



Rock Rendezvous: Volume 12; Issue 3: April 2002

# Rock Rendezvous

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## Dead Man Walking

By Tom Kidd

The title refers to our treasurer, although in reality she does not know the sex of the donor ACL that will be inserted into her knee... Karen was skiing and her skis stopped, but the rest of her body continued forwards, with her head attaining the most momentum, but her knee suffering the most damage. She gracefully didn't deploy any grumpiness to help gather subscriptions, and in return no one speculated that the fees might subsidize the operation. Let's wish her a speedy recovery.

Simon kicked off the meeting by asking Kevin to leave his leathers alone. The indignant reply was that this was the first time Simon had ever said that to him. Next was "it's down the other leg [anyway]" but before the conversation could further plummet, the business of the meeting was attended to. People climbing at gyms were encouraged to let others know which nights they were going. Adam pointed out that he goes to Mission Cliffs with Allison every Tuesday and is also going to Glen Canyon on Saturdays. The appeal for a venue for the next meeting led to some interesting comments, including "we're all going where Susan is belly dancing". Paul of Christmas

party fame felt Molly's response would be "not those people again".

A nice feature to the introductions this month was the theme of people revealing how they feel about headlamps. Interestingly this is a far more revealing statement than one would first imagine. A simple response would be Bruce, who likes headlamps and presumably has to use them from time to time. Craig's reply that he thinks headlamps are overrated reveals a planning and efficiency to Craig's days at the crag. Meanwhile, Katrin always brings a headlamp when climbing with Erik, even to the climbing gym. Very telling indeed. Actually, the temporarily displaced Steve Giddings saying he wants to be like Bruce when he grows up is revealing too...

Peter brought quite the entourage of people who came to see his slides. This included Rachel with an arm broken whilst skiing and Matt and Madeline, apparently occasional to good climbers (sounds like a weather forecast). Peter was looking for more people himself, in particular a JAVA programmer and/or anyone with finance experience. Noteworthy introductions were "I'm the one to see if you don't want to get one in the mail every month" (Andy); "Lead

virgin? No, but am the other kind" (one of our Irish contingent) and the ubiquitous "I'm an occasional..." (Insert climber /member /alcoholic).

The Lassen trip was apparently very cold on the first day and gorgeous on the second, allowing everyone to make the summit. Geraldine had good food as opposed to "that re-hydrated crap". Simon had a cold, and Kevin broke his skis and had to carry them out. This produced a loud and uncharitable roar of laughter. Gianluca did some backcountry ski tours but they were all "normal courses" with nothing to report. Bruce did the third ascent of The Tempest over the course of nine days and twenty pitches in the company of Tom Millar and Valero. Paul who volunteers in the East Bay Regional parks got a tour of the Vasca sandstone caves which are sacred to a couple of tribes and usually off limits. As I write this, people should be plodding up to Dewey Point, and the RR valley trips are filling up.

Peter gave a great slideshow from a long walk in Afghanistan when he was much younger. He was twenty years old at the time, and he deliberately removed all slides of himself before the show (boo). The trip left a great impression on him and this was strongly conveyed in his presentation. The trip was inspired by the book "A short walk in the Hindu Kush" by Eric Newby, a member of the high fashion industry who decided to walk into Nuristan, an isolated area in Eastern Afghanistan. Warlords, tolls and customs notwithstanding, bureaucracy was the biggest obstacle in the path of Peter and friends. Fortunately they had met the Afghan ambassador in London who wrote

them a letter in Farsi, which proved invaluable. They also had problems just getting to the country. Peter was meant to meet his partner in Cyprus, but it was 1974 and Cyprus had just been invaded. So Peter didn't go there and lost the money he had had wired out. He had more money wired to Istanbul, which was also lost. Eventually, he and some money were united in Beirut. The team entered Afghanistan through Iran, going through Harat and Kabul. After much begging, pleading and cajoling on a daily basis, they were given permission to go into Nuristan. They did this by going up the Kochka River for several days. The slides were stunning; in particular the villages perched on stilts going up hillsides. The strips of green vegetation that accompanied the river looked in some places as immaculate as a golf course. Not to belittle the magnificent scenery, but if you have seen the Owens River Gorge after they increased the water flow, then imagine something similar on a grand scale. Peter was hugely impressed by the hospitality of the people, their code of conduct, posture and how little material goods they had.

A quick poll of members to see who had done a similarly long hike put Em and Simon trekking in the Himalayas, Rachel around Mt. Khailas, and Sue on the Annapurna circuit. Torger cycled around Mount Kenya. Thanks to Peter for sharing his slides and story with us. I am writing this from downtown Tübingen in Germany and won't be back in time for the next meeting, so someone else will have to write the notes. Thanks to Nicole for hosting the meeting despite forgetting that it was at our house...

## And Introducing....

**Simon Kenney**

**Madeline Larsen** and **Mat Lamperti** are a couple and gave me their information together so I'm not to sure who's is who's, but collectively they are American (Yes there are a few in the club), but insist on their Danish, Scottish and Italian heritage being

mentioned. They are actually RR members of about 3 years ago who had resurfaced especially to see Peter Grace's (March) slide show. They have known Peter for many years (met him on a climbing trip) and even used his cottage in Cornwall (UK) to

sample some European sea cliff climbing. They are regular attendee's at Berkley Iron Works and can be seen struggling up the walls on most Friday's there. According to Peter they are both "superb" climbers.

Accompanying Madeline and Mat was there friend... **Robert Bushel**. Robert is not really a climber (says he suffers from vertigo!!) however he is married to Mats sister, which gave him a great excuse to come along and look at the slides. Of course I think he is more than welcome because he is a Brit

## Lassen 2002

Photos by Simon Allen, Erik Sandelin and Carolyn Dent

The approach...



A gap in the snow near a steaming fumarole proved an obstacle on skis.



Lunch break on the way in – just before the weather turned nasty

The camp...



Simon is far too cheerful for first thing in the morning! Especially with the remains of last nights blizzard piled up around the tent



Philip braving the cold in the snow kitchen – and it WAS cold!



Yesterday we couldn't see this – today it looks like we have no excuse not to climb it...



Nearly there...



A happy team on the top!  
...or just keeping warm!



End of a great day –  
back to the campsite  
to melt more @\$\*  
snow for brews.



Steaming hot muddy  
fumaroles, complete  
with eau de sulfur!



The 'After' photo! Come on – hurry up and take the photo WE'RE HUNGRY!

## Coming Trips

Michael Brodesky has installed a new reservations system for club campsite bookings over the summer. Some of these weekends are filling up already, so if you are keen to get out go ahead, log on, and try the booking site. It can be found at <http://www.rockclimb.org/rr/trips.html>.

Alternatively Michael can be contacted by e-mail [mbrodesk@interwoven.com](mailto:mbrodesk@interwoven.com).

For those of you who do not have online access; space on trips may be booked by calling Michael on 415 948 8529.

We have campsites booked for the following weekends through the spring and summer:

			Leader
April	12/13	Yosemite	Paul Amico
	26/27	Yosemite	Erik
May	3/4	Yosemite	Adam
	10/11	Yosemite	Jen & Nate
	31/1	Yosemite	Simon
June	6 – 8	Yosemite	Torger
July	12/13	Meadows	Slmon
	19/20	Meadows	Carolyn
	27/28	Meadows	Simon
August	3/4	Meadows	Adam
	9/10	Meadows	Open – any offers?

## An appeal from your editor...

I have left this appeal in again this month. I really do NEED contributions from members in order to keep the newsletter interesting – so PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE put pen to paper, finger to keyboard, get out your camera or whatever you prefer. Then send it to me so I can include it here.

Those of you attending this months meeting will not be safe – admit to having done something interesting and I will be onto your case for an article! It need not be long – in fact short articles with a couple of good photos make some of the best reading....

If you have done something that you think the RR membership would be interested in then I would love to hear from you with photos or/and an article. My intention as editor is for the newsletter to represent as wide a cross-section of the membership as possible, rather than for it to be restricted to those people I can talk to and nag for articles! So please send any articles, photos, beta etc... to me Carolyn at [cdent@sangamo.com](mailto:cdent@sangamo.com). THANKS!

## Next Meeting - Tuesday April 2nd (7pm)

The next meeting will be at Paul Amicos house in Oakland.

Directions to Pauls:

### From North/Downtown Oakland:

Take 580 East to the MacArthur Blvd exit (NOT the first MacArthur exit, the second one which is immediately after the High St exit - about 4 or 5 miles from downtown). Be sure to be in the RIGHT lane on the exit ramp.

Immediately AFTER the stop sign at the bottom of the ramp, turn right onto Pierson St (there is a 76 station on the corner). Take Pierson as it winds up the hill until it ends at Madera Ave. Turn right onto Madera Ave. The address is 3388 Madera Ave, about halfway down on the right (uphill) side of the street.

### From SF:

Cross the Bay Bridge and get on 580 East. Follow the directions above. Pay special attention to which MacArthur exit to take.

**From East Oakland/points south:**

Take 580 West to the MacArthur Blvd/High St exit. Turn left at the stop sign at the bottom of the ramp. Go to the stoplight and turn left onto MacArthur Blvd (beware of people running this light, it is a chronic problem!!). Immediately turn right onto Pierson St. Follow the directions above to get to our house.

**From Berkeley, if getting to Hwy 13 is more convenient than getting to 580:** Take 13 South to 580 West back towards downtown Oakland/SF (the last exit on 13). The exit will dump you onto 580 in the exit lane for MacArthur Blvd/High St. Follow the directions from East Oakland/points south.

My phone number is 510-535-0777 in case anyone gets lost.

## 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.

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