

The Anchor and Protection Bolt Replacement Project

July 2010

Since its inception in 1993 the mandate of the non-profit organization, The Association of Bow Valley Rock-climbers (TABVAR), has been to:

- secure and disburse funds for hardware on new routes
- address environmental and access matters
- organize and fund the refitting of older sport routes to modern safety standards

To date, the replacement of sub-standard anchors and protection bolts has been carried out mostly in an ad hoc manner. Examples include Wasootch Slabs, Water Wall (left) in Grotto Canyon, Poolside Crag in Cougar Creek, Spray Slabs in Banff and most recently, the Outhouse area at Lake Louise.

The Directors of TABVAR and some members of the climbing public are aware that several of our cragging areas date back to the mid-1980's and require attention to ensure the safety of these routes. TABVAR understands that there is a need to undertake action and has been formulating an anchor and protection bolt replacement program to target the issue with a more systematic and structured approach.

TABVAR has received sponsor funding from the Calgary Climbing Centre to launch The Anchor and Protection Bolt Replacement Project. The initial phase of the project will focus on "modern" sport routes that are in the most popular climbing areas; Grassi Lakes, Cougar Canyon, Lake Louise, Acephale, Bataan, Prairie Creek, Barrier, Heart Creek and Grotto Canyon. Consideration will be given to other areas and routes on a case-by-case basis.

Implementing the project, TABVAR is requesting assistance from the climbing community.

There are two ways you can help:

1. **Identify and Communicate** the nature of the problem to TABVAR (TABVARrefit@gmail.com)
 - Problems include:
 - Sub standard anchors – excessive wear of lower-off anchor, corrosion, small diameter chain, chain directly bolted to rock, pitons, trees or other natural anchors
 - Corrosion of bolt stud or hanger
 - Poorly installed bolts – excessive stud protrusion, spinning hangers
 - Missing hangers
 - Inadequate – substandard hangers (such as SMC hangers), self drive bolt, chains on anchor

Include the name of route, the name of sector, the name of the climbing area, the issue. For example:

Under Cover, Covert Crag, Cougar Creek. Anchor chain is worn, 2nd bolt is showing corrosion.

In some circumstances the nut on the bolt has loosened off, causing the spinning of the hanger. It is recommended that a 9/16" wrench be part of your climbing gear. Should you come across a spinner please tighten it. It would save TABVAR a lot of resources and time.

2. **Become a Project Manager**

- A Project Manager is a volunteer who will be responsible for overseeing the replacement program for a particular climbing area or sector.
- Tasks:
 - Identify and communicate with TABVAR's Project Coordinator a list of routes that require attention
 - Prioritize goals and timelines for the replacement project

- Recruit climbers to help with labour
 - Estimate and keep track of materials required
 - Supervise work
 - Ensure proper removal of replaced hardware
 - Communicate and provide progress report to Project Coordinator
- Qualifications: good communication and organizational skills, knowledge of the climbing area in question, experience in technique and equipment for drilling

TABVAR will supply material resources – bolts, hangers, drill bits, anchor hardware for the various replacement projects. In the event that a participant incurs material costs, TABVAR will reimburse 100% of the relevant cost. Should drilling equipment be required TABVAR will assist in the rental of a drill.

If you are interested in participating, please contact the Project Coordinator, Roger Chayer.

Contact information:

Email: TABVARrefit@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 403-608-0170

Over the next few years this project will be a crucial focus of TABVAR.

TABVAR thanks you in advance your participation in the project.

Sincerely,



Roger Chayer
Director
Project Coordinator
TABVAR