



What's Up

Seasonal Newsletter - Summer 2008

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Blm = Bloomington gym **StL** = St. Louis gym



We're snail mailing!

Along with the quarterly What's Up newsletter email, at least one issue per year is sent through the mail. Check out this issue of What's Up for the \$10 off any service coupon and keep an eye out for the next issue, What's Up Fall, in your email inbox. If you have yet to let us know your email address, please sign-up at www.upperlimits.com to receive our newsletter and sale updates. Also, to receive sale and event updates via mail, be sure to update your mailing address at your local gym.

2008 Summer Climbing Clinics

Summer climbing clinics are here! Upper Limits' clinics focus on teaching kids (7-15 yrs.) the basics of indoor rock climbing. Our staff is dedicated to teaching introductory climbing, equipment usage, climbing techniques and the importance of trust and communication.

Activities will include team-building games, bouldering, climbing techniques and learning to belay (kids 7-10 yrs. will have staff belayers). Each of the daily sessions will encourage kids to find new ways of approaching climbing through age-appropriate group instruction. Children will finish the climbing clinic with a sense of self-confidence and accomplishment. The cost of each clinic will include 4 days of activities and a clinic t-shirt. Clinic sessions do fill up so sign up today! For more information about registration, visit our website, www.upperlimits.com, or please call your local gym.

Summer Climbing Clinic Dates

<u>Rock Dwellwers (7-10yrs)</u>	<u>Cliffhangers (11-15yrs)</u>
Session 1: June 10-13	Session 2: June 17-20
Session 3: June 24-27	Session 4: July 8-11
Session 5: July 15-18	Session 6: July 22-25
Session 7: July 29-Aug. 1	Session 8: Aug. 5-8

Summer Hours* May 1 - Sept.

Bloomington	St. Louis	Holiday Hours
Monday 4-10pm	Mon - Fri Noon-10pm	CLOSED July 4 Independence Day
Tues - Fri Noon-10pm	Saturday 10am-8pm	CLOSED Sept. 3 Labor Day
Saturday 10am-8pm	Sunday 10am-6pm	
Sunday 10am-6pm		

*Hours and prices are subject to change without notice, please call to confirm.

About our Newsletter

What's Up is published quarterly and is available on our website. If you have an interesting story, write or e-mail us at staff@upperlimits.com. We take donations, route beta, rides to the crag, and free food. Now meet those shadowy figures who are always trying to keep you safe by watching for \$10 safety fine violations.

Owners

CHRIS and PAM SCHMICK

Bloomington General Manager

Shawn Watson

Bloomington Marketing Manager

Lindsey Kronmiller

St. Louis General Manager

Brandi Ball

St. Louis Activities/Marketing Manager

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Randy Bales, Tristan Broeker, Megan Cummins, John Dick, Nick Flatley, Nick Flessner, Mark Gartzman, Stephanie Gordon, Lucas Mariani, Pat Matuszewski, Eddie Mockus, Will Phillips, Will Quanstrom, Steve Replogle, Jen Schauer, Tyler Shepke, Josh Stewart, & Matt Voigts

St. Louis Instructors/Lifeguards

Emily Hayes, Zach Kassman, Ed Mark, Ryan McMahan, Laura Prather, Jon Rudnicki, Joe Wall, & Steve Xu

Our staff has over 100 years of combined climbing experience. If we are unable to answer your questions, then we'll find someone who can.

Circulation data for this publication is dependent on how many friends you bring to the gym. Recycle and pick up your trash.

Membership Specials

Student Summer Membership Special

It's summer break, what are you doing?

Get unlimited climbing at your local gym May 15 - Aug 15.

Bloomington: \$120

St. Louis: \$135

Valid May 15 - Aug 15 only, not good with any other discounts or offers. Rental gear is not included. You must show valid student I.D. at time of purchase.

6 Month Membership Package

When you buy a 6 month membership and pay for the full 6 months up front, you will get a free harness, carabiner, and belay device.

Offer not valid with other specials. Membership must be paid in full (no eft option). Only valid for new memberships, does not apply to current memberships or renewals. Select gear only.

Call your local gym for details.

New Monthly Specials!

June Celebrate Your Good Grades! Summer is here and school is out; Upper Limits wants to reward you for your hard work. **For every A on your report card, receive \$1 off** a daily climbing pass June 2nd - 13th. Max. of \$5 off, current report card or transcript must be presented at time of payment, one time use per report card/transcript. Not valid with other offers or discounts, including discount nights.

Father's Day Special: Upper Limits is offering a special discount for Fathers Monday, June 9 through Sunday, June 15.

- **Fathers climb for 1/2 price** with the purchase of a child's day pass! Enrollment fee still applies and rental gear is not included.

- **Fathers are free in the Family Class** with a paying child. Classes fill up and reservations are required. Sign up today by calling Bloomington (309) 829-8255 or St. Louis (314) 241-7625.

July Christmas in July Special: \$50 OFF a Year Membership!

Unlimited climbing for a whole year, ask about yearly membership benefits at your local gym.

August Beat the heat! Youth Night Every Night, Aug. 11-15:

Kids 17 and under can climb for 1/2 price! Enrollment fees and rental gear are additional. All climbers must provide their own belayer or be certified to belay by a member of the Upper Limits staff. Prices not valid with other coupons or offers, hours and prices are subject to change without notice.

Visit www.upperlimits.com for more information on monthly specials or call your local gym!

Bloomington: (309) 829-8255

St. Louis: (314) 241-7625

Crashpad Jamboree Wrap-Up



On Wednesday, April 16, Upper Limits in Bloomington hosted it's 6th Crashpad Jamboree. This bouldering competition was a great way for us to open our outdoor bouldering area for the season! It allowed male and female climbers in all skill levels to get together and have fun while pushing their skills and mental strength to the limit. The Crashpad Jamboree also served as a membership drive for the Access Fund, a group designed to protect and preserve wilderness climbing areas. This year's competition saw some generous contributions to this worthy organization.

A special thanks goes out to our local sponsors; because of them everyone went home with something: Avanti's Italian Restaurant, Best Western University Inn, Chevy's Fresh Mex, DoubleTree Hotel, Wing's Etc., Gill St. Sports Bar, Papa John's, McDonald's, Planet Beach, AMF Circle Lanes, Ultimate Tan, Align Life and Jimmy John's. Another special thanks to our company representatives from La Sportiva, Five Ten, Red Chili and Soill who came out for the competition.

Congratulations to everyone who participated, we look forward to seeing you again next year! Here are the top 5 winners in each division for men and women:

Advanced Men:

1. Dan Groves

Intermediate Men:

1. Solar Olugebefola
2. Ben Circello
3. Devin Burns
4. Jayme Novotney
5. Daric Wickstrom

Recreational Men:

1. Barry Weaver
2. Travis Petry-Johnson
3. Dennis Smith
4. Sam Mangialardi
5. Stephen Level

Recreational Women:

1. Kristi Schuessler
2. Jasmine Loving
3. Amanda Clayton
4. Miranda Utzinger

Upper Limits' Portable Climbing Walls

Whether you are planning a special event, looking for entertainment, or seeking instruction in your community, Upper Limits is committed to providing a fun climbing experience for people of all sorts. Our climbing walls are appropriate for all ages and are available for events year-round.

Pinnacle (Bloomington), Cliff (Bloomington) and Spire (St. Louis)

These walls are free standing towers that are 23 feet tall and can accommodate climbers on 4 routes at a time. Each of the walls have different routes that range in difficulty.

Treadwall (Bloomington) The Treadwall is a non-motorized, self-paced, rotating climbing wall. It has adjustable angles and holds to accommodate any climbing ability and age. As a person climbs, the wall rotates automatically so the climber's feet are never more than a foot or so off the ground. A computer monitor keeps track of feet climbed as well as time on the wall.

Great for scouts, church groups, corporate events, after school programs and school fundraisers! **Please call for rental information and space requirements.**

Monday: Scout Night

Monday from 4-10 PM is SCOUT NIGHT! Boy and Girl Scouts that come in wearing their uniforms can get daily passes for half price, only \$6.00! Visit www.upperlimits.com to find links for information about camping and area hotels.

Wednesday: College Night

On Wednesdays from 4-10 PM, college students with a valid I.D. climb for only \$8.00! Students must be currently enrolled and show a valid school ID for this rate.

Thursday: Ladies Night

On Thursdays, from 4-10 PM, Ladies 18 years of age and over can climb for only \$8.00!

Friday: Youth Night

Fridays from 4-10 PM, climbers 17 and under climb for half price, only \$6.00!

Important Information to know

about Discount Nights: Enrollment fees and rental gear are additional. All climbers must provide their own belayer or be certified to belay by a member of the Upper Limits staff. Prices not good with other coupons or offers, hours and prices are subject to change without notice. Daily passes must be used on the day they are purchased. Discount Nights are not available during Holiday or Special Event hours. Call your local gym to confirm rates and hours.

Important Details to Remember

When You Visit Upper Limits:

Climbers 14 and under must be accompanied by an adult and all climbers need to provide their own belayer. Everyone who participates in activities at the gym must complete an Upper Limits Liability Waiver & Rules Agreement on their first visit. Participants under 18 must have their parent/legal guardian initial & sign the waiver.



Rappelling 101

Learn to descend a rock face by rappelling. This class covers equipment usage, safety checks and belaying for a rappeller. Participants will start off in the main gym and practice on a 12 foot wall; then have the opportunity to apply their skills on our 120-foot rappel tower. This class is \$40 per person and reservations are required. Classes are tentatively scheduled every other Saturday (weather permitting) from 2-4 pm, March -October. Call (309) 829-8255 for reservations.

Rappelling Fees: (March-Oct., weather permitting)
 Per Rappel: \$6 3 Rappels: \$16
 Please call ahead for all rappelling reservations
 (3 person min).

Look Who's New!

We would like to welcome the following new employees to the Upper Limits' staff at both locations.

Bloomington: Tristan Broeker, Megan Cummins, Nick Flessner, Mark Gartzman, Stephanie Gordon, Lucas Mariani, & Matt Voigts.

St. Louis: Zach Kassman & Laura Prather

Farewell...Climb on!

Good luck to staff members from both gyms that have left, or are leaving, to pursue other opportunities.

Bloomington: Drew Abney, Josh Franzen, & Russ Krantz

St. Louis: Ashley Gray, Max Miller, & Candice Nettleton
 All of the best to each of you!

Employees of the Month

March

April

St. Louis: Chad Lawson
 Jon Rudnicki

Jon Abrams
 Ryan McMahon

Bloomington: Drew Abney

Dan Evans



Upper Limits Rock Gym & Pro Shop

www.upperlimits.com

1304 W. Washington - Bloomington IL 61701

309-829-8255

326 S. 21st Street - St. Louis MO 63103

314-241-7625

Outdoor Classes

Whether you are a novice just taking up this exciting sport or a climber with experience, we have a class to suit you. Our instructors are experienced climbers providing extensive, hands-on training that will give you the knowledge to climb outdoors. For a listing of class descriptions, prices and schedules, visit us on our website at upperlimits.com or stop by the gym today to pick up a brochure.

For more information about our Outdoor Climbing



Classes at Devil's Lake State Park contact:
 Upper Limits Rock Gym - Bloomington,
 (309) 829-TALL (8255)
 1304 W. Washington, Bloomington, IL 61701

For more information about our Outdoor Climbing
 Classes in the Southern Illinois Region contact:



Upper Limits Rock Gym - St. Louis,
 (314) 241-ROCK (7625)
 326 S. 21st Street, St. Louis, MO 63103

Employee Spotlight



Jon Bengtson has been working at Upper Limits since February 2007 and is now an Assitant Manager. He is attending Illinois State University, majoring in Physics Education. When it comes to his future it is pretty obvious that Jon is going to be a Physics Teacher. "Jonny Bruce" as he is known around Upper Limits is from Frankfort, IL . When he's not at Upper Limits you may find him studying or climbing. Jon loves spending time with friends and the "49er Flapjacks" from the original Pancake house in Urbana. He does not like the "49er Flapjacks" from the Pancake house in Orland Park. A few of Jon's favorite things about Upper Limits are the people that he meets here, the free membership, and getting people into the sport of climbing.



Steven Xu first began climbing at Upper Limits as a student at Clayton High School's summer program and became an employee in May 2007. He is a student at St. Louis University, majoring in mechanical engineering and he climbs as much as possible. When he's not climbing, Steve likes to perfect his brownie recipes and test them out on the staff (we're not complaining). Although Steve was born in Beijing, China he moved here with his father when he was young and recently passed his American citizenship test. When Steve grows up, he says he would like to be a pro-climber and he does appear to have a talent for finding cash for climbing shoes. The thing that he enjoys about working at Upper Limits is the gear discounts. Steve is leaving soon for his first trip to Yosemite, so stop in and try some brownies before he heads out!