

# IIT Rock Climbing Club goes to Barn Bluff Minnesota

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TECHNEWS WRITER

Over Labor Day weekend, the IIT Rock Climbing Club was planning on driving down to Jackson Falls in Southern Illinois, to rock climb for the weekend on famous sandstone cliffs. However, when a tropical storm started blowing through the region, tornado and flooding warnings began to make the weekend look bleak. For the safety of the club, the group went northwest instead to Red Wing Minnesota to climb Barn Bluff.

After a seven-hour drive after classes on Friday the group arrived at a campsite just outside of Red Wing to snatch up the last remaining campsites.

Early next morning they headed to the cliffs to climb routes from a-5.7 to a-5.11d. The routes were all a reasonable hiking distance from parking, and nearly 100 bolted routes were within a few minutes walking distance from each other. Some climbers were very experienced, climbing even a 5.12a or two, and some less experienced were leading, setting, climbing, and cleaning mostly 5.9s and 5.10s. The day ended early with a group of exhausted climbers back at camp roasting hot dogs by 6pm.

The following day the group was at the wall again by 10 am; however, the Labor Day crowd showed up that morning and there were hardly any open spots. The group managed to get an area where they quickly set 5 ropes: 5.8, 5.9, 5.10a, 5.10c, and 5.11a. They spent a good amount of time fine-tuning their climbing skills, getting better at leading and perfecting certain moves and techniques.

The morning was a commotion of more experienced climbers showing or teaching younger members how to do certain moves and routes. The rest of the day, the group bounced around to different walls. Rob Fleming, David Nieto, and Irena Lukicheva climbed several 5.11s, and Danielle Kreie and Dan Zweig climbed mostly 5.9s and 5.10s.

Most of the crowd dispersed after lunch and the team had the entire area to themselves, climbing until the sun had completely set.

Overall everyone agreed that the weekend worked out great and that everyone was lucky to enjoy climbing without a drop of rain until Monday morning. If the club had traveled to Jackson Falls, they certainly would have been drenched the entire weekend.



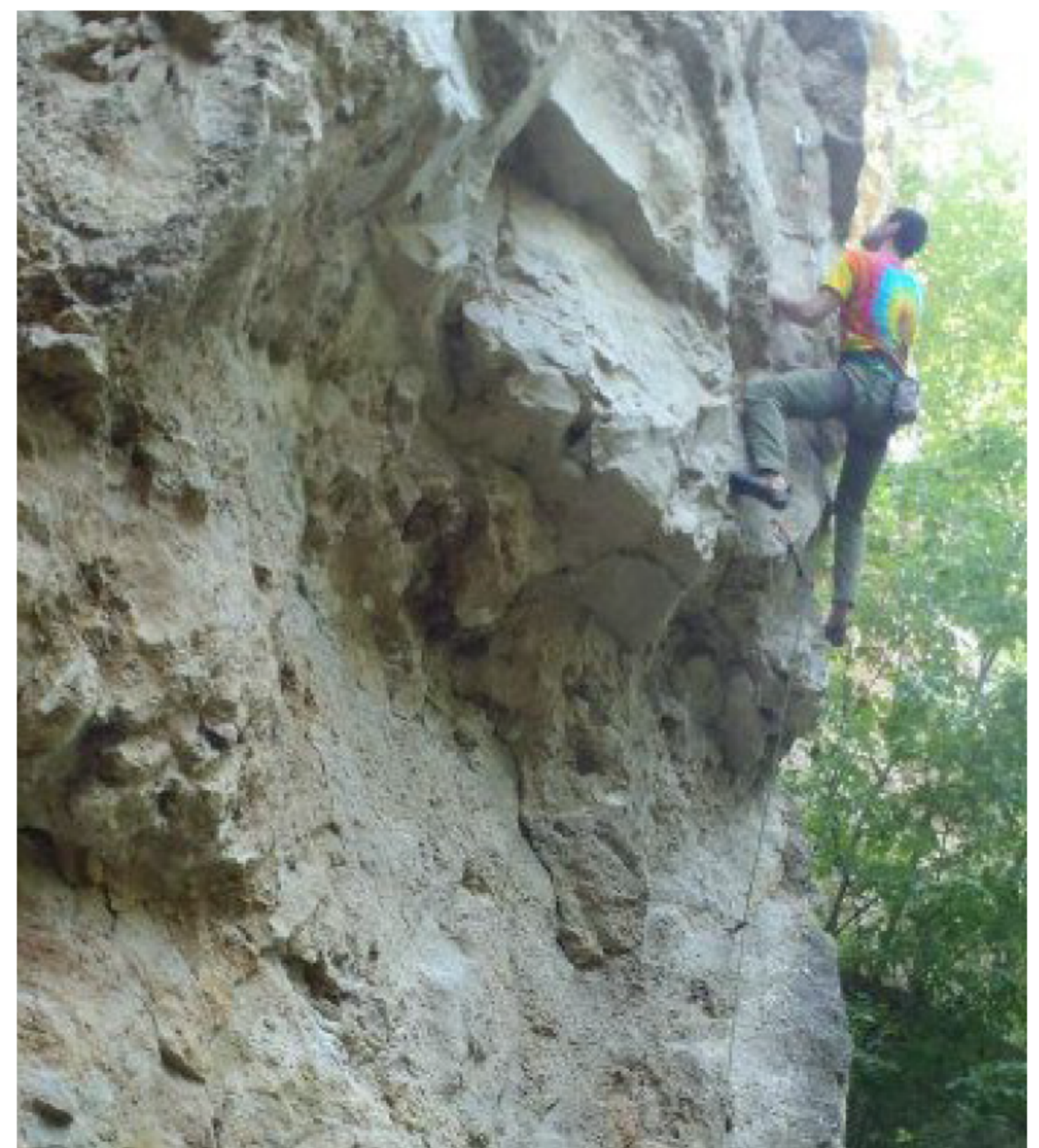
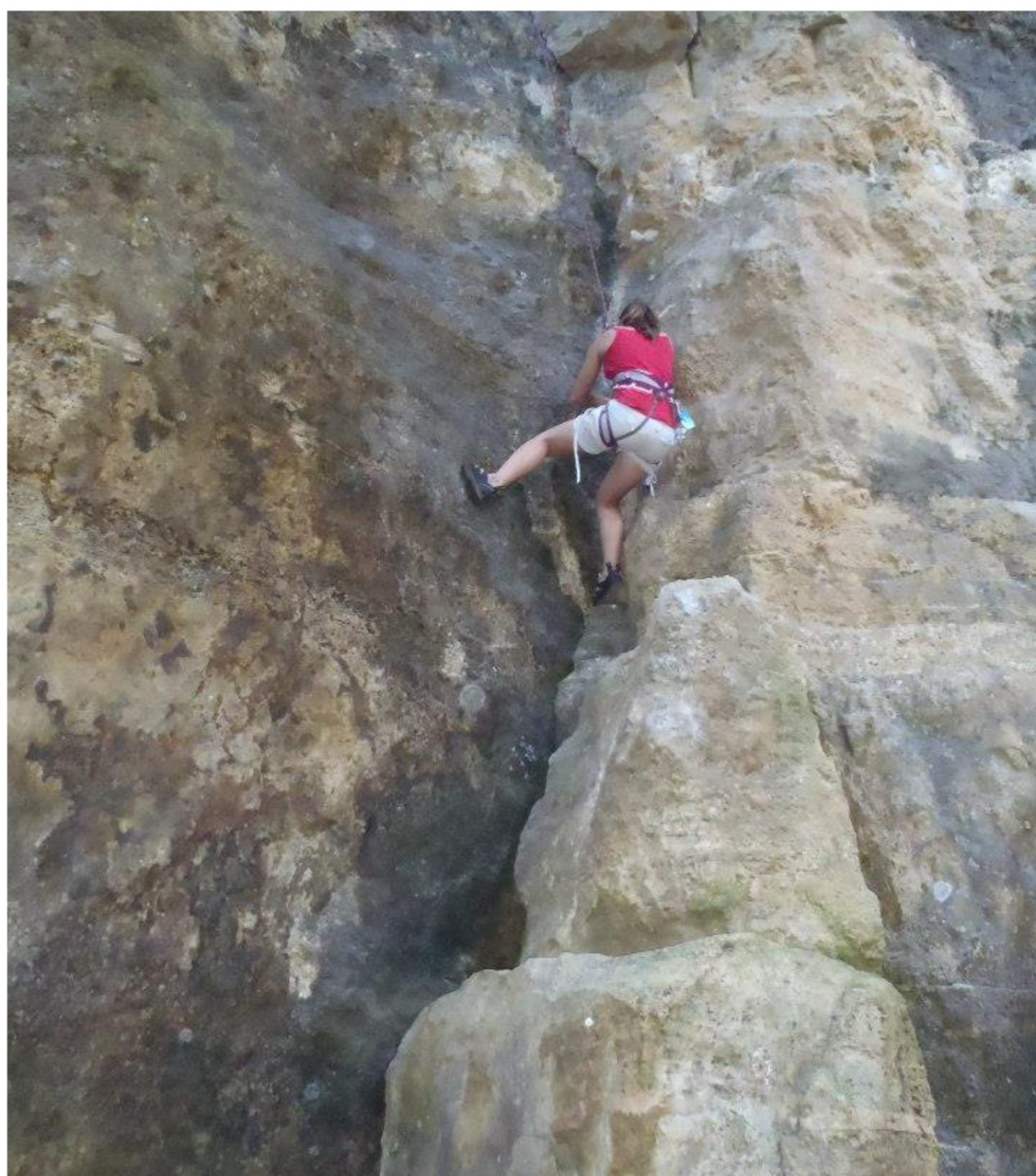
Everyone was able to climb new routes in a new place, and developed their skills on more difficult and complicated climbs. This entire weekend would never have been possible without OCL to make sure the groups were in the right place at the right time, and SAF which got them to where they were going and

kept them well fed.

The Rock Climbing Club is already in the works of putting on a trip to Devil's Lake, Wisconsin in October and hopefully a trip to Red River Gorge, Kentucky if more funding is secured from SAF.

They want more trips locally, to

gyms and weekends to gorges and bluffs, and these in the works for this semester and next; feel free to email [iitclimbing@gmail.com](mailto:iitclimbing@gmail.com) with any questions or check out climbing photos and posts on the Rock Climbing Club's Facebook page.



Photos by Dan Zweig