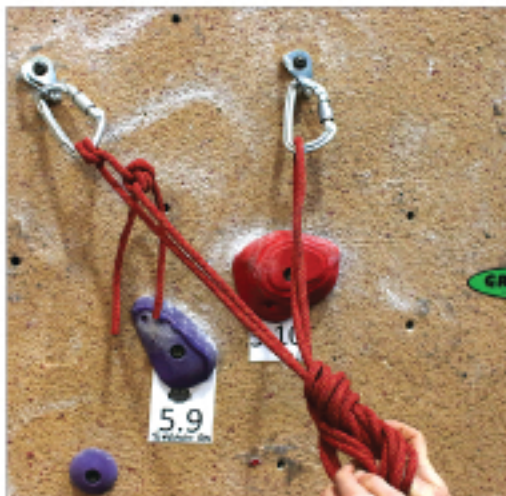


Learning the Ropes

by Jennaye Derge

The first ever Durango Climbing Fest last weekend was a great way to sharpen skills for quickly approaching climbing season thrills. Put on by Backcountry Experience and the Rock Lounge, the festival featured two days of clinics and gear demos. Whether you wanted to try your hand at anchor building, or just become a better climber, the folks at the Rock Lounge laid out all the climbing basics, from bouldering to top-roping. There was also plenty to keep the pros busy, with a clinic on multi-pitch rescue techniques as well as one-on-one sessions with Rock Lounge owner Marcus Garcia. From beginning to end, the clinics made learning easy – or at least made it look easy.



Learning the finer points of anchor-building during one of many clinics.



For those who haven't yet made the gear plunge, shoes and harnesses were available to demo.



Gary Newmeyer teaches an advanced group about multipitch rescue techniques Sunday.



Climbers – one coming up, the other going down – pass each other on the wall at the Rock Lounge.



Climber Lindsey Hamm was one of many experts on hand, sharing wisdom and tips throughout the weekend.