

# Rock Rendezvous



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Enjoy!

Linda

## Climber of the Month



**Name/nickname:** Hamid Aghdaee  
(a.k.a. Hamididdy)  
**No. of years climbing:** 5  
**RR member since:** 2003  
**First climb:** Machete Ridge at Pinnacles  
**Climbing goal for this year:** Regular  
Route on Half Dome in a day  
**Favorite climbing destination:**  
Yosemite Valley  
**Favorite post-climbing eatery:**  
Taqueria La Estrella  
**Favorite climbing gym:** Berkeley  
Ironworks  
**I want to climb like:** a gecko  
**I do not want to climb like:** a fish  
**Best thing that your climbing partner  
could say:** Dude, you can have the lead  
on this beautiful handcrack! I'm too  
tired.

**Worst thing that your climbing  
partner could say:** Dude, I'm too tired,  
could you lead the offwidth!  
**What does your family say about your  
climbing:** Dude, quit that childish  
behavior!  
**Person most like to be stuck on a ledge  
with:** Loulena Miles.  
**Favorite travel destination:** The  
sierras  
**Non-climbing interests:** Cooking,  
reading, drinking, hanging out, yoga,  
being healthy  
**Climbing motto:** Send or DIE!  
**Advice to new climbers:** Don't take it  
too seriously. It's only climbing rocks  
after all.

# May Meeting Notes

By Claire Pillsbury

Linda and Scott hosted the most recent meeting and it started by lulling all of us into a tropical haze. Five hundred **slides of their trip to Thailand were showing in slideshow mode** on their large screen TV; lizards, cats, monkeys, sunsets, more cats, more sunsets, more monkeys and the occasional shot of Linda and/or Scott prompted us all to either plan a trip to Thailand or reminisce about a Thailand trip.

Finally Ricardo jolted us back into consciousness and started the meeting. As usual, we started with introductions. Two persons from the South Bay had driven up to check out the group and one had been climbing for 2 years and the other for 12 years. They recommended visiting the **new Sunnyvale Planet Granite** when it opens as one of them had been checking out the progress of it while it has been under construction.

Mehul was another **new face** that showed up at this meeting. He has been climbing for 3 or 4 years, but the last 2 years in grad school have reduced his climbing time. He is "considering" becoming a member so we hope he was beguiled by the cats, monkeys and sunsets enough to sign up.

Ricardo went on to promote the advantages of Rock Rendezvous. For example the red hooded pullover - people won't notice the blood stains so easily on the crimson fabric.

Ricardo also suggested that everyone be ready to sign up for Valley sites as the weather is "perfect right now" (perhaps less perfect now that it is not May?) We moved on to Scott's **Naked Norwegian Ice Climbing slide show**. See what happens when you miss a meeting? OK maybe there were no naked pictures (because Scott edited them all out).

Some of you may remember **Erik Sandelin**, our Swedish Rock Rendezvous comrade who first showed up at a RR Christmas party and had such an excellent time that the hosts found him sleeping on the couch the next morning. After finishing his post doc at Stanford he returned to Sweden and his Swedish rock climbing club that doubles in ice climbing for the wintry half of the year. Lured by the promise of a Scandinavian adventure, Scott has gone over to Norway a few times to go ice climbing with Erik.

Apparently **ice climbing in Norway is amazingly uncrowded** for the quality of its icy walls and waterfalls and is only now starting to attract more European ice climbing fanatics. Maybe next winter we can send a full team of Rock Rendezvous climbers to take over one of the tiny Norwegian towns adjacent to the ice climbing walls. The meeting adjourned with some choice remarks about the utter foolhardiness, oops! I mean sense of daring and adventure of people who climb on ice.



## Sunnyvale gets a climbing gym

Planet Granite opened its Sunnyvale branch at a grand opening held over June 3 and 4. The gym replaces Planet Granite's Santa Clara facility, which is now closed.

According to Planet Granite the gym boasts:

- 120 top anchors, up to 60 feet high
- Bouldering, and more bouldering!
- Weights and Fitness
- Spinning too!
- Best cracks this side of Yosemite!
- Yoga Studio
- Outdoor climbing and bouldering

Planet Granite Sunnyvale claims it is the tallest and largest gym in California. In e-mail sent to

members, the company says that the highest part of the building is 60 feet high.

"Santa Clara by comparison was 30 feet tall. Mission Cliffs in San Francisco is 51 feet high. We built approximately 20,000 square feet of ropedclimbing walls with 120 top anchors," the e-mail reads. "We have a wicked overhanging 70 degree lead-only head lead wall that is seriously steep with routes starting at 5.10c all the way up to 5.13c."

If you go, let your fellow RRRers what you thought of it.

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## Up close and personal



Misha Logvinov spotted this bear on a recent trip to Yosemite.

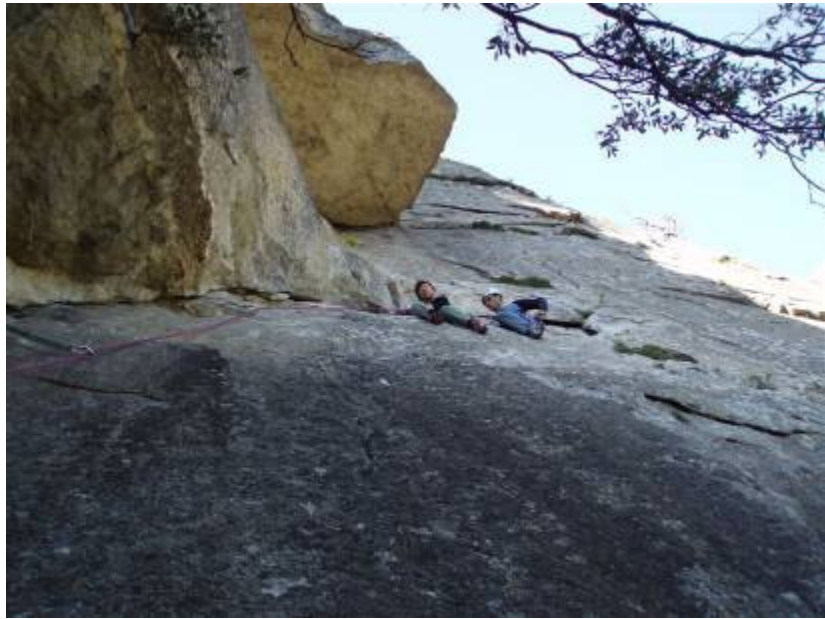


*TRIP REPORT:*

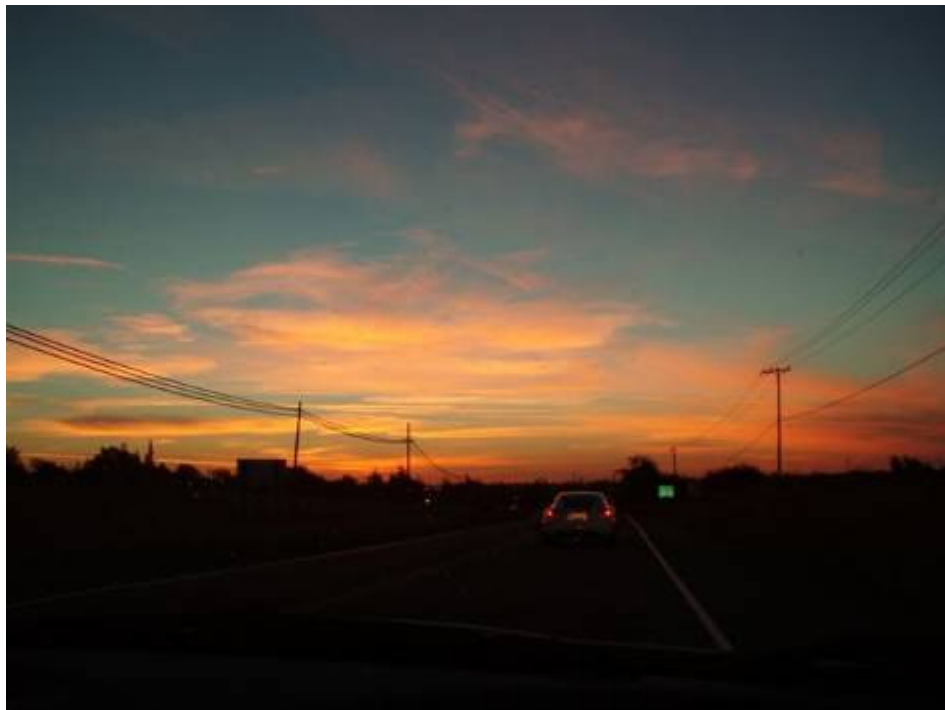
# Sunsets and climbing in beautiful Yosemite

Pictures by Andy Gioumouis





Alice Fischer-Colbrie on 2nd belay ledge of Commitment (5.9) at the Five Open Books, Yosemite





## *UPCOMING TRIPS:*

Scott has booked the final sites that take us right through to the fall. These dates below are all the RR climbing weekends until the annual jamboree at J-Tree for Thanksgiving. If you haven't been out with RR yet – get yourself signed up on a trip now!

And don't forget the Rock Rugrats 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. 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.”

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 June 9-10, and June 23-34.)

<i><b>DATES</b></i>	<i><b>TRIP VENUE</b></i>
<b>6/9 - 6/10</b>	Upper Pines, Yosemite
<b>6/23 – 6/24</b>	Pinecrest Lake, Sonora
<b>7/15 – 7/16</b>	T-Meadows
<b>7/21 – 7/22</b>	T-Meadows
<b>7/28 – 7/29</b>	T-Meadows
<b>8/4 – 8/5</b>	T-Meadows
<b>8/5-8/6</b>	South Lake Tahoe with Rock Rugrats
<b>8/11 – 8/12</b>	T-Meadows





<b>8/25-26</b>	T-Meadows
<b>9/1-9/3</b>	T-Meadows
<b>9/8-9/9</b>	Valley
<b>9/14-9/16</b>	T-Meadows group
<b>9/22-9/24</b>	T-Meadows and Upper Pines
<b>9/29-10/1</b>	Upper Pines
<b>10/6-10/8</b>	Upper Pines
<b>10/13-10/15</b>	Upper Pines

### **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.*

