



Rock Rendezvous: Volume 13; Issue 9: September 2003

Rock Rendezvous

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August Meeting Notes

Editor remembers what she can...

Unfortunately we have no notes from the August meeting... I can recall that the meeting was held at Chris Kerr's house in Oakland, and that she hosted a really friendly gathering of around 15 RR'ers... I can also recall someone bringing a totally wicked chocolate cake and tucking into it somewhat voraciously... I wonder what was in that cake as I can't recall much else besides!!

However, here is a little of what I can recall from before I was incapacitated by chocolate cake...

We spent quite a bit of time discussing the thanksgiving meet. This year we were unable to get our usual spot in J.Tree, so we were looking for an alternative... In the end Red Rocks came down as a favorite, especially after a successful visit by around 20 RR'ers in April... Two group sites have now been booked (holds a total of 40 people legally) and a booking form will be made available on the website very soon... Sites have pit toilets, BBQ's and fire-rings. There is also limited access to water (a water truck is on site for filling up your supplies)... It also got pretty windy there in April, so you can close your eyes in your tent and pretend you are in J.Tree anyway!

Climbing in Red Rocks... much good long multipitch, and much single-pitch sport... Generally a mix of sport and trad... Steep routes on mainly juggy sandstone... Decent Mexican eats nearby, and a gear shop with a climbing gym which has showers if anyone is feeling so inclined. We didn't discover any hot-tubs down there last time, so that is one thing that may be missing from the J.Tree experience!



We also had Rebecca Reveal, the manager of Class 5 climbing gym, call in on our meeting this month. Rebecca was in the planning stages of organizing a joint RR/Class 5 Adopt-a-crag event at Summit Rock in the Sanbourne County Park (near Castle Rock off Skyline Blvd.). This event went off without a hitch yesterday (Saturday 6th Sept). We stripped (graffiti) and picked up some dodgy items (broken glass and litter) and felt by the end of the day that we had made a real difference... Several pots of paint-stripper, a bundle of placcy bags, 20 climbers... and Bob's yer Uncle! (that last comment was for Em! She'll explain if yer

flummoxed!). Anyway, look out for a full report in these pages soon!

So I shall end with MANY THANKS to Rebecca for all her work organizing our Adopt-a-Crag event, and MANY THANKS to Chris for hosting the meeting!

El Potrero Chico, Mexico (March)

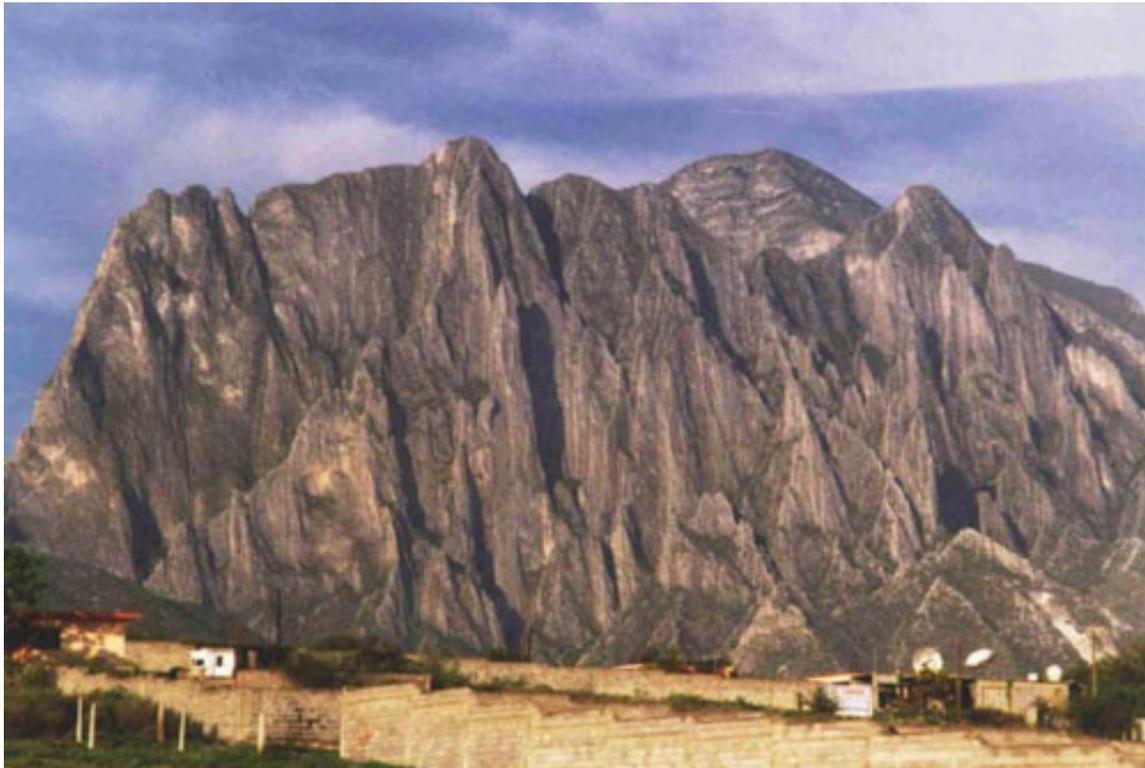
The first of three trip reports from Sylvain

Today I finally emptied the memory of my camera. I decided to do the same with my own personal memory on the few interesting areas or climbs that I did so far this year. The first report is on El Potrero Chico. To follow in subsequent newsletters, Smith Rock and Orpierre/Les Gorges Verdon (France)...

Brief description:

El Potrero Chico is above the small town of Hidalgo, 30 minutes from Monterrey. Monterrey the capital of Nuevo Leon, a city of 4 millions inhabitants if I remember correctly, is about 100 miles West of the Gulf of Mexico and 50 miles South of Texas.

There are two notable features in El Potrero Chico. One is a pool complex, where the population from Monterrey come get some fresh air in the summer. The other one is amazing limestone cliffs of up to 2000 feet height.



My opinion:

This is the highest concentration of high quality climbs in the 5.10 / 11 range I have climbed. In one week I never did, or even heard about a so-so route!

If you are climbing higher grades there will be even more climbs for you. On more moderate climbs, to make the trip worth it, I guess you want to lead (or follow) 5.9 / 10-.

Most of the routes are bolted, there are a few trad routes but I would not bother with a rack. On top of that life is rather cheap: Grande Cervesaz at less than 1 dollar. Conclusion... you have to go!

Beta:

Trip:

- ticket was around \$500/600 from the Bay to Monterey, with a stop in Huston
- There are two cities named Hidalgo close to Monterey. I am not sure how to differentiate them but I met two parties who wasted their 1st day in the wrong Hidalgo. So it might be worth it to print a map to be sure that your taxi or bus is going in the right direction.
- You do not need a car once there. Getting to the village is around 30 minutes, very often you can get a ride from a local.

Season:

- The weather is very comparable to Red Rocks or JT.
- If it rains, which is likely in winter, the rock dries very fast and in matters of hours you can climb.

Lodging:

- There are a lot of rooms with priced between \$10 and 20. You should find something without reservation, except for the end of the year.
- If you are going alone the best deal is Homero, a room was 4\$/night.
- If you are more than 4, you should stay in the "Hotel" in front of Homero (I can not remember the name), they have one great apartment to rent (so in that case you want to reserve).
- You can camp as well for a few \$ per day. Personally, I would not bother. In any case bring the tent rain jacket.

Gear:

- **Bring a helmet.** The top of the cliff is really loose. Try to wear it all the time when you are close to the cliff.
- Bring a 60 m rope. Pay attention some of the pitches are longer than 30 m. Do not try to rap down with a 50 and a 60 you will have bad surprise (I tried).
- You can buy gear in Monterey, but it will be at least as expensive as in the US, and you would lose half a day of climbing!!
- You can buy the guidebook any day at Homero from Tami (\$10)
- There are new routes put up all the time. You can find a description at Homero's kitchen.
- Only one party at a time on multi-pitch (loose rock). A good practice IMHO is to leave your backpack at the first belay to show your presence on the route.

Misc:

- The choice of food in Hidalgo is rather limited. So bring the special item you know you will need such as café, cliff bars and the like.
- Finding a partner on the spot is OK (really easy on the week end, a bit more work during the week).

My favorite routes:

- El Griffo on the Mota wall 5.11a. My first 11 on-sight, not sure that the climb is that great but I felt really great.
- Space Boyz: 5.8, 3 X .9, 10a, 10d, 10b, 9, 10a, 2x 9 brings you about 300 meters off the ground to sign the register.
- El Sendero Diablo on the Bronco Bowls: 5.9, 11c, 11b, 10d, 11a,7. I was lucky to have a rope gun who convinced me to follow him. I found out lately that this climb is in "50 favorite climbs, the ultimate North America tick list". It is actually the second choice of Kurt Smith, so I guess it is the number 51. Anyway in my book it is definitely in the 3 best climbs I have done so far.

The Magician, The Needles...

Joan Marshall

Photographs from the climb Hal and Joan did in May, at the Needles, Sequoia National Park...

The routes are long and the view is magnificent. We are just finishing up the "Magician", a fairly easy route, with just one 5.10a move, or one can aid it. (which we had no qualms about, whatsoever). It's about 8 pitches long, more or less, much of it run out 5.4. Ends up at the fire lookout tower, some 8,000 ft elevation. You can see nearly to Mt. Whitney. It was fun climbing up over the railing of the lookout tower, with the tourists taking our picture! There's an easy approach to the Needles via the road, but the road happened to be closed to the public the weekend we were there. Instead, we took this heinous approach through thick woods down to the bottom of the creek, and then back up again, some 1000 ft of elevation loss and gain (at least, that's how it felt to me).



Hal, about to make 'the move'.



Joan, last pitch



View from the top

Some of the other popular climbs in the area (recalling from memory) are VooDoo and White Punks on Dope. We had the whole rock to ourselves, and could hear only a few faint voices in the distance. It's a lovely place, most of the routes are hard, except the Magician.

Farther Than the Eye can See

A documentary portraying Erik Weihenmayer's Everest Ascent...

Farther Than the Eye Can See, the documentary portraying Erik Weihenmayer's historic and record-breaking climb of Mt. Everest, will make its West Coast premier at San Francisco's Herbst Theatre on Thursday evening, October 2nd at 8 pm. Erik will be in attendance at this event to share his personal account of being the first blind person to climb Mt. Everest. All proceeds are to benefit Big City Mountaineers, a 501(c)(3) non-profit and the country's leading volunteer organization devoted to providing significant mentoring during wilderness trips for urban teens participating in existing youth development programs.

To purchase tickets via phone, call City Box Office at (415) 392-4400, or over the internet at www.cityboxoffice.com



Erik on the summit of Everest



Erik Weihenmayer



About Big City Mountaineers...



BCM's program addresses the need to provide meaningful mentoring experiences for urban, disadvantaged youth. BCM provides this mentoring experience coupled with the unique and challenging recreational experience of an 8-day backcountry wilderness experiential education trip. Our program seeks to combine many of the elements of a Big Brothers/Big Sisters relationship with the framework of an Outward Bound experience.

BCM, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, is the country's leading volunteer organization devoted to providing significant mentoring during wilderness trips for urban teens participating in existing youth development programs. BCM was created to offer under resourced teenagers participating in existing youth development programs a dramatic learning experience. The BCM program is an eight-day trip, the focus of which is a five-day backcountry backpacking or canoeing experience during

which 5 teens are matched with 5 volunteer adult mentors. While immersed in a pristine wilderness, the teens learn outdoor skills as well as the satisfaction of setting and achieving goals. They also benefit from the guidance and attention of caring adult role models.

www.bigcitymountaineers.org

And Introducing...

By Kevin Kachadourian

Janet. Janet currently lives in San Mateo, and has been climbing in the gym for a few months. She has been to Pinnacles once (which one might argue requires the courage of 3 Yosemite trips), although she pleads a bad memory as to which climbs they climbed. Janet has lived in the Bay Area for four years. She works as a software engineer, but said she is looking for another job (maybe she meant another career). Apparently, it was Michael Brodesky who enticed Janet to the club. In addition to climbing, Janet enjoys backpacking, and downhill skiing. She is looking for partners, since all her friends have been laid off (which means either they are penniless, or off on extended vacations). Welcome, Janet.

Linda. Linda hails from the UK originally, and has been in the US for four years. She's been climbing since August. So far, Linda has climbed at Castle Rock (with a climbing school), and done a few problems at both Mission Cliffs and Berkeley Iron Works. Her outdoor climbing to date also includes trips to Pinnacles and Sonora Pass. When not climbing, Linda can be found mountain biking, downhill skiing, and trail running. Oh, yes, she works as well, as a journalist for a computer mag. Linda, welcome.

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, Consumnes 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/Trip Leader
August 8 th -10 th	Tuolumne Meadows (Campsite Booked)	Adan
August 22 nd -24 th	Tuolumne Meadows (Campsite booked)	Adan
September 12 th -14 th	Yosemite Valley (Campsite booked)	
September 19 th -21 st	Yosemite Valley (Campsite booked)	Carolyn

October 3 rd – 5 th	Yosemite Valley (Campsite booked)	
18 th /19 th October	Joint HMC/RR Valley trip , with UK visitors from the Hertfordshire Mountaineering Club: http://www.thehmc.co.uk	Carolyn
October	Smith Rock or Owens River Gorge	Jan and Adan
November - Thanksgiving	Red Rocks – a different location this year!	join the feast!
Date	Location	Organizer

Next Meeting: Tuesday September 9th, 2003, 7pm

This month we will be at Scott Johnston's house in SF for the meeting.

As usual we will get under way at around 7.00pm. Please remember to bring some food and beer!!

See you there...

The address is 619 Missouri Street, located between Sierra and 20th Streets, in the Potrero Hill neighborhood of San Francisco.

The house is on the East side of the street and is painted gray and blue. Call Scott at 415-824-1767 if you get lost on the way to the meeting.

Below are directions:

From the East Bay, take the 5th/Harrison Street/Golden Gate Bridge exit, which is the second exit on the left after arriving in San Francisco. Take a slight left onto Harrison and stay in the two left lanes. Turn left onto 6th Street, at the next light. Go straight on 6th until it turns into I-280 South. Take the Mariposa/18th Street exit from I-280 South, which is the first exit. Stay left at the fork in the ramp and then turn right on 18th Street. Turn left on Missouri Street, which is the 2nd stop sign. Go through 2 stop signs and then start looking for the house on the left, towards the end of the 3rd block.

From the Peninsula, take I-280 to the Cesar Chavez exit on 280, just after the 280/101 split. Go straight at the end of the exit onto Pennsylvania Ave. Turn left onto 22nd Street at the 4th stop sign. Stay on 22nd as it bends around and turn left onto Sierra, the first left. Turn right onto Missouri at the end of Sierra. The house is the second on the right.

From the North Bay, take 101 into the City. Follow signs for I-80/Downtown SF. This will put you on Van Ness Avenue, going South. Turn left on Golden Gate Avenue, immediately after Turk. Take Golden Gate to where it meets Market. Take a slight right onto 6th street as you are crossing Market St. Go straight on 6th until it turns into I-280 South. Take the Mariposa/18th Street exit from I-280 South, which is the first exit. Stay left at the fork in the ramp and then turn right on 18th Street. Turn left on Missouri Street, which is the 2nd stop sign. Go through 2 stop signs and then start looking for the house on the left, towards the end of the 3rd block.



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.