

Rock Rendezvous



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August Meeting Notes

By Simon Kenney...

This months meeting was held at the house of **Kathy Nerud** (thanks Kathy!!). I did my best to keep the meeting short, as this weeks entertainment provided by Les Wilson was in the form of a 45min Video of his trip to snow bound Elsemere island (Ok so I did not manage to do that but we did have a lively discussion on club issues...read on).

Website: Ok so I always mention the club website, but its great and still some people out there have not yet used it. This month the site was improved so that your name and contact details would be entered on any trip you wish with a single button click; Along with the number of guests you want to bring (thanks Tom). Only fully paid up members can see other members email addresses. It works great! More improvements coming. If you like the site tell Tom Lambert (tom@lambert.net) if something's not right tell Tom Lambert!! And whilst we are on the subject of "number of guests" it is currently set to 5 for each club member if we find ourselves getting inundated with guests

(Occupying too many of the members trip spaces) then we will cut the number to say 3.

Booking sites: last year we had a policy that if you canceled less than 3 days prior to the trip then you had to pay the site fee. This was to reduce the number of people that booked up for a site without being sure they would actually make it. I will be putting this prerequisite on the website as soon as I get a chance.

Ok so here's my next great new idea: Ever had anyone ask you about the club? Who are RR? Where do they meet? What do they do? Well wouldn't it be nice if you had a card with all these details you could just hand to them? I wanted to get some business card sized "information cards" printed and hand them out to the club. This is not an advertising campaign to get more members; this is simply a way of passing on information to those people that ask about the club (So they will not appear in phone booths beside dubious massage parlors). What do you think? Let me know.





Joshua Tree trip!!!! A quick rundown on previous years trips: Huge amounts of fun 65+ people have attended our Thanks giving trips to J Tree with superb climbing of all levels, a full-on Thanksgiving dinner, hot springs, beautiful desert sunsets etc... This year is already shaping up to be another awesome experience. We have already booked a couple of group sites, and the trips calendar is taking bookings on the web site. So what are you waiting for! Remember you can also fly to Ontario and then J Tree is less than 2 hrs drive. I will be sending out an email shortly with lots more details.

Trip leaders. We are looking for trip leaders (That's the people who collect the money for the sites) for September, so please take a look at the website and

put yourself down. You will get a free spot on the site for your help.

Ok that was about it the evening was rounded off with more food and beer and good chat and **Les's video:**

"This VCR is about a ski tour Bev and I organized to the northern tip of Ellesmere Island, 85 degrees north, north of the magnetic pole. We landed on an ice cap, attempted to climb Barbeau Peak, highest peak in North America east of the Rockies, then skied many days down off the ice cap and hiked many more days across streams and tundra to the ranger station at Tanquary Fjord. There is a magic in the drifting fog and long arctic days that will mark your life, if you ever go there"

Ruth Gorge, Alaska

TR from Em Holland

Expedition Clips:

In May/June 2004 **Joe Pullara, Bruce Bindner & Em Holland** of Rock Rendezvous traveled to the Alaska Range to explore, ski and climb in the Great Gorge of the Ruth Glacier. The Ruth Gorge is to the southeast of the Denali massif, and though much lower in elevation than Denali, contains superb rock, ice and alpine routes on stunning formations such as the Moose's Tooth, Mt. Barille, Mt. Dickey and Mt. Bradley, as well as "easy" ski touring (if you call skiing roped through crevasse fields "easy") on the glacier itself.

Here are some preview pictures from the trip; we hope to do a more extensive TR and/or slide show at a later time.



(1) Room with a view...if the clouds would only lift.

Ricco, our glacier pilot, dropped us and our 400+ lbs of food, ski and climbing gear in the middle of the vast expanse of snow-covered glacier and looked up





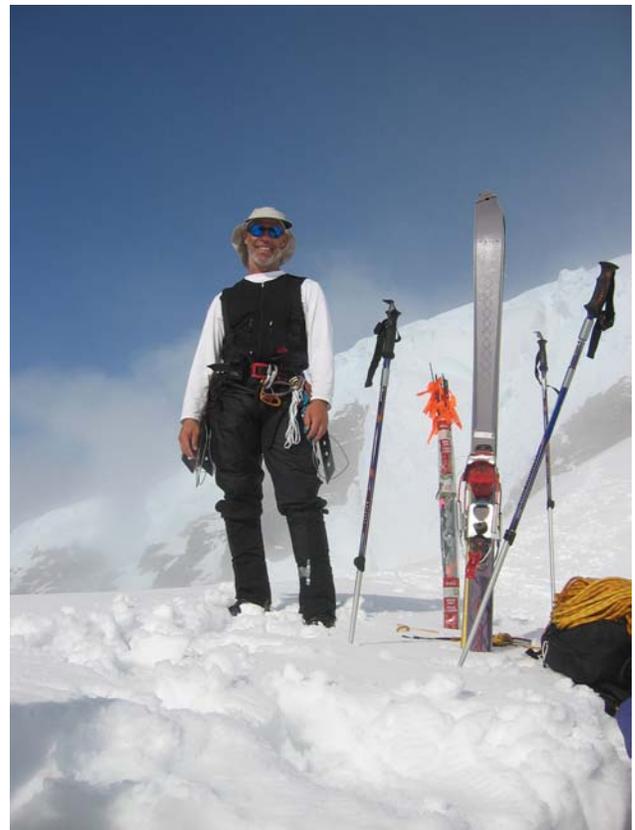
at the sky. "looks like it might rain soon...I'm outta here."

Gaping at the stunning surroundings, we scrambled to put up the Megamid so we could protect our massive mound of gear from the storm. Sure enough, the clouds closed in, and it was raining by the time we got all the gear under cover and our sleeping tents set up. This is the view from our base camp the next morning. Looking northeast across the glacier we could just barely make out the lower buttresses of the West Ridge of the Moose's Tooth, and the Gargoyle in the background.

Looking south west from our base camp to the east face of Mt. Dickey: directly across the Ruth Gorge from the Moose's Tooth are the steep granite faces of Mt. Dickey and Mt. Barille. After the storm there were frequent avalanches like the one here, coming off the summit seracs almost 5000 vertical feet above the glacier. (Our first experience with the Alaska Factor: everything is much larger than it first appears). Our goal for the trip was to do a ski circumnavigation of Mt. Dickey and Mt. Barille, and ascend via the West Face route to the summit of Mt. Dickey.



(2) Avalanche on Mt. Dickey



(3) Joe all dressed up for a day of ski mountaineering





RR expatriate Joe Pullara, on a rare blue-sky moment during our circumnavigation of Mt. Dickey, models the latest fashion for a day of extreme ski mountaineering in the Alaska Range. Notice the snow flukes attached to his harness, self-arrest grip on ski pole, ski crampons on lightweight telemark skis, and fashionable fluorescent orange wands for marking the route. As we had numerous days of white-out during which we had to thread our way through crevassed areas, the wands were much appreciated at times.



Another alpine fashion statement: Bruce, stripped down to goretex suit and T-shirt, leads up a steep rock step, making an end run around a large crevasse a couple of rope lengths below 747 Pass, between Mt. Dickey and Mt. Bradley. We could have ascended an easier way via a steep snow slope to the far left of the crevasse, but the recent avalanche debris in the area, and the tilting, house-sized seracs immediately above the slope, made that route unappealing. Climbing 5th-class rock in tele ski boots and crampons seemed a lot safer and saner at the time. During our visit to the Ruth Gorge, temperatures were unusually warm, rarely dropping below freezing even at night, which resulted in unconsolidated & unstable snow conditions. We traveled mostly in the evenings or early mornings to minimize the hazard.

Our basecamp, far below on the Ruth Glacier, is hidden by clouds on the right side of the photo.

Photo credits:

Photos 1,2, & 4: Joseph Pullara

Photo 3: Bruce Bindner

(4) On the way up to 747 Pass





Not the day for Conness

Joan Marshall reports on being caught in a storm in Tuolumne

The weather report was showing a 20% chance of thunderstorms for Mt Conness, so we decided to go for it Sunday (August 15). We were just below the 4th class gully when dark clouds began forming to the east and south. We figured we had at least two hours before the weather would get to us, as it was only 9:45am. So, we continued up the gully and over to the notch at the ridgeline, at about 11,400. At that point, we took in the views and then turned to go back. A party of five was about twenty min. ahead of us. We were just barely off the gully, when hail started falling, coming down harder and harder. I'm sure the party of five got hit with hail as they were down-climbing the gully (slippery, steep, loose rocks...). Hal eventually pulled out his helmet to use as protection against the hail. We had our rain jackets, but nothing to keep our climbing pants dry, which quickly became soaked. Now the thunder was loud and some lightening flashes behind us...the day before we had talked about how bad it would be to be out in the open if thunder and lightening should develop, and then, here we were, not even a tree to offer for shelter.

The hail bombardment continued for three hours, the trail becoming solid white by the time we arrived back at the parking lot. Temp reading was 35 degrees. I wanted to go over to the small cafe and warm up,

with some hot chocolate, but Hal said we'd better get going, as the road may be impassable, if we waited much longer. By this time there was four inches of snow on the road, and we did not have four wheel drive or snow chains.

So, the worst part was getting back down the dirt/gravel road from Saddlebag Lake. The car (our new car) skidded and almost went over the embankment. With me on the passenger side, all I could see was sheer drop off and thought we were goners. It was actually a slope, not the drop off I thought it to be. The car stopped just short of going over, the right wheel thankfully caught in the mud, and wedged against a large rock. We managed to back the car up, after digging the snow away from the tires, and having another guy help us. (This guy was wearing Texas). So, crisis was averted and we once again cheated death (or at least, major car damage).

On the bright side, I managed to keep my cookies down (no altitude sickness). The approach took a little over three hours, and return trip about two and a half. Oh, well, my third try. Not sure I want to go for a fourth, but I've got the route nailed down, at least, the Northridge Conness approach.





2004 Calendar of Events

September marks the return to Yosemite Valley as our location for camping and climbing. It would be great to see some trips to different places planned through the autumn months. Red Rocks, Smith, Owens River Gorge, Lover's Leap... If you would like to organize a trip please let me know (carolynldent@yahoo.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
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 November 24th - 28th	Two group sites booked at Indian Cove, Joshua Tree Site #2 (45 people) booked Wed Nov 24 th - Sunday morning Site #4 (25 people) booked Thursday Nov 25 th - Sunday morning	Simon Kenney

Thanksgiving Trip/Party: J.Tree

Most of you would have either been on or heard of our famous (Infamous) Thanksgiving Trips. For those of you that haven't; A quick rundown on previous years trips: Huge amounts of fun, 65+ people have attended our Thanksgiving trips with superb climbing of all levels, a full on thanksgiving dinner, hot springs, beautiful desert sunsets etc...This year is already shaping up to be another awesome experience. We have already booked a couple of group sites (Indian Cove group sites #2 and #4), and the trips calendar is taking bookings on the web site.

Here's a couple of links to wet your appetite;

<http://www.climbingjtree.com/> for more detailed look at climbing

<http://home.primus.ca/~dooley/climbing/joshua/joshua.html> for a quickoverview

http://jacob.biola.edu/~daniel/joshua_tree_photos.htm some photo's

<http://home.att.net/~r.miramontes/wsb/html/view.cgi-photos.html-.html> bouldering slideshow

As with previous years; I will be emailing out a list of food to bring for the Thanksgiving dinner (A little closer to the time) when I have got a better idea of how many will be coming, each person selects something to bring from the list (or brings something of their own choosing) and I will coordinate.





This year RR will pay the group site fees, provide the turkey, and some of the beer and wine. You will need a J.Tree climbing guide and lots of climbing tape! Don't forget you will need to bring your own water.

Most people will drive down and ride share but remember you can also fly to Ontario, J.Tree is just 2 hrs drive from there. If you share the car rental with someone then that would probably work out pretty cheap.

So go to the RR website and trips calendar and book yourself in (Guests welcome)

Incredible David Brower Documentary Opens in SF

MONUMENTAL is a really great documentary film that chronicles David Brower's life, from 30'-whippers on hemp ropes while climbing, to saving the Grand Canyon from dams. if you are a climber or have an interest in the environmental movement, you should check it out.

MONUMENTAL

September 17th- 23rd, San Francisco, CA

Roxie Cinema

3117 16th Street (at Valencia Street), San Francisco, CA 94103

Nightly 6:15, 8:00, 9:45

Wednesday, Saturday, Sunday matinee 2:00, 4:00

September 17--The opening night screening is dedicated to the memory of the late Brian Maxwell, Executive Producer of Monumental and founder of Power Bar. Director Kelly Duane and other special guests from the film will be attending the 8:00 p.m. screening. There will be a Q&A following the film.

September 17--FREE Premiere Pre-party at Build, 483 Guerrero, San Francisco, 5:00-7:30 with D.J. Science. Come drink some Pabst Blue Ribbon!

more info on the film at: <http://www.loteriafilms.org/>

Next meeting: Tues September 7th, 7pm

Where

Ricardo Lagos' Loft

1082 Pennsylvania Ave #301

San Francisco, CA 94107

When you get there Dial #0301 to get buzzed into the complex.





Special Attractions

From Misha: "Over the last two years, I spent close to 150 days in the Sierra Nevada and California Cascades mountains. I'd like to show some of my best photos taken during my climbing, backcountry skiing and backpacking adventures; and accompany them with a short account of each experience. Through my photos, I'd like to inspire and motivate people to go out and play in the mountains as much as they can, and never ever forget to bring their camera!"

As always, don't forget to bring some food and beer (or your beverage of choice!).

DIRECTIONS

From the South Bay:

101 or 280 North

Merge onto 280 North

Exit at Cesar Chavez

Straight through light at the end of off-ramp (You are now on Pennsylvania)

Building is on left at 2nd stop sign.

From the East Bay:

Go across Bay Bridge

Exit at Cesar Chavez (East)

Left at Pennsylvania (as you go under the 280 is Pennsylvania)

Building is on left at 2nd stop sign.

From the North Bay

Use [mapquest](#).

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.

