



Rock Rendezvous



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The climbing season gets underway

A small but perfectly formed issue this month. It's the Joan and Hal issue – they both feature as this month's Climber of the Month, and very kindly wrote and sent in their trip report of the Spring RR Red Rocks Trip – thanks Joan & Hal!

I didn't get the April meeting notes before the deadline, so no write up of what was discussed or happened at the last meeting, but hopefully Ricardo will fill us in at the May meeting. And please join us at the next club meeting in May as Scott will show slides from his 2006 climbing trip to Norway. Details of the meeting venue are at the end of this newsletter.

I'm hoping this is the lull before the storm and that I'll get lots of trip reports over the coming few months now that the climbing season has gotten underway. Scott has spent the past few months reserving sites for the club so get yourselves on a trip and send me a trip report.

Thanks for your assistance in making this newsletter a good read.

-- Linda

Climbers of the Month



Name/nickname: Joan Marshall

No. of years climbing: 10 years

RR member since: 2002

First climb: Cathedral Peak

First lead: The Eye, Joshua Tree

Climbing goal for this year: Direct Exum, Grand Teton

Favorite climbing destination: Tuolumne Meadows

Favorite post-climbing eatery: Tacqueria in Manteca, going west, just past the 99 freeway underpass, on the right.

Favorite climbing gym: Belmont, Planet Granite

I want to climb like: My friend Linda Smith. She's over 60 and still climbing 10a's.

I do not want to climb like: Some of the climbers we see at the gym, hair in their face, and wearing blue jeans.

Best thing that your climbing partner could say: Fantastic lead!

Worst thing that your climbing partner could say: That was trivial. What was your problem?

What does your family say about your climbing: Is my will current?

Person most like to be stuck on a ledge with: Hal, of course!

Favorite travel destination: Same as Hal. Utah's canyon country. We go there every year.

Non-climbing interests: Biking, running, xc skiing, backpacking.

Climbing motto: How much longer can I do this?

Advice to new climbers: You can never have too many climbing partners. Keep a list, and don't burn your bridges behind you.



Name/nickname: Hal Tompkins

No. of years climbing: 30

RR member since: 2002?

First climb: First lead was Entrance at Discovery Wall at the Pinnacles in 1977

Climbing goal for this year: Direct Exum, Grand Teton

Favorite climbing destination: Tuolumne Meadows

Favorite post-climbing eatery: The Mexican place in Manteca

Favorite climbing gym: Planet Granite Belmont

I want to climb like: Al Steck

Best thing that your climbing partner could say: Good lead!

Worst thing that your climbing partner could say: There are holes in your climbing pants.

What does your family say about your climbing: I avoid asking that question.

Person most like to be stuck on a ledge with: Joan, of course!

Favorite travel destination: Utah's canyon country

Non-climbing interests: Biking, running, xc skiing, wine collecting

Climbing motto: Go light and suffer





TRIP REPORT:

Red Rocks 2006

By Joan Marshall and Hal Tompkins



Looking up Black Velvet Canyon

Hal and I arrived at the Las Vegas airport Thursday morning, and were trekking to the approach of Olive Oil by 11 am. There seemed to be a couple of places matching the route description start. We started up what we thought was right, but didn't see any chalk, and heard voices at another spot further over, so we figured we were in the wrong place. But, as it turned out, we had it right in the first place. With all the starting and stopping, it was too late to continue, and hope to finish before dark. So, we bailed and

wandered over to do the first pitch of Geronimo, a 5.6 climb nearby. We knew there were slings to rap from. But, we only got one pitch of climbing done the first day.

Dinner in town, and shopping for food. Do you know Whole Foods does not sell matches or lighters? We didn't know, but now we do. Back to camp around 8:30, and Elmar and Lisa Stefke were there cooking dinner.





Ready to descend Olive Oil

By Friday morning, two more cars appeared in the parking lot, and two tents. Elmar and Lisa left at 6am for Sour Mash while the 2am arrivals were still asleep when we departed at 8am for another attempt on Olive Oil. This time we were first on the climb, getting a 10am start. Olive Oil is 5.7 four star climb, and well worth our efforts to try it again. The weather was on the cool side, and it sprinkled lightly on us during the descent. Back to the packs by 2:30.

Saturday morning sky brought clouds and high winds. We decided to go for a route

from which we could bail quickly should rain begin, and headed out for Johnny Vegas on the Solar Slab wall. Only one party ahead of us. Warm in the sun, but really cold in the shade. And wind! Hal also neglected to bring his windbreaker jacket. So, he froze. We climbed the three pitches of Johnny Vegas, 5.6, and decided not to continue on up the Solar Slab to the summit, as there were several parties on it already, and Hal was freezing. Instead, we did the five short raps down the Solar Slab Gully, which I thought was rather fun.





Frogland pitch 4

Back at camp, Jason Kuo and Michael Lake drove in looking for the "party". But, it was only 7pm, and no one was around except us "elderly" climbers. But then everyone showed up for dinner and there was a party. Plus, an opportunity to collect the campground money.

Sunday was a clear beautiful day, warming up quickly. By 9am, it was short sleeves and shorts weather, that is, in the sun. We headed out to Black Velvet Canyon to climb Frogland, 5.8,

four stars. We managed to be second on the climb. There were only three parties climbing the whole day. Frogland is a beautiful climb and more than made up for Thursday's short climbing day.

Back to the airport at 7pm, to catch a 9pm flight. Unfortunately, our plane was delayed 4 hours, so we didn't get to bed til 4am! Great trip, and special thanks to Scott for getting the reservations. We are sorry Scott and Linda were not able to join us.





UPCOMING TRIPS:

We now have reserved sites for August through September – thanks Scott! And Rock Rugrats have also added a trip date in August. This from Ben:

“ My wife and I and daughter would like to host an additional trip this year to our cabin in South Lake Tahoe for Rock Rugrats the weekend of Aug. 5-6. With this weekend, Rugrats now has a spring (April) trip and a summer trip (August). There is room for 8 adult climbers including the trip leader (us as hosts) but excluding kids. ALL are welcome, not just those with kids. All South Lake climbing areas are easily accessible including PieShop, Lovers Leap, 90 Foot Wall etc.”

See below for the complete trip dates and mark your calendars. As always, you’ll be able to sign up for the sites on the RR website about a month before the trip date (you’re now able to sign for up sites on May 12-14 and May 19-21.)

And don’t forget the spring Rock Rugrats trip to Yosemite. Details are below. Everyone is welcome on the Rock Rugrats trip, but please reserve the parking spaces for the kids and their grown-ups – thanks.

| <i>DATES</i> | <i>TRIP VENUE</i> |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 4/28 – 4/29 | Lower Pines, site #13, Yosemite with Rock Rugrats |
| 5/5 – 5/6 | Upper Pines, Yosemite |
| 5/12 – 5/13 | Upper Pines, Yosemite |
| 5/19 – 5/20 | Upper Pines, Yosemite |
| 5/26 – 5/28 Memorial w/e | Upper Pines, Yosemite |
| 6/2 – 6/3 | Upper Pines, Yosemite |
| 6/9 - 6/10 | Upper Pines, Yosemite |
| 6/23 – 6/24 | Pinecrest Lake, Sonora |





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|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 7/15 – 7/16 | T-Meadows |
| 7/21 – 7/22 | T-Meadows |
| 7/28 – 7/29 | T-Meadows |
| 8/4 – 8/5 | T-Meadows |
| 8/5-8/6 | South Lake Tahoe with Rock Rugrats |
| 8/11 – 8/12 | T-Meadows |
| 8/25-26 | T-Meadows |
| 9/1-9/3 | T-Meadows |
| 9/8-9/9 | Valley |
| 9/14-9/16 | T-Meadows group |

NEXT ROCK RENDEZVOUS MEETING:

May 2, 2006

Join us in sunny Potrero Hill in San Francisco for the next RR meeting. Scott will be showing slides from his Norway ice climbing trip earlier this year. Bring a friend and your favorite drink/dish to share.

WHEN: Tuesday, May 2, 2006 @ 7 p.m.
WHERE: 619 Missouri Street, SF, CA 94107

The address is 619 Missouri Street, located between Sierra and 20th Streets, in the Potrero Hill neighborhood of San Francisco.





The house is on the East side of the street and is painted gray and blue. Call Scott at 415-824-1767 if you get lost on the way to the meeting.

From the East Bay: Take the 5th/Harrison Street/Golden Gate Bridge exit, which is the second exit on the left after arriving in San Francisco. Take a slight left onto Harrison and stay in the two left lanes. Turn left onto 6th Street, at the next light. Go straight on 6th until it turns into I-280 South. Take the Mariposa/18th Street exit from I-280 South, which is the first exit. Stay left at the fork in the ramp and then turn right on 18th Street. Turn left on Missouri Street, which is the 2nd stop sign. Go through 2 stop signs and then start looking for the house on the left, towards the end of the 3rd block.

From the Peninsula: Take I-280 to the Cesar Chavez exit on 280, just after the 280/101 split. Go straight at the end of the exit onto Pennsylvania Ave. Turn left onto 22nd Street at the 4th stop sign. Stay on 22nd as it bends around and turn left onto Sierra, the first left. Turn right onto Missouri at the end of Sierra. The house is the second on the right.

From the North Bay: Take 101 into the City. Follow signs for I-80/Downtown SF. This will put you on Van Ness Avenue, going South. Turn left on Golden Gate Avenue, immediately after Turk. Take Golden Gate to where it meets Market. Take a slight right onto 6th street as you are crossing Market St. Go straight on 6th until it turns into I-280 South. Take the Mariposa/18th Street exit from I-280 South, which is the first exit. Stay left at the fork in the ramp and then turn right on 18th Street. Turn left on Missouri Street, which is the 2nd stop sign. Go through 2 stop signs and then start looking for the house on the left, towards the end of the 3rd block.

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.



