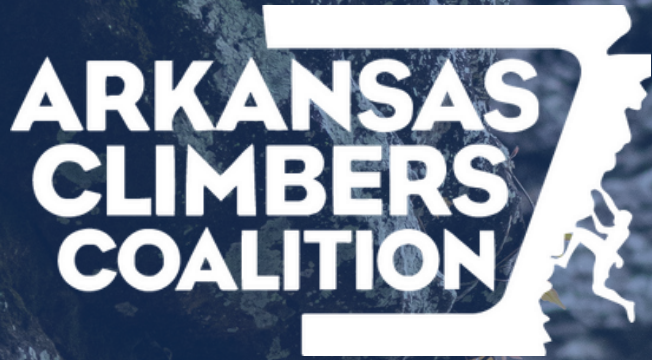


# END OF YEAR REPORT



2022

# LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



Dear ARCC Members and Climbing Community,

I'm sure I am not the only one who feels like 2022 was over before we knew it. Yet, it feels like yesterday that I was writing the same letter to everyone planning for a productive 2022 year ahead - and productive it was.

Not everyone in the community gets to see the day-to-day of the Arkansas Climbers Coalition. Still, I can promise you something is going on every day, whether it is protecting climbing areas, organizing events, paying bills, social media posts, documenting everything, or answering multiple emails. This list can go on and on. I can only describe being on the board as moving 100-pound boulders from the East Side of HCR to the West Side.

Working with landowners and government agencies, and helping mediate climber disputes, just to name a few, can be a slow and painstaking job. But every day, the volunteer board members of the ARCC pick up a boulder, whether they have the time or energy, and start to carry their boulder across the canyon. I am fortunate to spend my free time working with such selfless, caring, and hardworking members of this fantastic community. Day in and day out, without complaints, so many volunteers across the state choose to make Arkansas one of the best-kept secrets in climbing. Gratitude is not only expressed by our board members but for all the climbers who show up to volunteer or email us about concerns. We all play our part in the community, which is the Arkansas Climbers Coalition.

I joined this board in 2017, and every year we continue to gain ground toward the goals I set out to accomplish, which feels like a very short time ago. I have four more years left of a nine-year term, and I'm confident that all of my goals and aspirations for the ARCC will be completed in the next four years. The worst part of seeing the finish line is knowing it will be here before I know it. I spend much time trying to enjoy the daily boulder carry because I know my time as president will not last much longer.

I look forward to the year ahead as I have many more boulders to carry and many more goals for the community to accomplish.

David Thompson - ARCC President

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# INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

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To help organize equipment for events and trail days, we purchased a trailer for the ARCC. This trailer helps keep our tools, banners, tents, etc., all in one place and easily accessible for all events. Our trailer allows the ARCC to fundraise by selling ad space on each side to our many sponsors. Space is still available to advertise, so if you know a business interested in becoming a sponsor, please send them to <https://www.arkansasclimbers.org/contact>, where they can contact us.

Internally for the ARCC, we focused on the efficiency of communication, financials, and documentation. Being an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, we pushed ourselves to the edge of what we could physically and mentally organize in 2022.

We kicked the year off with the 1st annual Arkansas Climbers Festival at Horseshoe Canyon Ranch. This event was a huge success mainly due to the response from the community, with their willingness to learn new skills, fellowship, and support one another. Over 160 participants, 60 hosts, and 12 vendors came out for a fantastic festival. The weather gods were on our side and provided some splinter Arkansas Spring weather. Behind the scenes, we were fortunate laying the groundwork for such an event through our many years of much smaller events and communication skills. Even with the success of the climber's festival, we still had much to learn, including task delegation and organization. This led us to test and eventually deploy Discord for our board members to help organize communications for events, finances, committees, etc. [...continued]



**Contact ARCC if you  
want to sponsor a  
spot on our trailer!**

[...continued] We added a couple more members to the team in 2022. First, we welcomed Jane Lacson to the board in October 2022. Jane was one of the first ARCC Ambassadors and had been helping with events and our beautiful website, and she has been intently active with many events and projects since joining the board.

We also welcomed Amber Marler to help us with social media. Regular content posting and community engagement are a ton of work. Amber has graciously agreed to help post on social media for the ARCC, which allows all the board members to breathe a little easier, and, more importantly, helps us connect with the public better.

Another area we wanted to focus on last year was to develop a guideline for Development Standards and ethics for Arkansas. As we continue to see more and more new routes, the community of climbers in Arkansas must all agree on the best practices for development, including hardware, spacing, anchors, and altering rock.

# RELATIONSHIPS

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As always, relationships among many different organizations are paramount. Without land managers, Local Climber Organizations (LCOs), and corporate sponsors, we could not do what we do.



## 01 — Local Climber Organizations (LCO's)

American Safe Climbing Association, Access Fund, Illinois Climbers Association, Black Hills Climbers Coalition, Southeastern Climbers Coalition



## 02 — Land Managers

Arkansas Forest Service Land - Boston Mountain Ranger District (BMRD), Big Piney Ranger District (BPRD)



## 03 — Corporate Sponsors



## 01 — Local Climber Organizations (LCO's)

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In January 2022, the American Safe Climbing Association (ASCA) donated a substantial amount of hardware to the ARCC (30 sets of mussy hooks, 150 wave bolts, two bolt pullers, 150 1/2" x4.75" Powers SS 5-piece bolts, hole blowers, 25 drill bits, ten-hole brushes, and hole patch). This hardware replaced old and worn-out gear across the state. The ASCA is an incredible organization to donate to - please check them out!

The Access Fund is the backbone for climbing across the country. We continue to work with this great organization on many projects - including a full day working in the mud at Invasion in Cowell, Arkansas. We learned how to make a french drain to help a natural spring flow properly from under the cliff and mitigate erosion from foot traffic.

While in town, the Access Fund Conservation Team, Stark Ligon, Andrew Childs, and Walker Bedell met with the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC) at Dardanelle Rock (aka D Rock). This meeting allowed them to discuss a significant erosion control, hillside stability, and slope rehab project at the base of the D Rock to create new trails and climbing platforms. [...]



**Trail Day at Sam's Throne**



**Olivia (ARCC Board)  
getting muddy at  
Sam's Throne**

[...] D Rock will be a substantial project regarding financial and volunteer resources required to complete this project. We are still in the planning stages, and we hope to hear from the ANHC soon regarding plans moving forward. The Access Fund is a major supporter of all LCOs, including the ARCC, and we are excited to see our partnership grow in 2023.

It's worth mentioning that the ARCC works with several LCOs nationwide. We are always eager to join the Access Fund Central Time Zone LCO Meetup. During these meetings, we learn a lot from other LCOs regarding their successes and failures. For example, the Oklahoma Climbers Coalition suggested we try Discord during one of these meetings. We tried this out and made the switch for our ARCC Board meetings.

We are very grateful for their recommendation. In the past, we have been in contact with the Illinois Climbers Association for event advice, Black Hills Climbers Coalition for ideas on a website platform, and the Southeastern Climbers Coalition for information on development standards, administration structuring, and land acquisition. Working with other LCOs has opened the door to many great collaborations and ideas.





## 02 — Land Managers

The Forest Service continues to welcome climbers in all four of their districts across Arkansas and continues to be receptive to ideas and projects we present. In early 2022, we sat down with the Boston Mountain Ranger District (BMRD) to discuss a rebolt at Fern and issues of unauthorized trails and bat habitats in their district. This was a productive meeting, and the ARCC devised a structured plan to preserve and maintain climbing areas across their district. We are currently working on a climbing route audit and trail survey for Fern to add to the Climbing Management Plan proposal per the request of the BMRD Chief Ranger. This project will help protect this district's climbing and strengthen the relationship between climbers and the USFS.

In 2022, we worked with the Big Piney Ranger District (BPRD) on several projects, including a trail day at Invasion, paying for pit toilets at Sam's Throne, a rebolt/rail day at Sams, and moving forward with a plan for permanent locations for the Wag Bag Project. At the rebolt/trail day, our trail crew removed three giant fallen trees around Sam's Throne and cleared the trail network of leaves using leaf blowers. In addition, the route crews replaced 118 old bolts (71 anchor bolts and 47 bolts on routes). All bolts replaced used stainless steel ClimbTech wave bolts or SS" x 4.7" Powers 5-piece. It was a massive effort by 23 volunteers over two days, and we appreciate having a forest service administration that loves climbers!



**Sam's Throne Rebolt  
December 3, 2022**

# EVENTS

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2022 was the year of events, meetups, trail days, and movie nights. Starting the year with the 1st Arkansas Climbers Festival - If you didn't attend, you missed out. We are very thankful for the community support and want to say a huge "Thank You!" to our class hosts, who offered 24 clinics to learn new skills.

Carol Fittell	Jillian Moore	Kyle Rowden
David Thompson	Jon Richard	Levi Harrel
Jason Roy	Jonathan & Katie Childs	Mitchell Allen
Jeremy Collins	Sam Warren	Olivia Vitaterna



After the Climbers Festival, we recognized a need for different regions of climbers to continue to build and have smaller, more regional events.

## EVENT DATE

## EVENT DESCRIPTION

### JUNE

- **06/10** - Viewing of The 24 in Bentonville with the Arkansas Cinema Society
- **06/14** - Rattlesnake Ridge Meetup had over 30 climbers meet up to climb and enjoy a few beers! Lost Forty Brewing sponsored this event; you can bet there will be more like this at Rattlesnake Ridge in the future!
- **06/19** - Springfield MO Climbers meetup was a success! We met at a local pub called Timber & Tie and gave out door prizes. Thirty climbers shared some drinks and laughed on a perfect summer evening! Zenith Climbing Center sponsored the event, which supplied many door prizes. The community in Missouri is strong, and they have a passion for climbing in Arkansas.

**We look forward to other climbers' meetups in 2023!**

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EVENT DATE	EVENT DESCRIPTION
JULY 11	<p>Last summer, we did some hot and sweaty trail work at Fitzgerald (Springdale, AR) on the Coyote Trail. We cleared the path between the bike trails up to the wall and built a landing area for climbers along with a rock wall to keep climbers safe from bikers coming over a blind hill in the path. It was a lot of work in the heat, but worth making the area safer for mountain bikers and climbers.</p>
AUGUST 4	<p>The ARCC and close friends of the late climber Logan Wilcoxson installed the Memorial Plaque where his ashes were scattered...The Land Beyond area at HCR. The location of the plaque has been renamed the "Logan Wall."</p> <p>Logan was a founding member of the ARCC and will never be forgotten. If you or anyone you know struggles with thoughts of suicide, please call "988" the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.</p> <p>If you are reading this, the community loves and cares about you - please reach out!</p>
SEPTEMBER	<p>24HHH is always a special time of year when we get together to have fun, compete, and see friends. This past year we sold raffle tickets and raised over \$1,300! 24HHH was the perfect event to kick off the Economic Impact survey. We were fortunate enough to speak to many climbers from out of state to help show the visitors and the locals how much rock climbing impacts the Tax revenue and jobs in the small mountain area of Newton County. Please help us fill out the survey if you have climbed in Newton County from September 2022 to March 31st, 2023 on the ARCC Website!</p>

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EVENT DATE	EVENT DESCRIPTION
OCTOBER	<p>10/15 - Board member Jane Lacson traveled to King of the Crag at Jamestown. This is a unique outdoor competition with a chill and fun vibe. If you have yet to attend this event, you are missing out!</p> <p>10/29 - Ozark Climbing Gym Climbing Comp - Boston Mountain Pull Down</p>
NOVEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11/11 - Attended the grand opening for Boulders and Brews (congrats!)</li> <li>• 11/14 - Tabling at Climb Bentonville's Donut Comp</li> <li>• 11/30 - Pint Night (see below)</li> </ul>
NOVEMBER 30	<p>We are super thankful for the Pack Rat Pint Night! It was a super cold night, but everyone came out and helped raise the ARCC over \$1,500! We had a great time raffling off a rope and t-shirts this evening, and we can't wait for next year's pint night!</p>
DECEMBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12/08 - UREC Outdoors Bouldering Comp</li> <li>• 12/13 - Sam's Throne Rebolt/ Trail Day was a huge success. As mentioned above, we had 29 volunteers and replaced 118 old bolts (71 Anchor bolts; 47 bolts on route) with stainless wave bolts or 4.75 x 1/2 5- pieces. The holes from old hardware were cleaned out and reused whenever possible to minimize impact. In addition, the trail crew removed large trees on all the main trails, did some erosion control around the Throne proper, and redefined the trail to the Patio Boulders and around most of Sam's with the leaf blower.</li> </ul>

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**EVENT DATE****EVENT DESCRIPTION**

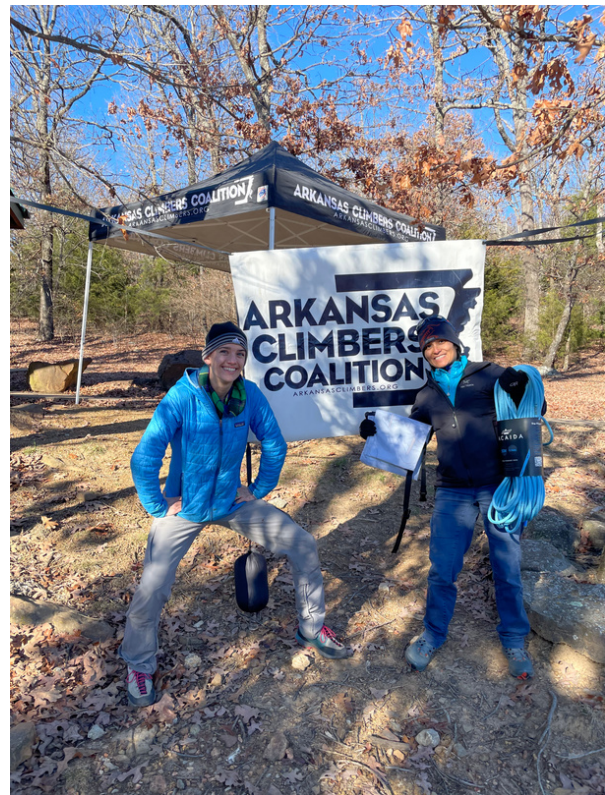
ARCC worked with Climb Solutions with an in-kind grant to fund and develop a series of climbing outreach events across Arkansas, including The Rattlesnake Ridge Meetup. Below is the event list funded by this grant. A huge thank you to Olivia Vitaterna and Jane Lacson for organizing and hosting these events for the community!

**NWA EVENTS**

- **10/05** - Intro to Outdoor Bouldering at 8th Street Boulder followed with beer and food
- **10/26** - Intro to Outdoor Bouldering at 8th Street Boulder followed with beer and food
- **11/12** - Breakfast social at Lincoln Lake
- **12/14** - Movie Night at Ozark Climbing Gym
- **12/17** - Brunch social with climbing and biking at Fitzgerald Mountain



*Sam's Throne Rebolt Day*



*Fitzgerald Mountain Social Meetup*

# MEMBERSHIPS

We had a great membership year with 115 paying members! We want to recognize these members for their continued support. Contributions to the ARCC help tremendously to help fund many projects and events. We can not thank each member enough!

**Aaron Madey  
Allen Schaidle  
Andrew Blann  
Andrew Huynh  
Andrew Miller  
Anthony Priore  
Aubrey Miller  
Austin Dederich  
Barry Reese  
Betony Maringer  
Brant Bishop  
Brittany Baize  
Brittany Craig  
Bruce Cash  
Caleb Bryan  
Carol Fittell  
Chase Webb  
Colin Matthews  
David Thompson  
Dirk Davis  
Douglas Sidfrid  
Dylan Vive  
Dylan Walker  
Eli Stokes  
Elijah Wadkins  
Eric Monson  
Ezekiel Kindle  
Gabe Andreuccetti**

**Ivy Graves  
Jane Lacson  
Jarrod Phillips  
Jason Hricik  
Jeremiah Cascairo  
Jeremy Myers  
John Cagle  
John Caldwell  
Jon Richard  
Jonathan Field  
Jonathan Childs  
Jordan Gardner  
Joseph Gordon  
Joseph Sawyer  
Joseph Walker  
Justin Weilenmann  
Justine Baker  
Kacey Vaughn  
Kendra Childs  
Kimberly  
McDonough  
Kyla Kindle  
Kyle Rohlman  
Lawson McClellan  
Leah McTigue  
Logan Nelson  
Lori Rooney  
Lydia Heydlauff  
Mabel Serrano**

**Mark Kidder  
Michael Haisten  
Michael Hendren  
Michael Pace  
Mike McKinnon  
Mitchell Allen  
Montana Crowell  
Natalie Davenport  
Neil Enis  
Nellie Wemus  
Nicole Rodriguez  
Olivia Vitaterna  
Rachel Piontak  
Ragita Pramudya  
Randy Stringer  
Rob Baker  
Shane Seaton  
Shea McCrary  
Stark Ligon  
Stewart Matthews  
Thomas Lampe  
Tsunemi Yamashita  
Tyler Main  
Victoire Becart  
Walker Bedell  
Wesley Gordon  
William Addison**

We joined forces with the Access Fund by joining the Joint Membership Program allowing climbers to join both the Access Fund and the ARCC. if you are interested in supporting both, visit <https://www.accessfund.org/join-or-give/support-access-fund>

**Joint Access Fund/ ARCC members:**

<p><b>Adam Wood</b> <b>Andrew Deal</b> <b>Celina Suarez</b> <b>Christopher Miller</b> <b>Cody SanFillipo</b> <b>Coleman Bernal</b> <b>Cory Quackenbush</b> <b>David Corkern</b> <b>Dirk Davis</b></p>	<p><b>Elliot Grissom</b> <b>Jake Foust</b> <b>Jared Eoff</b> <b>Jeremy Collins</b> <b>Jerry Cagle</b> <b>Jillian Moore</b> <b>Joel Donohue</b> <b>Judith Brown</b></p>	<p><b>Mathias Simmons</b> <b>Matthew Paulson</b> <b>Megan Hartman</b> <b>Michael Ayers</b> <b>Ryan Stalder</b> <b>Staci Allen</b> <b>Stephen Garton</b> <b>Win Phillips</b></p>
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# CORPORATE SPONSORS

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As mentioned above, we purchased a trailer for various reasons, but one significant reason was advertising the many businesses supporting the ARCC. Current list of Sponsors:

- Fossil Cove Brewing Company (Fayetteville Arkansas)
- Ozark Outdoor Supply (Little Rock Arkansas)
- Kastle Graphics (Harrison Arkansas)
- Access Fund

We will continue to work with these and other businesses in Arkansas. We are very thankful for our sponsors. Please help us thank them by doing business with these generous brands.





# FINANCIALS

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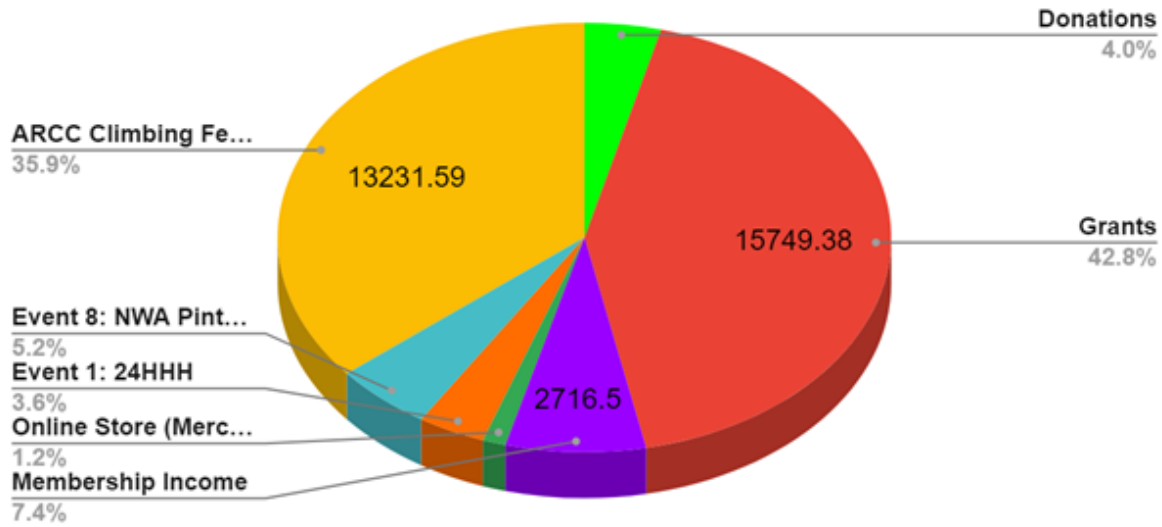
## How Money Was Raised:

The ARCC board was hard at work towards the end of 2021 and leading into 2022, pursuing grant options for funding climbing, outreach, and development projects. This momentum, coupled with the 1st Annual Arkansas Climbers Festival, Northwest Arkansas events, and Little Rock events, turned 2022 into an incredible year for grants and funding. In addition, for the third year in a row, ARCC membership was over 100 annual members, with 115 members signing up - Thank You! Membership is a small yet vital component of the ARCC's revenue, and the summation of all these components allowed the ARCC to raise \$36,838.72 in 2022 - no small feat.



# We Raised \$ 36,838.72 in 2022!

## 2023 Revenue



### Memberships:

- \$2,713.50 raised from 115 paying members for 2022

### Events:

- \$13,231.59 Arkansas Climbers Festival
- \$1,309.51 24HHH Raffle and donations
- \$1,720.00 Pack Rat Pint Night
- \$160.00 from the LRCC Boulder Bash

### Grants:

- \$15,749.38 Climb Solutions and Arkansas Parks Foundation Grants

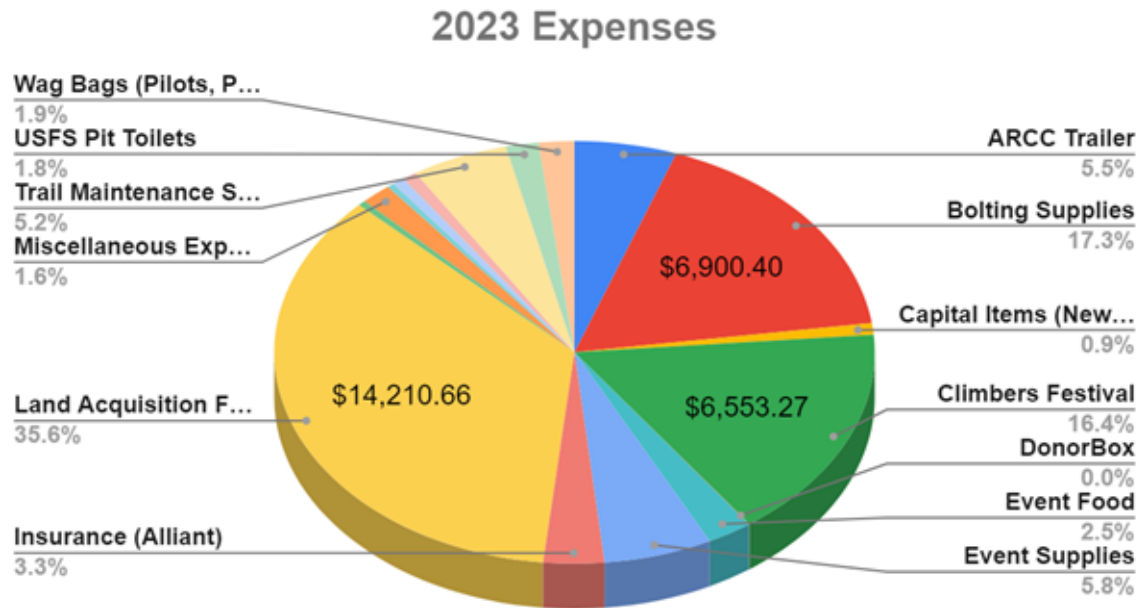
### Special Donations:

- \$728.25 Toyota Benevity Fund

### Other:

- \$753.75
  - Sustaining Members
  - Misc Donations
  - Amazon Smile
  - Paypal Donations

## How money was spent:



## Expense Breakdown:

ARCC Trailer	\$2,200.00
Bolting Supplies	\$6,900.40
Capital Items (New Tents, Banners, etc.)	\$360.05
Climbers Festival	\$6,553.27
DonorBox	\$6.60
Event Food	\$979.13
Event Supplies	\$2,332.77
Insurance (Alliant)	\$1,302.95
Land Acquisition Fund	\$14,210.66
Membership T- Shirts	\$170.00
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$650.86
Paypal Processing Fees	\$151.82
Printful Fees	\$260.05
Tech/Software/Website Needs	\$311.31
Trail Maintenance Supplies	\$2,075.50
USFS Pit Toilets	\$700.00
Wag Bags	\$772.26

# LAND ACQUISITION

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We are always on the hunt for cliffs available to purchase. We have the steps in place to act quickly if an opportunity arises to buy, lease, or get an easement on a property. We will continue actively exploring any and all land acquisition options. Don't hesitate to contact the ARCC through email or social media if you learn of any land opportunities.



# FUTURE

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We are looking forward to 2023: The Climbers Festival, more trail days, rebolt days, climbing education days, social events, and much more are in the works for 2023. We are focusing much energy on becoming even more organized and efficient. We want the ARCC to have the ability to involve more members and to do more good, not just for climbing but the outdoor recreation opportunities in Arkansas as a whole. The only way for this goal to become a reality is for everyone that climbs in Arkansas to recognize their role in the community. No matter the role, each person plays a huge part.

## Climbers have to step up!

- Clean up your trash and other people's trash.
- Practice Leave-No-Trace ethics.
- Replace old gear with better gear (if you are able).
- Speak up and say something to the ARCC Board if you notice problems
- Report bad bolts to [info@arkansasclimbers.org](mailto:info@arkansasclimbers.org), [BadBolts.com](http://BadBolts.com), or ASCA.
- Be respectful of Public Lands and our incredible freedom living in Arkansas.
- Manage your human waste.
- Donate when and where you can (i.e., Sam's Throne pit toilets, wag bags, Stainless Steel Initiative, ASCA, Access Fund, or the ARCC).
- Show up to events with your positive energy and warm smile.
- Try to be the best example of how you want climbers to be perceived by the public.

If everyone does one of these things, Arkansas climbing will keep moving forward with positive momentum.

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We are expanding our ambassador program and have board positions available this year. If you want to serve your climbing community, the ambassador and board positions are great ways to be involved and help continue the work and effort this great state deserves!

Ambassador Application  
Board Member Application

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I see firsthand how hard volunteers work, on and off the board, to keep climbing protected and safe in Arkansas. Remember that the ARCC is more than the volunteers on the board; It is all of us! Without the members, the ARCC does not exist, and if only a small group of members participate, then we will always feel like nothing is progressing. 2023 will provide many opportunities to be involved, and I strongly encourage everyone to get out and make a difference.

The board has a lot of work to do in 2023, and we hope to see all of our community be a part of the journey to make the Arkansas Climbers Coalition a strong community of climbers that educates, promotes, and protects climbing in Arkansas for the next generations!

**Check your knot and stay safe! - David Thompson**

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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Follow us on Social Media!

Facebook - Arkansas Climbers Coalition

Instagram - arkansasclimberscoalition

**We thank you for your continued support  
of Arkansas Climbers Coalition**

**[Click Here to Become a Member!](#)**

## Contact

**Arkansas Climbers Coalition**

arkansasclimbers.org

info@arkansasclimbers.org

