



Rock Rendezvous: Volume 12; Issue 4: May 2002

Rock Rendezvous

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Aprils meeting notes

By Adam Singer

April's monthly meeting took place in the lovely and spacious home of Paul and Molly. Molly was out with her mother, so many continued to believe she was just a figment of Paul's imagination. However near the end she actually did show up, with a mother in tow no less.

It is surprising that more folks didn't show up, as Paul's house on Maxwell Hill is remarkably easy to get to, being about 5 blocks up the hill from the 580 Freeway. Even I, taking the AC Transit transbay bus was able to get there quite easily. So if Paul is gracious enough to host future meetings, remember that it is quite accessible by both car and bus.

After a bit of catching up, milling about, and fine conversation, El Presidente called the group to order. Simon first thanked Paul and (in absentia) Molly for the use of their great house. Since the usual town crier was off in the UK, Adam volunteered to take this months meeting minutes. That means this one's not gonna be that funny. I also apologize in advance if I misattribute or fail

to attribute whatever you did or didn't say. I am sure I missed stuff.

First order of business: Simon brought up Michael Brodesky's new web page where users can sign themselves up for their own spaces on various trips. The url is <http://www.rockclimb.org/rr/trips.html>.

Simon thanked (in absentia) Michael for putting in the hard work to create this web page and then said that both he and Michael wanted your (the membership's) feedback on the new site.

Simon kicked it off saying he thought the site was great but that if people decided they *don't* want to go what should be done. He suggested leaving it up to those people to remove themselves from the list.

Andy commented that any person using the site has total control and while malice is unlikely, it does seem fairly easy for someone to make a mistake. Andy feels it is not useful in its present state.

Someone (I forget who) brought up: what is wrong with the current system where the

leader exchanges emails and phone calls? Simon replied that this is different from email in that you can look at all the trips, how it's booked up, etc. With the old system you couldn't do that. Unfortunately, you still have to drill into each and every trip whereas if Michael could pull the names from the database and populate the table on the main page with those names, you would truly have an "at a glance" view of what was booked and who was going.

Simon (or someone) suggested that trip leaders shouldn't just rely on the web interface but instead still take on the responsibility to email each person on the list to confirm that they are still coming.

Someone asked why only 1 site was reserved for all the campsites, was it that the program only supported 1 site? Andy thought that maybe the web interface only allowed signing up for 1 site at a time but Pat countered that no it allows two sites and will situate them near each other if possible. [He knows because he has used the service to get many of our sites in the past.] It was mentioned that perhaps the two person sites last year were not full but I recall the two sites I had last year were both full so who knows...

Andy suggested that perhaps if only the trip leader were the one who could maintain their days, then the site would be more useful. Simon reiterated the same thing saying automation is great but leads to problems so what if the trip leader were given admin rights... Pat seemed to disagree saying that for informal groups like this, it would be fine. He seemed to think that should be the final word but I think Carolyn best said it: "It will show it's usefulness on future trips."

It was also mentioned that the Trip lead must remember to sign up for *both* nights as this is not automatic. It was suggested that the program somehow link Friday and Saturday so that such an omission wouldn't occur. Perhaps the program could just pop-up "you've signed up for Saturday, what about Friday" or something like that...

Simon mentioned that one suggestion he had was that if you go through the overall

list/table at the front/beginning of the site it takes you to a calendar but there is no simple way to get back to the main table without going through several "Back" button clicks. It would be better to have a link that takes you back.

Simon then moved on to mention that he might have access to some Whitney passes for early July and that if you were interested you should contact him. He doesn't have all the details (which route, exact day) because it is a friend in LA who has the passes and she is also offering them to her other friends as well. But by the time you read this he should have all the details (they may also all be gone by now).

Our esteemed Editor Carolyn reiterated her need for articles and photos for the newsletters. For next month she said that given the time of year, it would be nice to have pictures of routes in Yosemite - just a couple of photos with your descriptions of experiences on the route. However anything else you've got will also be greatly appreciated for use in future issues.

A note was made to put Banff Film Festival info on the website but it might be too late for this newsletter.

Our trusty Treasure Karen had new member lists to pass around so now every quack on the list has your home address and phone. Doesn't that put you at ease? She also had a treasurers report: Our previous Treasurer Sabine transferred money from last years budget to the tune of: \$500. Additionally she's had about 40 people actually pay their membership dues so that makes about another \$600 she's got for a total of \$1100. So far she has paid out \$378 (though she implied she still owes Michael and Pat some more money) for campsites through August. Also the cost of our Peerless Publisher Andy's mailings was \$130 and Karen herself was owed \$20 for her expenses so currently the grand total that we have left in the bank is \$570. It was brought up that Karen injured her knee and that she will be having it operated upon in June. She's very unhappy to be out of the climbing and skiing scene for the immediate future.

Paul mentioned he still had plates, cups, etc, left over from last years Xmas party and so he handed them off to Karen.

Next came the cutesy part of the meeting that I know *everyone* loves: round-robin intros. Simon introduced himself as a 5.10 climber. Adam introduced himself as your scribe for the evening. Andy as the guy who mails out the newsletter. Carolyn as your newsletter editor. Caz said she was just visiting Carolyn and that while Carolyn has tried to get her interested, she doesn't climb. After an lengthy absence from our ranks, Kathy introduced herself as Kat and it looked like she'd lightened her hair. She's been very busy with work these last 8 months but is looking forward to having her life back. Next up was Pat, another longtime member. He even said it was good to see some old members out of the blue. Out of the blue but fairly new to RR is James: originally from Boston, not climbing much but hoping to do more with RR. Next months RR Meeting host, Scott, introduced himself mentioning that he is an ice climber who still hasn't adjusted to the end of ice climbing season. Karin reminded us that she is *not* from America and that she has been profiting from her January layoff by taking a road trip where she did a lot of climbing. She helped a crew doing rebolting in Red Rocks where she also did Rainbow Wall! Next up was the other Karen but with an "e": our Treasurer and slide-show presenter for the evening. She said, "I'm Karen and I sit on my ass." Next up was the "old member out of the blue" that Pat was referring to: Jeff, one of the original members of RR oh so many years ago. He's making a return after an 8 year hiatus and only recognized Pat and Kat! He still climbs a few times a year but not as much as 8 years ago when he was more active in the club. Welcome back Jeff!

Jeff's presence reminded Simon that Sue, our co-founder, invited *all* of you up to her hide-out in Jackson. He said there is climbing up there and lots of wineries. I recall Sue telling me that the closest climbing, Calveras Dome (?) is quite hard and the next closest climbing place is Consumnes River gorge. Next up was our celebrity guest from the Santa Barbara RR Chapter: Steve. Paul, our host for the

evening, said he's been climbing for 4-5 years but not much in the past 2 years. His 1st trip to Yosemite to actually climb will be the trip he is leading: April 12/13th. He also introduced his two friendly Labrador's this way: "The black pest is Sadie, the brown one is Charlie." Peter is a new/prospective member from Sydney, Australia. He's been climbing 6 yrs, mostly in Oz though also 2 years ago in Texas! He's come to the meeting to get some partners! Phil introduced himself: "I'm Phil." Almost overlooked were the Swedes hiding in the corner: Catrin has been here for 2 years and climbing for 1 year. Erik stated emphatically that he hasn't changed *his* hair color, it's all natural. Simon confirmed, saying he'd seen him in the shower. Now is that oversharing or what?

Erik and Scott's Canadian ice climbing will be next month's slide show Next month's meeting will be in SF at Scott's house – directions can be found at the end of this newsletter.

Trips:

Erik and Scott went ice climbing in the Banff/Canmore area of Canada where they wrecked 3 rental cars, and it was very, very cold. They found great ice climbing but it was cold and high avalanche dangers so lots of cragging but not many big routes were safe to do. However while there they took a mixed-climbing techniques clinic that was taught by a lot of big names in climbing: Will Gad, Shawn Isaac, Bruce Hendrickson, Scott Bax - they had the top brass teaching the clinic.

Andy went to Joshua Tree and got perfect weather: not windy, but warm and sunny yet not too hot! And after many years of dreaming of it, he finally climbed the Don Juan boulder.

This prompted Simon to mention he had seen an article on Joshua Tree in a non-climbing magazine - probably National Geographic Adventure.

Upcoming Trips:

Paul April 12th/13th and over by the time you read this. Signed up so far are Pat, Jane, Kevin, and Paul.

Erik said he and Catrin are leading May 26th/27th so bring lots of booze! Someone also reminded them to all bring their headlamps.

Simon has his exams the 20th (good luck Simon).

Last but not least was a lovely slide show by our Treasurer Karen - the slides were from her July 1999 trip but any misspellings or mis-statements below are my own. Her slideshow started out as she did: in Paris, with lovely shots from above of Paris and the Eiffel tower. Next they went to the Foret Dominiale de Fontainebleau where they found some interesting bouldering. However the area was too hot in July so they headed down to Chamonix where it was a bit misty. However their campsite had a stunning view of the Dru. Karen spent about 9 days down there but broke the trip up into several adventures. In the beginning she was travelling with a Canadian guy who insisted on starting every trip/hike from the Valley floor which made day trips into 3 day extravaganzas! Their first hike from the Valley floor up had a great view of the retreating Bosch glacier. They then did a snow hike to the Eglise de la Glier(?). However by afternoon the conditions got soft which was not good. Next they walked up to the huge, passive ice-fall Argentiere Glacier which had a stunning pink hue to it. Next up were slides of the Aiguille de Chardonnet and a stunningly beautiful brown mountain called Le Petit Vert. Unfortunately due to their valley floor start, by the 2nd day they still weren't even as high as the telepherique. It was slow going on the rock so they had to bivy again and it hailed on them! The next trip they actually took the Aiguille du Midi telepherique. Mostly it was foggy and obscured up there and they had to traverse a narrow, steep snow ridge and it was squishy. Next they passed along the Cosmiques Arete. Next was a before and after slide of them digging out their tent site. Slides of the Mont Blanc de Tacul and the south face of the Aiguille de Midi. Next day the weather was perfect and clear but the day still got screwed up. Jeff, her Canadian

counterpart, got his directions all screwed up. They had wanted to do a climb but because of being off track, they instead walked Pt. Hobrunner instead but it was cool because they saw these enormous crevasses. She also had a slide of their great view of the Brenva face of Mont Blanc. They also acquired a third climbing partner named Rich and did the rock face of the Pyramid de Tacul. By Karen's account it was a great/fun climb but on the way down they got their rope stuck. Not even with a pully could they loosen it so they decided to abandon the rope and use an 8.5 that Rich had in his pack! Because it was "only" 5.6, Jeff had elected to do it in his plastics. So while it had taken them 6.5 hours to get from bottom to top the first time, when Rich and she went back later to get the rope they did half of the whole climb in just 50 minutes! And the irony was that the rope hadn't caught on a loop or anything. Rather the tape had stuck in the crack. That night they got back fairly late.

And with that day she dumped Jeff and joined Rich and Linette. Together they did the classic route on the south face of the Aiguille de Midi. She showed slides of and described a perfect chimney, a pillar, and an 11a crux, two pitches of perfect crack, and the summit on the top. The granite was a gorgeous orange and had stunning friction. Once they had summited the top they saw a helicopter coming in nearby to deliver concrete slabs for the tourist trail they were rebuilding. They did that 9 pitch climb in 6 hours. The next day was a rest day in perfect sunshine. The next day she and Linette did the Plan Traverse of the Midi. The very clear slide showed it as she described it: a classic alpine traverse with sharp snow ridges. They used their Solomon plastic leathers to traverse it. Next Karen and Rich found excellent friction on an alternate, less travelled route on the Pointe Lachennal. Sounded like a good climb. But the next day they and most of the tent city left as a few days worth of heavy snow had just come in.

After the slide show there was more conversation and eventually the meeting broke up without breaking up Paul's house too badly. Thanks again to Paul and Molly for braving another RR meet!

A Couple of Gratuitous Photos

Last month I (Carolyn, your Editor) asked for any photo's etc that anyone had of Yosemite. I was not exactly inundated, but thanks to Michael Brodesky for sending me this one of Eric on Nutcracker...



And keeping with our friend Eric – here he is to be found desperately trying to gain entry to a wine bottle without a corkscrew, with some valiant assistance from Scott. Call yourself a drinker Eric!



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.

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:

			Leader
May	3/4	Yosemite	Adam
	10/11	Yosemite	Jen & Nate
	31/1	Yosemite	Simon
June	6 – 8	Yosemite	Torger
July	12/13	Meadows	Simon
	19/20	Meadows	Carolyn
	27/28	Meadows	Simon
August	3/4	Meadows	Adam
	9/10	Meadows	Mitchel
	16/17	Meadows	Michael
	23/24	Meadows	
	29-2 nd Sept (4 nights)	Meadows	
Sept	6-7	Meadows	
	6-7	Yosemite	
	13-14	Yosemite	

An appeal from your editor...

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. THANKS!

Next Meeting - Tuesday May 7th (7pm)

This month Scott Johnston has bravely agreed to put up with us all descending on his abode in the city....

The address is **619 Missouri Street**, located between Sierra and 20th Streets, in the Potrero Hill neighborhood of San Francisco. The house is on the East side of the street and is painted gray and blue. Call Scott at **415-824-1767** if you get lost on the way to the meeting.

Below are directions:

From the East Bay, take the 5th /Harrison Street exit, which is the second exit on the left after arriving in San Francisco. Take a slight left onto Harrison and stay in the two left lanes. Turn left onto 6th Street, at the next light. Go straight on 6th until it turns into I-280 South. Take the Mariposa/18th Street exit from I-280 South, which is the first exit. Stay left at the fork in the ramp and then turn right on 18th Street. Turn left on Missouri Street, which is the 2nd stop sign. Go through 2 stop signs and then start looking for the house on the left, towards the end of the 3rd block.

From the Peninsula, take I-280 to the Cesar Chavez exit, just after the 280/101 split. Go straight at the end of the exit onto Pennsylvania Ave. Turn left onto 22nd Street at the 4th stop sign. Stay on 22nd as it bends around and turn left onto Sierra, the first left. Turn right onto Missouri at the end of Sierra. The house is the second on the right.

From the North Bay, take 101 into the City. Follow signs for I-80/Downtown SF. This will put you on Van Ness Avenue, going South. Turn left on Golden Gate Avenue, immediately after Turk. Take Golden Gate to where it meets Market. Take a slight right onto 6th street as you are crossing Market St. Go straight on 6th until it turns into I-280 South. Take the Mariposa/18th Street exit from I-280 South, which is the first exit. Stay left at the fork in the ramp and then turn right on 18th Street. Turn left on Missouri Street, which is the 2nd stop sign. Go through 2 stop signs and then start looking for the house on the left, towards the end of the 3rd block.

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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