



Rock Rendezvous: Volume 12; Issue 7: August 2002

Rock Rendezvous

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Julys meeting notes

The Return of Tom Kidd

The July meeting was held on a beautiful summer's evening in Kevin Kachadourian's yard. Thanks to Kevin for this and for writing the notes for the last couple of months. He said some nice things about my writing too, which didn't appear to be a poorly disguised attempt to get out of being scribe permanently at all, oh no! Simon kicked off the meeting by asking where the restroom was located (a refreshing change from his regular toilet humor). He then made an appeal for articles and photos for the newsletter, particularly those involving peanut butter and ball bearing.

I heard a funny story about Simon recently. Apparently Tom Lambert asked for a loan of the Needles guide. Simon volunteered his copy, so Tom ventured into the dizzy heights of El Cerrito only to find that Simon had his Pinnacles guide ready... Pinnacles, Needles – both are sharp pointy objects so it's easy to understand the confusion. One is magnificent granite in the Sierra, the other dubious conglomerate. Quite similar really!

In general business, Karen Christie gave an overview of the accounts. She "inherited" ~\$800 from Sabina, we have 55 paid

members, have spent \$950 on campgrounds and are breaking even or are slightly ahead for the year. In response, Bruce nominated Karen for treasurer next year.

Regarding campgrounds, if you remove yourself from the online waitlist, please make sure you take yourself off from both days and email the trip leader. If other people don't get to go because you didn't let it be known you weren't going, you still pay for the site.

In a move of strategic brilliance, Em and GianLuca reserved Site #1 at Shepherd's Pass in Joshua Tree for Thanksgiving. There is room for fifty people and fifteen cars, and the signing up sheet will be available on the web two months prior to the trip.

Em was promoting the Access Fund Adopt a Crag Day, proposing a trail maintenance day at Mickey's Beach (see the ad in this newsletter). The proximity of the nudist beach had Simon very excited, although I think when he sees his first couple of old overweight males, his ardor will be quelled

somewhat. There has been a date change for this event; Mount Tam supervision is required and the person can only make it for September 14th. This is Carolyn "Newsletter" Dent's birthday, and she was promised a spanking she won't forget. Well, let's see if she shows up! We have been asked not to pull any poison oak, although Bruce will treat lesions if necessary! The day will be an RR event with a budget of ~\$100 provided towards food and beer.

Em also handed out Sonora Pass guidebooks to those who had ordered them. She noted that the profits support the website which has lots of up to date information, www.sonorapassclimbing.com. Don't be put off by the crags being named after rock in the north of England. Bruce and Em are organizing a trip to Sonora Pass. They noted that you can stay in a big chi-chi campsite at Pinecrest with movies at night, or after Pinecrest it is all Forest Service so you can camp where you want. Paul of lingering Christmas party fame was heading up to Tahoe for a week and was looking for partners.

In recent trips, there was lots of activity. The July 4th trip to Courtright Reservoir was a big success. Great setting, great climbing and great swimming. Kudos goes to Paul Drew and Andy who did 'Welcome to Courtright' on Power Dome - and they needed those tricams. Trapper and Spring Domes were popular due to proximity, but others tolerated the blazing sun on Penstemon Dome. I would recommend Tiger Wall as having great rock and some shade. Bruce and Em were on the same trip, but left when everyone else arrived (Bruce had to work). They hiked way in to the Obelisk, which has tremendous potential, being like a small Fairview Dome covered with varnish in a manner similar to Red Rocks. One of the climbs was called "Pollos Locos" - a reference to the amazing chickenheads. Unfortunately the only other party on the face pulled off a "turkey" which split into 8-10 pieces. Em got two direct hits and is now retiring her helmet. Fortunately most of the rocks hit Bruce in the back. They managed two routes. Bruce did also did a new route on Castle Rock Spire at 5.10+ A3+ called Cinco de Mayo. Knowing Bruce, it is

probably over-graded and featuring impeccably solid rock.

Torger and Noriko did Great White Book on Stately Pleasure Dome, in the course of which Torger managed to lose his nipple... from his Camelbak. They top-roped Darth Vader's Revenge and did almost all of the Matthes Crest (17hrs car to car). They did Crying Time Again on Lembert Dome, escaping after the fourth pitch. Kevin Kachadourian did Cosmic Wall on appropriately enough Mount Hubris at Castle Crags and recommended it highly. Kevin also did Arrowhead Arête with GianLuca in a state of mild intimidation as Clint Cummings had told them to "tell me if you think that is 5.8". They enjoyed it, but had lots to say about the climbing and the anchors on the descent. Suffice to say when I did it, someone died on the descent a day later.

Erik and Catrin did Charlotte Dome somewhere in the vicinity of the classic South Face and Charlotte's Web. They were disappointed not to see any of the overly aggressive bears on the approach. They also did the North Arête of Bear Creek Spire, skipping the last pitch to make sure they got down before dark. Very enjoyable, but tiring. They met Chris McNamara on the climb. I think it is an indication of how much climbing Chris McNamara does when you hear how many people met him on a route. Clodagh O'Shea met him on the Regular Route on Fairview only a few weeks ago...

Torger showed some excellent slides of skiing in Tuolumne with Noriko. A few years ago, Torger was part of a team that traversed the Sierra via Tuolumne. The slides of skiing down the road by Fairview Dome left an enduring image that I remember every time I drive the same way at the height of summer. This time he used the winter hut (the building where they give our wilderness permits in the summer) as a base and did some great looking tours of the Cathedral area. Once again it was cool to see such familiar areas in a new (very bright white) light.

The highlight of the evening, at least in terms of noisy audience reaction was "Poop Bags on El Cap" - Erik Sandelin's slides of

Mescalito. Erik climbed in the company of his friend Ola from Sweden and Norman Boles. Erik has done a lot of “sport aid climbing” with Ola – basically they disappear into the snowy woods, drink and do one pitch aid climbs. (They have long dark winters there and have to do something). Norman has appeared in previous RR slideshows and reference was made to his preference for all you can eat Indian food buffets. He was also referred to as the “little haulbag that could”. Our intrepid threesome set off onto one of the steepest parts of El Cap, “laughing death in the face”. Death soon laughed back when Erik tried to set up the haul ledge. He had little success and claimed that as a theoretical physicist he didn’t get it. He did get all the pitches with names, and he pointed out they don’t name easy pitches... The Seagull involved a double pendulum, as did The Molar Traverse. These little maneuvers lent a sense of commitment to the climb. The difficulty of the climbing meant they averaged three pitches a day, and it was five days before they reached their first piece of horizontal real estate – the Bismarck Ledge which gave them some much needed relief from the vertical. Erik noted that spending the night on the top of El Cap after they had finished was a highlight, giving them time to absorb all they had been through before descending back to the valley floor and reality.



The Molar, Mescalito, El Cap: Erik leads yet another pitch "with a name" while Ola belays.



'Catrin in a sea of chickenheads on Charlotte Dome'
Photo Erik Sandelin

The aforementioned poop bags are available from www.whennaturecalls.com and they instantly gel liquids and degrade solids to the point where it is legal to throw the bag into the regular trash. This and other handy tips such as buying a portaledge with metal buckles are to be found on Erik’s excellent website: www.sandelin.nu. The poop bags were needed as they didn’t have enough water bottles, so Erik went to the Yosemite store and bought five bottles of apple juice, as it seemed to be in the sturdiest bottle. The apple juice took a terrible toll, and we were treated (wrong verb I think) to a picture of the results. Thanks to Erik for such high entertainment value in the face of consistent audience abuse, and to Kevin for hosting the meeting. Incidentally he is looking for housemates.

And Introducing...

New faces interviewed by Simon Kenney and Kevin Kachadourian

5 new faces showed themselves at the palatial residence of Mr. Kevin K.

Aaron Quiter, who apparently up until recently was sleeping on his brothers floor in Mount Clair, is fresh out from Boulder CO. 'In search of the perfect rock climbing club?' I hear you ask – No, actually chasing a woman!!.

Aaron leads to a rather terrifying 5.12 (Sport) and 5.10 (Trad), recently took a 20ft fall on a single cam in Donner pass. Most importantly Aaron is a Webmaster of new climbing beta website: Bay Area.com, which is full of local climbing info.

Ann Johansson; Obviously Swedish, and so obviously a friend of Eric and Catrins, is around for only 2 weeks, which is just enough time to sample the delights of Tuolumne meadows (Actually I think that they opted for Sonora pass in the end). Ann last climbed in 1996, so Eric be gentle with her....

Another visiting friend, this time of Carolyn Dent's is Rachael Chamberlayne (from Durham for our British members). Actually Rachael came to Courtright reservoir with us a few weeks ago, climbed Spring Dome, seconds up to 5.9 and leads 5.2 (just finding her climbing feet). Rachael's next

stop is Alaska where she was an exchange student in Anchorage.

David W. (Last names have been omitted in order to protect the innocent). David has climbed a lot, at places that include: Donner, Pinnacles, the Valley, and Mount Diablo. He has been climbing for over 15 years (although he didn't look a day over 20). David is also into back-country/telemark skiing, mountain biking, and photography (a great combination). This was his first Rock Rendezvous meeting, and David confessed to coming in order to meet new partners (I think he meant climbing partners). Welcome, David.

Allen. In this instance, I've even eliminated the last initial, for security reasons (or maybe I didn't get it to start with). Allen is originally from Maryland, and currently lives in San Lorenzo. He has been climbing for about 8 years, all over, although mostly in the Southwest. Allen is also interested in ice climbing and telemark skiing. So far, his favorite climb was the Nose (in three and a half days). Allen said he wants to get it down to one day. He came to the meeting look for new people and new victims - sorry - partners. Welcome, Allen.

Courtright Reservoir Trip

An article by Mary Klingensmith

For my first R-R trip, the 4th of July weekend at Courtwright Reservoir was a blast! Even though I couldn't get there until Friday afternoon, the welcome R-R signs pointed me right to the campsite, and 20 minutes after pulling in, I was at Spring Dome, introducing myself to Zeanid (& Robert, from a distance) & was climbing shortly thereafter – It doesn't get any better!

Not only was the climbing great, the views were spectacular. Relaxing on the rock, waiting to do the 2nd pitch and looking over the reservoir or across at Trapper Dome (Saturday's fun), then jumping (okay, "easing") into the lake as the sun was going down reminded me of one of the reasons I love to climb – just being there. The welcome extended to me by all you Rock

Rendezvous folks was another, with a special “thanks” to Zeanid & Robert for letting me join them both for the climbs & food! Despite being trounced at “Settlement at Caton” by Lydia, Paul, and Simon – at least I spared Amy that anguish – and then being too lazy/tired to get out of the way of the sparks as we sat around the campfire (not that I’d cast any blame, Simon), sitting around & listening to the lies (I mean stories) was a great way to round out the day.

I could go on about Saturday’s climbs, too (Zeanid, you did an awesome job leading that 1st climb!), but I’ll spare y’all since you’ve all been there and have that t-shirt. But, again... Thanks for the welcome & the climbs. Mary

Coming Trips...

Hope to see you out there!

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>.

If you are booked on a trip that you can no longer attend please DO remember to ‘un-book’ your place. It would also be courteous if you could also e-mail the trip leader and/or person first on the reserves list so that they can move their name up before someone

else notices the space free and grabs it! 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
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	
Thanksgiving		Joshua Tree	

A note from your Editor

Many thanks to those of you who have submitted articles and photographs for this months edition. Everyone must have been really busy this summer so far! I have received more than I can possibly fit in this month, and will be using some of your material next month. Please don’t however

be discouraged from contributing further articles and photographs – there will be plenty of opportunity to include them in the very near future.

If you are good, next month you will be treated to Tom Kidds entertaining article and

photographs from Mount Conness.

Next Meeting - Tuesday August 6th (7:30pm)

This month Simon has kindly volunteered Paul Drew's apartment in Oakland for the Rock Rendezvous meeting.

Address:
175 Santa Rosa Avenue #401
Oakland
CA 94610

510 595 0434

Directions

From 580 (E) take the Harrison/Oakland exit and follow the signs to Oakland Avenue (left lanes). Turn left onto Oakland and go under freeway and straight across up the hill. Take 2nd right into Santa Rosa Avenue. Number 175 is the large gray concrete building on the right after 200 yards.

On-street parking. To get in, first ring the buzzer for #401 (Drew/Rowe) and then take the lift to the 4th floor (labelled Penthouse).

From 580 (W) take the Harrison exit and turn right at the first set of lights onto Oakland. Then follow directions above.

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.

Rock Rendezvous Newsletter
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