



Rock Rendezvous: Volume 12; Issue 9: October 2002

# Rock Rendezvous

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## September meeting notes

By Kevin Kachadourian

Simon began our September meeting by thanking our host, GianLuca. The call for introductions resulting in a rowdy digression, mostly unrecordable. Speaking a bit ahead of the agenda, Simon reminded everyone of the upcoming Thanksgiving trip, for which there are still a lot of spaces. Our brave leader reminded those present of the amount of turkey and beer that made last year's trip so festive. The meeting once again regressed to various rude comments ("Katja had sand in her...abrasive cracks..." "...well pissed. Well fed.") Fortunately for her, the climber slurred in the commentary was not present. Fortunately for this writer, she is no longer in the country.

As always, Simon called for photographs, digital or otherwise. Climbing photographs are preferred, but any pictures that embarrass members are welcome. Please contact Simon or Carolyn Dent.

In the upcoming trips department, the mention of the Mickey's Beach trail restoration planned for the following weekend brought yet another slew of cracks about cracks, while Bruce babbled in the corner about The Egg (one of the rocks at

Mickey's). Tom and Theresa are taking a real trip to New Zealand and Australia; climbing, surfing, and dining. Alison, who may be a new member (if she was not frightened away), mentioned that she is going diving in Cabo. Noriko is thinking about going to the Needles, and Scott is looking at Lone Pine Peak near the end of September. Bruce once again chimed in, waxing philosophic about easy chimneys and 5-hour approaches... and mountain driving adventures.

When the indefatigable Simon called for a meeting place (preferably in SF) and a slide show, the response was overwhelmingly positive (read: zero).

In the announcements department, a new climbing gym, named Touchstone, has opened in Concord.

Maintaining an order of chaos, Eric reported that he and Big Bill climbed Moon Goddess Arête on Temple Crag. Eric commented that Big Bill climbs well for someone with no toes. This provided a good segue to Scott's slide show on climbing in Peru. Those present were well rewarded with slides of

gorgeous scenery, lots of Peruvian Cheese Ice, and some impressive climbing (on said cheese ice). The adventure included a complete lack of showers ("no ever stood close"), a lot of hitchhiking, and rumors of the Spanish Inquisition. Once again, Bruce

chimed in, opining on donkeys and mules and burros (which some thought to mean burritos). The show was fascinating and entertaining. Many thanks to Scott for giving the show, and to GianLuca for hosting.

## And Introducing...

### A new member introduced by Simon Kenney

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Last month at Gian Luca's we had one new face show up. Richard Schwaninger. Richard is obviously a very nice guy as he owns a Ducati Motorcycle (In fact an absolutely classic Ducati motorcycle). But enough of my self indulgence. Richard is returning to climbing after some 15 years, he

has climbed at Mount Shasta, Mount Dana to name but 2. He grew up in Pleasanton, and left climbing to raise his family. So now he is looking for partners, and is desperate enough to do a VERY early start in order to get out of the bay, climb and return in a short a time as possible.

## Mt. Whitney via the East Face

### Article by Scott Johnston, photos by Simon Kenney

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Our team leader, has checked the box for "No publicity", and faced with fame and fortune, many begging letters and queue's of

people wishing to be included on the next adventure; Has decided to be referred to as "N".....

This trip would not have been possible except for the thoughtful planning done by "N". She waded through miles of red tape to get the permit, assembled the brilliant team, and motivated us to complete this daunting task. Teaming up with "N" was the fearless Simon Kenny, Josh Beck (not a RR member), and myself.

The trip started well with us all meeting at PJ's restaurant in Lone Pine for breakfast, Friday, July 16, at 7:00 a.m. After getting well stuffed (but not well fed), we headed to ranger station to pick up the permit. Luckily, "N" fought to the front of the line to get our permit in a timely manner and off we went. Then everyone ran back to the restaurant to unload breakfast and then get in our cars. Next stop, Whitney Portal, where we donned our packs and started up the trail. Apparently during the packing process, Josh and I were able to get the light packs and Simon and "N" got the heavy packs.

Four hours and thirty minutes later, Josh arrived at Iceberg Lake and reserved a spot for the team. Eight hours after leaving the parking lot, "N", Simon, and myself arrived at basecamp. Our excuse for arriving late was that I spent quite a bit of time wandering around the moraine below Iceberg Lake wondering where is this stupid lake? Fortunately Simon and "N" came along and rescued me. So we all arrived in basecamp tired and dehydrated.



Josh and I quickly prepared and ate our not so delightful freeze dried meals, and then wandered over to "N" and Simon's humble camp. We were in for a pleasant surprise, "N" had prepared a delicious meal of pasta, with sun dried tomatoes and olive oil, and

there was practically an entire pot left over. After Josh and I helped clean the pot, Simon got out his flask of rum and learned to his chagrin that he was climbing with a bunch of teetotalers and had to drink the whole the thing by himself. Pity that.

The next morning Simon and "N" got up bright-eyed and bushy-tailed at 5:00 a.m. to tackle the East Face route. Josh and I knew the only other party on East Buttress route was not planning on leaving until 10 a.m. and so got a more leisurely 5:30 a.m. start. We would have slept in later except that the sun was already up and Simon was making a huge racket getting ready.



Josh and I caught up to Simon and "N" at the base of their climb while they waited for the party in front of them to leave the ground. Josh and I set off, with me leading the first pitch. I led to the top of and over the second tower. Our plans of simul-climbing 2-3 rope lengths at a time were cut short by rope drag after about 250 feet. We regrouped after the second tower and off I went again. This time I was able to stretch the pitch out until the rack was almost gone,



probably about 600 feet. This pitch included a lot of very scenic low fifth class climbing right on the prow of the buttress, with face, crack, and slab climbing. Josh led the next two pitches, with more of the same great, varied, and sometimes exposed climbing. We arrived at the top in about 5 hours to the cheers of about a million day hikers. Josh and I then had to spend the next hour answering all sorts of crazy questions. We were able to make use of our celebrity status by talking some tourists into letting us use their radios.

We radioed Simon and "N" to see how they were doing. Once we got the all clear from them, we headed down the Mountaineer's Route. The Mountaineer's Route is a splendid example of Sierra scree surfing. With each step, hundreds of pounds of rock and sand would start barreling down the slope. We felt bad for the unfortunates we came across later on slogging up this death chute. They didn't seem to hold a grudge against us for knocking down tons of rock on them from above though, or maybe they didn't make the connection that we were the responsible party. Anyone attempting the

Mountaineer's Route after the snow is gone should have their heads examined.



After making it back to basecamp, Josh and I abandoned our plans of climbing the Mithral Dihedral the next day in favor of dinner at a restaurant somewhere in the Owens Valley that night. After two hours and fifteen minutes, we arrived back at Whitney Portal and headed off to dinner in Bishop.

## **Adopt-a-Crag Mickeys Beach Trail Maintenance**

**By Em Holland, with photos by David Weisman**

Our Adopt-a-Crag trail project at Mickey's Beach Sep 14 was a huge success. We accomplished all the trail work we set out to do and more, including:

- disassembled and removed the old derelict log ladder and metal cables.

- filled the 40' x 6' eroded ravine where the log ladder used to be with big stones carried up from the beach (Jim estimates 3 truckloads of stones were moved, all by hand).

- used salvaged logs to install 8 new water bars/drainage channels on trail.

- improved log/stone retaining walls & steps on three switchbacks.

- cut back and cleared overgrown brush from trail

- picked up trash along from underbrush

- learned how to use McClouds (a tool like an overgrown hoe



with an overgrown rake on the other side) and Polaskis (spelling??... tools that look like ice-axes on steroids) to level and re-grade approximately 1/10th mile of trail from the beach, past Mickey's Beach Rock, to the third (fourth?) big switchback above the beach.

Special thanks to Jim Pinkard, our trail supervisor from Mt. Tam State Park, and to Chris Valle-Riestra and Ken of Tamalpais Conservation Club, who were invaluable as the trail maintenance experts who guided our raw energy.

I heard lots of positive feedback from the many beachgoers and climbers using the trail that day, and more importantly, very big THANK YOU from Jim Pinkard, who invites us to come back and work any time!

Special thanks to Simon, Amy and Bruce, who did the lion's share of the barbecue preparations/cooking, and to everyone who contributed to a fun and delicious post-work party.



GREAT JOB! to all who participated in the trail work: Jim Pinkard (MTSP), Torger Johnson, Tom Kidd, Bruce Bindner, Chris Valle-Riestra (TCC), Ken (TCC), Simon Kenney, Amy Segal, David Weisman, Sierra Boyd, Aron Quiter, Brian Quiter, Melissa (Aron's friend), Jared (Aron's friend), Cherie Jen, Paul Amico, and last but not least, Thanks to Paul Minault, RR member and Northern Calif, coordinator for the Access Fund who first suggested this project...

Thanks, all for helping make this a success!  
Em Holland

PS If I've forgotten any names, spelled your name wrong, or if you can supply missing last names in the list above) please let me know. Email me if you have any feedback or comments for future events.

## Coming Trips...

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We have plenty of camping booked in Yosemite this fall, so log in and book yourself space using our web reservation page <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 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](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.

### Joshua Tree:

Of course we have the Thanksgiving trip to Joshua Tree coming up in November. Last year this trip was a huge success, with a huge turkey feast, drinks round the campfire (and yes, the memory of that hangover has faded and I am drinking again despite swearing otherwise!), and, last but not least, some excellent climbing.

This year we have a huge campsite booked that will take up to 50 people, 15 cars, so it looks like a good party weekend is in order!

We have campsites booked for the following weekends:

			Leader
Oct	4-6	Valley (double site)	
	18-20	Valley	
Thanksgiving	Nov 28 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>	Joshua Tree	

## A note from your Editor

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Next months newsletter looks likely to contain Eriks big wall reminiscences from Mescalito, in addition to some photographic highlights of last years J. Tree thanksgiving trip.

The usual editorial request remains – if you have done anything interesting, and feel like

writing an article, please send it to me at [carolynldent@aol.com](mailto:carolynldent@aol.com).

Photographs would also be really welcome. If anyone has some good photos of Joshua Tree from last year it would be great to feature some of those in the run-up to this years Thanksgiving extravaganza!

## Next Meeting - Tuesday October 1st (7:00pm)

Our next meeting will be hosted by Linda Shen, in the city. She has a fire and hot-tub in her garden, so bring a swimsuit if you wish to use the tub. This months slideshow will be presented by Bruce Bindner.

300 Forester Street at Hearst Ave  
San Francisco  
Cell 650 740 5664

From East Bay:

80 -> 101 -> 280 South to Daly City  
Exit at Monterey Blvd and go straight at the light  
Turn left at Forester Street  
Drive for one block to Hearst Ave  
The house is to your left at the corner of Forester and Hearst

From South Bay:

101 North  
Stay on 101 for 15 more miles AFTER you past the airport. Do not take 380.  
280 South to Daly City  
Exit at Monterey Blvd and go straight at the light  
Turn left at Forester Street  
Drive for one block to Hearst Ave  
The house is to your left at the corner of Forester and Hearst

The closest BART station is Glen Park, then it's a 10-min walk to my place.

Muni 23, 43 and 36 go right by my house.

### 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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