



Rock Rendezvous



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Enjoy!

Linda

Climber of the Month



Name/nickname: Kevin Kachadourian/Art
No. of years climbing: Something like 20, with time off for accident recoveries.
RR member since: Uh, 1996?
First climb: First climb was Portent at Pinnacles - man, I thought it was vertical, and had only the tiniest holds.
Climbing goal for this year: To actually climb something, instead of just wishing/talking about it.
Favorite climbing destination: Right now, it has to be the Gorge of Woe in Armenia: nice rock, good routes, no lines, and you're a star to the locals (they haven't seen a climber in 20 years).
Favorite post-climbing eatery: Parking lot, where that first pint is waiting.
Favorite climbing gym: As much as I've spoken against gyms, and bad-mouthed them, I'm partial to Ironworks (fun cracks)
I want to climb like: Any of those little lizzards and geckos you see scurry across the rock, stopping to do a few push-ups just

to humiliate you.
I do not want to climb like: Me, during my first 2 years.
Best thing that your climbing partner could say: "Nice lead."
Worst thing that your climbing partner could say: "Are you safe there?"
What does your family say about your climbing: We don't talk about it.
Person most like to be stuck on a ledge with: Valentino Rossi
Favorite travel destination: Anywhere
Non-climbing interests: Ducatis, music, sex, and struggling against the Empire.
Climbing motto: "It's just a few delicate moves...."
Advice to new climbers: Nothing generic. The experience of climbing is a very personal one, and anything I say here is probably meaningless to 95% of the people who read it. Whoops, I just kind of gave advise, didn't I?

July Meeting Notes

By Claire Pillsbury

A small select group met at Julien Dunoyer's San Francisco apartment. As should be expected at a Fench home, there was a large selection of fromage et vin. Perhaps he was disappointed with the low turnout or maybe it was after Julien headbutted him (imitating french soccer star Zidane), but Paul mysteriously disappeared without a word in the first half hour. Should we post a missing climber report?

There were no guests or newbies at this meeting so no hazing opportunities. Ricardo asked for suggestions on generating more enthusiasm for slide shows and convincing more members to host meetings. A couple people mentioned confirming location and slide show at least 2 weeks in advance of the meeting date. Please email your suggestions and offers of slide shows and accomodation for meetings to Ricardo.

Then we moved on to the "just in time" slide show put together by Andy! Thank you Andy for agreeing to do this the same day of the meeting and leaving work early to get it ready.

Andy showed us scenes from two trips, Comittment on Oct 30 and Selaginella on May 13. We all clustered around two monitors because the RR video projector is broken. Many harrowing tales were traded about the moves required on these routes and nearby routes. We also enjoyed experiencing the lovely sunset shots on the drive home without the tedium of the long drive.

Next meeting Tuesday August 1. Come for the meeting, stay for the cheese!



TRIP REPORTS:

Confessions of an Alpine Addict

By Jason Kuo

I promise to climb Yosemite this summer...

... just not till August.



Chamonix in early May. Funny place - from valley, to cable car, to route at 14K feet, then back down to the pub – all in 8 hours. First route, the classic Arete du Cosmique technical traverse on the Aiguille du Midi.





Teamed up with this Dutch kid I met on the net. Too bad this business trip was only affording me half a week for two routes. Trip two - sky opened up as we headed for Mt. Blanc du Tacul ...



... where the ice was plastic. Perfect conditions on the Chere' Couloir route. Six dreamy pitches of WI 3/4.





Then it was late June and somehow I found myself at the base of Mt. Slesse in BC, one mile north of the WA state border.





Me and some BC buds climbed the North Rib, a 27 pitch carry over. Went 5.9 with some snow, but mostly never ending 5.7 / 8 Cascade granite.



Two and half days, car to car. The boys loved it and happy to be done.





On July 4th we made a go at Mt. Shuksan in Washington's North Cascades National Park. But we got psyched out. It was the VW van sized ice blocks tumbling down the route thang. Decided to play another day. Still, what a sweet view... So, forget the ice. Might as well head back to Cali and the valley for some rock...



Not! Fellow Rock Rendezvouer, Michael Lake, wanted to rock up a valley classic, but I coerced him into to skiing Mt. Lassen with me instead. Here he is starring down the NE Face.



Point Perpendicular: Pleasure and Pain

Climbing in Australia, by Peter Monks. Point Perpendicular is a 3-hour drive from Sydney. This climb took place Aug. 1-2, 1998.



Grey Mist 27m 17: Will checking out the stunningly clear water 80m below.

Andrew and friends, Damien and I headed down to Point Perpendicular for a weekend of pants filling sea cliff climbing.

After a slow start on Saturday morning, Damien and I arrived at the Point at about 11:15am, just in time to follow Andrew and Jonas down to the lower seaside cliff, where they planned to attempt "Itchykoo Park" (** 50m 15).

The abseil down to the lower cliff is both terrifying and exciting at the same time. The abseil anchor is natural, and after placing about 50 pieces of gear, we all felt confident that we'd reach the bottom at a respectable rate of knots. The abseil itself is about 50m long, but stops about 20m above the ocean on a cramped belay ledge (I'm glad we had a 70m static rope!). With big seas and the





amazing verticality of the whole place, it was a pretty mind blowing descent!

Andrew and Jonas quickly started up "Itchykoo Park", which was the line we had rapped down. It was quite wet, and with the amount of spray hitting the belay ledge 20m up, no prizes for guessing where most of the water came from!

Damien headed off to find "Dreams and Visions" (***) 64m 15) which we'd planned on doing, but after watching him rap down into the littoral zone, and dodge a couple of big waves, I wasn't all that keen to follow him. Nonetheless, when he came running back, shouting words like "amazing", "fantastic", and "dry", I followed him around.

Now the rock on the lower seaside cliffs is nothing like the upper cliffs. The upper cliffs vary between bullet hard grey rock (very similar to the bouldering wall at Clovelly, if you've been there), and a glassy, pocketed rock very similar to the pocketed wall at Nowra (although the weathering is slightly different because of the sea). Basically its pretty familiar stuff, if you've climbed in Sydney or the Blueys.

The lower cliffs, however, are quite different, being characterised by these striking horizontal bands, that are visible from hundreds of metres away. These horizontal bands turn out to be these enormous plates, with deep chossy breaks in between. These plates vary in thickness from about 2 inches all the way up to about 3 feet, with the breaks never more than about a foot high. Take plenty of large cams if you plan on climbing down here!

The first pitch of "Dreams and Visions" heads up a slightly overhanging wall, comprised entirely of these plate/break features, then continues diagonally up and right on a steep slab to a scoop (the belay).

Standing at the bottom of the climb, roped and racked and ready to go, I looked up at this bizarre rock, and hoped (prayed?) that the plates were solid. As it turned out, the solidity of the rock wasn't the problem...



Little Red Riding Hood 25m 17: Andrew Jones busts a move miles above Jervis Bay.



Elsbeth 13m 14: "Scared? Who me?"

I started off, and although the rock was virtually running with water, every hold was a jug, so it wasn't too much of a problem. It was when I started grabbing the muddy





sandy gunk in the bottom of each of these breaks that I started to get concerned. I couple of gritty, wet, dirty cam placements up, I started to get really pumped (not to mention scared!).

Now the initial overhanging wall looks pretty short from the ground, but in reality it's about 15m high, with no rests or respite the entire way up. Pumped stupid I managed to pull onto the steep slab, where at least I could get some kind of rest (I think I spent about 20 minutes at this point, but my mind was filled with terrors involving mud, water and chossy breaks, so I'm not too sure!).



Over the Yardarm 30m 14: Checking what's under the yardarm.

From here to the belay the rock dried to the point where it was merely greasy, but the sand persisted, making for some rather concerning hand holds and protection. The belay was barely wide enough to sit on, so with legs dangling out over space (the belay

is situated about 4m above a rather large overhang), I brought Damien up on second.



Over the Yardarm: Is that a grimace of pleasure or terror on his face? Check out the surf crashing into the base of the cliff 80m below!

With no room to sit or rest, Damien grabbed the rack and launched into the second pitch. This pitch heads right to a blunt, slightly slabby arete, perched on top of a large overhang. After only a few metres, the plates/breaks disappeared, and the rock improved considerably in quality (although after the big holds found in the breaks, crimping seemed ridiculously hard!). From here the pitch is an absolute three star classic, with good, but well spaced protection, massive exposure (particularly given that the swell was up!), and good rock (although there is one patch of choss underneath a small roof halfway up). Great stuff!!

The climb ends on the "Grey Ledge", the halfway ledge at this point of the cliff. Carefully walking left brings you out below the "Windjammer Wall", which offers the easiest escape up the upper cliff line.

Having had a real "brain pump" on the first pitch of "Dreams and Visions", I was keen to slink up a grade 16 corner crack that Andrew and Jonas had escaped out. With a little urging from Damien, however, I decided to tackle "Grey Mist" (** 27m 17) instead, a sinuous line of cracks on the face just to the right.





Room With a View 9m 12: Setting up the belay on this lovely little climb.

This was a climb I had on my tick list for the weekend, and an absolutely amazing line it is, too. The crack(s) wend their way up a very steep slab, and apart from one rest halfway up, the climbing is sustained at solid grade 16 the whole way. This, in combination with the length and my low efficiency at placing natural gear, resulted in me slumping onto a piece about 2/3 of the way up. After another go at the move, I gave up, and lowered off to let Damien have a go. With most of the gear already placed, Damien had no problems with the climb, and set the belay just as the sun went down.

On second I had no problems, being able to quickly and easily do the moves, which

previously had taken me hours (what with frigging about with gear). The move I had backed off was certainly not the crux of the route, and in fact it would be difficult to identify any particular crux, seeing as the whole climb was so sustained (but probably never technically 17).

With one good day behind us, we set up camp at beautiful Honeymoon Bay, and dreamed of what Sunday would hold.

Sunday dawned bright, clear and slightly breezy, but after a couple of mishaps (including not finding Andrew et al and breaking a bottle and ending up with blackberry jam and broken glass through my gear and pack), Damien and I decided to call it quits and head back to Sydney.

We got back to the car to find it unlocked. Strange. Then we discovered the things that were "missing": a pack full of clothes, sunglasses, the ashtray of my car (which was full of change for the bridge), Damien's spare rope and ropebag etc. Yep, you guessed it, we'd been robbed, along with three other cars, including one which had had a window smashed to gain entry.

Spending a sunny Sunday afternoon in Nowra Police Station wasn't exactly how I'd planned on finishing up the weekend, but at least they didn't take everything (my tent, the most valuable thing in the car, was left untouched).

So the rundown on Point Perpendicular? "Great climbing, but leave your car unlocked and empty!"

Editor's Note: There are many more Australia climbing trips to read about at Peter's Web site
<http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/4455/>



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>
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
9/14-9/16	T-Meadows group
9/22-9/24	T-Meadows and Upper Pines
9/29-10/1	Upper Pines



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

UPCOMING MEETING:

DATE: Tuesday Aug. 1
TIME: 6:45 p.m.
WHERE: REI In Berkeley
 1338 San Pablo Ave
 (near Gilman)
 Berkeley, CA 94702
 (510) 527-4140

Slideshow, 7 p.m.:

Obsessed with The Nose: Climbing El Capitan with Hans Florine

Nearly a vertical mile high, The Nose route on Yosemite's El Capitan is one of the most famous rock climbs in the world. Hans Florine has climbed its 32 pitches/rope lengths more than 60 times, making it to the summit in all seasons and with a record time of less than three hours. Join Hans for a multimedia presentation on his climbs of The Nose, from his first attempt 17 years ago to his successful solo ascent in 2005. Don't miss the chance to learn about big-wall gear and technique from this speed climber extraordinaire, whose new CD, How to Climb The Nose easier (faster) (www.NoseInADay), will help anyone of

any climbing level ascend this challenging route!

The show begins at 7 pm.. (get there a bit earlier to get a good seat, and maybe even snag some seats for other RR'ers.. -- yeah it sucks for other people, but they can also join and get a seat right?) ..

After the show we can mozy on over to a nearby pub or coffee shop to discuss, and have a pseudo-meeting. If there is beer involved (which i guess there better be), we should be able to get han's to come along.

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.