

Call for Volunteers to Review the “Bolting Agreement for Los Alamos Climbing Areas”

The Board of Directors of the Los Alamos Mountaineers is seeking one or preferably two Los Alamos area climbers who are willing to lead a team of climbers at-large in a review of the *Bolting Agreement for Los Alamos Climbing Areas* (<http://lamountaineers.org/pdf/RevisedClimbingAgreement.pdf>) that was originally written in 1989 and amended in 2004. The goal is to achieve a bolting agreement that represents a consensus among the entire Los Alamos area climbing community, whether or not they live in Los Alamos County. Preferably the team leaders will include one LAM and one non-LAM climber. The leaders of this team should be active climbers who are in contact with the wider climbing community. Of course the leaders are likely to have their own opinions on bolting but must be willing to impartially facilitate an agreement on potentially contentious issues such as top-rope anchors and the list of bolted vs. non-bolted routes. At the completion of the review the team leaders are to prepare a re-validated or revised bolting agreement.

The 1989/2004 bolting agreement hasn't been formally reviewed or validated in five years. Since then, new climbing areas have become popular; new climbers have joined the climbing community, who may not be aware of the existence of a bolting agreement; and many trees, which had been used as top-rope anchors have died due to bark beetle infestations. Interpretation of the 2004 bolting agreement has also come under question in regard to which climbs meet the criteria specified in the agreement to allow for bolted top rope anchors. Regardless of interpretation, some climbers disagree with the intent of the top rope anchors provision. For these reasons the LAM Board of Directors feel that the bolting agreement is due for a review.

For now, the Los Alamos Mountaineers stand by the published bolting agreement referenced above, which does allow bolted top rope anchors on climbs that don't allow bolted routes – provided that specified conditions stipulated in the bolting agreement are met. However, during deliberations on a potentially revised bolting agreement, the Los Alamos Mountaineers do not wish to actively encourage more top-rope anchor placements through its reimbursement program. Therefore, the Board has rescinded the Top-rope Anchor Bolting Reimbursement Policy of August 2008. If the team leaders formally recommend reinstating a reimbursement program, then the Board may choose to do so at that time.

Whether or not you are a LAM member, please contact Rick Light (RickLight.rxl@gmail.com), the programs officer of the Los Alamos Mountaineers, to express your interest in leading this effort.

Thank you, Dennis Brandt,
President, Los Alamos Mountaineers

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