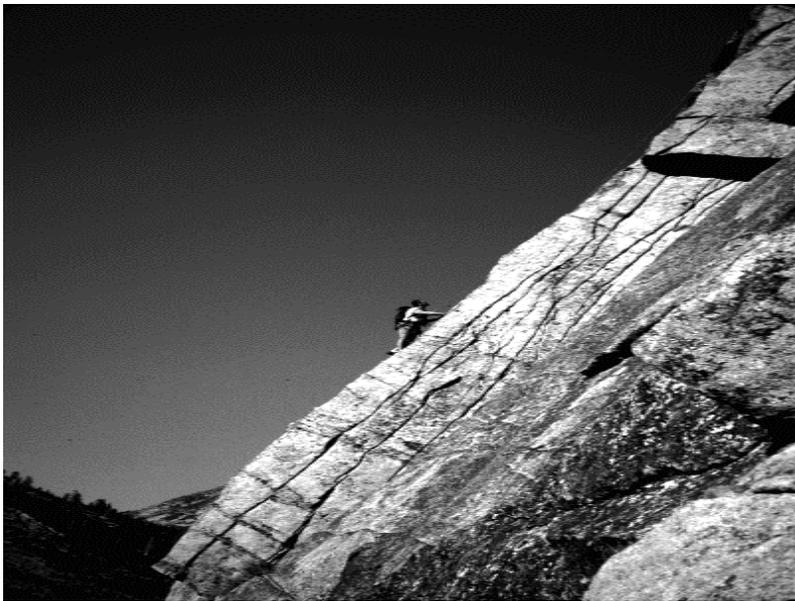


The Masthead

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Joe McGonigall on Fantasia at Lover's Leap

March Meeting

March 3, 1998

The March meeting will be at the home of Tom Kidd and Nicole Howard at 643 Lake Street, San Francisco at 7pm. 415-750-9102. Parking varies, so consider carpooling.

Directions:

From Marin: take Hwy 1 south from the Golden Gate bridge. Take the first right (Lake Street) after passing through the Presidio tunnel. Do an immediate U-turn (probably not legal) and follow Lake east: 643 is between 7th and 8th Avenues.

From South Bay: using your favorite combination of freeways, get to Hwy 1 north (19th Ave). Go through the Golden Gate park, and turn right on Lake. You are a few blocks away from 643.

From the East Bay: from the Bay Bridge, exit onto the central freeway to where it leaves you on Fell Street. Follow Fell Street for 2.5 miles approx. Turn right on Stanyan. This is just before Fell veers leftwards around the Golden Gate Park and a few blocks after the Cole street intersection. There is a turning lane that separates from Fell just beforehand. Follow Stanyan to Geary and make a left turn. Follow Geary to 8th Ave. Turn right and follow 8th to Lake. Right on Lake and you are at 643.

Public Transportation: Tom & Nicole's place is only one block from bus lines #1 (California), #4 (Sutter), & #44 (O'Shaughnessy), and 2 blocks from the #2 (Clement) bus.

Announcement

Applications are being accepted for the 1998 intern program for those who'd like to get a little exposure to the masthead.

February's Meeting Notes

The February RR meeting was canceled due to the weather conditions. Braving the elements, I welcomed myself into my new Peninsula home. The sort of weather that Irish people might head to the beach and sunbathe during. Alan North on hearing this commented: "that's luxury, why when I was a lad we had to sunbathe in the snow in the middle of the night". A few souls appeared anyway, and a very pleasant food and drinks session ensued. Brutus "restoring water to the east bay" of Wyde was told that he should get himself a bottle of that sleep stuff, nay a whole six pack of it. Brutus mused that bottled sleep would be very useful on single push ascents of big walls, but if you consumed sleep, would it still count as single push ascent? This was typical of the spirit of philosophical inquiry that evening. Lots of people had been skiing and climbing. Brutus and Em had climbed the Ames ice hose; Jacques had just concluded a half year tour of North America and Europe, including an area in Spain with six pitch routes on Pinnacles style rock. A delight, I'm sure. New face, Scott Davidson, had attempted to snowshoe into Desolation Wilderness via the Echo Lakes area. Characteristic weekend weather soon denied that ambition.

Deep Play: A Book Review

By [Tom Kidd](#)

My Christmas stocking this year contained Deep Play, by Paul Pritchard, winner of the Boardman-Tasker award. An intense little number detailing the author's progression from crag climber to big wall rat. Childhood is despatched rather quickly as he gasoline bombs some climbers (they didn't catch him) and later jumps into a four storey stairwell (he doesn't break any bones and everyone wants to be friends with him afterwards). Pritchard grows up and starts climbing in earnest, moving to Llanberis, the center of the Welsh climbing and party scene. Hair raising ascents on slate and rock types which make the Pinnacles look like Yosemite granite (with apologies to Eric Coomer) dot the narrative. Noteworthy is The Enchanted Broccoli Garden, a 5.12 with minimal gear and a belay between the two hard pitches consisting of a poor downward pointing knifeblade and an RP... Another description to freeze the reader is an account of belaying a lead fall by his partner Johnny Dawes: "I held the ropes tight and watched with horror as they slid along the sharp lip, spraying a cloud of nylon fluff into the air. As one rope snapped..."

Two thirds of the book concerns itself with big walls throughout the world. Mainly in places of snow and wild weather, although the account of leading a scary pitch during the first ascent of Adrift on El Cap is one of the best descriptions of hard aid climbing I have read. Ex-Bates motel resident, Chris Breemer, gets mentioned in the Baffin Island chapter. Reading it is easy to realize that Breemer, a proud member of the Couch and Crag Society, "the best training occurs on the sofa", actually did some very hard climbing. Pritchard criticizes Breemer and Jarret for using a helicopter approach. Now, Pritchard and company have just taken 30 days to ferry their loads to the base of the wall, and some members have had to return home before beginning to climb. But Pritchard apparently wouldn't have missed it for one minute. Er, I don't think so. In between the climbing is some powerful writing on emotional issues such as the death of friends and recovering from injuries. Pritchard is also highly imaginative particularly on the altered states of mind found while recovering from a fever, or nearly drowning after a horrendous fall into, the sea. Very highly recommended, but perhaps not for the faint-hearted.

Financial Accounting for 1997

BY [Peter Grace](#)

I always find reading financial statements lacks the intensity of leading but is sometimes equally baffling. But lets begin:

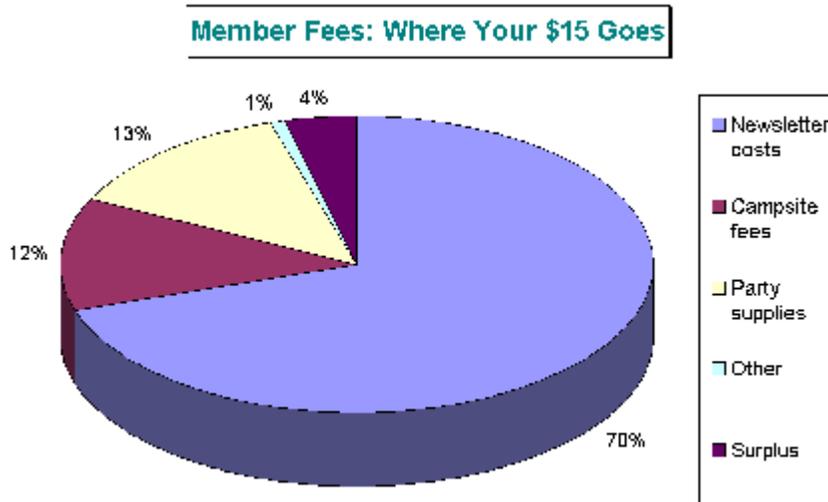
We finished the year with 85 members and collected \$1,536.00 in dues and from campsites. We spent \$1,486.28 to give an overall surplus for the year of \$49.72. Our bank balance is now \$363.04.

Our main cost is the monthly newsletter which costs about \$0.86 to photocopy and mail per issue.

Newsletter	
Items	Amount
Stamps	\$0.32
Photocopy and production	\$0.54
Total	\$0.86

Our other principal costs were the year end and Yosemite/Les and Bev Wilson socials (\$161.28) and the campsites where we collected \$368 and paid out \$521.50, a loss of \$153.50. Late in the season we raised the fees to \$5/member/night with the trip leaders free. Tom felt that the camping ought to be a club benefit that pays for itself.

Instead of looking at overall figures, lets look at what we spent per member.



Members Fees		
Items	Amount	%
Newsletter	\$10.37 (12*\$0.86)	70%
Social	\$1.90	12%
Campsite	\$1.81 (net figure)	13%
Other	\$0.15	1%
Surplus	\$0.56	4%
Total	\$14.79	100%

Our average dues per member was \$13.74. You may well wonder how our expenses could be higher than our income. The reason is that members join throughout the year and thus do not receive their full compliment of newsletters. So if there is a moral rejoin Rock Rendezvous early in 1998.

Pictures

[edit 2004: original newsletter had links to pictures on a now dead website]

Web Worries

By Pat McLaughlin

There's been some discussion on issues surrounding the Rock Rendezvous [website](#), so I sent out a survey to those on e-mail--the members most likely to use/abuse the website--to gather input on usage and opinions. I meant to have all the responses compiled for this newsletter, but this has not happened yet. I promise to do so by the next newsletter. The most notable item of concern had to do with the online member listing. Despite being password protected, many members were uncomfortable with their information being online. Others would like to see the capability expanded so members could update their info online. If you have opinions (pro or con) that you have not already expressed to me I welcome your input, especially from those members not on e-mail.

Upcoming Events

March 23 to 28:

Joshua Tree Sheep's Pass group campsite organized by Lin Murphy, a non-RR member. She has climbed with several RR members such as Em, Lisa and Sue. She is open to sharing the site, but numbers are limited to 10 so please sign up ahead of time (no drop-ins). E-mail or call her for full data. Her e-mail is muraphy@aol.com and phone is 510/886-1864.

April 11-19:

Desert climbing road trip with Kevin (I am the King of Sexy Underwear) Kachadourian. This is still very formative; but I'm driving east and climbing. So far, I'm considering Owen's River, Red Rocks, and J-Tree; but am not familiar with what's out there and open to suggestions. I'm looking for partners (until the car is full), and any suggestions on where to go.

Warning/Disclaimer

San Francisco Rock Rendezvous is not a teaching organization and does not endorse nor insure rock climbing. Trips advertised in the newsletter are private and are only listed to allow for the coordination of carpooling and camping. Each participant on a trip is solely responsible for his or her safety during the entire trip, including the transportation to and from the climbing area and site, and any necessary insurance.

***Rock Rendezvous News
c/o Theresa Ho & Tom Lambert***

Berkeley, CA 94703

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