



Rock Rendezvous



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February Meeting Notes

Irreverent reporting from our esteemed chairman...

Greg Kelton was the gracious host of this months meeting, which was held at his house in Burlingame. Immediately upon arrival myself, like most other people, made straight for Greg’s BBQ and set about it with meat and veggie burgers. Subsequently I armed myself with a beer, and set about the task of socializing. A select group of attendees this month were supplemented by a couple of friends of Greg’s bringing the total number to about 15 or so people. Just before we all got too comfortable I herded everyone into Greg’s lounge and started the meeting...

The first item was “voting on a digital projector and how to spend this years club funds”. (At the time) voting was still open for the projector which has now proven to be in favor of buying a second hand projector at the moment to the value of about \$600; This should work out OK, as the disadvantage of having a second hand (V. Expensive to replace!!) bulb will be

offset by the fact that we don’t actually use the projector that much, so we should still get a couple of years out of it before having to suffer that expense. People also offered other suggestions on how to spend the funds this year (Including a climbing doll for each and every member of the club!!):

- Buy Chongo’s Book; and donate the remainder to ASCA/Access Fund.
- Buy a Second hand projector, and donate the difference.
- A donation to the re-bolting fund.
- Half of surplus to buy a projector, and half donated.
- Buy books and videos (including Chongo's big wall book).
- (1) Second hand projector (2) donate (3) reduce costs.

As some sort of donation seems popular I will be looking into this when we know





better how this years funds stand and will be asking you all for suggestions of worthy causes.

Next; membership fees. A reminder to one and all that this years fees are still due (\$15 for the year). This money will go towards club sites in the valley and meadows to ensure that we have at least 2 sites each month in Yosemite, in addition to subsidies for other club sites (Red Rocks, Courtright reservoir, J. Tree etc). Contributions will also be needed for the RR Xmas party, and - for this year - the digital projector. No membership fees = no club, so please pay your fees to Ricardo Lagos at:

Ricardo Lagos
1082 Pennsylvania St #301
San Francisco, CA 94107

It's time to update our 13 year old Web site and Tom Lambert has graciously promised to do this for us. We have been talking over a few ideas to make it cleaner, more interactive and accessible. Tom has already started work on it and we hope to have it up in the next month or two.

Tee Shirts!! ...after much promising I have finally found a great and efficient company that has put our new logo onto some tee shirts. Carolyn has put more

details elsewhere in the newsletter for you to look at. I will be selling them at the next meeting, as well as getting feedback for the next order (Caps, mugs, sweats Fleece anybody??)

My final point was the obligatory call for any articles, paragraphs, reports and jottings (along with photographs) of your latest adventure (or even interesting articles you have come across) for inclusion in the next newsletter. So please send all of the above to Carolyn (carolynldent@aol.com).

With the important stuff done we settled down to watch Greg's slideshow. He showed us slides from his 8 day trip to Potrero Chico over the New Year holiday, accompanied by Greg, Sylvain, Colin, Sheri Anelmi and Adan. He included some slides of some pretty scary looking single and multi pitch sports climbs with stunning views, supplemented by great wine and food!!

After the exiting climax to the evening and a serious danger of the beer running out, yours truly departed around 10.00.

See ya next time!





Another Day at the Pinnacles

By Ricardo Lagos

It seems like I just closed my eyes and laid down to sleep, when the alarm goes off. 5:15am ugh! I can't believe I want to climb this badly, I turn over and close my eyes again. Luckily the rack is all sorted and ready to go, so I arrive at Robert's house by 6:10, and we hit the road by 6:15. We're trying to make the most of the day since Robert needs to be back in the bay area by 5:00pm.

We follow the usual MO; stop at the Safeway in Hollister, pick up a sandwich and drink, then head to the park. We're the first car at the parking lot, and it's 8:15 am. It's cold, so we take the opportunity to have breakfast in the car. We discuss the goals of the day... Robert and I have been coming to Pinnacles quite often this year, and we're getting tired of climbing the same routes, so it's time to branch out. Robert sets for his goal of the day to lead Stupendous Man (5.10a), a mostly bolted route that goes up about 60' on Discovery Wall. I've been considering moving up into the 5.9 trad range, and I pick Trauma (5.9+) as my goal of the day, mostly because I want to see if what the guide book says is true.

We arrive at Discovery Wall after a short hike, and we're the first party there! It's awesome to be here with nobody around. There are falcons flying above, the sun has hit the wall, and it looks like it's going to be a glorious day at the Pinnacles. We decide to warm up on a familiar climb, so I pick Ordeal (5.8) which we've done many times. It's a good warm-up. Robert decides that he also wants to warm up on lead on Ordeal, and instead of cleaning the route, he lowers me back to the ground from the top (which requires every inch of my 60m rope!). We pull the rope, and he re-leads the route with my pre-placed gear, which I think was probably a bit of a dicey lead for Robert since I ran out the last 60' of climbing only clipping 1 bolt towards the top. (Robert added a cam placement along the run-out on his lead).

On the walk back down to Discovery Wall we pass Stupendous Man, it's in the sun, and we decide to climb it now, before it goes back in the shade. The start of the route follows an arête (shared with the climb Entrance (5.7)), which can be protected with medium to small cams, then comes to the crux of the route, a pretty steep mantle over a roof. The move is protected by a bolt above the roof. Robert spends about 20 minutes but can not step up onto the mantle, he lowers and hands me the sharp-end. I thought that I had the moves figured out from watching Robert from the ground, and up I go, removing some of the cams down low and leaving only 1 cam and the bolt to protect the route. The roof is steep, and forces you out. After resting on the rope a few times I finally decide to risk a fall onto the bolt and really commit to the move. The problem is that I can't see any holds to use to complete the mantle. Finally on my final attempt I spy a large knob and the mantle is done. I battle to regain my lead head between the 2nd and 3rd bolt (every time I would look down and see the distance between protection I would down-climb and start over!). Finally though after many rests on the rope, I complete the route. Stupendous man is a great climb for someone breaking into 5.10a. The moves down low that need to be protected with cams are 5.7, and the climbing above is protected by solid bolts. You would not want to fall as you clip the 3rd bolt, but the moves are secure... albeit scary. A bolt anchor waits at the top, and rap chains are installed to get you back down. Robert attempted the roof once again, this time on top-rope, but it seems that he needs to hit the gym, because the mantle would not budge for him. He found an alternate route up to the 2nd bolt by following the pillar to the right.

After a lunch break, we considered whether to do Wet Kiss (5.9 sport route), or Trauma. I figured I might as well do Trauma now, before I changed my mind. The Pinnacles guide description of Trauma says that it





takes expert protection skills, and that Trauma has been the site of horrendous leader falls. (Another route description in the same area talks about a leader that zippered the whole route -- I think its probably referring to the same accident). A quick glance at the guide book shows 2 bolts on the route, with the crux being a traverse under a roof about 60' up a dihedral. After about 15' of climbing I begin looking for some pro. The moves are getting steeper, the rock is VERY chossy, and every other hold either flexes or is loose rock. A red Camalot is my first piece. I then reach the base of the dihedral, where a rusty coffin nail bolt waits for me. Oh well... clip. A few feet higher I place another cam.

This route is unlike other routes I've done at Discovery Wall, (up to now I've only climbed very popular routes -- which means solid rock). Now I'm getting a taste for what Pinnacles is really about; loose rock, hollow flakes, and flexing holds. I knock on every hold and try to only pull on what seems like it is really connected to the wall. I'm finding the protection to be pretty good, except that it's hard to find the good placements. The crack in the dihedral is outward flaring, and inward flaring with a pretty thin edge where the flares meet, so it takes a bit of time to place cams where they won't walk (or just come flying out through the rock). I get another cam placement a few feet higher, about 4 feet above I spy a perfect nut placement, I consider climbing above it, since I just placed a cam, but instead I take advantage of it (thank god!). Finally I'm about 6 feet below the roof and about 8 feet above the nut.

Another sign that the route sees very few ascents (I'd never seen anyone leading this route in my previous trips), is the cobwebs on the holds and the bird shit all over the route. I fight for the next 10 minutes trying to place a bomber cam. I don't want to risk blowing a placement and falling an extra 8' down to the nut below me. Finally I settle for an orange alien placed too close to the edge for my taste (Robert though it was bomber though). I climb up and under the roof, where the climbing gets a bit tough, and I'm now a bit above the last piece and about 3'

feet to its left. No sign of the bolt on the topo. I begin to freak out. Knowing that this is the crux is messing with my head, and I'm desperately seeking to place some pro. Finally I tiptoe on one foot to get near the crack at the roof, and place a bomber yellow alien. Take!

A rest on my gear allows me to regroup, and consider the next move, a fairly tough traverse to a huge block. The move finally goes after another rest, and I've completed the traverse, but failed to place another piece along the way. This means Robert would be looking at a nasty swing, so I find a way to reach the roof again, and place a nice big yellow Camalot to protect his traverse. The rest of the route is about 30 to 35' to the top, and the guide book shows it as 5.7R, but I manage to find a placement for a blue Camalot, and reduce the run-out significantly.

After doing the 5.9 traverse, the 5.7 face climbing to the top is very pleasant. There are 3 bolts at the top, I only managed to find 2 of them, but they are bomber and quickly I am bringing Robert up the climb.

Trauma is definitely 5.9+, the traverse move is protected by bomber gear, the warning on the guide book is a bit overstated, the climb has good pro. I used mostly cams, and spaced them out pretty far between placements (most of the time 8+'), but they were all bomber. Definitely be confident in your gear selection and placement abilities, because there is lots of room to make mistakes on this route, a lot of placements that look promising, but are really worthless. I would have a hard time trusting nuts on most of the placements, the edge on the crack just seems too thin and brittle. There is plenty of loose and hollow rock, so the recommended practice of knocking on every hold helps, and have your belayer wear his/her helmet.

Back at our bags, we spy the time, its 2:10, too close to our "must go home" time of 3pm, so we decide to just pack up and call it a day. Back in the bay area at 5:00pm, in perfect time.





Nicole and Jens in the Snow

Photograph from Tom Kidd



L to R: Nicole Howard, Jen Burke with Gillian, Jen Hanley with Finn.





Mt St Helena Trip Report

By Peter Monks

Myself, Ray, Sue and various other shady characters went up to Mt St Helena on Saturday 7th February. The weather was awesome - 14 degrees C or so, clear, sunny, a little on the windy side but not too bad.

Ray didn't feel like leading since he had his old gumboots on (his stingers have been packed somewhere), so I got to lead all day. We did a really nice 5.9 to start (the "Shute / Mills Route") - a bit goey (maybe grade 15) to the first bolt at 4m then easing up all the way to the top. Then we jumped on "Atlas Shrugged", a 5.10b (about grade 19 or 20) which was a bit scary - it was pretty sustained straight off the ground, with slightly overhanging climbing on fairly small holds facing all directions (so the feet sucked). Not very well protected either - 1 bolt at 5m then another at 9m, just after the crux. What with the huge block just behind the start you're on a pretty serious grounder through the crux. Apparently Sue got some gear in between the two bolts when she last led it, but I didn't bother taking any wiggles to the crag, and even if I had them I'm not sure I would have been able to hang around long enough to place something decent.

Then we jumped on "New Tradition", the 5.7 (15) we did in the howling fog gale before Xmas - a lovely romp up a tricky face, a funky smooth arete then up a juggy easy wall to the top - really nice climbing,

despite a couple of ledges! Then we did "Something Good", a tricky 5.8 (17) arete, again with the technical moves right down low, and this time protected by a pretty dodgy looking old piton whacked into a loose looking break. Then it's brand new FHs up the easier top section! I just don't understand the logic used for determining the location of bolts over here (maybe there isn't any?). Anyway, then we finished up on two unnamed 5.9s on the upper tier. The right hand one was a lovely technical slab about grade 16 or so, and quite run out again (2 bolts over 12m). The left hand one was a lot steeper but also more juggy - maybe grade 16 or 17 and again a bit run out (2 bolts about 3m apart at half height, although to get to the first one was monster jugs, and then the final 6m above the 2nd bolt was an easy slab, although with rope stretch I think you'd be on a grounder).

All in all it was a really fun day, and I'm definitely impressed by the rock - climbing on pockets is great fun! Just a shame the crag is so small - it only has about 20 routes, so I've done almost half the routes in 3 visits (and on two of those visits I only got one climb in!). It's also a pretty magical setting, with stunning views of the Napa Valley, Mt Tam, Mt Diablo, San Francisco (through a gap in the hills) and even the snow capped Sierras way off in the distance. Plus we had the crag to ourselves the entire day, which always helps! ;-)

Membership fees are due!

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.)

The Rock Rendezvous Tee-shirt!

Now available...

The 2004 Rock Rendezvous tee-shirt is now available. Forget who is wearing what at the Oscars ceremony, this is the only fashion item to be seen in! The cost is a paltry \$10:50. How could you pass up such a bargain!



If you are interested in purchasing one e-mail Simon (simon.kenney@nolte.com)





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.

Proposed dates (dates in bold are confirmed trips)	Trip	Organizer
March	Spain?	Adan
Late April	Red Rocks	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	
May 23rd – June 11th (except May 28 th , 29 th , 30 th and June 5 th)	Paul has booked campsites in Yosemite, and looks like having extra space. Contact him if you are interested in joining them...	Paul Drew pd@metaswitch.com
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 25th – 26th	Tuolumne Meadows campsite booked	
June/July	Lovers Leap	
July 4 th	Courtright reservoir (or possibly an alternative location)	Simon Kenney
July 9th – 10th	Tuolumne Meadows campsite booked	
Autumn	Yosemite Valley campsites to be booked	
Thanksgiving	Red Rocks, J. Tree or an alternative location	





Next meeting: Tues March 2nd, 7pm

This month Ger Murphy will be hosting the Rock Rendezvous meeting.

Her address is 1614 Shasta Street, Richmond, CA 94804.

Phone number 510 701 8641

Directions:

From 80 heading East, take the Carlson exit, turn right onto Carlson, then immediately left onto Tehama (by side of motel), go up and over the the hill (5 blocks) and turn right onto Shasta. The house is third on the left with a park bench outside.

Em will be bringing along Lynn Hills video of her free climb of the Nose.

"On September 16, 1993, nearly 35 years after Harding, Merry and Whitmore made the first ascent of the Nose, Lynn Hill finished the first free ascent.

After many attempts by some of the world's top climbers, the Great Roof and the pitch above Camp 6 had evaded solution - until Hill came along. On September 20, 1994, just one year after her first free ascent, Lynn took it a step further - the Nose all free in a day. A virtual free climbing marathon, this feat established a free climb in a class of it's own."

For more info on the video, see Clint Cummins' review:

<http://www.stanford.edu/~clint/yos/nosehill.htm>

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.

