



Rock Rendezvous



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April Meeting Notes

By Simon Kenney...

Well it all started simply enough; A few beers, veggie dip, crackers, pizza, 'plenty of food' (I thought), but then the cars started to show up and pretty soon the expected 10 to 15 people, turned into around 35 people and an emergency run to Safeway to restock with nibbles etc was needed to keep everybody happy.

For those of you that missed it I think it was the lure of a great slide show by Jeff Pfleuger that produced so many members. Lots of people we had not seen for a while as well as the regular crew showed up as well as a couple of new faces. (Who I hope were suitably impressed). I kept my performance short as I did not want to divert to much from the slide show. I did a brief introduction to the club for the new faces that were there and explained what a wonderful bunch we are. Before moving onto the slideshow, which was awesome/professional, and detailed Jeff's adventure last year hand building a kayak. Then

paddling 120 miles to the Marcus Baker range in Alaska and attempting the summit by climbing 9000ft of snow and ice from the sea; Whilst fending off a very scary bear!! (All in an afternoon's work he assures me). My cat played a very important role in sideshow entertainment during the whole of these proceedings (Chasing the red dot from a laser pointer).

Post slide show Jeff pulled out the actual Kayak he had made and paddled (It lives in our back yard). We also had Rick selling off climbing equipment (It all looked pretty good so I bought some) and of course we had the obligatory sale of RR tee shirts. People obviously enjoyed themselves as the last person left around midnight. All in all, a very entertaining evening. Before signing off here I want to encourage you all to spread the good word (RR that is) and start bringing guests along with you to the meetings; see if we can get a few more members this year.





May Meeting Notes

Kevin Kachadourian

Simon opened the meeting with his usual welcome, which was immediately followed by some discussion revolving around vibrators and ankle straps. Ricardo was thanked for both the use of his abode and the lovely food he provided (here my notes say something about a cat falling out the window, although I saw no such incident – ed: that was something that had happened a few weeks ago...).

First bit of news was concerning the web site, which has been going to pieces, and the campsite reservation system. This may be outdated by press time, but the reservation system will be posted on the existing web site until the new site, and system, are built. There does seem to be a little confusion regarding the web site design, which is continuing as evidenced by the recent flurry of postings to the list serve. Simon promised to email the list of upcoming sites to the list serve (which I believe he has done, bless his heart). Editors note: The new website should be online soon, and looks great, thanks to Tom Lamberts site design...

Simon announced that he is leading a Sonora Pass trip on the July 4 weekend. They will be camping on BLM (Bureau of Lumber and Mining) land, and there is room for 15 to 20 people (emails have been going out concerning this trip).

Among the recent trips reported at the meeting, was a trip to J-Tree a few weeks earlier by Carolyn and Simon, et al. They reported that there was a lot of

rain (prior to the trip), and lots of flowers (resulting from the rain). This report was followed up by a general discussion of Thanksgiving trips, and it looks like we will be back in J.Tree again this Thanksgiving. Simon also reported a trip to Lover's Leap. The routes climbed included Pop Bottle, Traveler's Buttress, Haystack, Bear's Reach, and Corrugation Corner. There was some discussion of off-width climbing at this time. Andy reported an epic on Arrowhead Arête Spire, which involved a lot of walking (2.5 hours) and 2 pitches (is that a typo?). Other recent trips included a couple to Red Rocks. Carolyn and Peter Monks were there, and climbed, among others, Cat in the Hat. Ricardo was there the week before, and was able to knock off Crimson Chrysalis, Ginger Crack (only 5 pitches, due to the chossy condition of the climb), and Dark Shadows (now it is here that my notes make reference to hookers and climbs, with no more information???) Ed: ask Peter Monks if you want more on that one...). Ricardo has also planning to go back on El Cap, on Son of Heart.

Scott gave a slide show on his ice-climbing trip with Eric in Norway. He reported awesome climbing with no snow, no lines at the climbs, and no avalanche danger. He also commented that you can see the hospital from the climb.

Also in the club news, Scott reported that Catrin is due in June, which is this month. Congratulations to both Catrin and Eric.





Red Rocks is AWESOME

A trip diary by Peter Monks (with title Red Rocks opinion by the Editor)



Red Rocks in the early morning light

Thursday: plane to Vegas delayed by 1.5 hours results in a 1am setup of camp at the (almost full) 13 mile campground. Not happy...

Friday: cruisy 30 minutes walk into Black Velvet Wall. Climbed 10 pitches (360m) of "Dream of Wild Turkeys" (5.10a). Nearly pinged off "easy" 5.8 trench warfare on 4th pitch when foot popped off slick patina. Lucky I didn't - we only had 1 #3 camalot and it was a good 5m or so below me at that point! Good route (other than that pitch) and the upper couple of pitches (which are rarely done) are well worth doing (even though they're not technically difficult).

Saturday: slightly more intense 45 minutes walk into Oak Creek Canyon. Climbed "Johnny Vegas", a cool, steep, juggy 4-pitch trad 5.6 - highly recommended!! Continued straight up Solar Slab (5 pitch 5.7) - a wonderful trad journey up a series of cracks in a gianormous slab. Having helped some guys battle with stuck ropes on one of the rappels we decided to try the "single rope" walk off descent down the Painted Bowl (plus we'd only brought one rope so we couldn't rap the route anyway!). This turned out to be quite an adventure with a large amount (>50m) of very exposed and scary 4th class down climbing

off the end of an abseil (while trying not to let go of the end of the rope!). Definitely **NOT** recommended, and would be guaranteed suicide in the dark. The walk back to the base of the route was a bit rough too - over an hour of endless toe-crushing, quad pumping slabs rounded out with another 3/4 of an hour or so of boulder hopping down a dry creek bed. But at least we got to see some people on the incredible looking "Levitation 29" (5.11c) on Eagle Peak. Just a shame about the steep 3-hour approach!

Sunday ("rest day"): day of single pitch cragging in the Calico Basin. Did a couple of runout 5.8's at Tuna and Chips Wall then headed up to Panty Wall for some intensely bolted 5.8 sport routes! I still don't understand the bolting "rules" over here... Anyway, Justin also jumped on a beautiful 5.10- trad route that headed up an immaculate crack in superb black patina. Only short, and not very hard but beautifully aesthetic climbing, position and rock.



Steve Aho and Carolyn at Tuna and Chips Wall





Monday: back to the Black Velvet Wall to try our hand (and feet) on "Prince of Darkness" (6 pitch 5.10c). Justin and I onsighted the route and were back on ground in only 6 hours, which isn't bad considering the wall was swarming with climbers as we descended (so finding free abseil points was a bit hit and miss). The route itself was superb - sustained steep slab climbing with gear (99% bolts) every 10 to 12 feet in most places. It's amazing that such a huge wall has such consistent climbing over its entire length - the pitches are 5.6 (access pitch), 5.10b - crux slab, easy 5.10a (fantastic sustained crimping up the

steepest part of the route), two 5.9 pitches then topped off with the short (3m) but intense 5.10c crux right of the last belay. A truly superb route, and it made me appreciate how good multi-pitch sport climbing can be.

We took a celebratory dip in an ice-cold waterhole on the walk out (Vegas had had thunderstorms earlier in the week so everything was green and blooming and there was even water in some of the creeks!), and then back to the airport and home to SF.

The Rock Rendezvous Tee-shirt!

Now available...

The 2004 Rock Rendezvous tee-shirt is now available. 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.

Thanks to Scott Johnston for booking our campsites for this year! All Yosemite Valley campsite bookings are in Upper Pines. Site numbers will be posted at the campsite entrance kiosk under Scott's name, unless otherwise stated in the table. Anyone who contacts Scott, the webmaster or the newsletter editor for campsite numbers will buy a large soda (for Scott) or beer (for the webmaster and newsletter editor).

Proposed dates (dates in bold are confirmed trips)	Trip	Organizer
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 11th – 12th	Yosemite Valley campsite booked, Upper Pines	Leader Needed
June 25th – 26th	Tuolumne Meadows campsite booked (in Phil Kline's name)	Simon Kenney Simon.Kenney@nolte.com
July 4th	Sonora Pass	Simon Kenney Simon.Kenney@nolte.com
July 9th – 10th	Tuolumne Meadows campsite booked (in Phil Kline's name)	Carolyn Dent carolynldent@aol.com
July 17th – 18th	Sonora Pass – likely climbing areas are the Gianelli Edges, Herring Creek Dome, Frankenstein's, and Chipmunk Flat, with a possible hot-spring visit to appease feet that have suffered rock boots all day.	Sue Edwards, Em Holland and Bruce susanedwards732@yahoo.com
July 23rd – 24th	Tuolumne Meadows campsite booked	
August 6th – 7th	Tuolumne Meadows campsite booked	
August 20th-21st	Tuolumne Meadows campsite booked	
September 3rd-5th	Tuolumne Meadows campsite booked	
September 10th-11th	Yosemite Valley campsite booked, Upper Pines	
September 24th-25th	Yosemite Valley, Upper Pines	
October 8th –9th	Yosemite Valley, Upper Pines	
Thanksgiving	J. Tree, campsite booking pending	





Next meeting: Tues June 8th, 7pm

Les and Bev Wilson will be hosting our next meeting at their house in the Berkeley Hills. Les will also be showing a video from a climbing trip with Yerupaja in Peru as the objective. Les and Bev will also be firing up their BBQ, so bring something for the grill.

Les and Bev Wilson,
570 Woodmont,
Berkeley, 94708.

Video of Yerupaja:

Yerupaja, 21,769 feet, the highest peak in the Cordillera Huayhuash of Peru, was first climbed in 1950 by an expedition from Harvard. This was one of the finest climbs of the time. The peak remained unclimbed again until 1966 when a party of which I was a member made the second and third ascents. I did not reach the summit. My son David on a trip with his family in 1995 passed by Yerupaja, and decided his father should try again. This resulted in an expedition in 1997 sponsored by American Adventure Travel, and a documentary film that we will show parts of on June 8.

The Cordillera Huayhuash, although not very high, is among the most spectacular ranges in the world. There are beautiful scenes of these fantastic peaks. Siula (featured in Touching the Void) is the next peak north of Yerupaja.

Directions:

From San Francisco and South:

Take Interstate 80 north, pass University Avenue, take Buchanan Street Exit on right, and turn right east on Buchanan Street toward the Berkeley Hills. Follow further directions below.

From Sacramento and North:

Follow Interstate 80 south past Richmond, take Albany Exit on right, turn left south at the "T", follow access road under bridge, turning left east and join Buchanan Street toward the Berkeley Hills. Follow further directions below.

From San Rafael and West:

Follow Interstate 580 east towards the intersection with Interstate 80. Just before the intersection take the Buchanan Street Exit on the left, turn left east on Buchanan Street toward the Berkeley Hills. Follow further directions below.

Once you have found Buchanan Street:

Follow the traffic. Buchanan Street will morph into Marin Avenue. Follow Marin Avenue about 1.5 miles to a traffic circle with a fountain. Go 180 degrees around the traffic circle, up the hill, left on Spruce Street at the first stop sign. Follow Spruce Street about 1 mile to a major intersection with Grizzly Peak at the top of the hill. Cross Grizzly Peak onto Wildcat Canyon and immediately fork right up the hill on Woodmont.

We live at 570 Woodmont toward the end of the first block on the right. The sign is a large post leaning on a rock.

From Orinda and the east:





Take 24 to the Fish Ranch Road exit just before the tunnel. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp, go up the hill and turn right at the intersection onto Grizzly Peak. Follow Grizzly Peak about 4 miles north to a large open intersection. Turn right onto Wildcat Canyon, and immediately right onto Woodmont as above.

Food and Clothing:

Bring something to barbecue. It may be a cool evening and we will be outside, so bring a jacket.

Les & Bev Wilson

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.

