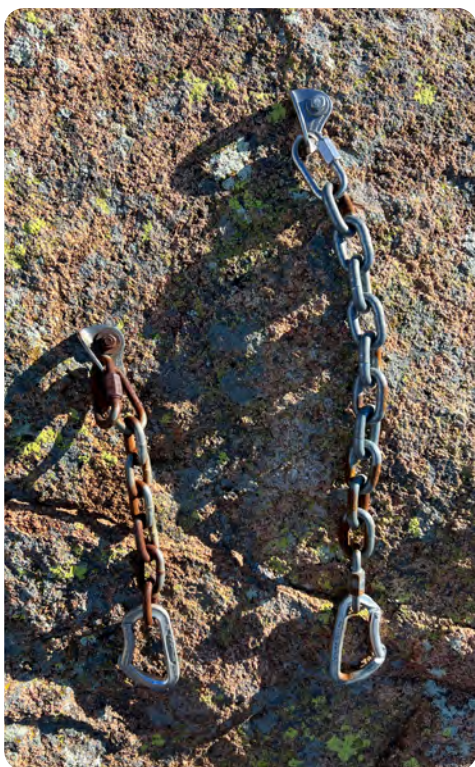
Marcus at Threshold and The Spring Gathering

Advisory *Bolting Committee*

Volunteers have been hard at work this last year to maintain and update fixed hardware in our local climbing spaces. Several new applications were reviewed and approved in 2023 resulting in new route development at Quartz Mountain State Park.

Current approved permits in the WMWR are in process, and work is ongoing to update old rusty hardware.

A huge thank you to all those that dedicate their time to this often demanding and challenging work. All work is volunteer based, but the WMCC supports these efforts by providing supplies, education and advisement.



Recent hardware replacement on Moby Dick in Charons Gardens.

Summary of bolting work

New development

Volunteers provided their time and work to submit applications and install the following new routes:

- Rush Hour
- Stone Poem
- Moosebite

After a review with the ABC, Quartz Mountain State Park approved these permits, and volunteers got to work to install them.

Re-bolting

There is an active rebolting permit for various formations in Charons Gardens Wilderness area in WMWR. Work on this is ongoing.

Over the last year and a half, volunteers replaced more than half of the hardware at Baldy Point, at least 71 bolts were updated with new hardware!

A huge thank you to the American Safe Climbing Association for supporting re-bolting efforts. We are very grateful to Greg at the ASCA, who helped jumpstart the Quartz facelift by providing our volunteers with stainless steel bolts, hangers, and even specialty tools like 'Tuning Forks' to help replace the notorious Buttonheads. If you enjoy bomber hardware please consider returning the favor by donating to the ASCA or WMCC so we can finish the job!

Learn more about the ASCA or to make a donation:

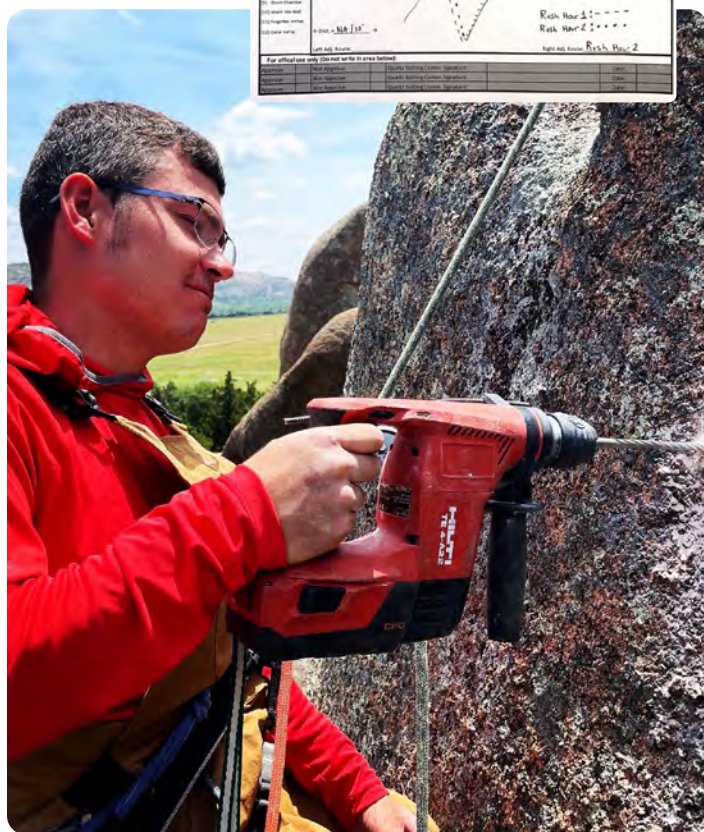
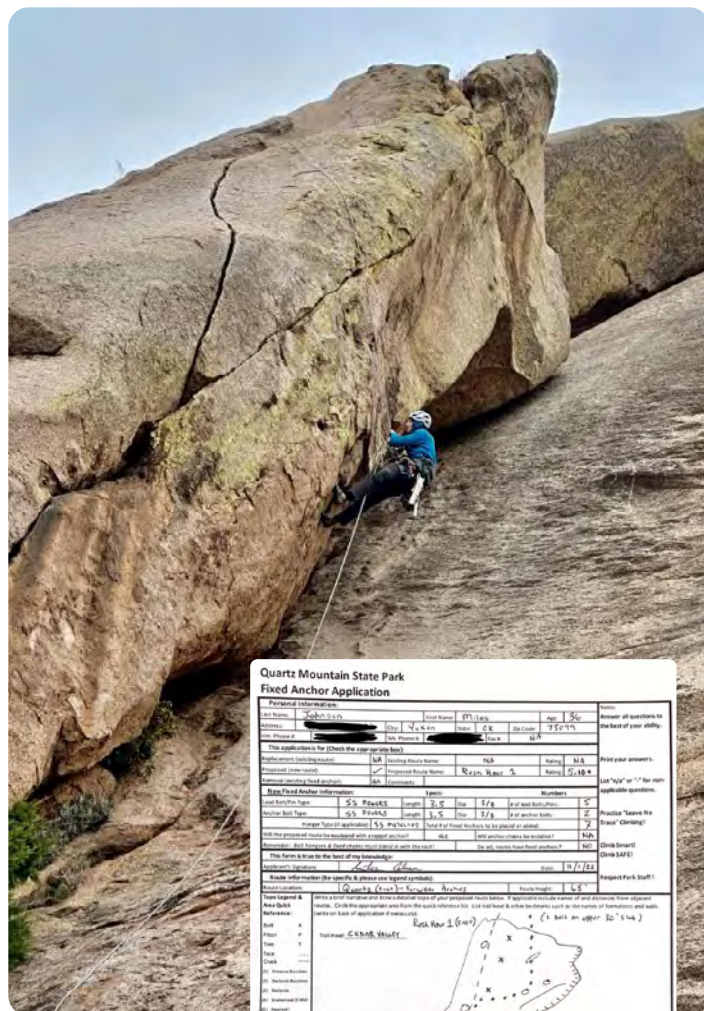
[Safeclimbing.org](https://safeclimbing.org)



All development and replacement at WMWR and QMSP is by permit only. To review Fixed Anchor Rules & Criteria, or to access applications you can visit our website:

Wichitamountains.org/resources

(right) *Graham Hornsby and Miles Johnson working at QMSP*



Policy & News

Policy

Interested in understanding more about the WMCC? Find more resources [on our website](#), like the bylaws, Fixed Anchor Rules and Criteria and Applications for WMWR and QMSP.

Financial Summary

The WMCC received \$1875.10 in support throughout 2023. Thank you to anyone who donated or supported fundraising this year.

The WMCC held a successful Spring fundraiser, partnering with local artist Cori Crawford to produce unique, limited edition shirts for the Gathering. You can find more of Cori's work at: coricrawfordart.com

Expenses totalled \$1318.66, this includes tools for graffiti removal, community events, and other operational expenses such as filing fees, and payment processing fees.

Credits

Photography provided by Daniel Poulain, Miles Johnson, Graham Hornsby and various others.

Layout by Liz Labay

Content contributions came from current WMCC board members.

Do you have a cool story about climbing in Oklahoma? Interested in contributing your epic (or not so epic) climbing experiences or stories to our Newsletter or Social? Reach out to us at wichitamountainsclimbersc@gmail.com - we would love to feature you!

Published in February 2024.



Art by Cori Crawford

In memory of Levi Wilkins



1987 - 2023

For more information, or to make a donation:
Wichitamountains.org

Follow us on social media:

[@wichitamountainsclimbers](#) on Instagram

[@wichitamountainsclimberscoalition](#) on Facebook

WMCC current board

President: Kenny Wall

Vice President: Liz Labay

Policy Director: Matt Gile

Secretary & Social Media Coordinator: Casie Wall

Treasurer: Kyle Hatcher

Conservation Director: Miles Johnson

Advisory Bolting Committee: Grahm Hornsby

Advisory Bolting Committee: Chase Webb

Advisory Bolting Committee: Kevin Earls

Member at Large: Ryan Ray

The Wichita Mountains Climbing Coalition, Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) in the state of Oklahoma. All board members operate on a volunteer basis.

