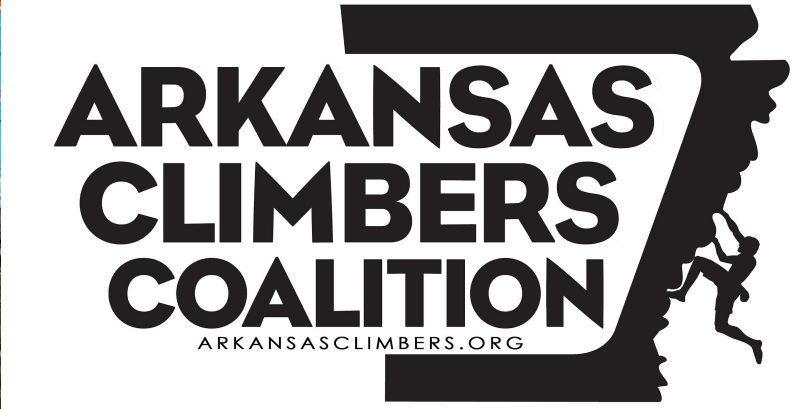
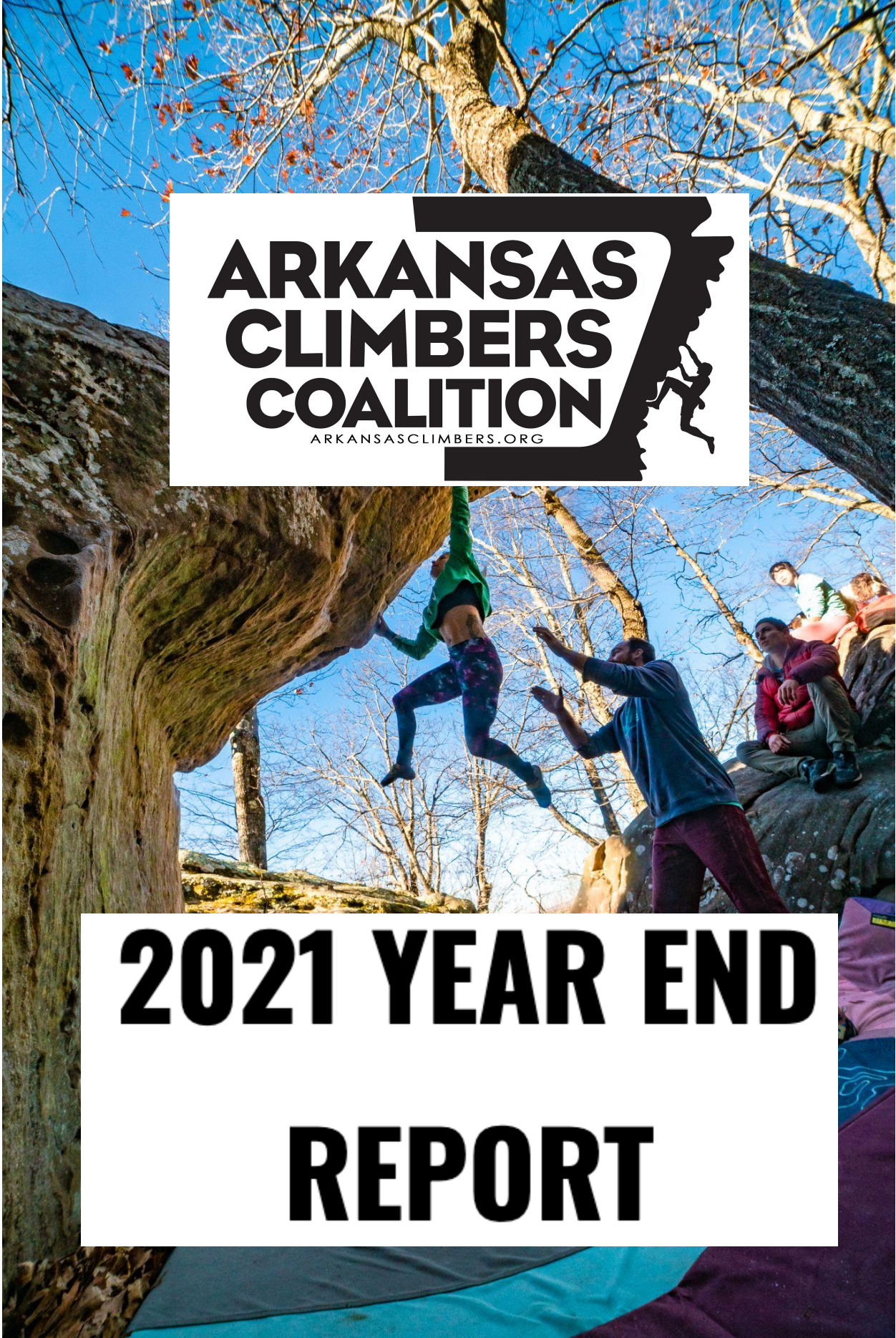




ARKANSAS CLIMBERS COALITION

ARKANSASCLIMBERS.ORG



2021 YEAR END REPORT

Letter from our Board Chair

Dear ARCC Members and Climbing Community,

It brings me great joy, as I reflect on the accomplishments of 2021 and write this end-of-the-year letter to our climbing community. Similar to reassessing your foundation when reaching a plateau in your training; the ARCC Board took a deep look inside at our foundation and structure in early 2021 and we began designing a stronger and more holistic model to better serve the Arkansas climbing community. The main focus being: 1) thoughtful pragmatic organization and planning; 2) stronger relationship building between landowners, the ARCC Board, and the climbing community; 3) developing a vision for growth and expansion of the ARCC by increasing and retaining memberships, expanding our footprint for activism, community engagement, and exposure; 4) action.



At the beginning of 2021, I remember thinking to myself, if we could make it through 2020, we could make it through anything. As the spring climbing season rolled around and the prospect of everything returning back to the old sense of normal - tragedy struck. Those of us, who were blessed enough to know Logan Wilcoxson, will never forget where we were when we learned he was gone. The disbelief... the shock... the heartbreak spread like wildfire through our tight-knit community. His death is hard for everyone who was touched by the life of such a bright star - his family, his friends, his business ventures, the climbing community, and his legacy of the ARCC. We all did our best to keep the flame burning and the Honey Badger strong within. Horseshoe Hell was not the same, with many of us feeling the holes left in our hearts from Logan's passing at an event that meant so much to him. But the love from the community spilled out over this special weekend in a different way than it normally does. With so many climbers exchanging their favorite memories and experiences from such a kind and loving person, it became a healing weekend for many.

Logan Wilcoxson was one of the founding members of the ARCC. Myself and the ARCC Board hope that he would be proud of the hard work, dedication, accomplishments, and growth the ARCC is doing at present. It gives me a personal sense of pride to be able to carry this torch and witness how our climbing community grows and strengthens our numbers and friendships.

With so much that has been accomplished, thus far, through our tireless hardware and the grace of healing in our hearts, I know that 2022 is going to be a big year for the Arkansas climbing community! -David Thompson

2021 ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

A. Organization and Planning:

I. Website and Organization

The ARCC Board continues to strive for efficacy and effectiveness in everything we do. We are a volunteer Board and organization - time is one of our most valuable and limited resources and we have been embracing more technology and resources to aid efficiency, organize our short-term projects and long-term missions, and get the most out of our time. Two big improvements in 2021 were the creation of a new modern style SquareSpace website and the integration of Click-Up project management software into our planning.

1. **Website:** to be more mobile phone friendly and easier on the board to update and manage (Endless gratitude to Jane Lacson for spearheading this transfer and seeing the project to completion!)
2. **Click-Up:** with 8-10 board members, at any given time, and ~5+ committees (Website, Bolting/Rebolting/Development, T-Shirts, Media and Advertising, Climber's Festival, etc..) a project management software/app became mission-critical to organizing and keeping track of the status-to-completion for our many irons in the fire.

By launching the new ARCC website, the Board was quickly able to create and add our first online store! Launching an online store has been part of a long-term vision and goal for the Board to not only offer merchandise to the community but to create a new avenue for revenue.

II. Stainless Steel Initiative (SSI)

In January of 2021, the ARCC Board rolled out the Stainless Steel Initiative (SSI) and began accepting applications from qualifying developers throughout the state. This was a multi-year process assessing legal issues and liability concerns, acquiring adequate quantities of stainless steel hardware, and determining an SOP for distribution. Initially, the SSI was treated as a pilot project in 2021 with the aspirations to build this program into a sustainable means for supplying stainless hardware to developers. The SSI Pilot was a success, with the ARCC donating (~120 qty) stainless steel pieces of hardware (\$950) to qualifying developers with the intent being for those developers to add new and safe routes to Arkansas. It is the current intention of the ARCC Board to continue the SSI pilot program in 2022, with the ultimate goal of helping expose and motivate developers to use stainless steel hardware for new development. Inspiring developers to choose to use stainless hardware promotes safer routes, mitigating near-term rebolts, promotes better sustainability of resources, and extends the life of routes and hardware. We feel that the SSI program keeps in line with the core values of stewardship and conservation

III. Logging Volunteer Hours

Many climbers do community work while out climbing and don't realize it. Whether it's picking up trash, tightening bolts, clearing trails, or just educating new members. Getting these volunteer hours on paper is crucial for developing metrics to quantify our volunteer impact. These hours help to show land managers how much work we do, which benefits our relationships with USFS, NPS, and private landowners.

Collecting data from the community also plays a large role in qualifying for and securing grants. If we can track the volunteer work currently being done, we can provide insight and metrics into how we plan to accomplish projects and goals - with the potential grant money and our volunteer workforce.

Volunteer Hour logs are a new addition to our website and since rolling out these in September 2021, **110 hours** of volunteer work has been recorded. Thank you to everyone that has helped and recorded your time. There is no doubt volunteer work is taking place, but these hours must be documented to be sure your hard work is counted!

You can log your hours here:

<https://www.arkansasclimbers.org/volunteer-hours>

B. Relationships:

As previously mentioned, this past year was full of hard work on many fronts and relationship building was a top priority. We have made massive progress this year with many organizations [i.e. The Access Fund, Arkansas State Parks (Mt Magazine, Lake Fort Smith, and Petit Jean), Buffalo River NPS, Ozark/St. Francis National Forest Services Boston Mountain and Piney Ranger Districts, Walton Family Foundation (WFF), The Nature Conservancy (TNF), Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission (ANHC), Beaver Watershed Alliance (BWS), and other land managers/agencies.]

- ***Access Fund***

- The Access Fund is a huge partner of the ARCC and a major partner on almost every project and event organized in the state. We became one of the Access Fund's joint members this last year, which allows us to better grow our membership and fundraising base. When you sign up to be a member of the Access Fund, you now have the option to add your ARCC membership to it. Joint Membership is cheaper than getting both individually, and comes with an Access Fund T-shirt!

- We also started working on an Economic Impact study for multiple regions in Arkansas (a similar study was completed several years back involving the Red River Gorge). The Access Fund is excited to partner with us on this project and the information gathered from the study will help with many future projects, and provide a better understanding of the financial impact the climbing community brings to small local businesses near climbing areas.
- The Access Fund Conservation team made a stop in 2021 to perform site visits to help identify future projects in the State. ***We have 3 weeks in March 2022 planned for conservation projects in Arkansas. Please stay tuned on social media for an Announcement of event dates and locations.***
- ***Arkansas State Parks***
 - The ARCC Board partnered with the Access Fund and State Park Leadership to begin building a relationship and discussing the future of climbing on state lands.
- ***Buffalo River NPS*** - Late Summer 2021 we had two different meetings with the NPS.
 - The first meeting included the Walton foundation, the ARCC, and Buffalo River Superintendent Mark Foust. This meeting was a great conversation about the future of recreation in the Park and we are excited to see the relationship continue to grow and see plans for rock climbing in the park.
 - The second meeting took place at Steel Creek with then Chief Ranger, Randy Scroggins, and several board members. We toured the rock climbing at the Steel Creek area and talked extensively about the impact of the sport and the potential the river holds. Randy was a wealth of information and was happy to see climbers wanting to help protect the river as a resource and stressed the importance of leaving no impact and not having to involve BuffSAR. Randy announced in December he will be taking a Superintendent job in the Big South Fork National Park, TN. We eagerly wait for his replacement and plan to pick up where Randy and the ARCC left off.
- ***National Forest Service*** - As mentioned in last year's letter, long-time Piney District Recreation Manager, and climbing advocate, Terry Hope retired at the end of 2020. We were introduced to his replacement, Daniel Heinzen, and we are very fortunate we have such a great guy filling Terry's shoes.
 - We were able to take additional steps forward with the Wag Bag Program - moving the project from a pilot project to a "permanent" program. Doing so involved establishing temporary metal boxes strapped to trees fixed to approved GPS locations, throughout some of the more popular areas on forest service land (Candy Mtn, Fountain Rd, Cave Creek, Rock Creek). We are working with

Daniel and the rest of the FS to further make these boxes permanent. This will involve archeological surveys and cementing permanent posts in the ground that fix the boxes to these structures.

- In addition to the Wag Bag Program, the ARCC initiated an agreement with the USFS to pay for pumping of the Sam's Throne pit toilets. This agreement allows for more pumping, helps keep camping at Sam's Throne free and continues to build our relationship with the Forest Service.
- We're currently collaborating with the Boston Mountain District and are in the planning phase for a stewardship event at Fern.
- We continue to work with other districts in the Ozark Natl Forest to address land manager concerns and protect climbing & natural resources in the district.
- **Sponsors** We wanted to provide more ways for our sponsors to support the community and also renew our commitment to supporting our sponsors. With the creation of the [First Annual Climber Festival](#), we are excited to have a vendor space for all the great sponsors to showcase products and services to all participants. We approved the purchase of a trailer for the ARCC for 2022 and we plan to display the logos of several sponsors to help advertise as a way to help support those who support the work we are doing!

C. New Hardware:

We have had another successful year of replacing bolts. In 2021 the volunteers from the ARCC removed and replaced **147 bolts and anchors** with new stainless hardware.

- **Spring 2021 Haw Creek**: Our spring event was held at Haw Creek where we replaced **91 bolts**.
- **Fall 2021 Invasion**: Our fall event was held at Invasion, where we replaced **56 bolts/anchors**, and also removed **24 bolts** from closed routes above the Native American petroglyphs and patched the bolt holes. Roughly half of the volunteers worked on improving the routes and the other half was led by Mitchell Allen and improved the trails along the base, installed water/erosion improvements, and built up the belay locations for Quasar common start and UFO common start.
 - The removal of these closed routes is part of our effort to help the USFS to protect culturally important locations, minimize climber's impact to these sensitive and irreplaceable features and aid the USFS's Archeological survey in the Piney District climbing areas.



D. Memberships:

We had **113 members** enroll in 2021 - this is the largest annual enrollment in the history of the ARCC! The board has been making a concerted effort to reach out to more members of the climbing community and highlight how much we do and provide to the community. Over the last few years our community engagement at climbing gym competitions, Reel Rock screenings, local pints nights in Little Rock and NWA, and various outdoor industry related events really helped get our numbers up. **We cannot thank each member enough!** Our members make our work possible. Please, continue to be a sustaining ARCC member, it helps us fulfill our mission and ensures our climbing areas have passionate stewards. Each membership goes 100% into preserving climbing in Arkansas.

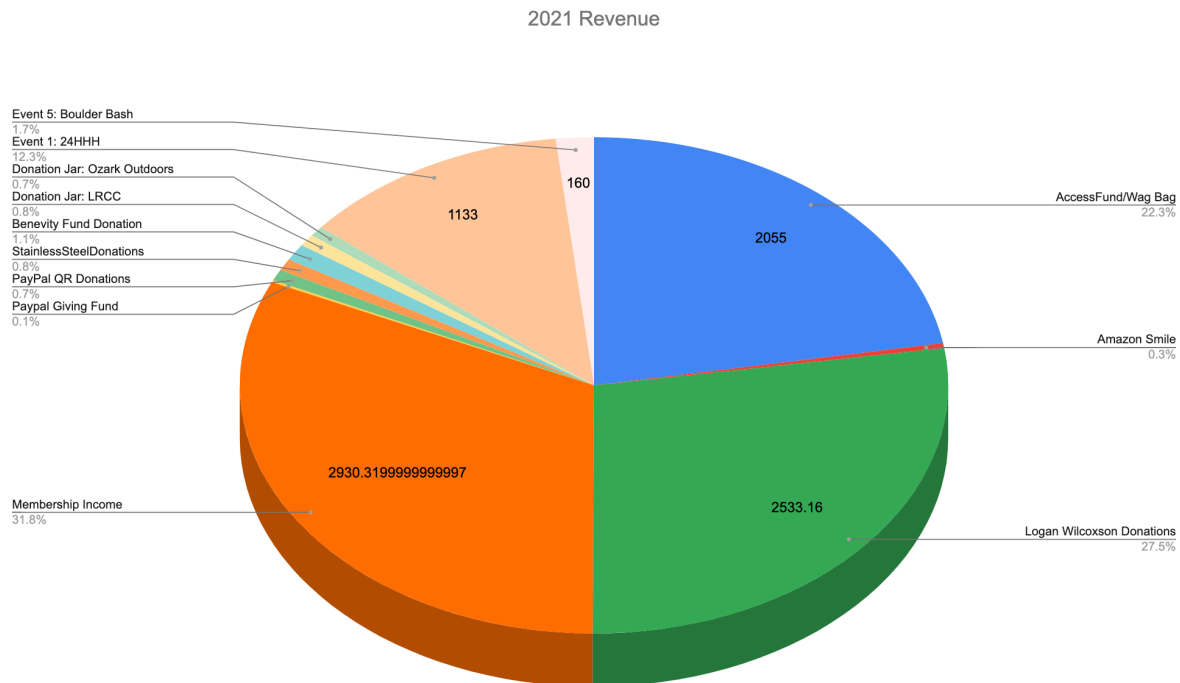


A huge shout out to our 2021 Members!

Jake Blackburn	Kacey Vaughn	Rachel Henningsen	Stewart Matthews
Nathan Castle	Andrew Lewis	Jonathan Field	Brant Bishop
Zachary Talbert	Natalie Griffin	Shea McCrary	Bruce Cash
Aaron Madey	Michael Hendren	Victoire Becart	Chase Webb
Bill Fitzgerald	Justine Baker	Neil Enis	Thomas Lampe
William Addison	Andrew Blann	Douglas Sidfrid	Lori Rooney
Mabel Serrano	Jerry Cagle	Wesley Gordon	Mark Kidder
Rachel Piontak	Caleb Bryan	Eric Kozera	Michael Haisten
Anthony Priore	Mitchell Allen	Jeffry McCann	Daniel Poulain
Jason Hricik	Fallon Cardoza	David Welch	Kylie Thompson
Jane Lacson	Keshari Thakali	John Cagle	Brad Mace
Jordan Gardner	Isaac Young	Jeremy Myers	Alix Roosen
Faye McConnell	Carol Fittell	Kendra Childs	Tyler Main
Joseph Walker	Ragita Pramudya	Shane Seaton	Andrew Miller
David Thompson	Daniel Kern	Ivy Graves	Elijah Wadkins
Olivia Vitaterna	Lowry Miller	Mary Alls	Joseph Sawyer
Danny Hupp	Mary Wilcoxson	Cadron Creek Outfitters	John Caldwell
James Haigler	Nik Lamb	Casey Boland	Justin Weilenmann
Cole Fennel	Bryan Berthoud	Mason Jewell	Mike McKinnon
Dane Coffey	Mary Rimmer	Ozark Trading Outlet	Kyle Rowden
Ben Wilson	Lawrence Ertolacci	Max Hocott	Gregory Phillips
Andrew Childs	Aramis Martinez	Haley Burill	Alex Bohn
Jonathan Childs	Jeremiah Cascairo	Jon Matthews	Ted Brock
Katie Childs	James Cranston	Tarah Thomas	Michael Patrick
Brett Roberts	Andrew Gerton	Ross Hockett	Timothy Clifft
Marshall Joyce	Louie Anderson	Valarie Anderson	

E. Financial:

Our 2021 Budget had the board getting caught up on several projects. During the 2020 year, we took action to cut spending due to the lack of fundraising which has allowed the 2021 year to financially get caught back on projects that needed funding. Fundraising and events slowly opened back up in 2021 allowing income to increase slightly over the year prior expenses stayed low compared to what was budgeted for 2020.



We Raised \$ 14,547.37 in 2021

Memberships:

- \$2,930.32 raised from 113 paying members for 2021

Events:

- \$ 1,133.00 24HHH Raffle and donations
- \$137.50 from donation jars at Little Rock climbing Center and Ozark Outdoor
- \$160 from the Boulder Bash

Grants:

- \$ 2,055.00 Access Fund Wag Bag Grant

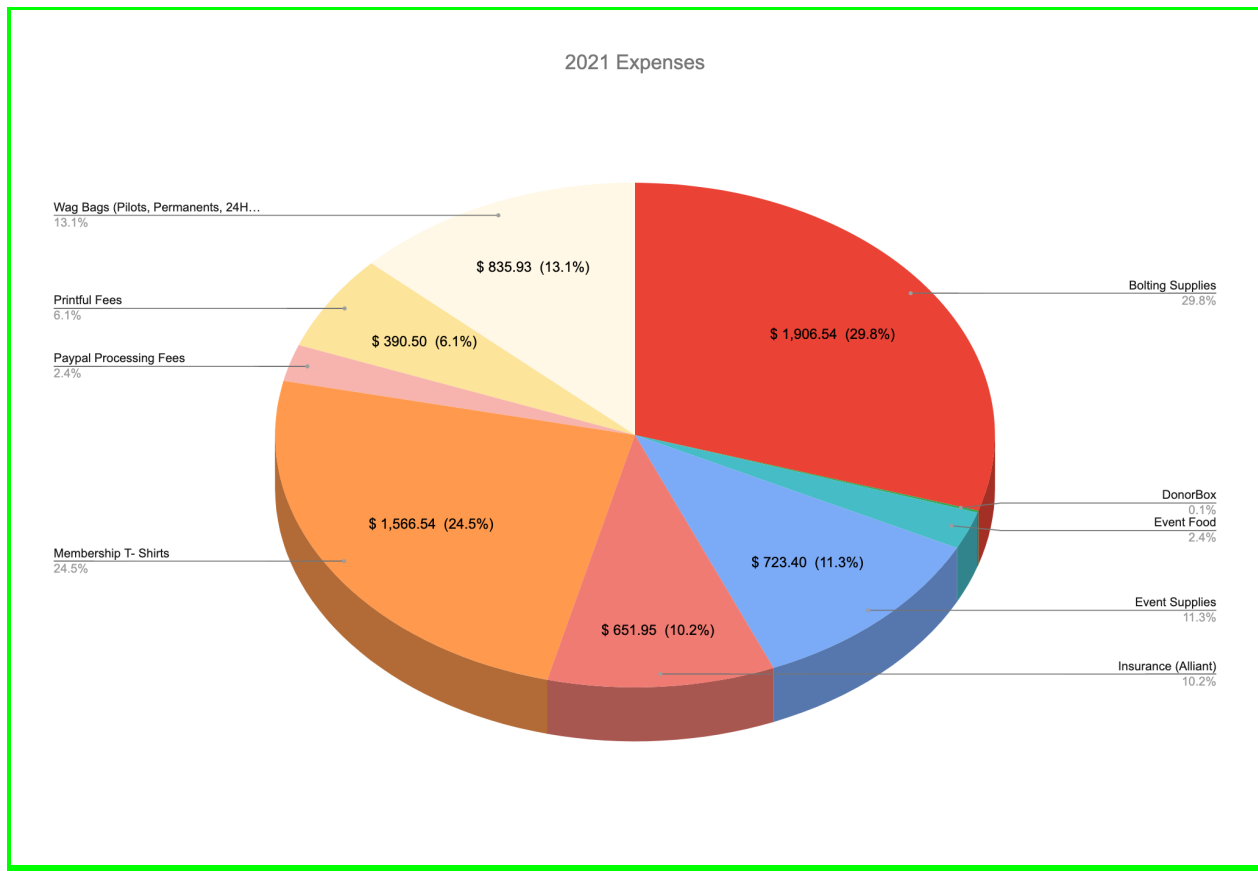
Special Donations:

- \$ 2,533.16 Logan Wilcoxson Memorial Fund

Other: \$3,191.78

- Misc Donations
- Amazon Smile
- Paypal Donations
- SSI Donation

How the money was spent



Bolting Supplies	\$1,906.05
DonorBox	\$7.85
Event Food	\$154.47
Event Supplies	\$723.40
Insurance (Alliant)	\$651.95
Membership T- Shirts	\$1,556.54
Paypal Processing Fees	\$150.42
Printful Fees	\$390.50
Wag Bags (Pilots, Permanent	\$835.93
Total	\$6,377.11

F. Land Acquisition:

As always we are on the hunt for cliffs and climbing areas available for purchase. We have the steps in place to quickly act if the occasion arises to buy a property for the community. We will continue to actively explore all opportunities presented for land acquisition in the future. Please reach out to the ARCC through email or social media if you learn of any land opportunities.

G. Future:

In 2022, We are looking forward to the first ever Arkansas Climbers Festival, more trail days, rebolt days, a climbing education day, social events, and many more are in the works for this year.

We are all focusing our effort to help the ARCC become more organized, efficient and effective. We want the ARCC to have the ability to involve more members and to do more good for not just climbing, but for the outdoor recreation opportunities in Arkansas - as a whole. I feel the only way for this to become reality is for everyone that climbs in Arkansas to recognize their role in the community and no matter the role, each person plays a huge part and they have to step up.

- Clean up your trash and other people's trash
- Practice *Leave-No-Trace* ethics
- Use the Wag Bags whenever possible to reduce human waste in the backcountry
- Replace old gear with better gear if you are able (or tell us if not) speak up and say something to the ARCC Board if you notice problems
- Report bad bolts to the ARCC or BadBolts.com, be respectful of Public Lands and the amazing freedom we have living in Arkansas
- Donate when and where you can (i.e. Sam's Throne Pit Toilets)
- Show up to events with your energy and a warm smile
- Try to be the best example of how you want climbers to be perceived by the public.

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

I see firsthand how hard volunteers, on and off the board, work to keep climbing protected and safe in Arkansas. Never forget 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. 2022 will provide many opportunities to be involved, and I highly encourage everyone to give back.

The board has a lot of work to do in 2022, 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, *ARCC President*

[Click HERE to Support the ARCC!](#)

THANK YOU!