



Rock Rendezvous: Volume 13; Issue 3: March 2003

Rock Rendezvous

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February Meeting Notes

This month Scott Johnston took the notes!

The February meeting was held at the palatial estate of Kevin K. Madame Vice-President even provided the California rolls that everyone devoured with gusto. Simon started the meeting by badgering everyone to pay their club dues. Apparently he needed some beer money. Then he started rambling on about how Carolyn wants your farticles. At first it seemed Simon was revealing Carolyn had some new kinky fetish, but then he explained that farticles is drunken Brit slang for Photo's and Articles, intended for the newsletter. So if you have any farticles, send them to Carolyn for future newsletters.

So after much tittering about farticles, the group then went on to discuss trips gone by. Scott Johnston reported he had succeeded in bringing another Rock Rendezvous member over to the dark side by taking GianLuca ice climbing. GianLuca was an ice climber in a past life though so this was not a true conversion. Karen reported that she had gone resort skiing after a year long knee rehab from a telemark skiing injury. She also mentioned she has some telemark gear for sale. Paul mentioned they have been organizing Tuesday evening trips to the Concorde climbing gym for beginners. They were able to talk the gym into giving

them a group discount. Michael spent a week at Red Rocks.

Simon then launched into a tirade about how everyone should be planning trips for the group since he is tired of doing all the work and not getting any babes for his effort. To organize a RR trip one should set a date and destination, e-mail the club, have Carolyn put it in the newsletter, and have Michael Brodesky reserve the camp sites and put it on the webpage.

Simon then announced a trip to climb the Casavall ridge route of Mt. Shasta this March. If anyone is interested in sharing a tent with the lecherous El Presidente', or just going on the trip, e-mail Simon with your measurements, I mean experience, climbing experience that is. Men, women, children and some pets are welcome to join Simon on his Big Adventure. Another upcoming trip is Red Rocks in April. Contact Carolyn for information about this trip. Also discussed is that Bruce is providing the entertainment for an upcoming meeting. He will be showing people how to repair their tired and broken camming units.

Hal Tompkins then showed his slides from a recent trip to Peru, where he climbed in the

Cordillera Vilcanota and hiked the Inca Trail. I could go on and on about all the peaks he climbed but he never left the slide with the peak names up long enough for me to copy them down, so I won't bother you with my

misspelling of Spanish translations of Quechuan place names.

My First Multipitch...

Ricardo Lagos describes his adventure at Consumnes

My first multipitch climb was on Saturday Feb 15th. I'd been leading trad for about 3 weeks by then, and I was eager to tackle the large slab at Consumnes. There is an obvious and direct crack that leads to the top that the guidebook has rated at 5.7, 4 pitches to the top, I estimate about 450 feet. Ray, Peter, Robert and I drove up from the bay area (about a 3 hour drive), and met up with Sue and Joe at the crag.

The first challenge of Gutenberger Wall is getting to it. You have to boulder hop over the river (which I bet at this time of the year is pretty cold). Although an easy task, it's always unnerving to walk over slick granite with hiking boots. We racked up at the base, Peter and Ray went first and hesitated for a while before the first bolt. The first bolt is a friction move on slick granite, the consequences of blowing it are a quick dip in the river. Peter eventually stick clipped this. Robert and I decided to go behind the starting boulder and follow a diagonal crack up to the top to the boulder, it forms a chimney between the wall and the boulder. Although this is not in the guidebook, it is a far easier start. You then traverse right on a horizontal finger crack with very good granite friction. There is a piton about half way the traverse. I was on lead and decided to place protection after the piton, which later caused me the most horrendous rope drag I've had to date. After the traverse, you then climb up and left towards a flake, the climbing was easy and the flake provided great finger holds and protection, though by now I had to pull 3 arms length of slack before making any moves! I arrived at the

bolted belay as Peter starting cleaning Ray's 2nd pitch. Robert and I decided to follow the direct crack route to the top, and ran together pitches 2 and 3 with the 60m rope. The start was easy terrain, almost a walk. I was



David Altmar on Dinkum, Consumnes River Gorge, with the Gutenburger wall in the background. Spot the lichenous patches!
(Photo Carolvn Dent).

worried about the amount of protection I had, since the 2nd belay would be a natural belay, and climbed as far as comfortable between placements on the easy terrain. Most moves involved some sort of "in-crack" hand placement with a friction foot hold.

Once the climbing got steeper, the footholds moved into the crack as foot-jams. Ran about 55m of rope, and finally reached a 2 crack system right below what the guidebook calls the 3rd belay station. This was my first natural belay setup, and I spent a good 15 to 20 minutes making sure it was bomber, one pink-tricam was placed in a passive position (bomber downward!), and a blue and a green camalot went in for downward, then a blue cam protected the upward pull. After making sure each cam was perfect I pulled out the barely new yates web-ollette and tied the whole thing together. The view was beautiful, you can see the Consumnes river snaking away through the valley, and you can see the all the climbs on the other side of the river, it was a busy day, and I counted over 20 climbers on the other side. Robert followed and cleaned the pitch flawlessly, when he reached the belay and clipped in to the power point I had the clear realization that the anchor I had set was the only thing that kept us from plunging about 200+ feet to the bottom. The 4th pitch was fairly moderate crack climbing. My route-finding abilities had been tested all day, and I had a few false starts on this pitch also. Finally the crack runs out before the top of the wall, you can clip a piton that is about 10 feet below

the end of the crack, and a cam will protect the end of the crack well. Now all I could see was 5.6 and below slab climbing, and I could not see the belay bolts yet. I climbed another 10 feet, still no sight of the bolts. It was the most attention grabbing part of the climb. Finally, 20 feet above the last cam, I spotted the bolts about 10 feet above, and 15 feet over to the right. Lichen prevented a direct climb to the bolts, so instead I had to climb directly upwards to a bushy ledge that traversed to the bolts. Clipping those bolts was great, I paused and took in the view, and the length of the runout. When Robert cleaned the pitch, he chose to climb through the lichen, in order to avoid a nasty pendulum.

The rappel was easy, since the right side of the wall is peppered with chained-belay stations, and none of them are over steep terrain. One rope required us to make several raps, including a rather scary diagonal rap to the first belay station (we had to retrieve a stopper that I had accidentally dropped from the 2nd belay).

Everyone had a great time, and we left the crag almost at dusk. I can now see why people say that trad is "The one true way". I am addicted to it.

Climbing Photos from Peter Monks

Peter Monks has given me permission to reproduce some photographs from his website www.sydneyclimbing.com in the newsletter. Thanks Peter for some really cool images!

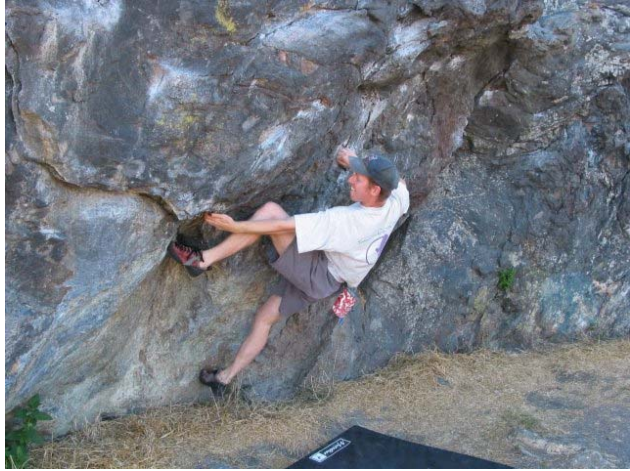


**Will Monks
Bouldering - Stoney
Point Boulders (LA)**



Sunset with Silhouette of Joshua Tree and Climbers on Dome - Joshua Tree ↑

Peter Monks Bouldering - Turtle Rock (San Francisco) ↓



Peter Monks Bouldering - Stoney Point Boulders (LA) ↓



Ray Lassman Bouldering - Split Rock (San Francisco) ↑



'and Introducing...'

Simon Kenney's new member introduction

Liza Xydis; (pronounced Liza Xydis) is originally from Greece, but has now settled in the Bay. Liza has been here for 10 years, and has done a little climbing on and off. She has now seen the light and has been hitting the climbing gym regularly for the last 6 months (No doubt in preparation for an awesome year of climbing on the real stuff).

Liza's last attempt on real rock was in a Greek Quarry about 3 years ago. She climbs to about 5.9-5.10 (gym) and is looking for a climbing partner.

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.

Climbing – there is a mixture of single and multi-pitch climbing available at Red Rocks. 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...

There are still a limited number of spaces available on the campsite, so please e-mail me (carolynldent@aol.com) if you are interested in this trip include the following information... Let me know your degree of interest (definite or just interested?), whether you prefer to camp or stay in a hotel, fly or drive.

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
Spring	Yosemite Valley trips. Check website for dates/sites:	http://www.rockclimb.org/rr/trips.html
March	the Grotto - Persons with 4wd/high clearance vehicles needed as drivers.	This trip is postponed due to finger tendonitis, but will hopefully run in the future. Interested? Contact Em
28th Mar - 1st April or longer	Joshua Tree	If you are interested in climbing J.Tree at the end of March, contact Adam.
18 th – 19 th April	Yosemite Valley , campsite booked.	Available for sign-up nearer the time
24th - 29th April	Red Rocks , Nevada. Camping, see further details in this newsletter.	Carolyn and Jan
1-4 May	City of Rocks , Idaho	Pat Mclaughlin
2 nd /3rd May	Yosemite Valley , campsite booked.	
9 th /10 th May	Yosemite Valley , campsite booked.	Available for sign-up nearer the time
30 th /31 st May	Yosemite Valley , campsite booked.	Available for sign-up nearer the time
6 th /7 th June	Yosemite Valley , campsite booked.	Available for sign-up nearer the time
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
27 th /28 th June	Tuolomne Meadows , campsite booked.	Available for sign-up nearer the time
11 th – 13 th July	Tuolomne Meadows, GROUP campsite booked.	Available for sign-up nearer the time
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 Vallev trip. with	Carolyn Dent

	UK visitors from the Hertforshire Mntn Club: http://www.herts-mc.swinternet.co.uk	
October	Red Rocks , Nevada	prime time to go
November - Thanksgiving	Joshua Tree	join the feast!
Date	Location	Organizer

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

The March meeting will be hosted by Simon Kenney. Jeff Pflueger will be presenting his slides on the Arrigetch Peaks of Alaska. Jeff is a photographer by profession, so this should be a stunning slide show!

The Arrigetch is a very remote cluster of stunning granite peaks north of the Arctic Circle in Alaska. Between August 18 and September 5 of last summer I organized a trip up there and our group was able to climb a number of fantastic routes including several first ascents. My photography from the expedition and a story is slated to appear as a feature in the May/June National Geographic Adventure magazine.

A report from our expedition:

<http://www.stanford.edu/~clint/arrig/pflueger.htm>

Directions:
6437 Claremont Ave
Richmond, CA
(510)847-0650

Take 580 North past Berkeley, El Cerrito.
Take "San Pablo" exit in Richmond. after the off-ramp, take a right on San Pablo.
After one block, take a left on Barrett.
Follow Barrett up the hill all the way until it T's, and ends at Arlington.
Left at Arlington. Follow a mile or so. At the Arlington Market, take a left on Olive.
Take the next right on Claremont.
We are a few doors down on the right.
Yellow house. Blue truck. 6437 Claremont.

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.

