



# Rock Rendezvous



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## MAY DAY CLIMBS

Welcome to May's newsletter. We have a packed issue for you this month! We have the first entry to the RR Photography competition (see page 12), a cute photo of a dog skiing (check out the dog's boots!) and trip reports from Adan Martinez (Bugaboos), Em Holland (Carson Pass), Carolyn Dent (Swanage, Britain), and your's truly (Pinnacles). Thanks to those who contributed.

Scott has also booked some new campsites and dates. More info can be found on page 13.

And last but not least, we have details of our next RR meeting on May 3. We have secured Allen Steck, co-author of *Fifty Classic Climbs of North America*, to speak. Don't miss this opportunity to meet one of the U.S.'s greatest climbers.

As always, thanks for your contributions to the newsletter and thanks for reading! Drop me a line if you have any suggestions/questions about the newsletter.

– *Linda*  
[llhleung@hotmail.com](mailto:llhleung@hotmail.com)

## NOTES FROM APRIL RR MEETING

*By Simon Kenney*

Quite an assembled rabble at Kevin's house for April's meeting. A couple of new faces and plenty of old ones, followed by a great slide show from Adan on his trip to the Bugaboos.

Scott gave us a rundown on the recent trip to Red Rocks. Around 20 people went and an awesome time was had by all. With Las Vegas encroaching almost into the campground there is a very serious temptation to bag the camping and stay at some hotel with showers and hot food!

However the team stayed on the group site at Red Rocks and apparently only one tent almost got blown away. The weather was also kind to them and it only rained on Sunday afternoon (no snow). Scott and Ricardo flew down to join the crew. Scott climbed with Steve Aho on Frogland. (Steve managed to loose one approach shoe so hopped off in one climbing shoe and one approach shoe.)

### **New faces**

New faces this month included Kate Kelly - new to climbing, and of course keen to learn, along with Dan Rampe, who is a climbing partner friend of Adan who was along to check out the club and Adam's slide show.

### **Photo competition!!**

Another reminder this month to those of you that have RR 'calling cards' that we are holding a photo competition to see who can produce the photograph that shows the most outrageous location for one of our cards (Half way up El Cap? or On a Park Ranger's hat? Clipped to an overhanging bolt hanger 1,000ft off the deck? You get the idea...). Winners to be announced at the end of the year. (Email me if you do not have any calling cards and I will send you a bunch).

### **Upcoming RR trips**

Scott has organized a packed calendar this year for the club and we have a site in either the Valley or Meadows every 2 to 3 weeks, so get online and book yourself a place (remember they fill up pretty quickly).

If you are not a member then you can come as the friend of a member, or alternatively you can join up and include yourself on any of our trips. Just send your membership fee of \$15 to Noriko (See website for her address). Noriko is also set up for Pay Pal.

## **RR fashion attire**

Tee shirts (Fawn color - \$10) and sweatshirts (red hooded - \$20). I still have, so let me know if you want one.



Everybody was pretty keen to get on with Adam's slideshow offering beyond this point and so we hassled onto that next....

Adan presented a slideshow of his August trip to Bugaboos at the east side of British Columbia, near the Alberta border. He said "Bugaboos is one of those 'must visit' places for the cosmopolitan climber/traveler, the season is very short, 1-2 months tops, and because weather can be so unpredictable, 2 weeks is minimum if you don't want to risk that the one week you choose to come is the week of bad weather."

And finally but probably most importantly ALAN STECK WILL BE PRESENTING NEXT MONTH'S SLIDE SHOW on Tuesday May 3 at Kathy Nerud's house in Oakland. This will be something not to miss!!!!

That's about it for now folks. See you next time.

*- Simon*

## Rock Rendezvous Photography Contest

*We have received the first entry to our photography competition! See the Pinnacles trip report for the picture! Think you can do better (and I'm sure you can). Send your entries to me at [lhleung@hotmail.com](mailto:lhleung@hotmail.com) and we'll print them in the newsletter and announce the overall winner at our Christmas party. We'll be accepting entries during the year.*

Just in case you did know by now, 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.)

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### CLIMBER OF THE MONTH

This month's climber is Kathy Nerud who will be hosting the May meeting at her beautiful home in Oakland.



**Name/ nickname:** Kat  
**No. of years climbing:** 13 years  
**RR member since:** 13 years  
**First climb:** Eagle Lakes  
**Favorite climbing destination:** City of Rocks  
**Favorite post-climb eatery:** The Lane Splitter  
**Favorite climbing gym:** Iron Works  
**Ski or snowboard?:** Ski  
**Other outdoor pursuits:** Mountain bike  
**Favorite travel destination:** Chamonix, France  
**Person most like to be stuck on a ledge with:** My boyfriend  
**Favorite climbing read:** Toucing the Void  
**Earliest childhood memory:** Learning to tie my shoes  
**Climbing motto:** Survive  
**Climbing hero:** Lynn Hill

## TRIP REPORTS:

# Bowled over by Bugaboos

Words and photos: Adan Martinez



Snowpatch Spire in the morning

I had been in Squamish, BC two weeks before, drove down to Santa Cruz, stayed there for a little more than a week, and then I was going back up north to Bugaboos, on the East side of BC near the Alberta border. How crazy is that? There are two questions you can ask, depending on which answer I want to give: why did I drive down to Santa

Cruz and not go there directly? Or, once in Santa Cruz, why did I not just climb in the nearby Sierras and Needles? Bad planning could be the short answer, for the real answer I could bore you with details.

But bottom line: Bugaboos is one of those "must visit" places for the cosmopolitan

climber/traveler, the season is very short, 1-2 months tops, and because weather can be so unpredictable, 2 weeks is minimum if you don't want to risk that the one week you choose to come is the week of bad weather.



Adan on Surf's Up ledge

Tired of driving, I chose to fly. I was going "solo," well, sort of, was going to meet a partner I had never climbed with before, and didn't know how that was going to work out (it didn't, I'll leave that story for another time). It was a new challenge for me packing all the necessary gear, for both climbing in an alpine terrain, and camping. It was not worth it for me to rent a car to get there alone, so I hitchhiked, which I got extremely lucky. Anyway, if you get the change, I recommend you go there, but go with a reliable partner you can share the costs with!

Bugaboos dispelled any generalizations about convenience I might have made about

Canadian climbing. To climb here I first had to set up "base camp" 2-3 hours hike, during which I had to be pretty self-contained.

Many of the climbs involved 1-2 hours approach and similar time to descend, often involving glacier travel, moderate but unprotected and sketchy ice climbing up a 40 degree couloir (the Snowpatch-Bugaboo Col), and rappelling down the same couloir in the afternoon with active rockfall from other parties rappelling. Also you must climb prepared for changing weather, so both leader and follower had to take a backpack with anything we might need, like warm clothes, rain jacket, extra food and water, sometimes even the crampons, ice ax and heavy climbing boots because you could come a different way you came from.



Jason (left) and Adan (right) after topping out at Surf's Up

My first partner did not work out so well, but I was very lucky to find others, which in that type of environment is not so easy. I think I got 5 days worth of good climbing, then my luck was running out as far as finding new partners, and decided to come down. It turns out this was a good decision, because the weather turned foul. On the way out, I twisted my ankle because the heavy backpack I was carrying, I still managed to get out, but spent the rest time of my time in the nearby town of Radium Hot Springs trying to recover just in time for my next trip, which was going to be in a week to Utah & Colorado.

*Adan has more pix from his trip on his website. Check them out at*

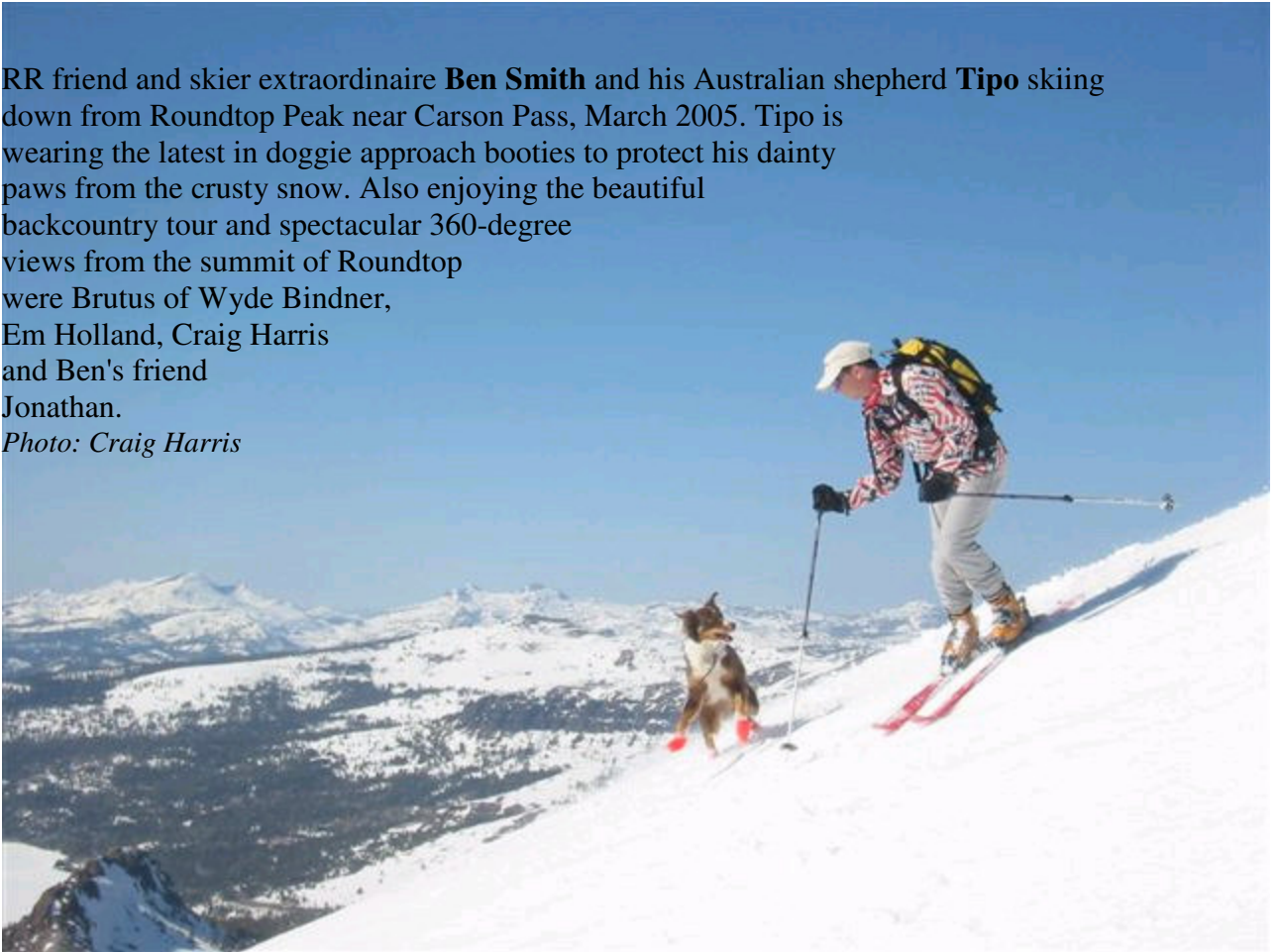
<http://www.ekabal.com/bugaboos04/>

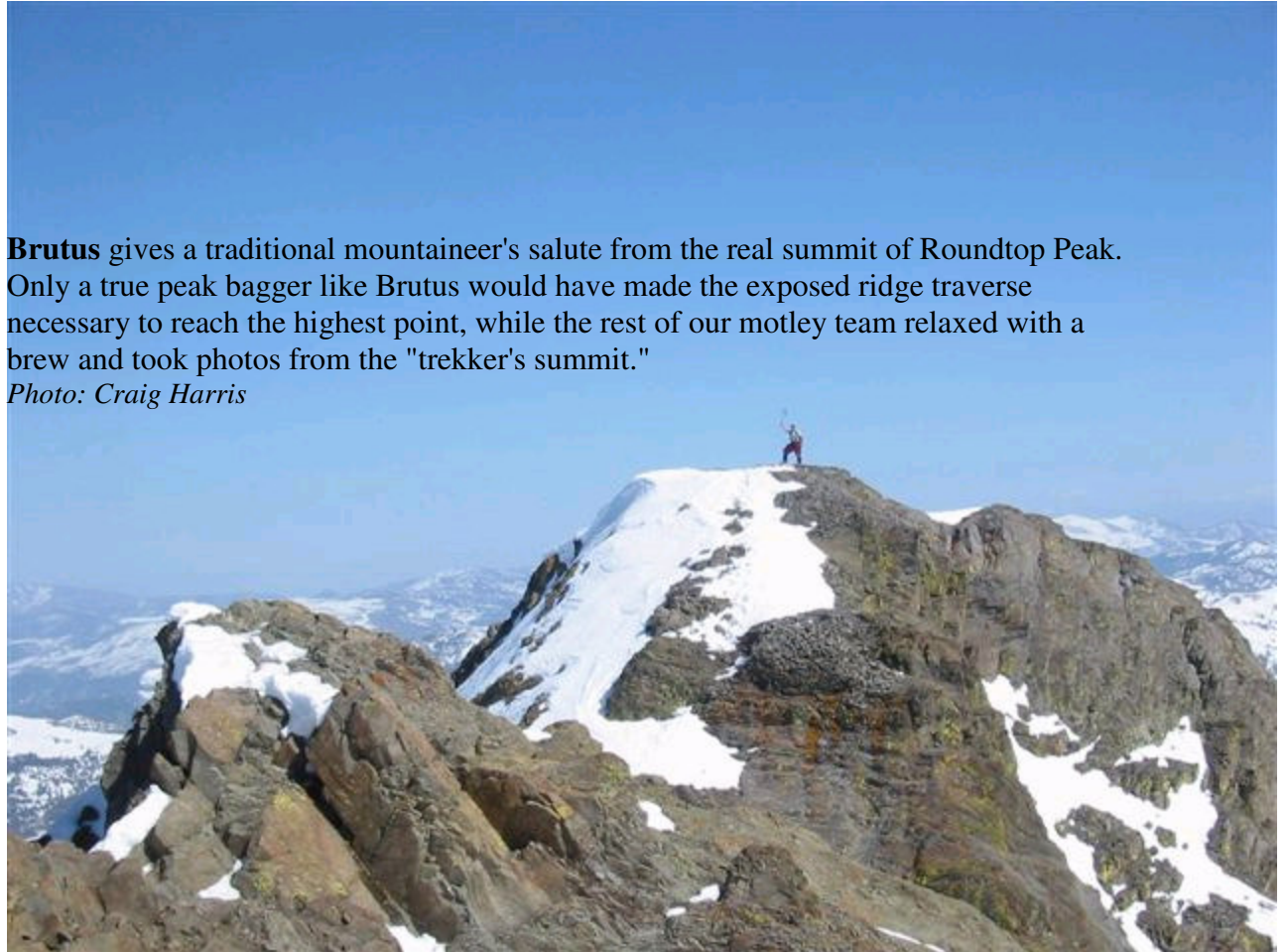
# *Ski?...Climb?...It's all good!*

*Words: Em Holland*

RR friend and skier extraordinaire **Ben Smith** and his Australian shepherd **Tipo** skiing down from Roundtop Peak near Carson Pass, March 2005. Tipo is wearing the latest in doggie approach booties to protect his dainty paws from the crusty snow. Also enjoying the beautiful backcountry tour and spectacular 360-degree views from the summit of Roundtop were Brutus of Wyde Bindner, Em Holland, Craig Harris and Ben's friend Jonathan.

*Photo: Craig Harris*





**Brutus** gives a traditional mountaineer's salute from the real summit of Roundtop Peak. Only a true peak bagger like Brutus would have made the exposed ridge traverse necessary to reach the highest point, while the rest of our motley team relaxed with a brew and took photos from the "trekker's summit."

*Photo: Craig Harris*







# Another cold and wet day in Britain

*Words and photo: Carolyn Dent*

Of course, you all feel sorry for me. I've moved back to England, and it ALWAYS rains here. So I decided to confirm your pity by sending you a picture of the horrible climbing on the sea cliffs of the south coast of Britain, on a typically wet March day. The climbing area is Swanage. The cliff has the romantic name of the 'Cattle Troughs Area'. The climb is an HVS 5a called Peacemaker – that translates to about 5.9 if you look at the tables – definitely a sandbag! The climbers are Tim and Tom from the Hertfordshire Mountaineering Club. There is a wide range of grades and climbs in the area, and, in keeping with British tradition, not a bolt in sight, just a few iffy looking abseil (translate: rappel) stakes...

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# The accidental cavers

Words: Linda Leung, Photos: Claire Pillsb, Julien Dunoyer

After much effort by Scott to rouse members of the RR email list to put away their skis and go climbing one weekend in April, four members agreed to brave the warm and sunny climes and welded-tuff boulders of Pinnacles National Monument.

So Scott, Julien, Claire, Geraldine and I set off on our merry way, little knowing (well, Scott and Julien knew) that we'd have to negotiate the dark and dank Bear Gulch Caves to get to our climbs. The caves are usually closed to the public save for a few months of the year when the caves' dwellers – bats – leave the caves to do the things bats do when away from their homes. To add to the excitement, no one carried headlamps so we had to carefully feel our way out of the caves. (I knew I had one in my bag but it was too dark to rummage for it!)

This was my second trip to Pinnacles. The first was 2 years ago when, as a terrified climbing novice, I swung (quite badly I thought) on Portent (5.6) and cried (not tears of joy, but of fear) at the top of First Sister (5.5). I am happy to report that on this trip, I climbed to the top of both with no harm! Yay!

It was Claire's first climb on real rock and she did much better than I did 2 years ago. She cruised up First Sister (her virgin outdoor climb) and Going the Wrong Way (5.7), no problem.

Claire decided to stay with the boys and climb some more while Geraldine and I hiked Chalone Peak trail. We saw some very beautiful wild flowers of all colors – what treats nature provides us. You don't see such beautiful flowers skiing now do you?

And climbing is so educational. For example, did you know that growing at the foot of Lost Horizons (and elsewhere in Pinnacles) is a variety of lettuce? Called Miner's Lettuce or Wild Claytonia Perfoliata, they reportedly helped the gold miners of the California Gold rush stave off scurvy. Yes, they are quite delicious and I hope to see packets of those being sold at Trader Joe's. Thanks to Julien for pointing out the lettuce. In fact, we were so in awe of the lettuce that it inspired us to take a photo of them with the RR calling card and enter it into our competition!



Ger during our search for Fourth Sister



Claire on one of her first outdoor climbs

Having climbed First Sister we searched high and low for Fourth Sister. The search involved quite a lot of scrambling. We never did find Fourth Sister; I guess she must be banished from the family.

Julien shares with Claire his outdoor climbing warm-up techniques – balancing a stick on your head while doing yoga poses.



And now the picture you've been waiting for: our **entry into the RR photography competition!** RR card with Scott's rope (gee, I hope he wasn't tied in the other end and on a climb!) on a bed of lettuce. Photo by Julien, art direction by Claire, professional support by Geraldine, Scott and Linda.



Think you can do better than this? Well, show me. Email me your best effort at [lhleung@hotmail.com](mailto:lhleung@hotmail.com) and we'll print the entries and pick a winner, which will be announced at our Christmas Party.

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**FOR SALE!!! Metolius TCUs – *THESE MUST GO!***

Three Metolius TCUs for sale. Sizes 00, 0, 1. They have been used minimally and have taken no falls. ***NOW \$25 a cam!!***

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If you're interested please e-mail Paul Manangan at [paul\\_manangan@prn.com](mailto:paul_manangan@prn.com), or phone 415-637-7746.

## UPCOMING TRIPS:

Three more dates have been added to the trip calendar 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 Yosemite sites on April 29-30, and May 6-7, and the Sonora trip over Memorial Day weekend, May 27-29.

We have leaders signed up for the trips above – thanks to those folks for leading. There will be opportunities for people to sign up as leaders as new trips are added to the Web site, so keep your eyes peeled. Trip leaders get free campsite accommodation and a reserved parking spot. 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](mailto:llhleung@hotmail.com)).

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<i>DATES</i>	<i>TRIP VENUE</i>	<i>ORGANIZER</i>
<b>4/29 – 4/30</b> <b>5/6 – 5/7</b> <b>6/17 - 6/18</b> <b>6/24 – 6/25</b> <b>9/9 – 9/10* (new date)</b>	Upper Pines, Yosemite Valley	
<b>5/27 - 5/30</b> <b>6/10 – 6/11</b> <b>9/2 – 9/4</b>	Pinecrest, Sonora	
<b>7/8 - -7/9</b> <b>7/22 – 7/23</b> <b>7/29 – 7/30</b> <b>8/12 – 8/13</b> <b>8/19 - 8/20*</b> <b>8/26 – 8/27*</b>	Tuolumne Meadows	

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## **NEXT ROCK RENDEZVOUS MEETING:**

Join us for our next Rock Rendezvous meeting that's taking place at **Kathy Nerud's house in Oakland on Tuesday, May 3.** This is one meeting you won't want to miss because we have **Allen Steck as guest speaker.** Co-author of *Fifty Classic Climbs*, Steck pioneered several of the climbs in Yosemite, and was one of the country's first big wall climbers. So mark your calendars for May 3. As usual, bring friends and your favorite brew or dish to share.

**When:** Tuesday, May 3, 7:00 p.m.

**Why:** For a presentation by Allen Steck

**Where:** 3866 Glen Park Road, Oakland (tel 510-530-2095)

### **DIRECTIONS:**

#### **From S.F. or North:**

Get onto 580 going South toward Oakland. Take the PARK Street Exit (Exit prior is Grand) and then make a LEFT at the light and go back under the freeway and thru the next light. Stay in the right lane to make the next RIGHT at the light onto PARK BLVD. (Note no right hand turn on red!). Go about 5 blocks to the next stop light and make a SHARP RIGHT onto GLEN PARK ROAD. I am 11 houses down on the left.

#### **From the South:**

Get onto 580 going North toward Oakland. Take the PARK STREET/14th AVENUE Exit (Exit prior is Coolidge) and make a RIGHT at the light. (Note - no right hand turn on red!) Continue on Beaumont until it meets with Park and make a right onto PARK BLVD., and then at the next stop light make a SHARP RIGHT onto GLEN PARK BLVD. I am 11 houses down on the left.

#### **From the East:**

From HW 24 after the tunnel get off onto HW 13/Warren Freeway SOUTH. Take the PARK BLVD., exit off HW 13 and make a RIGHT onto PARK BLVD., Continue downhill thru the commercial area. At the 1st stop light after the commercial area (a church will be on your right) make an angled left turn onto GLEN PARK ROAD (a dentist office is at the start of Glen Park Road) I will be 11 houses down on the left.

### **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.*