



Rock Rendezvous



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Enjoy!

Linda

Climber of the Month



Name/nickname: Ben Smith

No. of years climbing: On and off since 1986ish

RR member since: 3 years???

First climb: Some 50' high obscure piece of !#\$% top rope on a hillside in San Rafael. I had on a stellar harness made from a single piece of webbing wrapped around my waist while my brother belayed with a single handed hip belay while smoking a cigarette in the other. First multi-pitch was much more enjoyable on Eagle Lake Buttress in Emerald Bay.

Climbing goal for this year: Now that I have a family, my goals are rather humble: Have fun and get my wife and daughter out with me as much as possible.

Favorite climbing destination: Tuolumne

Favorite post-climbing eatery: The cold beer waiting in my cooler at the end of the day.

Favorite climbing gym: Class 5 in San Rafael

I want to climb like: Jay Smith

I do not want to climb like: A hippo.

Worst thing that your climbing partner could say: "Don't worry about it." As I flail helplessly up something waaay too hard for me.

What does your family say about your climbing: Parents have a don't ask don't tell policy. My spouse Liana wants to know when it's her turn to go.

Person most like to be stuck on a ledge with: Liana of course.

Favorite travel destination: Europe.

Non-climbing interests: Skiing, hiking, fishing, horseback riding.

Climbing motto: Shamelessly stolen from others: "The reward of a thing well done is to have done it." Ralph Waldo Emerson

Advice to new climbers: Safety. Safety. Safety. Particularly at the beginning when you are trying to establish good habits.

Unabashed Rugrats/Rock Rendezvous Promotion: GREAT TRIPS planned for South Lake Tahoe-Aug. 4-6; Calaveras Domes-Sept. 29-Oct. 1; and Yosemite Oct. 13-15.



TRIP REPORTS:

Overhang ByPass

Joan Marshall, Anne Canright, Hal Tompkins and John Shurtleff took off to Yosemite the last weekend of April.

The first picture is of Joan and Anne. Joan says: “We’re pictured just below the ‘overhang’ on Overhang ByPass. Very fun route, but the crux is harder now, more like 5.9, if you don’t have a long reach. A piece fell off the rock. Overhang ByPass is a strenuous steep climb to the left of Bridalveil Falls. Rated 5.7. It’s one of the cooler routes in the Valley.”





John and Hal at the base of Overhang ByPass, Finally getting lunch about 4pm, after a long day of climbing.

Got spanked off the couch ...

By Ricardo Lagos

SKULL QUEEN, WASHINGTON COLUMN, YOSEMITE -- Was rather humbled this last weekend on the column...

Me and my partner Dan went up on Friday to do Skull Queen in a push, trouble though is that I haven't touched rock all season, and haven't stepped off the couch except to refill my big-gulp.

The hike in wasn't too bad except for the part where I saw stars and almost puked the half pizza we'd eaten 30 minutes before.

Got to the base, saw 3 parties on the prow, fixed lines on the south face, but nobody at the base. Cha-ching! We got some half assed sleep from 9 pm until 3 am. I chose the top slab at the start of the south face as my bivvy spot, the place that is like a granite seat, bad idea, I didn't get a wink of sleep. At 4 am we racked up and started up to dinner ledge.

By 8:30 am we were on Dinner Ledge and the sun was about to peak over half dome. The forecast was for mid 90's and it had pretty damn hot the last few days. We'd brought a luxurious 3 quarts of water a piece, and I'd drunk half a quart already.

We swapped gear at Dinner, and I led off in style from dinner, by taking a short 5 foot fall back down to the ground when I failed to free the initial crack moves in my boots, good thing Dan was anchored in in case I fell over the edge of dinner. Back on aid, I slowly made my way up to the roof, over, and up to the 2nd set of anchors. Took about 180 feet of rope to get here, so short fixing will have to wait.

The sun made its debut, and quickly heated up the situation, it was already in the 80's,

and I saw the water bottle going to empty. By the time I'd led the bolt ladder which is the first pitch of Skull Queen I'd finished off one and a half quarts of water. The temperature had reached at least 90 degrees by 10 am.

I got slower, the temps got hotter, and the water dwindled, at the top of the 6th pitch, I had drunk 2 quarts. The rock was hot, and burnt your hands if you didn't watch out. We conferred. We probably could finish, but we'd be out of water. It was 1 pm, and we probably still had another 9 hours to go before we'd finish, hmmm. Without much discussion, we fixed a line and began to egress, reversing the bolt ladder required clipping some bolts along the way. The airy rappel to dinner was fun (I was beginning to get dehydrated, and dizzy). The fixed lines back to the start were much appreciated.

Back on the ground, we crashed out immediately and woke up about 3 hours later, packed up, and hoofed it back to the car with our tails between our legs. So much for just waltzing up to the column and bagging a route. I guess that's why I worked out all season last year before jumping on a route.

We had fun though, and it was an enjoyable ass kicking that we got. Nobody got hurt, and we only suffered enough to wake up that morning. The Kor Roof is a burly pitch, fairly physical and long, I would put it on the same scale of physicality as the overhanging initial pitches on the South Seas. (It's pretty easy, but you have to hoist yourself onto the right leaning crack, while your feet still dangle in space, ouch!).

I guess there is now another route that is awaiting a rematch...



Independence Day at Lovers Leap

By Jovie Havard

LOVERS LEAP/DONNER SUMMIT -- 6am Sunday July 2: Mike shows up bright eyed and bushy tailed despite having gotten only a few hours of sleep. Rather than take the entire 4-day weekend, we had decided to climb for 2 days right in the middle, thereby not missing out on any BBQ's and fireworks. I shove a last few items into my pack and we are on our way to Lovers Leap.

At some point, it had been determined that I would do most of the leading that day. Mike is a stronger and more experienced climber than me, which means that I need the

practice, so the plan is to find a couple very moderate multi-pitch trad climbs and get some scratches on my new gear.

Bear's Reach on the East Wall sounds suitable. It's a 3-pitch 5.7; not much in the way of jamming but it's a great climb for someone still gaining confidence. The weather is clear and warm and the wall is pretty empty. Soon, I'm roping up and getting started on the first pitch. The climb is undemanding except for a 15 foot run-out traverse, but even then the footing is solid. Then comes a committing mantle. Also ok.





I place protection seemingly every 5 feet, so it's no wonder that I soon run out of slings. When I reach the anchor, I'm down to 3 Camalots and one piece of webbing. I fuss around for a while and finally manage to secure a 3-point anchor. Mike reaches the belay station in no time and then leads the crux pitch.



Topping out on the second pitch of Bear's Reach

We hike down and decide to end the day on Labor of Love, a 120-foot 5.10a sport climb which Supertopo describes as "a splendid dike climbing odyssey... if you are tall. While most of the holds can be reached by anyone, the crux is extremely height dependent and could probably be rated like this: 5.9 if you are taller than 6'0", 5.10c if you are 5'9"-5'11" and 5.11 if you are 5'8" or shorter". Again I take the lead, cheerfully relieved of the weight of my trad rack and the mental fatigue that comes from placing my own gear. I'm stymied by the crux move (after all, I'm only 5'6") but still manage to reach the top by "circumventing" the big reach.

We have the luxury of sleeping in a cabin at Donner Lake and a shower in the morning which we follow up with a big sit-down breakfast and lots of coffee. It's amazing that we ever get on the rock at all! We head

to Black Wall, an area that's new for both of us. Mike takes the sharp end today. Our

first climb is a 3-pitch 5.9+ called Touch and Go, substantially sandbagged in my opinion. He takes the only fall of the weekend on the slick, steep finger crack down the center of the dihedral. I can barely follow. The rest of the climb is exhausting and awkward, but the spectacular view of Donner Lake keeps our spirits up. We finish up the weekend with a much more pleasant climb- One Hand Clapping, another 3-pitch 5.9 with a chimney containing two long parallel hand cracks and a unique balancy finish.



Mike Wei rapelling off Touch and Go

Great weather, great company, and a couple more trad leads to my under my belt- altogether a fantastic trip!





Castle Rock Spire and the Fin

By Hal Tompkins



JUNE 8-11, 2006 -- Jim Curl, Rick Booth, and I started backpacking into the Castle Rock Spire area Thursday morning at around 8am. Jim had climbed Castle Rock Spire in 2002 with Bob Suzuki and had been so impressed by the Fin that he actually wanted to repeat the approach hike in order to climb the route Silver Lining on the Fin. He had warned us of the fields of poison oak

that would be unavoidable on the approach. The recommended defense was a Tyvek suit along with gaiters and gloves. Strangely enough, Rick and I were still game.

The approach began at the Buckeye Flat campground (2800 foot elevation) and spent less than a mile on the Paradise Creek trail before starting up a steep ridge. We donned



our Tyvek suits here. After gaining ~2000 feet we reached a local highpoint and began searching for the abandoned Castle Rock Spire trail. This trail was supposed to have been built in the 1930's but had been abandoned by the Park Service later. We found remnants that we were able to follow and eventually it got pretty easy to navigate. Of course there were still plenty of fallen trees across the trail to negotiate and other places where the trail was badly overgrown.

Finally we reached the first water at around 2:45pm. At this point we all stopped and washed our clothes and ourselves with Technu in hopes of removing the dreaded urushiol oil. We stashed the poison oak garb here and continued to the gully that descends from between Castle Rock Spire and the Fin. Another two hours of slogging uphill and we reached the "improved" campsite beneath a large boulder. It was a ten-hour day for us.



On the first pitch

Friday morning we were up at 5am for the approach to the Fin. The guidebook said it was a 45-minute approach and that seemed about right. We screwed up the start a little bit but by 8am Rick was most of the way up the first pitch. I led the 2nd pitch and Jim led the third pitch. We kept this rotation going for the entire climb, which gave us each 3 pitches to lead.

Depending on the source, the route was rated 5.9 R/X or 10a R/X and there were many leadouts of 30 feet or more above the last piece of protection. Bolts were scarce (4 protection bolts on the entire climb); most protection was from overlaps or cracks that would occasionally appear.

The route wandered extensively, taking advantage of weaknesses in the angle of the rock. Several pitches had long traverses that were poorly protected for both the leader and the followers. Several pitches also had medium runouts right off of the belay. Plus, some of the belays involved gear behind flakes of questionable quality.

In general the moves were characterized by positive edges on steeper rock as opposed to friction climbing. The crux was on pitch 6, and I thought it was much harder than 5.9. Fortunately it was right at a bolt and was well protected. I never could figure out the move but eventually solved it by pulling on the bolt.

Pitch 7 was a big corner and was the only well protected pitch on the climb. We topped out a little after 6pm and spent a short time perusing the summit register. The previous ascent was in 2004 and the one before that was in 2002. We think that our ascent was number 13. For reference, there is an excellent trip report on climber.org by Craig Clarence. His topo is much more accurate than the one in Moser, Vernon, and Hickey. We used 60m ropes as recommended by Clarence. The descent was (fortunately) uneventful. Seven rappels got us back to the ground. We were back in camp by 9pm.

Saturday found us up again at 5am and heading further up the loose gully to the regular route on Castle Rock Spire. One obstacle in particular resulted in lots of lost time, whimpering, and rappelling back into the gully. So we didn't get a very early start on the route. Rick led pitches 1 and 5, Jim



led pitches 2 and 4, and I led pitch 3. Most of the aid climbing was on pitch 2 and 4 (with a little bit of aid on pitch 5 as well). Again the rappels went well (we rappelled the route) and the rope never hung up. The sun had set before we started down the gully but we managed to finish the (only) rappel in the gully before it was completely dark. We staggered back into camp at 10pm. Relishing the freedom to sleep in on Sunday, we didn't start the return trip until 9:30am. We retrieved our "haz mat" suits and started

wading through the poison oak again. Then we wasted an hour overshooting the correct ridge and had to backtrack so it wasn't until 4:30pm that we reached the Buckeye Flat campground. First was another Technu bath for hands and face and then we lined the seats with garbage bags and put our packs in more garbage bags. Only then was it safe to drive off in search of a trailer park to take another Technu shower. Amazingly enough, these precautions actually worked pretty well.



The men in white



UPCOMING TRIPS:

Thanks to Ricardo for stepping in while Scott was camped out on Denali to secure camp sites for the club's annual pilgrimage to Joshua Tree over Thanksgiving. See below for the trip dates and camp details for this year's trip.

And don't forget the Rock Rugrats trips. There are three planned and you don't even have to have kids to attend! Rugrats trips are asterixed below. Contact Ben Smith for more details.

As usual, you'll be able to sign up on the Website for trips about a month before the trip date.

Happy trails!

<i>DATES</i>	<i>TRIP VENUE</i>
7/15 – 7/16	T-Meadows
7/21 – 7/22	T-Meadows
7/28 – 7/29	T-Meadows
8/4 – 8/5 * 8/4-8/6	T-Meadows * 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



<i>9/14-9/16</i>	T-Meadows group
<i>9/22-9/24</i>	T-Meadows and Upper Pines
<i>9/29-10/1</i> <i>* 9/29-10/1</i>	Upper Pines * Calaveras Dome with Rock Rugsrats
<i>10/6-10/8</i>	Upper Pines
<i>10/13-10/15</i> <i>* 10/13-10/15</i>	Upper Pines * Lower Pines with Rock Rugsrats (Rock Rugsrats has 2 adjacent sites at Lower Pines)
<u><i>11/22-11/26</i></u>	<u>THE 2006 ROCK RENDEZVOUS JOSHUA TREE BASH (2 sites at Indian Cove, Weds thru Sunday!)</u>



UPCOMING MEETING:

RR Meeting Tuesday July 11

What: RR July Meeting

Where: Julien Dunoyer's House in San Francisco

2 Crestline Dr, #9

San Francisco

When: Tuesday July 11, 2006, 7:30 pm

Bring your friends, bring a dish to share and your favorite drink. (Oh, and bring your \$7 membership fee if you haven't yet joined).

This month's slideshow is TBD.

Here is the URL for directions:

<http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&hl=en&q=2+crestline+dr+%239,+san+francisco,+ca&ie=UTF8&om=1>

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.