



Rock Rendezvous: Volume 12; Issue 10: November 2002

Rock Rendezvous

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October meeting notes

By Tom Kidd

The blue glare of the LED headlamp shines over an array of angular objects but I can't find what I am looking for. It's Friday night, Nicole is asleep and I can't find my notes for the last Rock Rendezvous meeting and Carolyn is putting the newsletter together tomorrow. I continue the search through the bedroom in the vain hope the scrap of paper with scrawls will appear. As Simon says, it's hard to take notes when you are trying to get drunk, and it's even harder to find the notes that you put in a safe place when you were drunk. I decide to recreate the conditions when I last had the notes, hoping to remember where they are through the process of associative memory. I pour myself a glass of Glen Eandubhafach (The Glen of the Black Sheep with the surprised expression on its face) and immediately recall Simon saying something about if you ever find yourself drunk in SF, forget about sleeping under bridges. Instead make your way to Linda and Eric's fantastic house. They generously hosted the October meeting and their pad was immediately adopted as the RR clubhouse. The backyard sheltered by leafy trees, the small wood fire and the hot tub made it feel 1000 miles away from the city outside. Interestingly, Linda decided that the only

way she was ever going to attend an RR meeting was to host it. A very big thanks to her and Eric for doing this.

The Joshua Tree sign up was again discussed and it must be almost ready to sign. The Christmas party will be at Simon and Amy's house and we can help screw up Simon's new hardwood floor. Maybe he meant screw it down? Or get screwed on it? Who knows. There is also some rockwall bolting to be done (joy). After discussion, Saturday 7th December was chosen as the date for the Christmas party. Candidates for next year were discussed. Carolyn pointed out that doing the newsletter had made her hair turn white. Kevin claimed that being president made his hair fall out. Simon agreed. Despite this, Simon is running again as president for next year which is a very welcome development.

We had a round of introductions Californian style with Simon claiming he was bribing his way to popularity. Scott "crispy corneas" (the result of a treacherous mix of Lasik, beer and the wood fire) rock climbs in the summer and ice climbs in the winter. Alex is a lurker from the UK. Adam was trip leader for the following weekend. Jan has been

climbing on and off for three years, especially at the Pinnacles. Torger whose native American name is "sets off avalanches" has climbed twice this year. Noriko is always looking for partners. Linda has been climbing outdoors for two years, mainly Lover's Leap and Yosemite. GianLuca climbs in the summer and skis in the winter. Carolyn muttered something about an alcoholic meeting in Yosemite. Ger started climbing this year. Michael leads up to 5.9 trad and is looking for partners. Melissa climbs and skis or did until she got injured. Aaron climbs anything he can but has no trad gear. Merrin starting climbing in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil! Ryan is returning to be a student at Stanford. Andy has been climbing a long time. Em is a dilettante climber. Erik said he works too hard to climb and promptly burst into a fit of adolescent sniggering. Karen is cycling after her ACL operation, and already has her ski pass for the coming season!

In recent activity, Andy did the Matthes Crest, or at least two peaks worth and then rapped. Michael solo'd the East face of Whitney and pronounced it his favorite climb. Noriko was climbing in the City of Rocks, Idaho. Erik recommended The Yawn and then admitted that he had found the 5.7 second pitch harder than the 5.9 offwidth first pitch. It may be a sandbag folks. Carolyn did Nutcracker on Saturday and was too hungover to climb on the Sunday. Aaron went to Sonora with Em and

Bruce and saw Brother Bruce get to the top of a 5.12 offwidth. He got snowed on on Crackhouse at Potter's Rock. I did the West Ridge of Mount Conness again, walking in from the Meadows which is gentler but makes for a longer day.

Two slide projectors burnt out but fortunately there was an amazing video session. The video was filmed by an Italian, Valerio Folco, with additional footage by Marco Spataro. It concerned the third ascent of The Tempest on El Cap by Valerio, Bruce and Tom McMillan which follows a line just to the left of the Pacific Ocean Wall. The first ascent was by Steve Gerberding and friends. An attempt at repeating it by Alex Lowe was thwarted in part by a 60-70ft fall. So it is probably reasonably serious. The video itself was superb and one of the best I have seen about climbing a big wall. GianLuca provided some translations of the Italian titles, ranging from "first day" to "steep". It is hard to provide a description, but those who watched will remember the telling moments when the climbers are talking on the bivvy ledges. "Chili", "no food for Marco ever" and "these burritos taste like shit..." may bring back some memories too. There were some good night vision shots as well. Bruce in a cameo role as a burnt out climber who licked out the can of chili before crushing it. Loud applause greeted the end of the video and I think everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. Thanks to Bruce for sharing it with us and to Eric and Linda for sharing their house.

And Introducing...

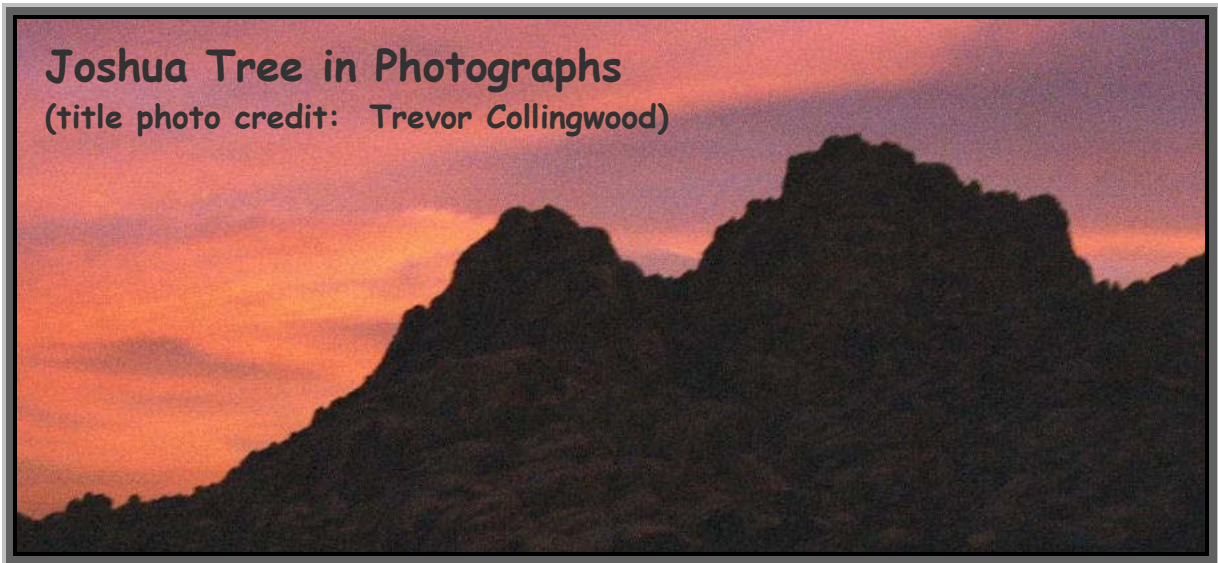
New member introductions by Simon Kenney and Kevin Kachadourian

Merrim Morse, showed up to find out just what we were all about, and so of course I got a few notes on what he was all about... Merrim is a Bay area man, and has been climbing since 2001, he has the basic set of gear to second anything up to a 5.10, and leads up to 5.7. He has done a bit of bouldering at Indian rock and Glen Canyon, and has still to climb anything at Yosemite. - looking for a partner, any takers??

Ryan Ernst, has been climbing for 2 years and currently leads to 5.10. He has lived in Berkley for 5 years. He heard that a hot tub was part of this months meeting and so showed up!! Amongst other things Ryan is a Ski Bum, a soccer fan, and travels to far off exotic places such as Peru – where he arrived last year in the wrong month for climbing and got snowed off!! He has also been to Bolivia – hell when's the slide show.

Jan, who is a recent transplant from Portland, originally from Saint Louis. While in Portland, Jan climbed a lot at Smith Rock. She also visited Titan River in Washington. Closer to us, Jan has climbed at Pinnacles and in Napa. She has led up to 5.7 trad, and 10a sport, if the bolts are close (she didn't say what "close" was). Her undergrad work was in mechanical engineering and studio art, the perfect combination for climbing, and her graduate work was in,... uh,..., well, I'm

not at liberty to divulge. In addition to climbing, Jan likes to run, ski, mountaineer, cycle, and backpack. She still seemed very well rested - what she didn't say, but I have on the poorest of sources, is that Jan is involved in a project at Stanford involving high energy phase shift time displacement. Her days are currently 37.5 hours long - and she doesn't look a day over 24. Welcome, Jan.



This month, in anticipation of the upcoming J. Tree trip, we have a collection of photographs from ~~the area. Just bear in mind that people on the RR J. Tree trip usually look a lot more hungover~~ than the individuals in the photographs. I think some selective photo editing has been going on here!!!

We start off with photographs of the morning pre-climb preparations at the campsite (on the first day, before the hangovers set in!!). Photo credits Trevor Collingwood.



But then move onto the real stuff with two photographs of Hal and Joan on Solid Gold, 5.10a on the Northeast Face of the South Astrodome in the Wonderland of Rocks. Photo credit: Joan Marshall.



And finally, a selection of climbs from last years trip. Photo credits Trevor Collingwood:



Left: Trevor Collingwood on an unknown climb at the campsite.
Right: Carolyn Dent on Jessica's Crack, 5.6. Hall of Horrors, Sheeps Pass area





Trevor Collingwood on a 10a flake/face route (I can't remember the name!) in the Hall of Horrors, Sheeps Pass.

Thanks to both Joan and Trevor for allowing me to use their photo's. You are both STARS!

Coming Trips...

The next big Rock Rendezvous trip is to Joshua Tree for Thanksgiving. This is potentially the biggest trip of the year with a campsite for 50 people (and 15 cars) booked. Last year this trip was a huge success, with a stupendous turkey feast, numerous - and mixed - 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.

Booking for this trip will be online from November 1st, so visit our web reservation page (<http://www.rockclimb.org/rr/trips.html>) if you want to come. Remember that you will need to sign yourself in for all three nights.

Alternatively space can be booked by contacting Michael Brodesky on 415 948 8529, or mbrodesk@interwoven.com.

You are Invited to the RR Christmas Party!

PARTY AT THE PRESIDENTS HOUSE !!!

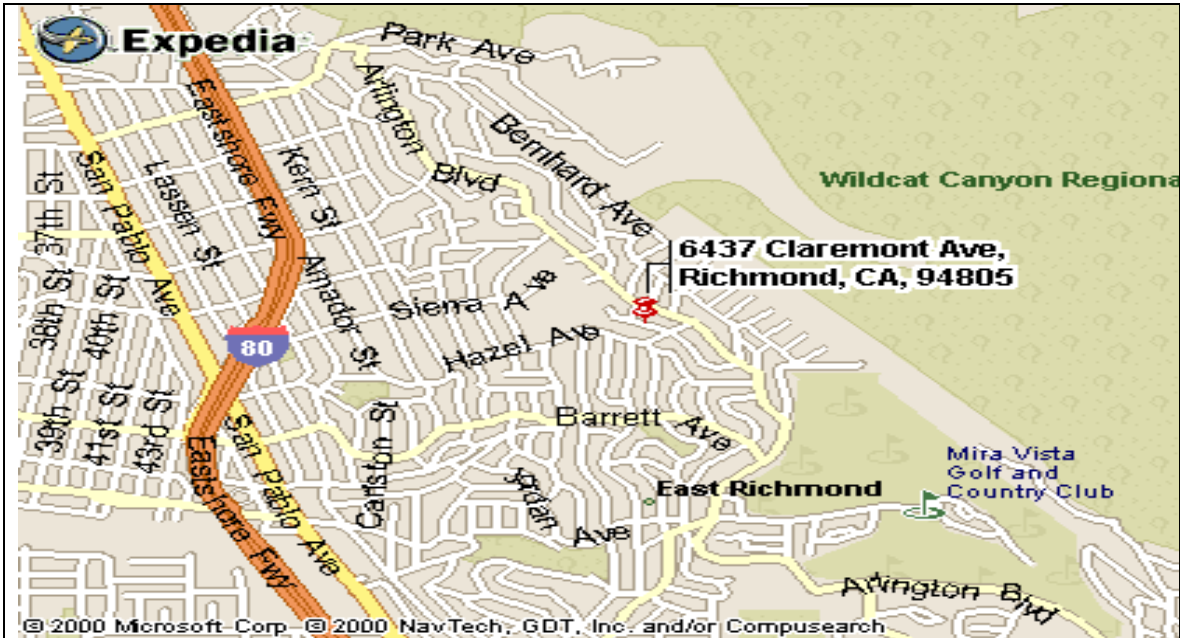
(That's Simon Kenney and not George W – although he did say he might show up late)

DECEMBERS RR MEETING WILL ALSO BE THE RR CHRISTMAS PARTY!!

YOU LUCKY PEOPLE: I HAVE DECIDED TO HOST THIS YEARS ROCK RENDEZVOUS PARTY AT MY PLACE!! AND HAVE SET THE DATE FOR SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH

Show up around 8:00pm, RR will provide some food/beer/wine/soda. Just bring any extra booze you wish to add and something for a potluck.

I have heaps of room if you wish to crash so if you want to get totally drunk then that's OK too!!



Phone:
(510) 2371466 (home)
(415) 5051189 (Simon's/ Amy's cell)
(925) 2794428 (Simon's work)

Directions:

- I 80 Exit at San Pablo Ave
- Go south 1 block on San Pablo Ave and turn left at lights on Barrett Ave.
- Follow Barrett Ave to the top of the hill where it intersects with Arlington Blvd. Turn left on Arlington Blvd.
- After about 4 blocks turn left on Olive and immediately right on Claremont. We are about 4 houses in on the right.

6437 Claremont Avenue
Richmond, CA 94805

A note from your Editor

Next Month (December – eek!) will be a 'Big Wall' special issue, with an article already received from Eric on Mescalito, and hopefully a second article on Allens recent ascent of the Nose.

So that leaves me planning the January 2003 (help!) issue. Maybe a RR hall of shame is in order – take as many drunken photo's as you can at the J.Tree Trip and Christmas party, and send them to me – with a story or moral (or no morals) as appropriate!

The usual editorial request remains – if you have done anything interesting, and feel like writing an article, or sending some photographs, please contact me at carolynldent@aol.com.

Next Meeting - Tuesday November 5th (7:00pm)

This months brave hostess is KAREN CHRISTIE.

Bruce says he can do the slideshow Tues Nov 5. He can show the Tempest slides that didn't get shown last time, and also slides of the Bugaboos in August. (NE-Ridge, Bugaboo Spire)

Here are directions to Karens house:

907 Clara Drive
Palo Alto 94303
650-852-1212 home
510-612-7434 cell

From the East Bay, there are many options. The best may depend on where you start and traffic on the day, whether you'll want to go over the Bay Bridge and follow directions from SF or go south on the East Bay side. In the absence of traffic considerations (ha!), the quickest way from Berkeley/Oakland is to take 880 South. From 880 South, take the exit for "84 West - Decoto Road" (first overhead sign is marked Decoto Road only; 1 mile before the exit there is a small sign on the right indicating Dumbarton Bridge). Follow signs for the Dumbarton Bridge/84 West and go over the Dumbarton Bridge (this is the pay direction). Once over the bridge, take a left on Willow Road (second traffic light). Bear right to get back on 101 South (for about 2 miles).

From San Francisco, take 101 South or 280 South, according to your personal driving preference or any traffic accidents on the day.

From 101 South, take the Embarcadero Road/Oregon Expressway exit. Follow signs for Oregon Expressway (last, third?, ramp on right). Merge onto Oregon. At the 3rd traffic light, turn left (south-ish) onto Louis Road.

From 280 South, take the exit for Page Mill. From the ramp, turn left (to go east) on Page Mill, which will turn into Oregon Expressway when you cross El Camino Real. Turn right on Louis Road.

Once on Louis Road, Go about 3-4 irregular blocks and turn left on Clara Drive (one block past 4-way stop sign at Colorado and Louis). 907 is the first house on the left. There is plenty of on-street parking. If you have any problems, give me a call.

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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