



Rock Rendezvous



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MARCH MADNESS

Welcome to March's newsletter. We've been cooped up for too long. When is the rain gonna stop so that we can get to some crags? I'm getting itchy feet!

Scott has added some more dates to the summer outing list. Trips are added to the Web site about a month prior to the trip dates, so put those new dates in your calendar now and be sure to check the Web site closer to the time.

People are signing up for the club spring trip to Red Rocks. Avoid disappointment and make sure you reserve your space for you and your buddies now. Ricardo is the trip leader for this so it WILL be FUN!

In this month's newsletter, we have part 2 of Adan's climbing tour of Spain. I've included a URL where you can see Adan's complete trip report on his Web site. The words and pictures are very inspiring.

Finally, save the date of March 9 for next RR meeting, where Brit climbing writer David Atchison-Jones will present *How to Drink and Climb around Europe*. El vice presidente Simon Kenney says attendance is obligatory, so don't say you haven't been told!

As always, thanks to those who contributed to this newsletter this month. Thanks for reading! – Linda (llhleung@hotmail.com)

NOTES FROM FEBRUARY RR MEETING

By Ricardo Lagos

Our great hosts were Em and Bruce, who made us welcome in their home up in Marin. It was through their connections that we had Tom McMillan presenting his film "Friendship Beyond Borders."

New Faces

We had two new faces at the meeting. Jen Sherman is a new member and is eager to sign up for the trips with the club. Michael Lake brought a guest all the way from Thailand: Joey. He most definitely won the award for "Traveling the furthest to attend the meeting." (And some of you guys thought it was too far to go from the East Bay!)

Upcoming Trips

The Web site registration is all set up; we have several spots open for Red Rocks in April, and the first few campsites for the Valley in April seem to be filling up.

Trip Report

We received a report from Michael Lake about ice climbing in Lee Vining (Scott's trip in January). Apparently they had to hike about 5 miles to get to the ice, and that took about 3 hours. Sounds like fun! Someone mentioned that perhaps the club could buy a snowmobile. I promised that Noriko would look into that.

Slideshow

Finally we concluded the meeting and got on with the best part of the night. Tom McMillan's documentary film of his expedition to Everest titled "Friendship Beyond Borders". It was great watching the film, and having Tom do running narrations alongside the DVD. The best shot of the film has to be the panoramic view from the summit of Everest. They summited on a perfect day, and the view really does take your breath away.

Rock Rendezvous Photography Contest

Announcing the 1st ever Rock Rendezvous Photo contest! We will be accepting entries for the entire year, and will be announcing the winners at our Christmas party.

The contest is for climbing related photographs that include the brand new Rock Rendezvous climbing information cards. Get your cards from Simon Kenney and take them on your next climb. We will be giving away prizes for the photograph that shows the RR business card in the most exotic or hard-to-reach climbing locations around the globe. (Think of a picture of an RR business card tucked behind a bolt on the Nose, or at the summit register of Temple Crag.)

Send your submissions in to Linda (llhleung@hotmail.com), and we'll print the entries in the newsletter.

Climber of the Month



Jen with son Finn

Name: Jen Hanley

Number of years climbing: 13 (March 1, 1992 was my first climbing lesson with the Appalachian Mountain Club at Quincy Quarries just outside of Boston. Obviously, it was memorable.)

RR member since: Fall of 1992

First climb: Something at Quincy Quarries. First memorable climb was High Exposure at the Gunks a couple months later.

Favorite climbing destination: Any that offers childcare.

Favorite climbing gym: Mission Cliffs

Ski or snowboard?: Ski (randonnee: French for "can't tele")

Other outdoor pursuits: The usual suspects: mountaineering, cycling (flail on a mountain bike, but we're enjoying our tandem road bike

with Finn in the Burley), backpacking, hiking, etc.

Favorite travel destination: Any that offers childcare.

Person most like to be stuck on a ledge with: Hmmmmm. OK, my spouse, Nate. But if he weren't available...Dave TMM!

Favorite climbing read: What to Expect: the Toddler Years

Earliest childhood memory: Climbing out of my playpen to play the piano--scaring my Mom in the next room.

Climbing motto: "Remind me, why do we do this??" (said when it's getting dark/cold and/or I'm bleeding.) Or "I used to be able to lead this..."

Climbing hero: My first climbing mentor, Steve Linder (followed closely by Dave TMM).

2005 Arc'teryx Canmore Ice Climbing Festival

March 3 to 6, Presented by Devonian Properties

If it's winter, then it's ice climbing season in the Canadian Rockies, and that means it's time for the seventh annual Canmore Ice Climbing Festival taking place in downtown Canmore Alberta, from March 3 to 6.

Amid a backdrop of snow coated rocky mountain peaks, the Canmore Ice Climbing Festival will feature a 20-metre tall man-made ice wall at Devonian Properties' Canmore Crossing location where veteran competitors and first time tool swingers will hook, kick and climb up a vertical ice curtain.

The festival kicks off with the popular indoor dry-tooling competition at Canmore's Vision climbing gym on Thursday, March 3, followed by Friday night's Epics and Adventures slideshow featuring wild climbing adventures by Canmore's Karen McNeill and Barry Blanchard. Will Gadd will be the MC for the evening.

The CICF's downtown site will feature manufacturers' booths with gear for beginners and the latest in leashless tools and fruit boots available for demo throughout the weekend. Several ice and mixed skills clinics will also take place on Friday and Saturday in some of the area's prime ice climbing canyons and taught by some of North America's top climbers.

Then on Saturday and Sunday the action will be at the Devonian Ice Wall with the fast and furious Speed Challenge and Kayland Cup Mixed competitions, plus an avalanche transceiver practice, ice carving demonstrations and face painting for the kids. Saturday night will feature the unforgettable Ambler dance party.

For more information, visit the Canmore Ice Climbing Festival Web site at <http://www.canmoreiceclimbingfestival.com>.

FOR SALE: Metolius TCUs



Three Metolius TCUs for sale. Sizes 00, 0, 1. They have been used minimally and have taken no falls. They're available for \$30 a piece.

If you're interested please email Paul Managan at paul_managan@prn.com, or phone 415-637-7746.

TRIP REPORTS:

Tour of climbing Meccas in Spain, Part 2



Walking the Caminito Del Rey. Notice the holes.

Words and photos: Adan Martinez (trip taken Sept. 30 - Oct. 18, 2004)

Malaga, southern Spain. Approximately 100km north of Costa Del Sol inland. El Chorro is both a town and an area made up by a series of artificial lakes and dams that supply water and electricity to the area. It is considered one of the most classic sport climbing areas in Spain. *Desnivel* (the Spanish climbing magazine), rates it # 2 in Spain after La Pedriza according to readers.

Once we got there we still had time for some afternoon climbing and warm-up. I was still

jetlagged- do you hear the excuses starting to roll in? We wanted a convenient area where we don't have much of a hike and not too much time looking for the climbs. Las Frontales looked good for that. Of course, everybody else thinks that and the rock is horribly polished (more excuses).

I picked a warm-up climb of 6a+ (5.10c), Zulu express; the accessible ratings and the stars means it's popular, so even more polished, and the guidebook comments it's a tricky transverse.

The transverse is a bit of a heady move, and I took the fall instead of making the move. I seemed to fall as I was supposed to, like a cat, but then I felt something funny in my right ankle - the right one, the other one, not the one I managed to injure in Bugaboos a month back. I must have landed too flat on the heel part of my foot. I managed to finish the climb, but now I got worried about messing up this trip when it has barely started. I didn't want to believe it was injured, and I pretended as if nothing was happening. I managed to make Debbie do a few climbs letting her lead, and then declining to follow them pretending not to be interested. She started getting upset thinking that it's my ploy to get her thrashed while saving my energy.

Sometimes it's how hard you climb that matters

Last night I pretended my ankle was not injured. This morning my ankle is bruised and swollen but I can still walk although limping, and somehow in my enthusiasm I think I can climb. Sun comes out pretty late, at 8am. It's become pretty clear by now we have to look for climbs in the shade. About 10am we head to the Poema De Roca area, one of the classics in the area, the climb with that name is a 7a (5.11d), but there's presumably some easier climbs. The indications in the guidebook are confusing enough that we lose the trail and we could find our way, but by that time we would be in the sun so we head to a different area, toward the Garganta or gorge.

We cross one of the railroad tunnels which is not as bad as we thought, trains are frequent and give little notice, but there's plenty of room on the side. We head to the Pasarela de los Venenos area, which the guidebook tells us is in the shade in the afternoon but by the time we get there, it's still in full sun. We still insist on starting the climb, and Debbie leads since I don't feel in my condition I should be doing, but the moves turn out more difficult than the rating 6a+ indicated in the guidebook, and she backs out. Later in a different more up to date guidebook we find out it's a 6c.

To our left we see the first glimpse of the Caminito del Rey leading to the gorge. This is a pretty rickety walkway that crosses the middle of the cliff, and it's in a seriously deteriorated state.

The entrance is blocked by a huge fence, there's a way around it but it's pretty exposed and we have no idea where it leads, so after a few moves we back out and decide we need to get more "beta" back in town.



EIChorro Gorge

With most of our day lost by now (at least in terms of climbing getting done), we decide to make this an exploratory day, and we head a little bit further following the railroad, and more tunnels, although we are not so afraid of them by now. Los Cotos looks promising, with enough moderate climbs there, and although there's a few climbers having top-rope parties, it's in full sun and is completely out of the question. "I will overheat" Debbie says, perhaps concerned that I am even considering the possibility of climbing.

A view of the gorge

We get a glimpse of what the gorge is like, and although we see another way to access the walkway from the other end, we don't dare venture without more information, and we are not sure where the climbs start anyway. We can see there's plenty of shade there, and even though the climbs look more difficult there, this is encouraging.

We call it a day and go back to town. It turned out to be a rest day after all, although not a planned one. We visit the local climbing store, which is only open Thursday-Sunday 6-9pm. Some of the camping equipment is ridiculously cheap by U.S. standards.

The climbing guide book published locally looks a lot more informative than the old-borrowed Rockfax one I had brought, there's a lot of discrepancies between the ratings shown there and the Rockfax one, so Debbie decides to splurge on that and add to her collection of climbing books back home.

The shopkeeper is obviously not Spanish, not an English speaker either, I guess he's German but Debbie says he's not either as he struggled with some German customers. I find his mannerisms amusing. He speaks slowly and emphasizing each word even on the most banal and uncontroversial of topics. When we ask about the pathway to the gorge, he tells us about the Via Ferrata that has been put in place as backup protection. The way he talks about it is as if it's something very close and personal to him, and it almost seems as if he's threatening us. It must have to do with his culture, and I really want to know where he comes from. "When you get to the walkway you will see these cables. You must use your harness and a sling and a carabiner and clip into them. Please use these cables! They have been put there for a reason!"

Catch-up time

It's the 3rd day in El Chorro, and the last two days we've only done 3 single pitch routes! Our pride is a little wounded, and we need to get some mileage in. We go to Los Cotos, which is a "moderate" (up to 6b/5.11a) area. It's in the sun all day but if we start early we figure we can get enough done before we start cooking. My ankle is still bruised of course. I still try to lead a warm-up climb, but if there's any chance of a prompt recovery another fall on my ankle would surely ruin it, and decide this is a bad idea, so I let Debbie be the rope-gun for the rest of the day. As much as she's willing to lead, she's a bit concerned she'll stay on this role for the rest of the trip. I try to convince her as much as I try to convince myself that somehow I'm going to get better soon.

The climbing here is low angle slab, with small holds and relying a lot on friction. I can do this fine on granite or even sandstone, but this is limestone, the star routes get a lot of traffic and therefore polished, and much of the wall feels like marble. Here we get some of the mileage we were hungry for, but the style of climbing and slipping gets annoying after a while. A 6b+ Debbie tries has a ridiculously thin move, and she decides this is about her limit in El Chorro in terms of difficulty she's willing to try. In my

condition I decline to attempt it, even on top rope.



El Chorro

By that time the sun is in full blast and we're cooking, Debbie is in danger of overheating, and we find shade and stop for lunch. So far is a good day of climbing, but still not what I would have nine time zones away for. We lunch on a few things we bought at the store the day before: jamon serrano, a variety of cheeses including Manchego and Cabrales, which is (in)famous for its potency. My father used to tell me stories about how worms were involved in the making of this cheese that comes from Asturias region, but we didn't find it so bad. And of course bread. In Spain you can't eat without bread, it's considered by some impossible and by others rude - customers are by law can refuse to pay for a meal if a restaurant runs out of bread. All these things we bought at a fairly mainstream supermarket in a relatively provincial area, yet they would be considered gourmet food items back home, and their generic counterparts would have cost us double what it costs us here. OK, maybe this is worth coming for.

You can read Adan's trip report in its entirety at his Web site:
<http://www.ekabal.com/~adan/spain04/index.html>



UPCOMING TRIPS:

Scott has booked some more camping dates since the last newsletter – the new dates are the ones with an asterix. All dates will be added to the Web site a month prior to the trip date. Currently, you can sign up for the Red Rocks trip, and for the Yosemite sites on April 22-23, and April 29-30.

We are looking for leaders for these trips, so if you fancy leading one of these events, please sign up at the Web site (trip leaders get free campsite accommodation!). As always, if you have an upcoming trip you'd like to open up to other club members, or if you'd like to organize another outing for the club, please drop me a line – Linda (llhleung@hotmail.com).

<i>DATES</i>	<i>TRIP VENUE</i>	<i>ORGANIZER</i>
3/31 – 4/3	Group outing to Red Rocks	Ricardo Lagos
4/22 – 4/23 4/29 – 4/30 5/6 – 5/7 6/17 - 6/18 (*new date) 6/24 – 6/25 *	Upper Pines, Yosemite Valley	
5/27 - 5/30 6/10 – 6/11	Pinecrest, Sonora	
7/8 - -7/9 *	Tuolumne Meadows	

WANTED: Used cross country skis

I'm looking for used XC skis with 3-pin bindings (or cable bindings) with 185-195 length waxless with or without metal edges. 75 boot width.

Joan Marshall
marshall_joan@emc.com or tompkins@SLAC.Stanford.EDU
or 650-364-8603



NEXT ROCK RENDEZVOUS MEETING:

By Simon Kenney

Team,

It's your vice pres here. I have some special info for you concerning the next RR meeting (remember that it's on WEDNESDAY MARCH 9).

David Atchison-Jones is a climbing writer from the U.K. (*Jingo Wobbly Climbing Guides* no less), who has agreed to present the next RR meeting during his upcoming trip to the U.S. Your attendance is absolutely obligatory as I know this is going to be a fun and interesting show.

Here's David's description:

How to drink and climb around Europe

I have chosen some 20 different drinks, from beer to rose, champagne, red, etc., and matched them with the very best local climbing to these areas. It makes a fun way to take a trip around Europe, and cover the enjoyable climbing venues, while still making the lecture entertaining with many anecdotal stories. I will show 80 slides from a complete carousel, and cover a good 40 different climbing venues. I can include some bizarre areas, but still focus on the great climbing with Rioja, Frascati, Burgundy, Whisky and good old English beer. Humor too with Austrian wine!!! although the best of Austrian is very good indeed. That is a simple taster.

Julien has graciously offered his apartment in the Twin Peaks area of San Francisco for this meeting. Bring a friend and your favorite brew or dish to share.

When: Wednesday March 9, 7:00 p.m.

Why: For a fun presentation of David Atchison-Jones' *How to Drink and Climb around Europe*.

Where: 2 Crestline Drive, Apt 9, San Francisco. Crestline at Burnett (almost at the top of Twin Peaks. There is usually no problem with parking.

For directions: please use Google maps to get a detailed map of how to get to Julien's house - <http://maps.google.com>

In case people are lost:

Julien's cell: (408) 772 4900

Julien's home: (415) 643 3885

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.