

Rock Rendezvous



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January Meeting Notes

Rustled up in a hurry by Kevin Kachadourian...

Some of us are born to greatness,.... I was asked after the meeting, and a few glasses of wine, to write the minutes. Simon was kind enough to give me his pre-meeting notes to use as a prompt. It won't do much good, so these minutes will be very brief.

The End (Only kidding)

After thanking the host, Simon led a discussion reviewing last year and previewing last year. What went well, and what was missing last year. What do we want to do this year?

The discussion of last year revolved around the causes we made donations to, the trips we took (and didn't take), and the challenges of attracting more people to the club.

The discussion concerning this year mostly revolved around the proposal of using club funds to

buy a digital projector. The consensus seems to be leaning in the direction of buying one (we have plenty of money for it, while still having money for other purposes; it will last a long time, and get used regularly). There was also some discussion about our new website, getting club T-shirts, or caps (no one mentioned club condoms – safe climbing).

The new Masthead was introduced as:
President-Simon Kenny
Vice President-Kevin Kachadourian
Treasurer-Ricardo Lagos
Newsletter Editor-Carolyn Dent
Outdoor Events-Scott Johnston
Web Master-Peter Monks

The meeting ended, as it often does, with a call for a meeting venue and slide show for the next month (see the end of this newsletter for the full details), and then lots of drinking and debauchery.





Harry Daley

Photos by Ricardo Lagos

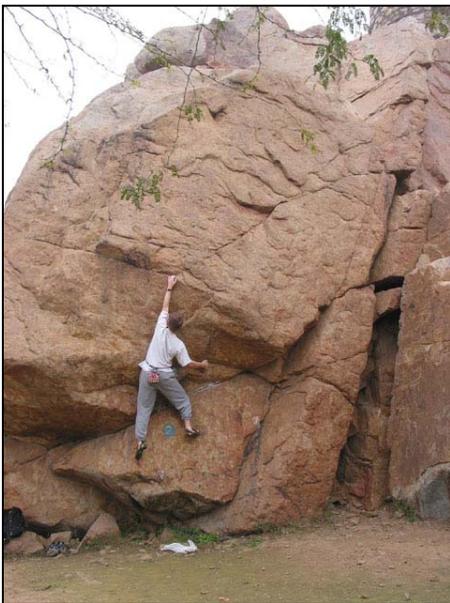
Ricardo sent these pictures from a day out on Harry Daley (Glacier Point Apron) in October with Peter Monks and Ger Murphy. For those of you with a memory, these pictures are from the same trip that Peter had a report from in the previous edition of the newsletter.



Left: Peter and Ger on the belay ledge after the second pitch of Harry Daley
Right: Peter on Harry Daley

Lado Sarai Bouldering

By Peter Monks



Facing the prospect of two weeks with family in New Delhi, I decided to chuck my climbing shoes and chalk bag into the suitcase, just on the off chance that I'd be able to tear myself away from the endless daal makhni, rotis and biryani for an hour or two's bouldering.

Although New Delhi isn't noted for its climbing or bouldering, thankfully there is one reasonably well documented climbing area in the city itself - Lado Sarai Rocks. This small area is basically a single pinnacle located in the middle of a park in the southern suburb of Lado Sarai (just near the spectacular Qutab Minar, well worth a visit in its own right).

The rock at the area is a super-hard, rusty red quartzose sandstone (somewhat reminiscent of the rock at Mt. Arapiles) that could almost be mistaken for granite. Although the rock does offer some nice splitter cracks and sharp edged crimps, much of the climbing is deceptively tenuous, both because the rock is quite slick and also because of the thin coating of fine dust that blankets everything in northern India.





Although the bouldering was pretty good, it would have been nice to have a top rope, since the pinnacle is up to about 15m high, and many of the harder / higher problems don't have the best landings (particularly around the back of the pinnacle). Thankfully the front face of the pinnacle is fairly low angled and highly shattered, so it offers both an easy way to the top as well as a fairly safe (although exposed) descent.

Apparently local climbing groups meet and climb at the rocks every Sunday, so if you're contemplating a visit, bring your shoes and a harness and I'm sure you'd be able to join them for some roped climbing.

As for timing, winter is definitely the time to visit - summer in Delhi is not something I'm planning on experiencing if I can avoid it! ;-)

Saga of a Blizzard

By Brenda Giese

December 25-31, 2003

The last week of 2003 brought copious snowfall and visitors to the Lake Tahoe area. With an amazing series of three cold storms moving through, dropping four feet of snow with strong winds, the avalanche threat was High, and the skiing great.

January 1, 2004

Ring in the New Year with a blizzard! Interstate 80 was closed all day from Applegate to the Nevada State line due to whiteout conditions and high winds. Alpine Meadows Ski Resort was closed all day due to intensive avalanches released during control efforts, including a big slide over the main road.

January 2, 2004

Blizzard conditions continued, with heavy snowfall and high winds. Two snowboarders were reported missing at Sugar Bowl. Sugar Bowl Patrollers followed tracks into the Coldstream drainage, and eventually caught up with the boarders and hiked them back up with snowshoes.

Later in the evening two more snowboarders were reported missing at Sugar Bowl. Sugar Bowl Patrollers and Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue searched in the Coldstream drainage, Roller Pass, and the Judah/Donner saddle. The boarders were found and rescued in the wee hours of the night through radio contact, as they had a radio with them. They had dug themselves into a shallow snow cave near the Mt. Judah summit.

Late in the night, four snowboarders were reported missing at Alpine Meadows. Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue skiers searched all through the night. They concentrated the search in the Scott Peak area, since it had been open all day. Just to be thorough, they also sent a small team to the Five Lakes Drainage, although all lift access to the Five Lakes basin had been closed, and the avalanche threat was high.





The large group of searchers in the Scott Peak area found no tracks or signs.

The smaller group of searchers was transported to the top of Summit Chairlift, where a chilly temperature of 0 F was recorded. The High Traverse, Beaver, Estelle, and the Palisades had been closed all day, and all tracks up high would be drifted in. The team followed the safe ridgeline down to Big Springs, traversing left and right looking for tracks, with no sightings. However, after entering the tree line, they located a possible, drifted in, track. This track soon joined with another, then another, until there were four. The tracks continued down until they hit the flats at Five Lakes Creek, where the boarders had taken off their boards and began post holing north towards Squaw Peak. The team followed the tracks to the Whiskey Creek Camp. The snowboarders had been very fortunate in stumbling on the camp (two dilapidated 100 year old sheepherders cabins) and spent the night there. They even got a fire going, and melted some snow in a rusty shovel.

January 3, 2004

At first light, a CHP helicopter flew up from Sacramento and pulled the lost snowboarders and the small ski rescue team out of the wilderness. The snowboarders were checked out by Alpine Ski Patrol and released.

That afternoon, word was received of an avalanche victim caught in a slide on Castle Peak at about 8400 feet. This is one of the most popular backcountry skiing destinations in the area. The avalanche occurred on January 1. Two backcountry skiers had gone into the Castle Peak area on Dec. 31, and spent the day skiing on Castle Peak. During the day the winds were high, with gusts in excess of 50mph. This led to considerable snow movement, wind pillow development, and cornice growth. The next day, on Jan. 1, the storm was in full force, and they decided to leave. They were traversing out of Round Valley headed for the ridge under Thumb Rock. Their traverse was too high on the slope, above the tree line, under a cornice area, and on a big open snowfield. When they realized the danger and attempted to get to a safer location, the slope released, entrapping both skiers. Either a portion of the cornice dropped or the slope released since it was a big wind pillow. Both were carried through the trees. The survivor was partially buried and able to dig himself out, and the victim was totally buried. The survivor performed a beacon search for his companion, but had no luck. He was able to find one of his skis and one of the victim's skis and made his way to the Peter Grubb Hut. He waited out the storm alone at the hut for two nights until Saturday Jan 3, when he was able to get out and contact rescue personnel.

The initial response to the rescue was quick. The CHP flew in two Squaw Valley dog teams via helicopter. The dogs alerted on a glove and a climbing skin, both of which belonged to the victim. The search was suspended at dark. This turned into a true backcountry recovery with difficult access.

Meanwhile, to the south, snowboarder Steven Peck, 30, of South Lake Tahoe, was rescued at 10 p.m. Saturday night, about five hours after being trapped in an avalanche





near Heavenly. Peck had been snowboarding in an out-of-bounds area of the resort when he was swept down a chute by an avalanche. He used his cell phone to call 911, and a search began a short time later. He was found unharmed in 5 feet of snow by the Douglas County, Nevada, SAR Team. Peck faces a \$635 fine for boarding out of bounds

January 4, 2004

A massive search continued at the Castle Peak avalanche site, with over 35 personnel from Tahoe Nordic Search and Rescue, Nevada County Search and Rescue, and the US Forest Service. The search was difficult since there was no obvious avalanche path, at least 2 feet of new snow had fallen, and wind-drifted snow had also been deposited in the area. A fine probe search was conducted for four hours near the location where the victim's pack was found. As an indication of the massive amount of snow, often the 10-foot long probes were not even hitting the ground during this search. The search zone was approximately 50 feet wide and 150 feet long on a slope of less than 30 degrees, which was directly below a corniced ridge. The search was called off as dark approached.

January 5, 2004

The search continued in the morning, and the body of the missing skier was found by a probe. Upon examination the victim's beacon was not working. Also, apparently the survivor's beacon did not work when he did his original area search.

Site Description: The avalanche was approximately 200' wide and 450' vertical. All avalanche debris was buried under 4' of new snow, with very little evidence of the side walls, and no apparent area of cornice drop. The slope angle was 20-25 degrees, except immediately under the cornice area where it went to 35 degrees, then vertical. This is an area normally skied by the backcountry skier, just adjacent to a rock locally known as Thumb Rock. The terrain features were conducive for extreme wind loading. This avalanche would be classified as a Class 3 for this area.

These avalanches are a reminder of the backcountry's potential danger after heavy snow.

This article is an excerpt from the Sierra Club San Francisco Bay Chapter Backcountry Ski Section Newsletter, Jan-Feb 2004. For more information about the the Bay Chapter STS, which organizes great backcountry ski trips for all levels of ability (several RR members are leaders or active participants in the group) visit their website:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/chapters/sanfranciscobay/skitouring/homepage.htm>





Membership fees are due!

Ricardo has his Treasurers hat on!

Club members and Non-members... Its that time again, time to pay for club dues.

"The membership fee is \$15 (\$7 after mid-year), which covers the cost of producing/mailling the monthly newsletter, some camp fees and backcountry permits and our annual big bash, usually during the December holidays. In the past we have donated money to worthy causes. Such expenditures are not incurred without membership approval. "

In addition if you are a member you get a discount on campground fees (and a good feeling inside).

There are several options on paying your fees.

1 - Online, you can use paypal to pay, send your payment to ricardo@sflindy.com

2 - By Mail, you can mail a check to

Ricardo Lagos

1082 Pennsylvania St #301

San Francisco, CA 94107

3 - In Person, catch me at the next RR meeting.

If you are a new member then please also fill out a new member application which is located on our website at <http://www.rockclimb.org/rr/form.html>.

(Note that the address to send the form and money advertised on the website is out of date. You should send membership dues and details to Ricardo at the address above.)

Treasurer's Analysis - 2003 final report and comparison to 2002

Report from Karen Christie - Outgoing Treasurer

We started this year off with almost twice as much money as last year (\$1581.85 vs. \$806.85) and have ended up with even more than we started with (now at \$1951.02), despite donating \$600 dollars to the ASCA and Women in Action at the beginning of the year and despite receiving slightly less in membership subscriptions (\$85 less).

There were several factors in the significant increase in our account during 2003.

1. "Regular" sites in Yosemite Valley and Tuolumne

We did not book nearly as many regular campsites this year as we did in 2002. In 2003, we booked 14 "regular" sites in Yosemite Valley or in Tuolumne, while in 2002, we booked 25 regular sites. In 2002, this type of site ran at a slight loss (\$114 ** may be underestimating loss - discrepancy with amount actually payed out and amt expected to be payed based on scheduled sites). A loss is consistent with the pattern in previous years, as the basic idea is that the club membership fees *should* partially subsidize campsite fees. This year in 2003 however, these sites ran at a minimal profit (\$32). I speculate that decreased supply may have minimized the number of campsites that were unfilled or only partially filled. If next year's organizer is energetic about obtaining sites, the club could certainly afford to get more sites, even if they run at a loss again.





2. Group sites (in various locations)

In 2002, there was only 1 group site (Joshua Tree), which ran at a huge profit (\$480) with a large number of people paying standard RR campsite fees for a group site. In 2003, there were 4 group sites, all making profits (amounts in parentheses): Red Rocks in April (\$59), City of Rocks in May (\$47), a group site in Tuolumne in June (\$108), and the Thanksgiving site in Red Rocks (\$144). All group sites ran at a profit. I believe Simon decreased the per person fee to minimize profit for the Thanksgiving trip.

3. Decreased club running expenses

Club running expenses include expenses for officers. Last year, these expenses were largely publishing costs to print and mail paper copies of the monthly newsletter to people who request them. It also included new bulbs for the slide projector and notebooks and a holepunch for the treasurer to put the membership forms and account statements into notebooks, instead of the ridiculous collection of forms held together with a string tied through a hole in one corner.

This year, there have been almost no publishing costs, largely due to little or no publishing being done (The \$71.04 in 2003 is really residual cost from the year before). We have updated the membership form with a place to indicate electronic only or paper copy, so that we can minimize mailing costs (both time and money) by not mailing them to people who would prefer the electronic version. However, there are still people in the membership list, including some newly joined members, who request to receive a paper copy, so I think the club should continue to offer paper copies, have a publisher who actually makes copies and mails them out, and pay the cost of mailing paper copies to those who prefer paper or who cannot access the electronic version.

In summary, we have a total of \$1951.02 in our account before even starting to add in membership renewals for 2004. Thus, the club could easily afford to spend \$1000-\$1100 right now, for some combination of club equipment and/or donations to worth organizations which support climbing as determined by a club vote.

2004 Calendar of Events

This calendar has been put together from various suggestions and offers to organize trips by members. If you would like to organize a trip please let me know (carolynldent@aol.com), and I can add it to the calendar, and advertise it nearer the time too...

Please also let me know if you want your contact details (phone number and/or e-mail address) to be included in the newsletter. I am aware that some people do not like personal details publishing, so I will not do so unless you give me permission.

Finally, apologies if you sent me a suggestion before the holidays that did not get included in this calendar – I was operating from memory as I could not recall where I filed your e-mail replies for ‘safe keeping’! If I have omitted anything (or you have additional suggestions) then please e-mail me at the address above.

Proposed dates (dates in bold are confirmed trips)	Trip	Organizer
January/February	Beginners climbing trip to Pinnacles	Kevin Kachadourian
March	Spain?	Adan
Late April	Red Rocks	Carolyn Dent or Peter Monks
April 16th-18th	Yosemite Valley campsite booked	
April 30th – May 1st	Yosemite Valley campsite booked	





May/June	Owens River Gorge	Rachel Louie
May 28th – 30th	Yosemite Valley campsite booked	
June 5 th /6 th	Sue Edwards has offered to host a weekend at her cottage close to Consumnes River Gorge and Calaveras Dome.	Sue Edwards
???	Sonora Pass	Sue Edwards and Em Holland
June 11th – 12th	Yosemite Valley campsite booked	
June/July	Lovers Leap	
Summer	Tuolumne Meadows campsites to be booked	
July 4th	Courtright reservoir (or possibly an alternative location)	Simon Kenney
Autumn	Yosemite Valley campsites to be booked	
Thanksgiving	Red Rocks, J. Tree or an alternative location	

Next meeting: Tues Feb. 3rd, 7pm

Greg Kelton has very boldly offered his pad for this months meeting. He has assured me he will be lighting up the BBQ in the back garden, so bring some meat/fish/veggies...

Greg's address is:
223 Anita Rd., Burlingame, CA 94010
Cell phone: 415-713-2511

Directions:

From SF:
Take 101 S to Broadway Exit,
Left on Carolan,
Left on Burlingame Ave. (at Tennis courts),
Right on Anita.

From South Peninsula:
Take 101 N to Peninsula,
Right on Anita.

Greg will be showing some pics from an 8-day Potrero Chico trip over the new year holiday. Greg, Sylvain Colin, Sheri Anelmi, and Adan filled the days with single and multi-pitch sport climbs followed by lots of chips, salsa, burritos, and BEER. Some notable climbs: Estrellita (12 pitch 11a), Snot Girlz (8 pitch 10d), and of course the Mota Wall.

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.