



Rock Rendezvous



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A big thanks to all who contributed to the newsletter this month!

Enjoy!

Linda

October Meeting Notes

By Jovie Havard

October's meeting took place in my little studio apartment in San Francisco on the second Tuesday of the month rather than the first. Surprisingly, 15 attendees squeezed in without too much discomfort (once parking was found) and we even had enough room for the projector (perched in my windowsill), a table with food (thanks Andy and everyone who added to the spread!), and a couple snakes to come out and visit.

There were a few new faces present this time around. First, Roberto Cordeiro introduced his wife Claudia. She's not a climber, but we'll keep working on her! Next we met John who had just moved to the Bay Area from Davis and will be looking to expand his climbing knowledge by getting on some of our trips. George Patterson then introduced Harrison Hood, founder of Hood Mountain Adventures in Santa Rosa (www.hoodmountainadventures.com), an outfit which provides guided rock climbing, mountaineering, and wilderness trips. In addition, his Rock, Ice and Mountain Club meets monthly in Santa Rosa. Finally, the group met Jake Strzelecki, my personal guest and frequent climbing partner, fresh off a week-long excursion to Red Rocks.

Announcements from our illustrious president followed. Of particular note are the two newly open positions on the Rock Rendezvous board- that of editor of the newsletter and that of president. Anyone interested in stepping into either of those roles is heartily encouraged to make their voice heard. Also announced was a reminder about the annual Rock Rendezvous Thanksgiving trip to Joshua Tree. Sign-ups will open soon, so grab a partner, call your mom for her best marshmallow yam recipe and get out there!

A fabulous narrated slideshow followed, courtesy of Misha Logvinov, of his and Etsuko's recent trip to the Brooks Range in Alaska (or misadventure, as he preferred to call it). Many of you are already familiar with Misha's photographic talent; if you've never seen his photos, it's well worth it to check his website for yourself: www.verglasphoto.com. Great show, Misha!

With that, the meeting concluded amid cheers and homemade cake courtesy of Roberto and Claudia. Thanks to all who dropped by and to those who contributed!

TRIP REPORTS:

Up a Chimney

By Torger Johnson



Last September, Torger climbed in Sequoia National Forest with Sam McGeehan and Sarah Elson. In this picture, Sarah and Sam are on Dinner Wall, with Chimney Rock Spire in the background.



Above, Sam stands next to Chimney Spire where he later climbs an obvious crack running up the center to upper right, Wall of Early Morning Fright 5.9. The guide book puts it, "Sustained, awkward and exposed. An excellent route." At 2-3 pitches, the spire is bigger than it looks.

Later Sam and I climbed the Spire by a route dubbed Duet, rated 5.8+ (those pesky pluses...) I'm glad Sam lead the thing. After the "awkward move," Sam said he felt like he had just gone one round in a boxing ring. Usually flaring and overhanging offwidth aren't found together on 5.8.

The mystery of Misty Wall

This story is from the Volume 6, No. 1 (Jan. 1996) RR newsletter.

By Karen Koerber

It was a dark and stormy night. A maid screamed. The door slammed. Suddenly, a pirate ship appeared on the horizon. Meanwhile, on a small farm in the midwest, a boy was growing up. These things have nothing to do with this story, but I can't resist a good intro (with apologies to Charles Shultz and Snoopy). I'm really talking about Chris Conroy, Doug Ward, and the Misty Wall lunch mystery --as told to me by an eyewitness who chooses to remain anonymous...aw hell, it was Chris. The scene opens Tues., Oct. 2nd at a windy encampment at the base of the Misty Wall, near Lost Arrow Spire. Blustery winds and the aforementioned mist keep our suspects awake all night before their heroic endeavor. The next day dawns bright and sunny and the pair, innocently fighting off their grogginess, gear up for the attempt. They receive ropes from their friends, Todd and Ingrid, who are not implicated in this crime and remain largely unmentioned for the rest of the story. Pisses are taken. Lunches are made. The belay is set up. The assault begins. Slowly, but steadily (especially slowly) they climb up the wall, past the second pitch of shrubs and cruddy rock, onward and ever upward into the crime scene. Sometime in the early afternoon, possibly around lunchtime, Doug discovers his lunch is missing.

Doug "UUURGHH."

Chris " Hmm...you can't find your lunch and you need half of mine? Okay, here you go: beef jerky and dried apples, lunch of champions. Bon Appetite."

They climb on, swapping lead. On the eighth pitch, fate steps in. Doug, his strength waning from only having had half a lunch, loses his hold on a squeeze chimney, plunging upside-down through the shrubs and off the ledge for a total of thirty feet.

Doug "UUURGHH!!!!!!!"

Chris :Hmmm...that sounds like Doug's saying catch me, I'm falling upside-down????!"

So they struggle through the eighth pitch in the dark, setting up a bivy on the ledge above. The tension is mounting and the situation getting worse: they didn't know they'd be taking this long to climb and had only expected to bivy one night. Unanswered questions swirl around in their thoughts. Would there be enough food? Will there be adequate water? Where did he missing lunch go? What if...God and Superman got into a fight??? They awake refreshed the next day, break wind, piss off of the ledge, eat



breakfast, scratch, make lunch and got ready to ascend in the same manner of rock climbers everywhere. Doug secures his lunch down his pants front, and the eternal struggle of mankind against nature continues. Several pitches later, he looks down.

Doug "UUURGHH!"

Chris "Hmmm...that sounds like Doug's saying his fly is open and he fears his lunch has gone."

Chris forks over half his lunch, and the mystery continues. Dawn over their second bivy finds them above the fifteenth pitch with an amazing view complete with misty rainbows, violins, and a catered breakfast (wait a minute--I think they're still dreaming, in reality they're still not done climbing and they're out of water). Doug wakes slowly, yawns, stretches, rolls over, digs down his polypro in the manner of rock climbers in the morning everywhere. Chris averts his eyes in the tradition of climbing partners around the globe.

Doug "UUURGHH?"

Chris "You found what? Both of them? Two days' lunch in your underwear? Geesh. No thanks, I don't want any."

Later on in the afternoon Chris tops out, fixes the rope for Doug and heads straight for the stream. Taking out his siphon, he pumps water directly into his mouth in the manner of people who don't take enough water everywhere. He meets his friend Amy J. who has come from the east coast to study primitive western climbing culture. He tells her about Doug and his adventure, and of the mystery of the Misty Wall. He relays his mystification at Doug's not having found his lunches sooner.

Amy J. "If I'd taken a thirty foot, upside-down leader fall, I wouldn't wonder at any strange lumps in my pants!"

Doug "UUURGHH!????!?"

THE END





UPCOMING TRIPS:

MESSAGE FROM SCOTT:

I just posted the Joshua Tree trip on the RR web page. We have Indian Cover group sites 12 and 13 from Wednesday November 22nd until Sunday November 26th. This is usually the biggest and most fun RR trip of the year. Plus we have a potluck Thanksgiving dinner Thursday evening. So don't delay, sign up today!

<u>11/22-11/26</u>	<u>THE 2006 ROCK RENDEZVOUS JOSHUA TREE BASH (2 sites at Indian Cove, Weds thru Sunday!)</u>
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NEXT MEETING:

DATE: Tuesday November 7th

TIME: 7:30pm

WHERE: Roberto's Place in San Jose

The Enclave
4343 Renaissance Dr
San Jose
CA 95134

408-321-9895 Home
917-292-8080 cell

SLIDESHOW: "Riding the White Rim Trail of Canyonlands Natl. Park"
Roberto's slides from his recent bike ride through the Canyonlands.

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.

