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## THE QUOTABLE CLIMBER

*Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you and the storms their energy, while care will drop off like autumn leaves.*

-- John Muir



former RMF president, Michael Stokes

## Stokes resigns, Kellogg takes RMF helm

Michael Stokes, RMF president for the past two years, announced in August that it was time to "step down and recover some energy." Stacy Kellogg, previously the foundation's vice president, has assumed the role of RMF president.

In announcing his resignation to the board Stokes vowed to continue to work on trail projects and other RMF issues "so don't count me out altogether."

Stokes, of North Haven, joined the RMF in 1995 and served as treasurer for about seven years before becoming president. He has been a regular

member of trail maintenance projects and a tireless behind-the-scenes organizer.

According to Kellogg, Stokes has been an "active board member who has not only readily manned a grip hoist, but who also frequently takes the time to talk to new climbers and spread the word about the RMF. His enthusiasm and presence on the board will be sorely missed."

At its September meeting the Board of Directors nominated and elected Kellogg president, Jeff Lea vice president, Brien Roscetti secretary, and Matt Shove treasurer.

## Ragged News Briefs

### Fire on the Mountain

Careless campers were blamed for an August brush fire on top of Ragged's Main Cliff.

A state police helicopter dropped water on the blaze which scorched about one-half of an acre, mostly in the grassy area near the Unconquerable Crack / Subline topout. All of the damage was on the east side (away from the cliff) of the blue-blazed Metacomet Trail.

Both overnight camping and campfires are prohibited on RMF land. No arrests have been made, according to police.

### Vandalism Update

Vandals with their crude weapons of environmental destruction still are lurking at our beloved crag.

The RMF kiosk remains a convenient target. Somebody recently used a rock to scratch its plexiglass, apparently with great fervor. Vandals also etched crude swastikas into the wooden frame. (These nabobs were so inept, however, that they couldn't even etch the hateful symbol accurately.)

Also, the rappel anchor on top of Weissner slab once again has been stolen, thereby creating a potentially dangerous situation for beginner climbers who expect to rappel off the 5.3 climb. (The routes that continue up from the slab are more difficult.)

Also, several rocks, particularly near the base of Broadway, have been scratched and scarred. In some cases, the rocks were used for tic-tac-toe games (by bored children waiting for their turn to top rope?) Parents, please remember that you are responsible for the children -- and pets -- you bring to the cliff.

### Proposed Legislation Could Effect Connecticut Climbing

A proposal floating in the state legislature would turn some state Department of Environmental Protection land over to municipalities.

Why is this a concern to climbers? Because climbing is allowed on DEP land. The proposal specifically would "require the DEP to conduct a review of unneeded state land if it may have significant natural resources or a public recreational value," according to state representative Sonny Googins of Glastonbury.

Climbing on land owned by municipalities often has been banned (Owl's Lair, Spider Wall, East Peak, for example). Therefore, any transfer of land from the DEP to local control might be disadvantageous to the climbing community.

The RMF urges members to discuss this proposal with their local representatives.

### Count the Cars

The RMF is working with officials from the town of Southington to find solutions to the parking problem at Ragged.

You can help, simply by counting the number of cars parked on neighborhood roads whenever you visit. Please include the date and approximate time, and send your tally to [info@raggedmtn.org](mailto:info@raggedmtn.org)

Thanks, and please continue to do whatever you can to help foster good relations with the neighbors. Keep a low profile, move quietly and expeditiously through the neighborhood, pick up other people's litter, and wave to the residents.

## About the Ragged Mountain Foundation



The Ragged Mountain Foundation (RMF) is a non-profit conservation group dedicated to preserving natural resources and maintaining public access to Connecticut's high and wild places. We work closely with the Access Fund to resolve access issues and promote the interests of the climbing community.

Our property, Ragged Mountain is governed by a lengthy legal agreement that spells what we can and cannot do with the property. We do not charge any sort of admission fee to use our land; climbers and hikers are welcome to visit our property at any time. We have to maintain insurance on our property; your dues are needed to keep Ragged Mountain open. Our ownership responsibilities include trail construction and maintenance, litter control, and working with the surrounding community to resolve parking problems.

Access work involves many things: meeting with landowners, educating the climbing community, working with government agencies, surveying property boundaries, and even hiring lawyers. Our only goal is to assure responsible climber access to climbing areas.

## A DEAL FOR YOU

Renew your RMF membership with \$50 and we'll send you the latest T-shirt. (It's the most stylish yet in the long line of RMF fashion.) Please indicate size. Tank tops also are available.

By the way, please encourage Ragged Mountain visitors who are not members to join. Basic annual membership is \$15 (see form in this edition of *Outlook*).

### Letters to the Editor

We don't have any. But we would if you would write.

Address your thoughts, questions and opinions to [benboulton@sbcglobal.net](mailto:benboulton@sbcglobal.net)

# Displaced Traprock Climber Syndrome

**Jeff Sargent**  
contributing writer

You don't realize what you had until it's gone. Spending the last 14 years living in Southington, I got spoiled with so much climbing so close by.

Eventually the opportunity, challenges and rewards of a new job offer became too much to ignore. So we left Southington, for a change of life in MA. Having driven 80 miles a day for the last 14 years to commute to work in CT, I was ready for a shorter daily drive. We settled on Middleboro, just southwest of Plymouth and only 16 miles to work. Close enough to Cape Cod to reach a good beach in about an hour, but not so close that you get sucked into the summer week-end traffic vortex. I wouldn't have 30 crags within 15 minutes of my house anymore, but I told myself- if I have to drive a little farther for climbing, I'll live. After all, there was lots of climbing information about MA on the web. The state has three climbing gyms. How bad could it be? Little did I know that my new environs would leave me afflicted with a condition I've since coined Displaced Traprock Climbers Syndrome (DTCS).

Lest someone else make a similar mistake; if climbing is an important part of your life; southeast MA is not a place for you. If you want to ride your bike (road or MTN) it's great. Want to do some fishing, hiking, swimming, or boating? You're covered. If you want to do any climbing, you've gone to the wrong place.

After moving in, I started checking out all the areas I had researched on the web. It appears that the better climbing in MA is in the western portion of the state. I was not really excited about what I found locally.

**Quincy Quarries:** With all due respect to the long history of climbing at the quarries, this place is a pile. The walls are fine-grained granite; left over from the quarrying of stone for the monuments and buildings of Boston. With all the traffic these routes have seen, whatever texture that was once on this rock has been largely worn off. Some of the thin edging routes are so polished you practically need to paddle your feet like Wiley Coyote to keep moving. Virtually any edge or flake of any size should be considered suspect. I've had 30-pound pieces come off in my

hands. On the plus side, the approach is short; there are bolted anchors along the top of the cliffs and thanks to needing a place to put all the dirt taken from the Big Dig, the base of the walls is now dry land. But it's still a quarry; complete with drill marks graffiti, trash and broken glass; despite the ongoing efforts of locals who try to keep the Quarries clean. (In that respect, it brings back memories of Pinnacle Rock.)

**Rattlesnake Rocks:** If you've read Waterman's *Yankee Rock and Ice*, you may remember the picture of climbers on a route called *Ship's Prow*. Turns out, that route is at Rattlesnake Rocks. Real life is nowhere near as impressive- the formation is about 25 feet tall, and the "prow" is a two-move pointed roof that you turn on the left. In CT, *Ship's Prow* would be a boulder problem, although most people use a rope because of its boulder strewn landing zone. In MA, it is many a person's first 5.7 lead. Rattlesnake Rocks is also home to a local test piece,

seeps for days after a rain. The two times I tried to visit, the place was either festooned with top ropes from a summer camp group or running with water from recent rain. *Tarzan* is considered by some to be the best 5.8 trad lead in MA. Someday I may actually get on it.

**Hammond Pond:** Bouldering and top-roping on a conglomerate rock that the locals call puddingstone. Think Smith Rock with bigger cobbles and gray/black mud instead of golden brown. The crags are conveniently accessed from a small parking lot in back of the Chestnut Hill Mall in Newton. Stop at Nordstrom's on your way to the crag for some stylish coordinated sportswear. Puddingstone tends to be greasy with the slightest hint of humidity, but with variety of problems, from easy to "wicked haard", the place always has people.

**Lincoln Woods:** Only an hour from Middleboro, with drive up access to lots of



Scott Zanelli leading Zipper at Red Rocks

Elementary School Roof Direct, a Rumney-steep overhanging 3-bolt sport climb. Be sure to bring your own 'biners, since the clipping 'biners on the fixed draws are usually stolen.

**Crow Hill:** Located in the Leominster State Forest is a good size cliff of banded gneiss. Crow Hill has some steep sections and some nice routes that can be lead. The drive from Middleboro is 2 1/2 hours and the place seeps for days after a rain. The two times I tried to visit, the place was and the place

granite boulders. Pretty nice variety, but many of the boulders are tainted with graffiti and you sometimes have to contend with beer drinkers or local lovers out enjoying a little nature.

**Rocky Woods:** Two good-sized puddingstone boulders three minutes from the road. Aside from the dirt bikes and ATVs buzzing around the maze of unmarked trails and dirt roads in the area, you'll have the place to yourself. Limited in the number of problems, but this place is only ten minutes from work; there-

## Summer Picnic: A Hoot in the Hollow

Thank the weather gods for helping to ensure that the RMF summer picnic August 5 at Chatfield Hollow State Park was a rockin' good time.

Yes, just in time for the party Mother Nature lifted her blanket of oppressive heat and humidity under which Nutmeggers had sweltered, sweated, and suffocated during the days leading up to the annual bash.

It wasn't only Mother Nature, however, who made the party a success, but also the nature of the RMFers who supplied ample good cheer for the day.

According to statistics compiled by chief RMF dataman Brien Roscetti, total attendance was 44 people, three dogs, and one very content, slow-moving black snake. "A few came late, a few left early, and some, like Mike Stokes, were still there when the sun went down," Roscetti reported. Most of the partiers met at the Chatfield cliffs,



*The next generation's Amanda Culmone enjoying the RMF summer picnic.*

where those so inclined ascended the inclines. Later, the revelry shifted to the picnic area, a pleasant 15-minute stroll through the woods.



*RMFer Anne Parmenter, who climbed to the summit of Mount Everest earlier this year, also reached the summit of Chatfield Hollow during the annual summer picnic in August.*

"Our traditional picnic spot was occupied by a large group of blue-shirted family reunion non-climbers," Roscetti said. "I attempted to move them (from our reserved spot) but was thwarted by a large, apron-wearing, hands-on-hips, matriarchal grandmotherly type."

The meek, however, did succeed in securing a superior spot — shaded and closer to the lake, Roscetti said. Culinary picnic highlights, he added: Linda's bean salad and Veronica's brownies.

Al Rubin ventured down from Massachusetts, but the prize for greatest distance traveled went to Bob Clark's friend, Heinz, who flew in from Germany.

Roscetti's report also thanks the Connecticut Climbers and Mountaineers (CCM). "Great people, great support," he said, and also Kevin Hutt and Augie and Rays for helping with the food and supplies.

## Displaced Traprock (cont.)

fore I have been there a lot. Some of the cobbles are loose and wobbly, which adds to the adventure. Plus when a cobblestone falls out, at least it leaves a huge pocket behind.

*Borderlands State Park:* Actually quite nice. Bouldering on high quality granite that's graffiti-free. Most of the boulders are located along the park's many hiking trails, but the best problems are located off the beaten path, allowing solitude.

*Red Rocks:* This place is a welcome oasis. Beautiful pink/red granite in Gloucester, MA. You can see the ocean from the top of the cliff. Top ropes, boulder problems and some nice leads. Some very hard friction slab climbs too. If I lived closer, I would go more. Since it's two hours from home, I don't get out there much. I can be at Ragged in two hours.

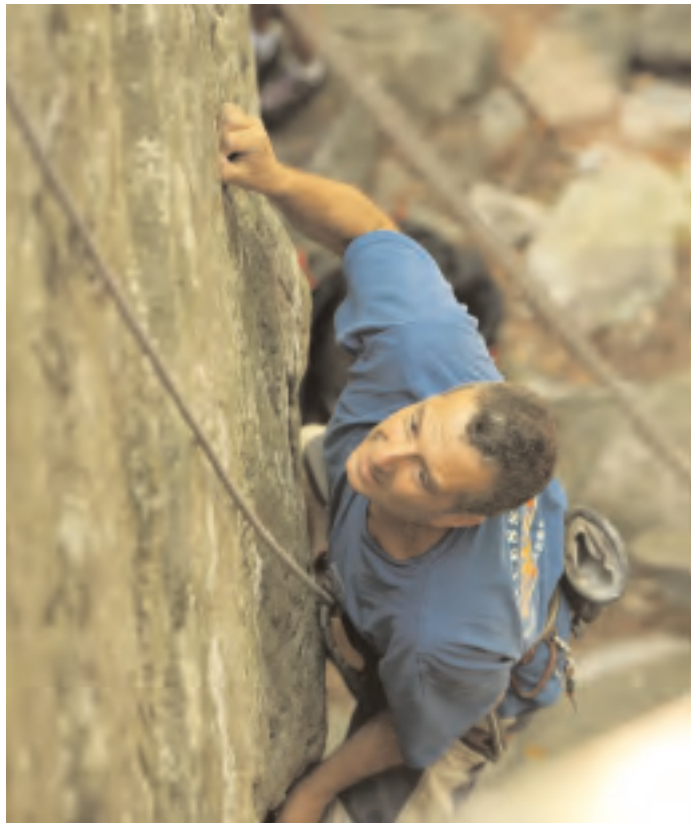


*Ship's Prow at Rattlesnake Rocks*

Although it can be disruptive to the psyche you can learn to live with DTCS. The first step of the cure is acceptance of your geographic limitations. Like MA climbers before me, I've learned to make the best of the resources I have available. That means a lot of bouldering, supplemented with occasional weekend drives to CT or NH for better climbing. Driving into central CT is like driving into Yosemite Valley for me now. To climb something a full rope length or multi-pitch is that much more special. All you folks back in CT cherish those beautiful crags and take care of them. You're lucky.



*RMFer Jonathan Webster delicately dissects Directissima, the Gunks, New York*



*Chatfield Hollow cliff hugger Brien Roscetti at the summer picnic.*

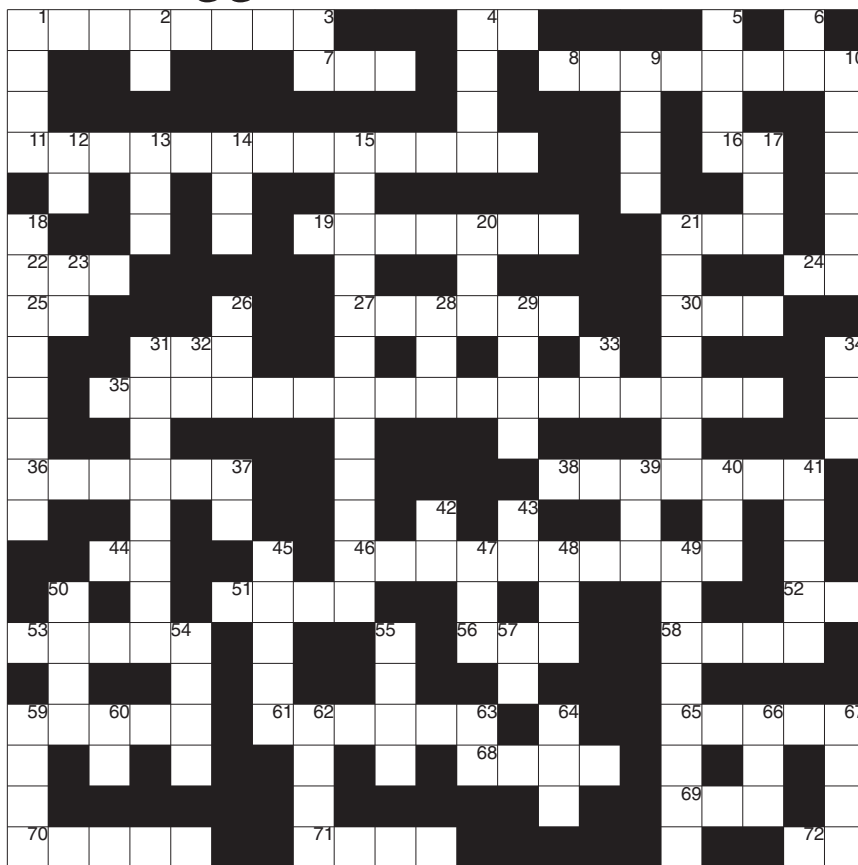


*RMF newbie Marina McIver of California cruising on Classic -- the Gunks*



*Jeff Sargeant chillin' on Hotter Than Hell / Inferno -- Whitehorse Slabs, New Hampshire*

# The Ragged Crossword Puzzle



## Across:

1. Aretes, dihedrals, slabs, cracks, etc.
4. When there's no place to rest, \_\_; don't stop.
7. "Because it's there," a climber might answer when asked "\_\_\_?"
8. Woolly adelgids are destroying these Ragged evergreens.
11. This soaring Ragged bird eats carrion.
16. This person works in the #57 across answer.
19. Carpooling to the cliff helps solve this RMF concern.
21. "\_\_\_ belay."
22. A way to descend.
24. "\_\_\_ going to Ragged. How about you?"
25. A section of this long trail travels through the answer to #33 down.
27. Climbers who know right from wrong have a code of \_\_\_\_\_.
30. The most efficient rope team usually has \_\_\_ members.
31. "\_\_\_ wants to go to Ragged?"
35. A RMF concern related to #19 across.
36. Like the Small Cliff, \_\_\_\_\_ to climbing.
38. What one is likely to do from a mountaintop (invert #21 down).
44. "\_\_\_ belay?"
46. "Don't tread on me!" (Ragged reptile)
51. Color of blazes marking trail across Ragged.
52. You might end up here if your whipper is too long.
53. Harder than 5.3s; easier than 5.5s.
56. First visit to Ragged likely to be a wonderful \_\_\_ experience.
58. \_\_\_ flies when you're having fun at Ragged.
59. First name of #31 down, a bold Ragged pioneer.
61. A portion of Ragged is located in this town.
65. Hikers enjoy the Metacomet \_\_\_\_\_.
68. Fall \_\_\_ climbing in the style of #55 down and it might be your last.
69. No trespassing on this to reach the Main Cliff.
70. Scree.
71. Ragged is known for this style of rock climbing.
72. The Main Cliff is nearly 100 \_\_\_ high.

## Down:

1. A jam crack might accept a hand or a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. "I'm going \_\_ Ragged."
3. Dir. from Ragged to East Peak in Meriden.
4. Nuts, biners, belay devices, etc.
5. Crimper, sloper, jug, for example.
6. "Are you \_\_\_?" a belayer might ask after a partner's fall.
9. "The leader \_\_\_ not fall." (Bygone adage from the days of hemp rope).
10. Inelegant but common way to ascend an off-width chimney.
12. Country in which #33 down is located.
13. Layton \_\_\_ (one of many legendary climbers to visit Ragged; his namesake climb shares its start with Wishbone).
14. Do RMF members protect and preserve Ragged?
15. A RMF concern involving environmental impact.
17. All people who regularly visit Ragged should join this conservation group.
18. Ragged is part of a \_\_\_\_\_ ridge that runs intermittently from New Haven to Simsbury.
20. Climbs at Ragged are grade I, not II or \_\_\_\_.
21. What's in your hands right now?
23. Ditto #25 across.
26. If you bring one of these to the cliff, please make sure he doesn't disturb the wildlife or climbers' lunches.
28. The Ragged pioneer in #59 across / #31 down never would have imagined his and \_\_\_ harnesses.
29. This forces Ragged climbers to visit Prime Climb.
31. See #59 across.
32. What people typically say upon meeting at Ragged.
33. State in which Ragged resides.
34. "Exposed" means to have a lot of this under one's feet.
37. "Just \_\_\_ it!"
39. Most Ragged climbs are \_\_\_ pitch.
40. Hexcentric comes from eccentric, which means \_\_\_\_.
41. The blue Camelot is number \_\_\_\_\_.
42. Direction to the summit.
43. Ragged to Owl's Lair dir.
45. Method to reach #42 down destination.
47. A Ragged relic (there's still one on YMC last check).
48. Too much jamming might leave one's hands looking like \_\_\_ meat.
49. What one gains as one climbs.
50. A \_\_\_ of New England's major climbing areas would include Ragged.
54. Answer to #41 down refers to its \_\_\_\_\_.
55. See #68 across.
57. Brand of old painful climbing shoes.
59. A first ascent of a hard route would be quite a \_\_\_\_.
60. Either you're \_\_\_ the RMF or you're not.
62. \_\_\_ Peak in Meriden is a traprock climber's destination.
63. Does the RMF want natural lands turned over to developers?
64. What some climbers climb in the winter.
66. To set one's sights on a goal.
67. The north gully is on the \_\_\_ when one is at Ragged's base.

# THE RMF WANTS YOU!

## (TO JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!)



### RMF Membership Application / Renewal Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

*Annual dues are \$15 (All memberships and donations are tax deductible)*

DUES \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Receive a  
**FREE RMFT-Shirt**  
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