



Rock Rendezvous: Volume 12; Issue 1: February 2002

# Rock Rendezvous

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## January Meeting Notes

By Tom Kidd

Theft and first descents were the chief themes of the first Rock Rendezvous meeting of 2002. Simon and Amy were burgled (careful with that spelling) twice, once in Helsinki, and once in El Burrito, I El Cerrito. Eric and Katrin had their friend's car broken into on Mount Lemmon in Arizona, but say that it is a nice area otherwise. First descents referred to our host, Carolyn's, Christmas adventures in Vancouver snow tubing with her boyfriend. This was more tame than expected (the snow tubing), but has "lots of potential for first descents". Amy wryly observed that Simon achieved several purported first descents on the icy streets of St. Petersburg, but apparently there were 122 accidents involving broken bones on the streets of Moscow at the same time, so people may have slipped in the same spots before. Other people deserving of sympathy included GianLuca who had his mother staying with him for Christmas. This was fun at first, but "mothers are like fresh fish – after a week they begin to smell..."

An epic navigational task faced those intrepid members who ventured into the

unfamiliar territory of the Richmond Parkway to find the home of Carolyn Dent. "We must be halfway to Tahoe" and "yes, I'm worried my nose is going to start bleeding" were purely facetious, but the search for parking and the ensuing trek to the apartment was exceedingly arduous and delayed many. There was no correlation between the time when people first called to be let into the complex and when they actually arrived. It felt like a surreal out take from "The Truman Show" as almost everyone got lost within the massive complex. So it was a relief to arrive inside the comfortable apartment with beer, pizza, and big picture books of English climbing reminding several of how they had scared themselves silly on wet lichen covered rock in the past. A big thanks to Carolyn for hosting the meeting. I am doubly sorry for making fun of the location of her home, the first reason being that she stepped up and hosted a meeting, and the second being that she is the new newsletter editor, so is well within her rights to edit all of this [Tempting.... –Carolyn]. I think we are all extremely thankful that she has

undertaken this important task. We saw a newsletter from her climbing club in Britain and it suggests she may bring an innuendo laden air to the newsletter, with regular features such as “Ed’s Big Column” and pictures of Carolyn in compromising positions. One of the latter turned out to be a game of Twister in which the photographer had accidentally on purpose forgotten to include the board. On learning this, there was a reaction of horror – “you’re wearing all your clothes”, “where’s the golden syrup?” finishing with “where’s the Crisco?” Hopefully she won’t encourage Simon too much...

Onto climbing action, and the trips to Joshua Tree were big successes. Craig and Sabine went down before Thanksgiving weekend and enjoyed the meteor shower from the desert. They left just before everyone else arrived. The Turkey Day crew had only one day of rain which they spent in the nearby (actually two hours drive) hot springs. The Christmas party sounded somewhat debilitated by Kevin’s warm up party the night before which hijacked many and prevented them from drinking on the night of the real Christmas party... Kevin also led a trip to the Pinnacles which was practically devoid of other climbers. Carolyn taught her friend Kevin II how to lead and by the end of the day he had led something harder than she would have been willing to lead. Bummer. Paul of Christmas party fame led “Portent”. More trips are planned. Erik and Catrin had an almost epic free road trip. The almost refers to the theft mentioned above.

They toured the national parks of Arizona, Utah and Nevada for two weeks over Christmas. They climbed at the Gallery in Red Rocks, on Mount Lemmon, and at Cochise’s Stronghold where they did an incredibly nice climb which was the most perfect sandbag as the three pitches of 5.6 were easier than the 3<sup>rd</sup> class approach. Apparently the climbing was on perfect knobs. Many including myself, Nicole, Paul and Brigid have been skiing up at Tahoe before the warm weather set in, but as it was at resorts, it doesn’t really count (unless you get cited for out of bounds skiing). Kevin however skied into Richardson Lake on tremendous snow – you could climb hills on wax alone (as opposed to skins) which is unheard of in California. However, all that rain has percolated through the snow and formed an ice layer at the base, so we now have primo avalanche conditions.

Upcoming trips are the Pinnacles (Kevin et al), Mount Lassen (Simon) and a summer trip at the end of July, possibly to Bear Creek Spire or some other Eastern Sierra objective (Paul Drew). I showed slides of Bear Creek Spire, when Simon, Tina, Karen, Brodesky and I climbed it. Nothing out of the ordinary – I really didn’t linger on the green hued slide of Simon with altitude sickness, or dwell on the absence of headlamps in some members of the party... Once again, thanks to Carolyn for hosting [that’s OK – I didn’t have to drive, so I could enjoy a beer or several! – Carolyn] and being the new newsletter editor.

## **Introducing.... (New members?)**

Kevin Kachadourian

I don’t know if these people have joined, or are planning to join the Rock Rendezvous, but they were at the January meeting, and so were subjected to a grilling by Madam Vice (yours truly). They both hail from distant lands, which seems to be a new tradition for us, and are fairly new to climbing (note: I can only write so fast, so parts of these introductions are probably made up). Without further ado, here they are:

**Luisa Chiesa:** Just so you can brush up on your Italian, “chiesa” is Italian for church. A recent and delightful addition to the Bay Area, Luisa is a friend of GianLuca. She has only been climbing since mid September, but, in that brief time, Luisa has managed to climb at Joshua Tree, the Pinnacles, and Yosemite. While climbing is new to Luisa, feats of bravery are not. This is apparent in her willingness to climb with GianLuca, and even more so in her attending a Rock Rendezvous meeting. Her other interests

are backcountry skiing, running, swimming, and basketball (ask her about this one). Welcome, Luisa.

**Andy McNamara** is a work and drinking (he has come to the right club) partner of Carolyn Dents. He hails from Scotland, and while he has not yet begun his climbing career, he has all the prerequisites (he is breathing, most or all of his extremities are

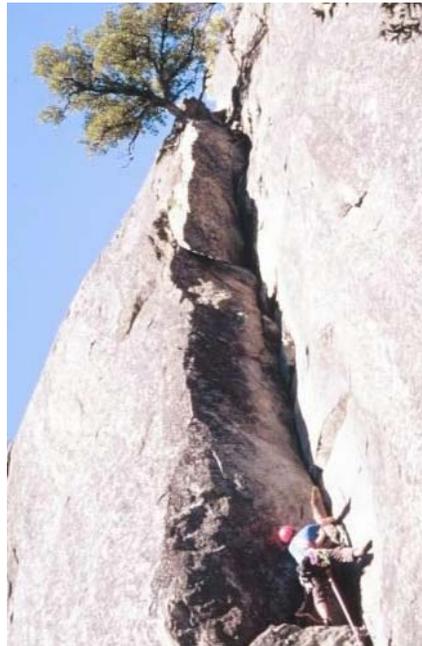
attached and functional, and he is “not good with heights”). He did a wee bit of climbing as a Cadet in Scotland (the Cadets are an organization similar to Outward Bound here in the States). I welcome Andy, and encourage him to continue coming to the meetings where we can ply him with alcohol and trick him into a climbing trip. Welcome, Andy.

## 2001 – How was it for you?

As this is the first newsletter of 2002 here is a compilation of photographs showing what various RR members have been up to over the previous year...



Nate McKitterick starting up a climb (we don't recall the name) in Wanaka (photo Jen Hanley)



Simon Allen on the first pitch of After Six, Yosemite (photo Carolyn Dent)



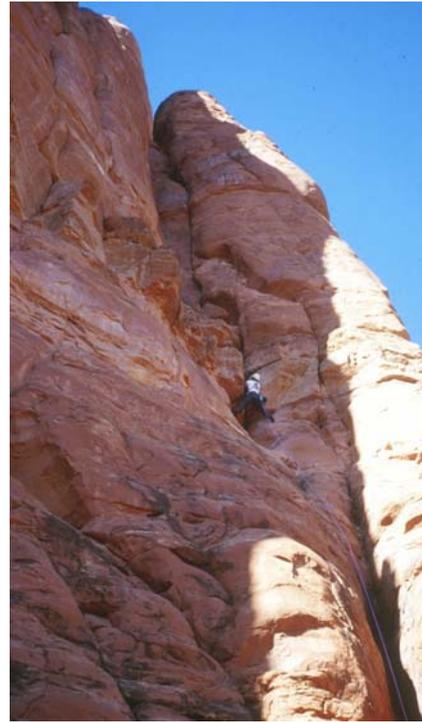
Jen Hanley on the Routeburn Track (photo Jen Hanley)



James Chiropolis climbing at the lost coast (photo Michael Brodesky)



Carolyn Dent having an lazy day in Yosemite (top of Churchbowl Layback (photo Carolyn Dent)



Bruce Binder leading pitch 1 of The Mace, Sedona (Photo Em Holland)

There will be an article by Bruce describing the climb of The Mace, Sedona, Arizona in the March edition of the Newsletter...

## Treasurer's report 2001

Sabine Schirm

2001 started with \$ 622.69 on the club account. Last year RR had 54 paying members, \$ 773 was collected as membership fees. The campground fees exceeded the income from trip participation by \$ 82. Question is if the payment per night should be increased or the number of trips organized reduced. Mailing cost was \$ 327.67; other costs were the Christmas party (\$ 168) and expense for checks (\$ 11.75). The ending balance for 2001 is \$ 806.27.

membership	773 (+)	
campgrounds		540 (-)
camping income	458 (+)	
mailing		327.67 (-)
party		168 (-)
checks		11.75 (-)

## Lassen Trip 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> Feb

Simon Kenney is putting together a trip to Lassen (again) this year. Last year as some of you will remember we got horribly snowed off. Undeterred, he would like to make the attempt on approximately the same weekend as last year.

The chosen date is the Presidents Day holiday weekend, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Simons plans are detailed below:

I suggest that we divide up into small groups of 2 - 4 people. To aid logistics (In each group we need a couple of people with some experience of this type of ascent)

This is my intended itinerary:

Friday night, leave for Red bluff. stay in the largest room we can get in the travel lodge there.

Saturday, head for the park rangers station, get to Hellen Lake by evening, Pitch tents

Sunday, Summit, Return to tents, Maybe back to rangers station. depends on weather.

Sunday, Home, or even a days downhill skiing at Shaster (Depends on how we are for time)

If the weather is good then it is just a slow steady slog in. I would suggest ski's and skins (Snow shoes if you have little or no experience of ski's and backpacks). Avalanche beacons are also highly recommended, and a snow shovel. I think we might need crampons for the final summit (but I did not get there last year so I will take any advice on that), and generally all the other basic stuff for snow camping

I think we also need permits so check out the website: Which was down at the time of writing)

Let Simon know if you are interested (contact details of the front of Newsletter) so that he can start putting people together.....

## Next Meeting – Tuesday February 5<sup>th</sup>

The next meeting will be held at the home of Jen and Nate in the Peninsula.

\*\*\*Come and toast Karens 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday!!!\*\*\*

Directions:

From I-280, take the SAND HILL ROAD exit

If you're coming from the north, hit your odometer when you get off

If you're coming from the south, hit your odometer once you've crossed over I-280

Head WEST on Sand Hill Road for 3.4 miles

At 3.4 miles, look left for a green WAYSIDE ROAD sign pointing RIGHT

(Note: if you see a church on your right, and/or a church and plant nursery on your left, you've gone too far!)

TURN RIGHT onto WAYSIDE ROAD

TURN LEFT (immediately) into the Valley Presbyterian Church parking lot and park there

Walk up Wayside Road to the third driveway on your right (the really steep one)

We're at 158 Wayside Road

Phone: 650 - 529 - 1778

Bring your bathing suit for the hot tub! (No skinny dipping this time, Simon!)

## Membership Renewal For 2002

Membership fees are now due if you want to remain a member / join Rock Rendezvous for 2002. \$15 for an entire year of Newsletter, support of the mail server, and website, Club Xmas party, trips...etc... etc... (The list of benefits is endless!).

Please either bring your membership fees to the February meeting, or post a check to Karen Christie, Rock Rendezvous Treasurer, including the completed and signed membership form attached to this newsletter.

### Warning/Disclaimer

San Francisco Rock Rendezvous is not a teaching organization and does not endorse or insure rock climbing. Trips advertised in the newsletter are private and are only listed to allow for the co-ordination of car pooling 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.

