

Happy New Year Friends of Southwest Virginia Climbing. It has been two years since the inception of the SVCC and a lot has happened and a lot is changing. We began as a small group of climbers who saw a need for a unified community of support for the growing climbing resources throughout Southwest Virginia. In these first two years we have accomplished some amazing things including:

- Opening the Breaks Interstate Park to climbing and new development
- Getting a climbing closure removed from the Guest River Gorge
- Signing an MOU with the city of Norton
- Building a new trail to the Labyrinth Boulders on High Knob
- Hosting or assisting in trail days at Grayson Highlands and Hidden Valley
- Winning an AAC/Access Fund Re-bolt Grant for the Breaks

For a small and young local climbing organization (LCO) we have done a lot. And thankfully, because of these successes and the psych of all you supporters, the community and our climbing areas have continued to grow. Because of this growth our organization will be making some changes in the upcoming year in order to better support and develop the climbing community throughout the region. The first big change is a new board of directors. We give sincere thanks to those folks who helped us get off the ground and are happy to introduce the new board:

Brad Mathisen – President

Aaron Parlier – Vice President, Grayson Highlands Advocate

Kyle King – Treasurer, Hidden Valley Advocate

Shayne Fields – Board Member, Norton Area Advocate

Kylie Schmidt – Board Member, Breaks Interstate Park Advocate

We have decided to meet quarterly and will have our next meeting in early spring. We also plan on continuing to expand the size and roles available on the board. If you have interest in volunteering, or an area that needs representation, please let us know.

The Second big change we have made is to expand the coverage area of our LCO, and also change the name to reflect that expansion. There are climbing resources, such as The Breaks, developing just across the borders of Southwest Virginia into the states of Kentucky, Tennessee, and West Virginia. Our LCO sees this tapestry of boarder areas as part of the same climbing region and in need of an appropriate organization to support them. Therefore we have voted to stop being the Southwest Virginia Climbers Coalition. Going forward we will now be the Central Appalachian Climbers Coalition, CACC. We will continue to focus our support on the excellent resources of Southwest Virginia but want to be ready and willing to help climbing communities and crags that are nearby but across state lines. This new name helps to reflect the direction and growth of climbing throughout the region.

With these changes we will slowly begin to unroll other new things such as a new logo, new website, new membership structure, and new community and crag building efforts. We are excited about the new direction and the greater impact it will allow us to have. So please stick with us, and stay psyched on all the great things that are to come for climbing in our slice of Central Appalachia.

Thanks for all of your support,

Brad Mathisen

CACC, President