



Rock Rendezvous: Volume 13; Issue 11: November 2003

Rock Rendezvous

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October Meeting Notes

By Kevin Kachadourian

October's meeting began, as it often does, with Simon thanking our host, me, for the use of his "bijou bode." Next Simon reminded those assembled that the end of the year was upon us, which means elections. While the President, Vice President, and Newsletter Editor are foolish enough to stay in office (although some are still hoping for a coup), there will be vacancies for the positions of Webmaster, Treasurer (which Karen says is easy not that everything is set up), Outdoor Events Coordinator (primarily responsible for arranging site reservations in Yosemite), and Newsletter bindery (getting paper copies of the newsletter out to those on the snail-mail list). [editors comment: Thanks to Simon's 'gentle persuasion' tactics we now have a strong line of candidates for next year...]

The current number of members is 58 (who are signed up and paid up). It was mentioned that over 100 are on the list serve, but whether this is a problem or not was not discussed.

Money was next in the discussion. While there was a loss on campsites, there was a gain on the group sites reserved, and there is currently a surplus of \$1700 in the treasury. The finances have been solid enough that Karen, our outgoing Treasurer, recommended cutting the fee.

The next item, which should be big on everyone's mind now, is the upcoming Thanksgiving trip to Red Rocks. The sign up should be on the web site, including a menu list where you sign up to bring a dish (something besides your boy/girlfriend) for about 10 people. There was a discussion of flying and airfares, of driving and carpooling. Simon is the trip leader for this one. There was a quick discussion of amenities near the campground, including showers and a Mexican restaurant, as well as the possibility of partner swapping (for some odd reason, I seemed to have lost my



train of thought at this moment, and didn't hear the next few things that were said).

The business portion of the meeting ended with a call for the venue and slide show for next month's meeting. Karen offered to give a show on the climb "Squeal Like a Piggy" on Red Neck Wall in Alabama (imagine that).

The business done, we were treated to an excellent slide show of Ricardo's solo ascent of Zodiac on El Cap. It is the first time a climber has soloed the route in his first year of climbing. The climb is 16 pitches, and goes at A2, C3. It took Ricardo 11 days. 3

days were spent hauling gear to the base, and 7 were spent climbing. Ricardo had the room captivated with tales of dodgy pro, unnecessary spare clothing, getting pissed on by climbers above, and drinking gross water on top (has anyone heard from Ricardo recently?) The descent took about 8 hours, and "it sucks!" In order to get himself and all his gear down, Ricardo had to take 2 trips on every leg, all the way down. For those interested in taking this journey, solo or not, Ricardo said that Peter Seybrook (spelling?) has great beta on the route. It was an excellent climb and a great show. Thanks, Ricardo, for giving the show and for hosting the meeting as well.

Simon Discovers Viagra!

Thanks Tom!



Rock Rendezvous members named and shamed part-1:

Who to start with, our illustrious Chairman of course! Thanks to Tom Kidd for unsolicited donation of this incriminating pic!

Any other pics of members in uncompromising situations will be welcomed... of course the editors decision is final!

Climbing in France

Sylvain's final report on his home country...

During a 1 week visit in France I managed to squeeze 5 days of climbing with Adan who was in Europe for 2 months. We went to two climbing areas - Orpierre and Gorges du Verdon. For both areas, I would recommend to go in between mid April to June or September to mid October. In the summer all tourist places are over crowded and it can be really hot in the south.

Orpierre:

Brief description:

It's a small village in the South East of France close to Sisteron (South Alps).

Here are a view from the village and a view from the mountains:



The cliffs are approximately 150 meters high. So that is the first reason to go to Orpierre: you can climb very good face multi pitch.

The second reason to go there is that you have climbs from 3c to 8a. It is the perfect place for beginners and intermediate climbers as there is a lot in the moderate range (5 that is 5.7 to 5.9/10) and most of the easy climbs are over bolted.

And the third reason to go is that it is very convenient. You can walk to the cliff from the camping, stop at one café to have breakfast (if you don't go too early). On the way back you can shop at the epicerie and have dinner at the other café (if you don't come too late).



Above Adan is starting a multi pitch on l'Adrech and Sylvain's feet a few pitches after (Orpierre c'est le pied!).

Betas:

- Same thing as El Potrero Chico: 60 m rope, helmet, and plenty of quick drawers (up to 16 I believe).
- There is a climbing store in Orpierre. You can buy anything you need at decent price
- If you don't like camping there is the equivalent of bed and breakfast called gite. At the camping ask for the climber campground it is cheaper.
- Warning:



Favorite climb: "Massacre a la debrousailleuse" 4 pitch, 6a +. You have to traverse on the left to get to an interesting rappel on an overhanging cliff.

Gorge du Verdon:

The Gorges du Verdon are about 100 km south east of Orpierre and about the same distance from Marseille (Mediterranean sea). The village you want to go to is La Palud sur Verdon. If I had to do the trip again I would have spent the all time in les Gorges du Verdon. So les gorges is kilometers of cliff like this one:



A guide to your first day in the Gorges:

- Drive to the climb agreed upon the precedent evening. Take the wrong turn lose half an hour.
- Get to the climb and realize that the only way to go up would be to climb a 7a (5.11/11+). Choose another climb.
- Drive and walk to the other climb. Realize that you need two ropes. Go get the other one. Rap down...

Summit Rock Cleanup (Sept 6th 2003)

Report from Simon Kenney

Well it all started well enough... The alarm went off at 7:00am and I leaped out of bed fresh and ready for anything (NOT!). I had loaded the truck with gear the night before; gloves goggles, shovels, wheelbarrow, rakes, bags, BBQ stuff, and the kitchen sink and hit the road by 7:30. I guess I would have been there on time as well if it were not for a bunch of f*cking Harley riders who refused to move over or faster then 30mph all the way down route 32. So slightly pissed and about 15mins late I showed up at the Summit Rock parking lot to find...

nobody there! I noticed a ranger trimming trees; he turned out to be our contact and I started chatting to him (Visions of him and me and lots of scrubbing rock with chemicals passing through my head) then everybody else started to drift in; Rebecca and her husband (Our co-organizers from Class 5), RR members; Carolyn, Scott, Kevin, Janet, Em (Bruce-less), Adan, a husband and wife team who came through Class 5 (er... sorry I didn't get their names), Father and son through class 5 (er... ditto), 1 person who saw the flyer in REI (er...

sorry!), various other keen individuals and another park ranger, a total of 17 people (not bad!).

When we were all assembled the rangers unlocked the gate to the fire road and drove all the equipment the half mile or so to the rock, (we trooped along behind). As we walked along the sun was glinting through the trees, the birds chirping...etc etc.

Anyway... we arrived at the top of the rock by about 10:45. After some brief instructions by the park rangers on the use of the solvents (don't worry they were all environmentally friendly and designed for exactly this kind of job) we put on gloves and goggles or grabbed trash bags and rakes and hit the rock.

Some of our team headed off to the bottom of the rock to collect glass cans and other debris, whilst I joined others on the top of the rock scrubbing and dissolving. The rangers trucks carried with them water and compressed air containers and we used this to get water to the top of the rock and wash off the dissolving graffiti.



After several hours of scrubbing and washing and 2 truckloads of water we started to run out of chemicals (and air pressure) and so concentrated our efforts on trash collection at the bottom. We finally wrapped things up around 3:00 having removed at least 6 full bags of glass from the bottom of the rock (And hauled them to the top) and about 75% of the graffiti.



After the obligatory glory pic's we decided it was fair time to beat a hasty retreat to the BBQ area the rangers had set aside for us further down the hill on route 9 (Another park the name of which escapes me) and proceeded to consume vast amounts of beer, wine and BBQ assortments (Yummy). After diligently consuming as much as we possibly could we all headed for home. A really successful day which I am sure will be back by popular demand next year!

Now, I can hear many of you saying "Surely it is just going to get trashed and graffitied all over again and will look just the same next year"... Not so! This is the first time it has been cleaned ever, some of this graffiti has been there for 20yrs! (which you can tell by looking it), and as a result of this work, we have generated much attention within the parks service for this site. Some available funding is now proposed to be diverted to assigning park resources to the policing/education and public awareness of this spot and to build on the work we have already done. So yes, we can make a difference.. a permanent one!!

Thanks to all who took part, and particularly a huge thank-you to Rebecca Reveal, Manager of Class 5, for all her efforts in organizing and coordinating this event.

CMC Shasta Trip Report From Scott Johnston...

Tom Grossman, Calvin Kilcrease, Greg Jacobus, Bill Mass, Nick Meyler, and myself all met at Mt. Shasta to climb the Hotlum Headwall Route on June 12. Due to late season snowfall, the road to the Brewer Creek trailhead was not clear. Rather than walk in an extra 5 miles to climb the headwall, we decided to do a route accessed from the North Gate trailhead. We opted for the Bolam Gully route, the most difficult route.

We walked out of Casa Ramos after dinner and were surprised by rain. After much debate, we decided to drive up to the trailhead and see what the weather was like up there. At the trailhead we found clear weather and set up camp. The next morning we walked, skied, and snow shoed up to about 9000 feet, near a small stream. We ran across a guide and some clients and learned last night there had been quite a storm while it was raining down in Shasta city.



Saturday morning we headed up with light packs. The route finding was pretty straightforward and the climbing steep enough to be interesting. We did not encounter any bare ice, just nice styrofoam snow. The route goes up a 45 degree gully that varies in width from hundreds of feet to just twenty feet. We used a running belay from just above the moraine until the summit ridge. We used pickets and slung rock horns for protection. Once we reached the summit ridge, it was a ten minute walk to the true summit. There were crowds of people coming and going from the Avalanche Gulch route on the summit.



After about thirty minutes on the summit eating peanut-butter and jelly sandwiches and taking in the gorgeous views, we headed down the Hotlum-Bolam Ridge route. While descending Bill, Calvin, and

myself glissaded over a crevasse. Since we had the ropes, and the rest of the team wanted to rope up for the rest of the descent, we had to re-ascend part of the route and get everyone on a rope. The rest

of the descent back to basecamp went without trouble. Most of us walked out Sunday and drove home.



Team summit photo

Red Rocks – Thanksgiving 2003....

Yeah, I know, you all know by now that we will be going to Red Rocks for thanksgiving this year... Yeah, and you all know Red Rocks is a pretty cool place, so I suppose I don't need to plug it any further! We have two group sites, which should fit about 50 people at a pinch. If you haven't seen the e-mails then check out the website for booking details (it's filling up quick!). If you don't have internet or e-mail access then call any of the numbers at the top of this newsletter, and we will be able to help you get a booking...

Throughout the 'winter'... such that there is a winter in the Bay Area... there will be plenty of day trips going on to various local climbing areas... Watch out for info via e-mail... And ice of course... And for those members who prefer skiing to climbing (you know who you are!)...

It is also not too soon to be thinking about where you wish to go next year... I shall start putting together a new trips list to include in the newsletter starting January, so if you have any suggestions and want to lead a trip then let me know... carolynident@aol.com.

Next Meeting: Tuesday November 4th, 2003, 7pm

The next meeting will be held at Kathy Nerud's house in Oakland. Ryan McLain will be giving a slideshow on our climbing trip to do Royal Arches, Tenaya Peak and Matthes Crest... So bring plenty of beer, some nibbles, and catch up with who's been up to what at...

#3866 GLEN PARK ROAD

PHONE 510 530 2095

Directions:

Cross the Bay Bridge and take 580 towards Oakland. Take the PARK EXIT (exit prior is Grand) at the end of the off ramp take a left and go back under the freeway - go thru the next light and take a RIGHT just past the Shell Station onto PARK BLVD., continue about 5 blocks to the next light - turn RIGHT onto GLEN PARK ROAD - 11 houses down on left

From South:

Get to 580 going north. Take the Park Street/14th Ave exit (Coolidge exit prior). At the end of the off ramp turn right and go about 4 blocks which ends at Park and make a right onto Park. At the next stop light take a sharp right onto Glen Park Road.

Hope to see you there!



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.