

ANF NEWS



Vol.18 Spring '11

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Rimrock Revival

In the words of Hewey, "The heart of rock'n roll is still beating." Bouldering is again on the rise in the ANF, and thanks to the likes of Brian Pascuzzi there are several new established problems as well as some inspiring projects.

The focus of new development has been Rimrock. Recently forgotten, this well known formation is a ANF bouldering gem. Climbers have frequented Rimrock for decades, though the low boulders have seen little attention. It is possible that the first significant push for modern bouldering began with the efforts of Brandon English who pioneered roughly 30 lines (circa 2001 - 2003). Since then, the boulders have remained

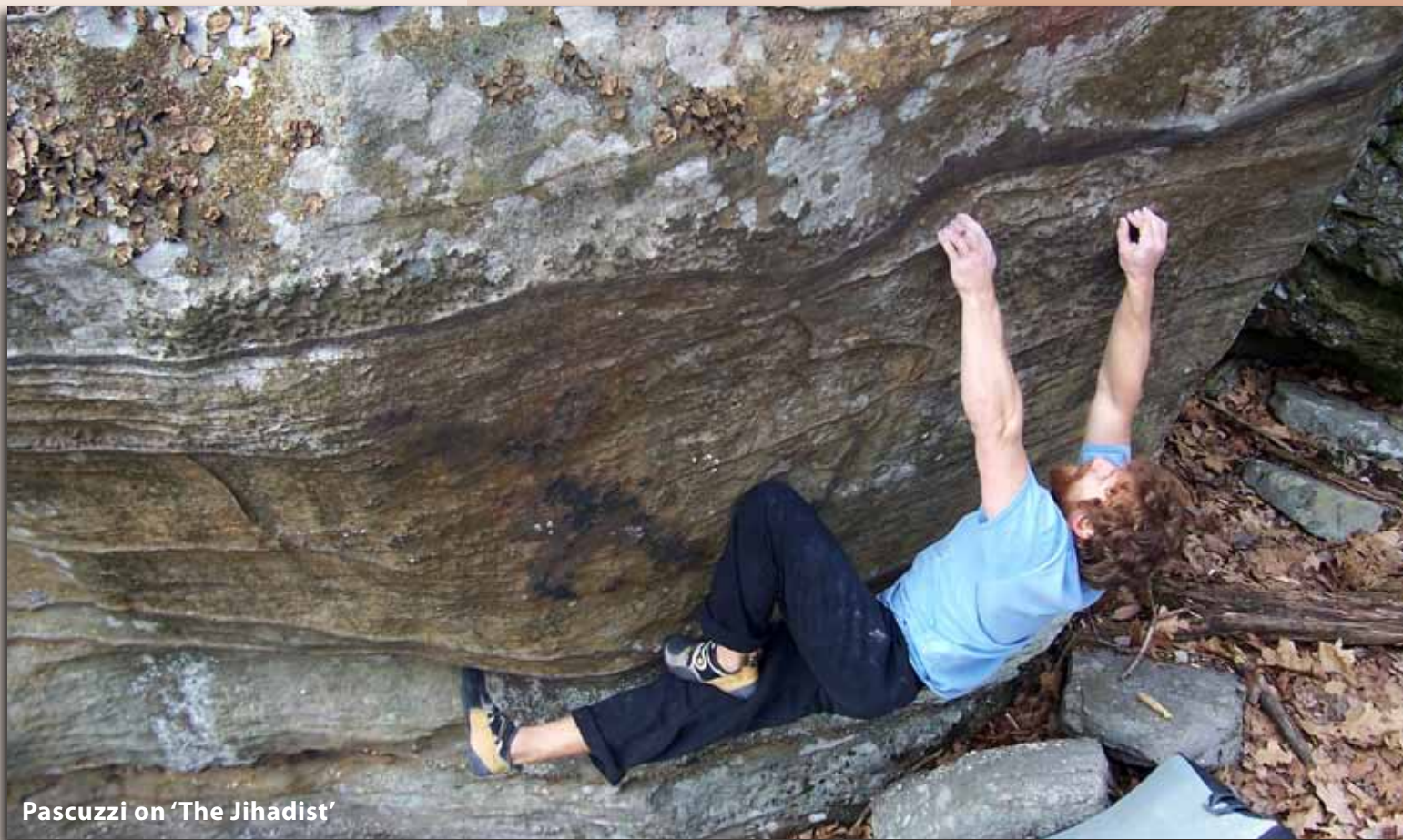
truly unappreciated as those few local crashpad toting, boulder-mongers habitually host their chalk and grit parties in other, more remote, destinations.

Rimrock is also a haven for tourons (non-climbers). The uninitiated are usually well-meaning, and I sometimes find it entertaining to explain the seemingly ridiculous nature of my passion... or how a crashpad is not for camping. However, I usually prefer the seclusion of the forest.

The bullet sandstone of the lower boulders is great, though the aggressive nature of Rimrock gritstone can be daunting. If you have the baby soft skin of a climbing neophyte, or the average once-a-week plastic-pushing-pansy, you will find



The Prince of Podunk dodging bullets on 'Isolation'



Pascuzzi on 'The Jihadist'



Pascuzzi on 'The Arborist'

yourself pink and weepy in short order. In the words of Daryl and John, "She's a Maneater."

In addition, and some of the choice lines are slightly highball, or have less than perfect landings. This is great for those looking for something truly engaging; however, the pucker factor is high and may keep you off of some of the best lines.

Efforts by the Prince of Podunk and the nomad, Brian Pascuzzi, have proven that your skin is but a small sacrifice, and the lines are definitely worth it. In short, order Rimrock has yielded several new classics, including: Sucker Punch (V3), 420 Direct (V4), The Jihadist (V4), Cold Feet (V4), The Beast Within (V5), Isolation (V5), and Toe-2-Toe (V6) Not to mention, several new inspiring projects.

In the words of Robert, "But whatever I do it's never enough." The Prince and Pascuzzi have a long tic-list of projects, and that's not including the virgin lines that have yet to receive any attention. Nevertheless, Pascuzzi's wandering way may keep him from the ANF this season. If so, who will join the Prince in his exploration of this bouldering paradise?

WINTER HOLE

Finally, it's that time of year when, after months of cold... dark... and solitude, we can start to crawl out from our winter caves and breath clean fresh air and feel the blessed friction of real Pennsylvania grit.

Yet, as much as the outdoor season excites me, I must still pay homage to the plywood and the plastic that has sustained me through my time of need.

Over the past two years I have slowly fashioned a significant

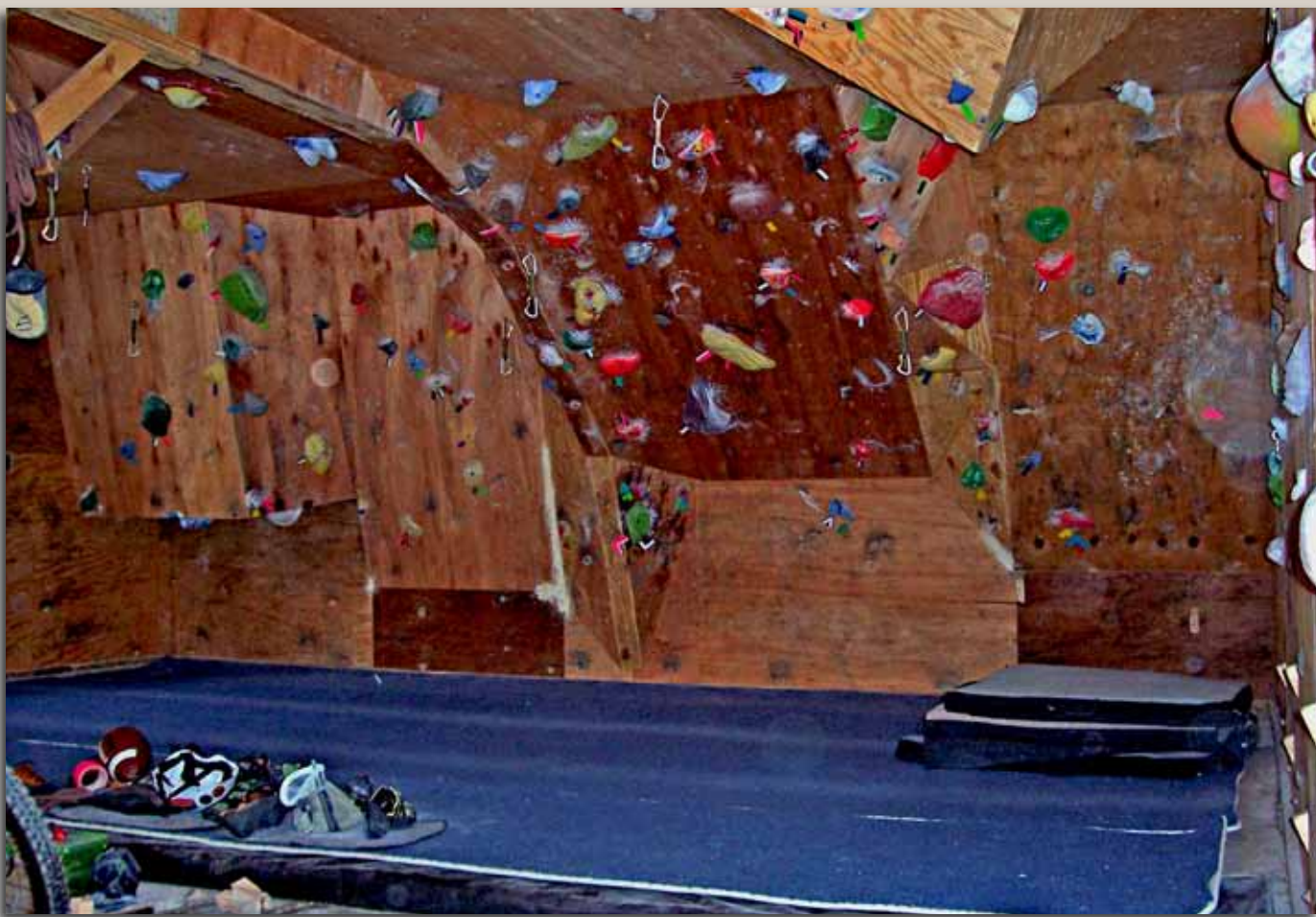
little bouldering haunt in my podunk garage. During the winter of 2009, when I was not able to live in my house due to the lack of heat and plumbing and was forced to endure a long commute to my abandoned property, I climbed by the heat of a tiny propane burner which could almost stave off the cold.

This past winter was much more to my liking. I now live in my boondock abode. In addition, I have made some improvements to my garage wall. Now, if I could only get healthy enough to climb.



BEFORE

AFTER



In 2001, Game Commission biologists decided to begin trapping northern flying squirrels to monitor the species and track things like their distribution across the state. Since then only 34 have been caught. Either they are very sneaky, or their just aren't that many left. Of the captured Nut-Munchers only one was a pregnant female... Yep, too sneaky!

Northern flying squirrels have been declining here since the 1950s. It is likely that degraded habitat and Geocachers are to blame. Rumor has it that their status may get bumped to 'Emergency Room Species.'

Southern flying squirrels; however, are doing very well in Pennsylvania, with the species having expanded its range northward from Florida and even into Maine. Perhaps the dreaded Geochacher is not to blame after all. Maybe this is all the result of forest turf wars.

ENDANGERED NUT MUNCHERS





DARK LORD... or Troubled Youth?

It is widely known that Darth Vader was a nefarious dark lord (a long time ago). Newly discovered evidence supports George Lucas's claim of childhood trauma, and shows that slavery and orphan-hood are nothing compared to the cruelty of the Jedi. An ancient photo depicts a little Darth who was abandoned by his adoptive family at a Travel America in Maumee, Ohio. It is no wonder that poor Darth was so emotional unstable.