

## RRCC Candidate Information

### **Tommy Blackwell**

Hi Folks,

I am running for RRCC again this year.

My goals are:

1. Maintain access to climbing at Reimer's
2. Future access to climbing at the North Shore

To actively work toward those:

- I will continue to focus on hardware upgrades and replacement in Reimer's. This is not only good for the climbers, but this continuous effort is recognized by the county as a level of responsibility that they can rely on from the RRCC. Since 2006 I worked with Luke Bowman and Evan Jackson to replace hardware on over 100 routes at Reimer's, replacing bad anchors and installing new hardware.
- I will continue to act as the Point Of Contact for the RRCC and the county. My relationships that I have developed over 25 years working at the county while engaged with Parks staff has been beneficial to our cause. I am respected by the park staff for being reliable and dependable.

The county has granted the RRCC limited access to the North Shore to develop both the horizontal trails and the vertical trails. Vertical trails are bolted routes.

The county has required a sequential and methodical development, to insure good trails and low impact on the environment.

I am proud of the work accomplished since the first of October:

- One mile of horizontal trails built with help from many volunteer organizations.
- Over 26 routes in various stages of development in the first phase of the North Shore.
- County agreement on the walking trails and climbing walls for the second phase.

Your vote will help me continue this good work.

Thank you.

I can be reached at blackwell4@gmail.com if you have any questions.

### **Luke Bowman**

My name is Luke Bowman and I am a nominee for the Reimer's Ranch Climbing Committee. For the last 6 years, as active member of CTM and working closely with the city of Austin Parks department, working with Evan Jackson and Tommy Blackwell, we have actively maintained the hardware in the Barton Creek Greenbelt and Reimers Ranch. Reviewing and retiring anchors and bolts and replacing them with the highest quality materials. We have replaced gear on New Wall, Gus Fruh, Urban Assault and Seismic/Maggy's wall. We have replaced more than 80 pieces of bad gear on these walls. At Reimer's we have replaced over 200 pieces of old hardware. I have actively participated in the Reimer's trail projects, since their inception. I believe the Reimer's Ranch Climbing Committee is an important organization that maintains our climbing areas and access; I will treat my involvement in this organization with respect. This is your representation to the government officials, climbing community and the public and it needs a strong and honest voice. I will actively represent you. Access is the key issue, all decisions should be based around how to maintain and preserve our access to these areas. I will be very communicative with you, the climbing community. Openly answering questions and resolving issues.

## **Neil Higa**

My name is Neil Higa. I moved to Austin 4 years ago and started climbing soon after that. While I may have less climbing experience than other nominees, I see this as a potential positive. By this, I mean that I am not set in any one particular way of doing things, and will try to look at any issues that come up objectively, analytically and from different people's points of view. (Yes, I'm an engineer.)

For the past few years, I have been periodically volunteering for various Austin climbing related projects including cleanup projects, trail projects, anchor replacement, and route development at the new North Shore area. I'm a big believer in volunteering and community service, and I would be honored to help serve the Austin climbing community on the RRCC.

I absolutely love climbing. Reimer's Ranch has been and still is a huge part of my climbing life. I am glad to have this potential opportunity to give a little back to this wonderful climbing resource.

## **John Hogge**

As our population and sport grows, Reimers will become more crowded. I lobbied for close-in parking at North Shore to help make it a more attractive destination, which will help reduce crowds at Reimers. For the same reason, I support any high quality application as long as it's distinct enough from its neighboring routes. R2C2 '08 voted consistently with that, and so we have a big mix of low and moderate routes growing at North Shore.

I value route safety but recognize (and have bolted) routes that are hard to provide with great protection, when those routes have good value. I support nanny-bolting routes where hazards are unusual (e.g. Monster Rock's pit, Dead Cats' ledges, North Shore's Middle Earth pit), but elsewhere I like most of the sportiness of routes at Reimers.

Routes are not always easy to bolt well. Traffic helps determine where retros are advised. I will continue seeking and trusting public opinion on any proposed retros. The public is right; R2C2 should do what the public wants.

Last year I spent a lot of time on R2C2 on these tasks: trail projects; route application processing; county communications; trundling loose rock; poison ivy pulling; bolting routes; North Shore guidebook updates; committee debates; and careful study and submission of two Deadcats retros. I'll continue working hard at North Shore in 2009.

## **Kirk Holladay**

I started climbing Cen-Tex in 1987, climbing extensively throughout the United States and Mexico. I have completed 50+ first ascents on rock routes throughout Texas, Colorado, and Mexico. For three years I served as Vice-President of the Central Texas Mountaineers and was very involved with the successful purchase of Reimers Ranch. I was a founding member of the Reimers Ranch Climbing Committee and helped write the current bolting guidelines.

I was also an elected member of the Central Texas Climbing Committee (Vice-Chairman) for two years. I have been professionally guiding for over 15 years and I am co-owner of Rock-About guide service. I am also am a field tested AMGA Top Rope Site Manager, a Boy Scouts of America Climbing Merit Badge Counselor, Enchanted Rock Certified Lead Guide, and a certified EMT. I care deeply about the development of Reimers Ranch & The North Shore area and would like to continue my service as a RRCC board member. Your vote would be appreciated. Sincerely, Kirk Holladay

## **Evan Jackson**

I've been an active member of the Austin climbing community for the past six years. During this time, I've donated hundreds of hours towards replacing hardware, repairing trails, and maintaining stewardship with the county. In 2006 I worked with Tommy Blackwell and Luke Bowman to replace old and unsafe hardware on over 60 routes at Reimer's. I've also bolted numerous routes both at the Greenbelt and at Reimer's.

I believe that routes can be bolted while keeping both safety and aesthetics in mind. I will continue to focus on hardware upgrades in addition to pushing for the safe, conscientious, sensible, and responsible bolting of new routes at the North Shore.

## **Sean O'Grady**

My name is Sean O'Grady and I'm a really great guy and can do the job of RRCC standing on my head. Vote for me!

## **Eric Patrick**

Hello,

My name is Eric Patrick and I am running for re-election to the RRCC. I have been fortunate enough to be on the committee for the last two years and I am looking forward to serving the Austin climbing community again. It is my goal to protect the unique relationship between the Travis County Parks Dept. and the climbers of Central Texas.

Thanks for your consideration

## **Dave Phillips**

Hello, I'm David Phillips and I'm running for a seat on the R2C2 committee. I feel I would be a great asset to the committee. I have experience at both trail and fixed route development. I just recently finished my 50th bolted route! No doubt some of you have been on routes I've developed either at Reimer's or elsewhere and I hope it was a positive experience. I try to bolt each route to have as much character as possible without creating unnecessary risks. I have been climbing for over 30 years mostly in central Texas. I started climbing at Reimer's in the summer of 1992 and hope to continue for years to come. I maintain a pro-bolting ethic as long as it doesn't interfere with an obvious natural line or create an unsafe situation. Due to the nature of climbing practices at Reimer's the bolting of routes that could go as natural lines is acceptable to me as this will preserve the quality of these routes over a much longer period of time and help to prevent a possibly unsafe situation. My position is to vote yes on all development applications as long as they produce safe routes. I look forward to working with the committee to further climbing developments at Reimer's and maintain access. Thanks for your vote sincerely dp.