



Rock Rendezvous: Volume 13; Issue 2: February 2003

Rock Rendezvous

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January Meeting Notes

Tom has lost his notes again...

A very long time in the future, an archaeologist is going to dig up all my notes from Rock Rendezvous meetings that have gone missing. The haphazard and terse nature of the notes will undoubtedly baffle scholars for generations. What is this strange collection? A shopping list? The secret diary of a swinger? All will fail, and the notes will be ultimately be consigned to the never translated languages of Ogham and the speeches of George W.

Meanwhile it doesn't help me at all as I don't know where the @#*% they are. I know the January meeting was at Scott's Potrero Hill house and that his cat was present. Who else was there? Scott. Adan. Trevor from NZ. Carolyn. Meike from Germany. Kevin. Torger. Nicole. The sophisticated Simon. The other Simon. A couple of new faces. Several other familiar faces who I have no doubt forgotten.

On the business side of things, the most important thing is that Rock Rendezvous is donating surplus money from last year to two different causes. The first is the American Safe Climbing Association which replaces old bolts on many popular climbs. Chances are you've clipped their handiwork.

I believe about \$400 goes to them. A smaller donation goes to a non profit which takes recovering woman on Outward Bound type courses. Again if I had my notes, I could remember the amounts and the names. All very worthy.

The other memorable part of the evening was Scott showing off his modern ice climbing gear. Ignoring inevitable jokes about screws and worse, this was interesting to most people there. I for one have done a lot of ice climbing in Europe where freeze thaw cycles lead to much more plastic, and dare I say friendly, ice. The couple of RR trips to Lee Vining scared me because of the extremely hard brittle nature of the medium in the US. Scott's gear is designed to cope with this – the mono point crampons, the detachable leashes (yes he still uses them and doesn't think they are wussy at all), the ice screws with handles for driving them in and the light modern boots. Everyone fondled his hardware before passing it onto their neighbor. Excerpts of Jeff Lowe's ice climbing video with Bird Lew followed. Thanks to Scott for hosting an enjoyable evening. And thanks to everyone for bringing so much good food and drink.

'and Introducing...'

Kevin Kachadourian's new member introductions

Anne Marie Ortiz. I didn't dare interrupt the conversation Anne Marie was having in Italian, but later, when she was speaking with another member in Spanish, I was able to inject myself into the conversation and tear her away for a short interview.

Anne Marie, who claims to have not committed any crimes, is, actually, from Italy, and did tell this reporter "climbing is my most favorite thing in the whole world." Included in her climbing history are Smith Rock ("climbing with women"), J-Tree, the Gunks, Exit 38 in Seattle, and some small crags in Massachusetts. Anne Marie has been climbing for 5 years, about 2 of them consistently. She is also into backpacking and mountaineering. As proof of her toughness, Anne Marie let me know that she had just run a marathon with a bulging disc. Welcome Anne Marie

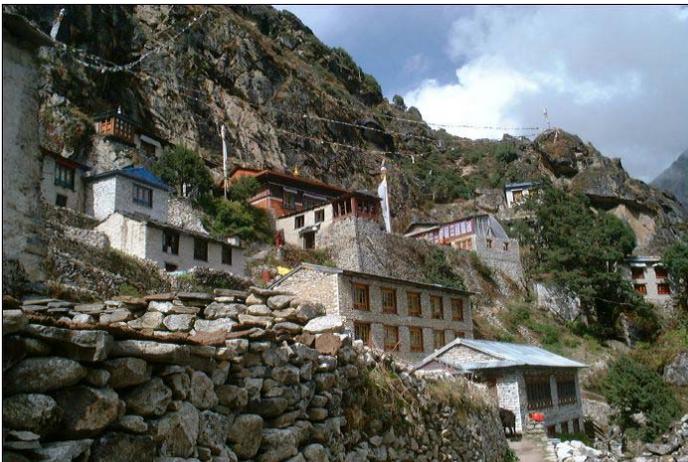
And... Adan Sebastian Martinez Alonso. For the more active members, Adan is already a familiar face, but has not yet been interviewed. Adan is from the Basque region of Spain, where he is also know as Sebastian. He has been climbing for 5 years, 2 of them obsessively. While he hasn't climbed in Spain, Adan has climbed at the Pinnacles, Lover's Leap, Red Rocks, Owens River Gorge, Smith Rock. He has also climbed a few of California's mountains, including Whitney, Conness, Russell, and Temple Crag. Before he started climbing, Adan was a mountaineer, and likes alpine climbing. He also likes skiing.

Adan has been organizing a trip to Potreo Chico in Mexico, which he and his group may be on as you read this. In just a short time, Adan has established himself as an active and contributing member of our group. Welcome, Adan.

Something to Share...

Adan Sebastian Martinez Alonso

At the last meeting Adan suggested that I might like to include some pictures from his recent trip to Everest Base Camp and climb of Island Peak (Nepal) in the newsletter... So here is a taster from his website <http://www.ekabal.com/~adan/nepal/>.



Thame monastery, near
Namche Bazaar



Adans friend Stephan showing off his rock climbing skills to the Sherpas. Even though Sherpas are mountain climbers, rock climbing what's not a mountain must be an odd Westerner's passtime



Stephan, Wungshu and Sebastian at Gokyo Ri



Adan on Cho La (La meaning pass)



Adan at Everest Base Camp. OK, maybe we'll go up tomorrow...



Island Peak climb. The really steep section begins about here.



Island Peak climb. Almost at the top...



Adan on the summit of Island Peak!

If you enjoyed this selection then a visit to Adans website is a must! This is only a small selection from the many stunning photographs on the site, and is inspirational to anyone wanting to visit and climb in Nepal.

...I could make a reference to US vacation allowances here, but that is a sore point so...

Yosemite Search & Rescue

Em has asked me to pass on details of a filmshow that will be presented at the Sports Basement in the city this month...

Date & Time: 02/20/03 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Address: Sports Basement, 1301 6th St. San Francisco 94107

Contact Info: friends@sportsbasement.com

Description: Produced and directed by Gary Zieff, Yosemite Search and Rescue is a 45-minute documentary about the courageous men and women who make up the Yosemite Search and Rescue (YOSAR) team. The documentary focuses on several members of the team, following them in their day-to-day life, searching the backcountry for overdue hikers, rappelling fourteen hundred feet to stranded climbers, or flying in a Lemoore Naval Station helicopter

to a remote carry-out. This is a rare opportunity to view this dramatic film, and we are excited to be able to present it to you! Gary Zieff works as a producer in the film industry, both in New York and San Francisco. He is an avid rock climber who spends as much time as his schedule will allow pursuing the cracks in Yosemite Valley, Tuolumne Meadows, and Joshua Tree.

Red Rocks – April 24th-29th

This trip will definitely run.

We have a group campsite booked which will hold 10-20 people, and is well located for getting to the climbing. The campsite is booked for the nights of Thursday April 24th through Monday 28th (departing Tuesday 29th) There is also the possibility of staying in motels/hotels/casino etc in Las Vegas.

Transport, there is the choice between flying or driving to think of - remembering that extra gear will be required if you are interested in camping.

Climbing – there is a mixture of single and multi-pitch climbing available at Red Rocks. Please feel free to sign up irrespective of your level of experience (ignore my e-mail last week) – I am expecting us to be able to accommodate some non leaders.

I know many people like to come along with a regular partner, but I am also encouraging of the idea of experienced climbers coming on this trip without a partner pre-arranged, and then linking up with the group on a daily basis for individual climbs...

So please e-mail me (carolynldent@aol.com) if you are interested in this trip (even if you have already contacted me to express interest), and include the following information so I can start get the ball rolling planning wise... Let me know your degree of interest (definite or just interested?), whether you prefer to camp or stay in a hotel, fly or drive, and a vague idea of how experienced a climber you are.

This should be a good trip, and I have heard no rumours of an alcohol ban at Red Rocks to date!!

2003 – Proposed Trips

Updated trip list... As it currently stands, many of the trips on this list are not yet definite. It will take interest, organization and enthusiasm on the part of the organizer and Rock Rendezvous members to ensure trips will indeed happen...

If you wish to help out with any of the proposed trips, or have opinions on the locations and suggested times that trips should run, then please do e-mail me (carolynldent@aol.com) or one of the organizers listed. I can also help put you in touch with the organizer if you do not know their e-mail. If you wish to organize a trip to an additional location please contact me, with a proposed time (this does not need to be exact) and I can add it to the list. Suggested locations include...a Desert Towers trip, the Grotto, the Balls, Fresno Dome, Needles, CA, Goat Rock, Mt. Diablo, Cosumnes River, Devil's Tower, Castle Rock, Mickey's Beach, Mt. Tamalpais, Indian Rocks, Golden Gate Wall, Pinnacles National Monument, and Mt. St. Helena, Napa Valley... The possibilities seem to be endless!!!

Date	Location	Organizer
Winter	Ski touring trips will be posted to the newsletter/mailling list or contact any of these individuals to get a ski trip going:	GianLuca, Tom, Nicole, Simon K., and/or Em
Winter	Ski touring: If you want to ski, the <i>Sierra club</i> has lots of trips. Here is a small selection from their calendar, reposted by permission of Chris K.	The complete schedule is at their website .
Winter	Ice Climbing trips will be posted to the newsletter/mailling list or contact:	Scott J.
Note	Winter climbing and skiing trips are weather permitting. All normal RR liability waivers apply. You are completely on your own recognisance, especially for trips requiring mountaineering or technical ice skills.	
15 th -23 rd Feb	el Potrero Chico , Mexico!	Adan
14-17 February	Snow Camping in _____	Kevin Kachadourian.
Spring	Yosemite Valley trips. Check website for dates/sites:	http://www.rockclimb.org/rr/trips.html
March	the Grotto - possibly earlier <i>depending upon weather/road conditions</i> . Persons with 4wd/high clearance vehicles needed as drivers.	Em
28th Mar - 1st April or longer	Joshua Tree	Adam
24th - 29th April	Red Rocks , Nevada. Long weekend or week for those who can. Group camp or motel?	Carolyn and Jan
1-4 May	City of Rocks , Idaho	Pat Mclaughlin
Late Spring/early Summer		
May/June	Sonora	Bruce/Em
May/June	Tahquitz/Suicide Rock	Adam
Summer	more Valley and Tuolumne trips. Check website for dates/sites:	http://www.rockclimb.org/rr/trips.html
late June/early July	Lover's Leap	Volunteer needed...
4th July	Courtwright Reservoir	Simon K.
August/September?	Owens River Gorge	Carolyn
August	Tuolumne Meadows . Check website for dates/sites:	http://www.rockclimb.org/rr/trips.html

Autumn	Back to Yosemite Valley . Check website for dates/sites:	http://www.rockclimb.org/rr/trips.html
September	Goat Rock	Adam or Nicole
September	Mt. St. Helena , Napa Valley	????
October	Joint HMC/RR Valley trip , with UK visitors from the Hertforshire Mntn Club: http://www.herts-mc.swinternet.co.uk	Carolyn Dent
October	Red Rocks , Nevada	prime time to go
November - Thanksgiving	Joshua Tree	join the feast!
Date	Location	Organizer

Next Meeting: Tuesday February 4th, 2003, 7:00pm

We will be at the Palatial home of Kevin Kachadourian.

This months slide show....

Hal Tompkins will be showing slides from a trip to the Cordillera Vilcanota in southern Peru in the summer of 2000. We tried (but were unsuccessful) to climb Ausangate, the third highest mountain in Peru. I also have a few slides of the Inca Trail.

He also has slides from some canyoneering trips in Utah. There's not alot of climbing involved but the scenery is spectacular.by Hal Tompkins

Directions...

4012 Maybelle Ave, Oakland, CA

Phone (510) 336-7019

Directions:

Note: please walk down the driveway and use the side door, as the front door currently leads to someone's bedroom! No deliberate mistakes please...

From SF and all points north of Oakland: take whatever roads get you to I-580 south. After you pass Fruitvale and 35th avenue, get off at High Street. Turn left and go under the freeway. At the first light, turn left onto MacArthur. Take the next right onto Maybelle Street (Kragen Auto Parts and Roma Pizza are on the corner). After 2.5 blocks, just as the street starts to climb, the house will be on the right.

From all points south of Oakland: take whatever roads get you to I-580 north. After you pass the exit for highway 13, take the next exit for MacArthur Blvd./High Street. At the stop sign, go straight. The exit ramp becomes Calaveras Ave (for a few meters), and then merges onto MacArthur. At the next light, go straight past High Street. Take the next right onto Maybelle Street (Kragen Auto Parts and Roma Pizza are on the corner). After 2.5 blocks, just as the street starts to climb, the house will be on the right.

Editors final words...

I always seem to edit this newsletter last thing at night, over a few glasses of red wine, followed by a mad panic at work the following morning trying to finish off one or two things that would not happen at home, before sending it off for Michael to publish it on the website – there is little wonder it ever manages to get published!

I was going to insert my usual call for articles, which stands as ever (Simon & I will both be bugging you at monthly meetings). Also – if you have a trip or event that you want me to highlight in the newsletter then please send details, and I can insert it as a short stand-alone paragraph, or into the trips calendar...

Thanks to all this months contributors...
...you know who you are!!!

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.