

Rock Rendezvous



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July Meeting Notes

By Simon Kenney...

This month we held the meeting down South in the deepest darkest reaches of Menlo Park, and the fine house of Nate Mc Kitterick and Jen Hanley (and their latest arrival Finn). The main attraction this week was the hot tub outside (as we were sans slide show). The other main attraction seemed to be my leather motorcycle pants (as noted by Scott - Thank you Scott).

On to business - the website. I gave a quick rundown on the new website (I will keep mentioning this until the whole club has seen it/ got on it). Only registered members can put their names down for trips (registered members can invite as many guests as they like and sign up on their behalf). We hope this will encourage people to become members.

The instructions to become a registered member are on the site, but basically;

- 1) Create a login and password for yourself using the "Create account" button.
- 2) (If you are not a member already) complete the membership form and attach it to an email

addressed to Ricardo.

- 3) (If you are a member already) email Ricardo or myself, and let us know that you have created your account. We will do the rest.

The website is now being picked up by the search engines and so we should soon start getting many more members. Actually 2 new members showed up at this meeting Florian and Ross, who then proceeded to have an awesome time with us up at Sonora pass the following weekend). Remember though, that this website is still new and we are keen to get any feedback on what works, what does not, and any other opinions you may have. So take a look at it!!

Em had a question concerning the security of any personal data we keep on the website, as she had experienced a problem in the past through having her name listed in conjunction with an "Adopt a Crag" event. In answer, your data is totally secure (it only consists of your name and membership status) and cannot be seen by anyone other than the masthead, so no worries.

A quick note on payments made to Ricardo using





Paypal. Your credit card company may charge you a fee if your payment appears as a cash advance on your credit card statement (OK, so this is not just a Rock Rendezvous thing but we don't want any unhappy climbers out there) so check first or use a debit card or a good old fashioned check sent by snail mail.

I had obviously forgot to mention to the club before now but we are now the owners of a bouncing baby digital projector!! If you may recall we had quite a debate about it some months ago on how much should be spent and what we should buy. Anyway this one is about 2 years old with plenty of bulb life remaining (Bulbs run at \$250+) and it cost \$400. I have checked it on a couple of computers and it runs just fine.

Are any of you interested in becoming a trip leader? This basically means that you collect the money from all the happy climbing campers. We need people to fill in some of the upcoming dates for August/September; you will get your site for free for this favor to the club. So step forward and form an orderly line. Remember as a registered member you can go ahead and enter yourself directly into the trip calendar.

Upcoming trips; Sonora pass at Cascade Creek (Off 108) is being organized by our founder Sue Edwards should be good (Actually it was good as I went!! Thanks Sue).

Trips gone - On the 4th of July we visited... wait for it... drum roll... The Sonora pass, Cascade Creek Campground. Hosted by yours truly. 20 members showed up and we did some great crag climbs, BBQ-ing, a wee bit of drinking, and some of the girls even went skinny dipping (photo's to follow). This was a great peaceful location for a busy weekend and great fun. I did my first 5.10 roof with a little help from Bruce Bindner hauling me up. Our own Bruce has done a couple of first ascents in this area and the number of routes is increasing daily ("ladies militant arboretum squad" is the newest 5.7 on Burst rock). See the Sonora Pass climbing.com website for all the latest details.

Final upcoming trip is JOSHUA TREE. We are again going to the wonders of Southern California and the National park (Indian cove to be precise). This is an incredible way to spend Thanksgiving. We will have a full on Thanksgiving meal with all the fixings. This trip will feature at least one trip to the hot springs, of course more beer and wine, and some of the most beautiful climbing around. We have room for 75 people. The sign up page is available but don't be deceived by the number of available spaces, this trip always fills up quickly so get on the website and get signed up.

Ok that's it ...off to the hot tub.

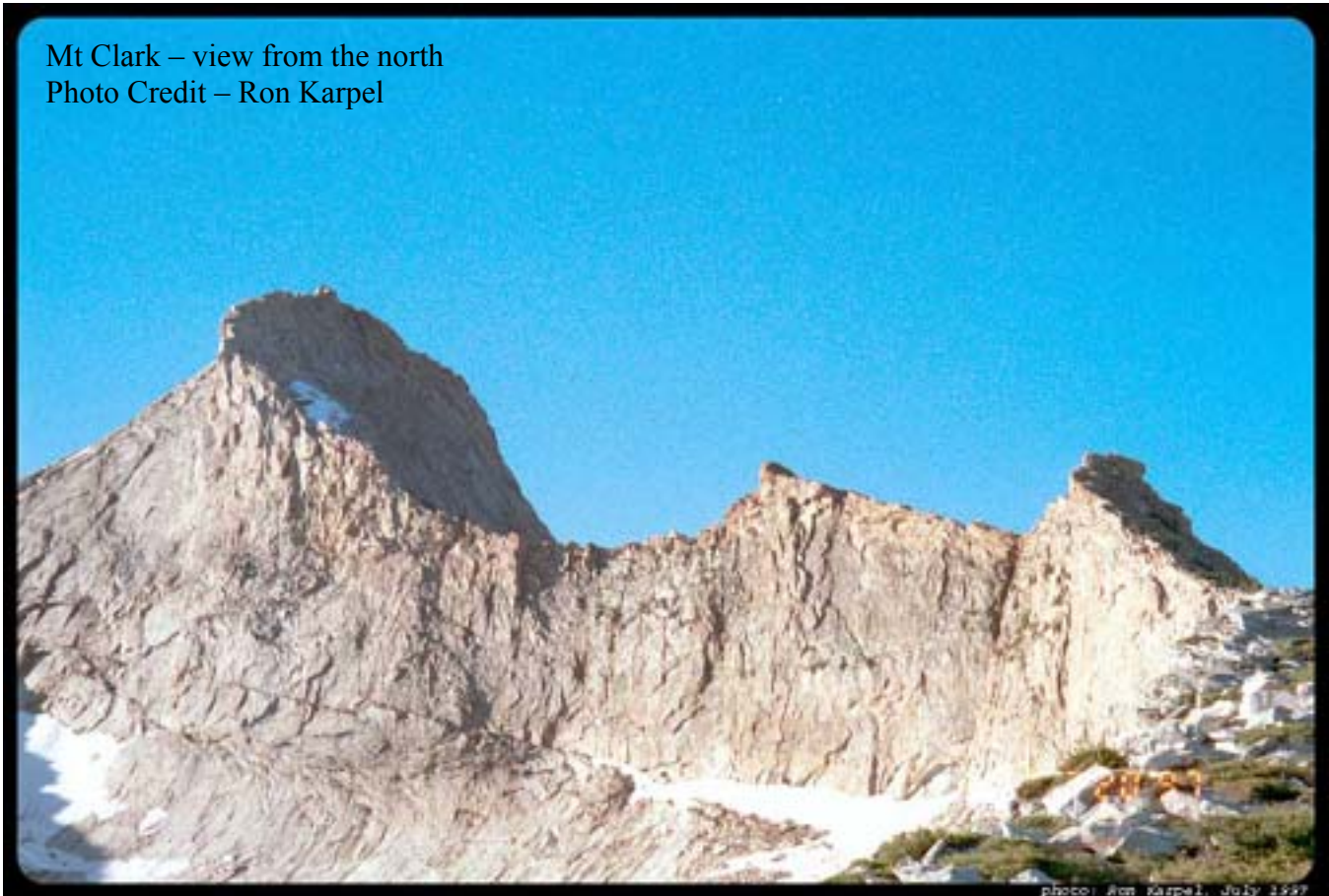




Mt. Clark and Starr King

July 4th weekend trip report from Joan Marshall

Mt Clark – view from the north
Photo Credit – Ron Karpel



Hal and I backpacked in to climb Mt. Clark and Starr King, Yosemite. We followed, more or less, a trip report description by "old timer" George Sinclair.

We took the Mono Meadows trail off the Glacier Point Road, then up toward Illilouette Creek, and where it forks, headed in an east direction, cross-country toward Mt. Clark.

A storm came up when we were about an hour and a half out from our camp destination. Hal hates hiking in rain. This was hail, thunder, and lightening - very close. We were glad we were in the trees, counting the seconds between lightning and thunder. Two seconds difference at times. This is the storm that started the fire near the Glacier Point Road, that has been burning for the last two or three weeks.

At least, I had the right clothes this time. (Last time I was caught in a Sierra thunderstorm, I had minimal raingear, and got really cold). Except, I had thrown my long johns, gloves and hat back in the car, thinking it was going to be hot. Dumb! Never do that again. Hal found a great little spot, a small (to remain nameless!) lake and little used





campsite to ourselves. We didn't see a soul till we came down off Mt Clark. And then, no one till we got near the Illilouette Creek on the way back to the car.

I've forgotten the exact elevation, but I believe Mt Clark is some 11,500ft. It's more of a long ridgeline, humped in the middle like a fin. Three hours just to get to the approach. The north side is sheer steep exposure, the south side not so exposed. The climbing is similar to Matthes Crest and the West Ridge of Conness, but has a few harder moves here and there. We climbed the northwest ridge, 4th class mostly. It was very exposed and scary, all along the top of the ridge, and took about three hours. There's a part requiring a 5ft down climb, which brings you along the sheer face of the north side, on a very tiny ledge. This traverses for about six feet, with an under cling - or very long stretch - to get to a good handhold. Sheesh!

Anyhow, I did make the summit (a feat for me, being prone to altitude sickness). On descent, we did not take the usual way, but instead took George's way back, an "obvious ledge" around the northwest side, which really was an ascent, and about as scary as the climb itself. I had to ask Hal to take my pack in a couple places. Loose dirt across a 200ft drop off. Then, climbing in and through trees, one tunnel, crawling on hands and stomach, and other tunnel with just enough headspace to walk through bent over. Finally, we were back on the saddle leading down from Mt. Clark, and the rest of the walk back to camp was easy.

We packed up camp and cross country hiked over to Starr King the next day. Mostly face, 5.4. Regular route. Hal climbed this route some ten - fifteen years ago in ski boots. We took some nostalgic time reading through the register book. The book was still there from the first time Hal visited Starr King and had the names of lots of friends known to both of us. Views were wonderful, the smoke from the fire not yet having covered the valley. We failed to read the route description fine print, and didn't see that two ropes were recommended for the rappel, so our one 50m rope was a tad short, by about two feet. This can be scary if there's a 5.2 stance at the end of the rope coming off rappel. Added a little excitement.

Oh, and I shouldn't forget to mention the episode with the ants... another survival tip... do not lay your pack against a tree infested with ants. We came back to our packs to find that mine was buried in ants. I had one little empty (well, excepting the essence of cheese long eaten) Ziploc in the pocket. Must have spent a half hour getting those ants to go elsewhere. Ants bite hard! I still feel the critters crawling on my skin. And, it was so hot, with no shade, when all this happened.

We were completely out of water, coming down from Starr King. We weren't sure where the next water find would be, maybe an hour and a half away, which is a darn long time, with the 90 degree temps and heavy packs. So we slogged for about an hour, sun beating down, trying to stay near trees. Then, Hal found a green meadow, figured there must be water nearby and followed it back a ways to a spring. That was the best tasting water ever.

So, the remaining hike back was uneventful until we were about three miles from the car. We had to cross the Illilouette Creek, at least two feet deep in places. I stepped on a loose rock and took a fall hitting my forehead on a rock. I'm lucky I didn't get a concussion, just a good gash. Hal had his first aid kit very handy, got the bleeding to stop, and did a wonderful job of wilderness rescue. He was relieved it was my head and not my ankle!

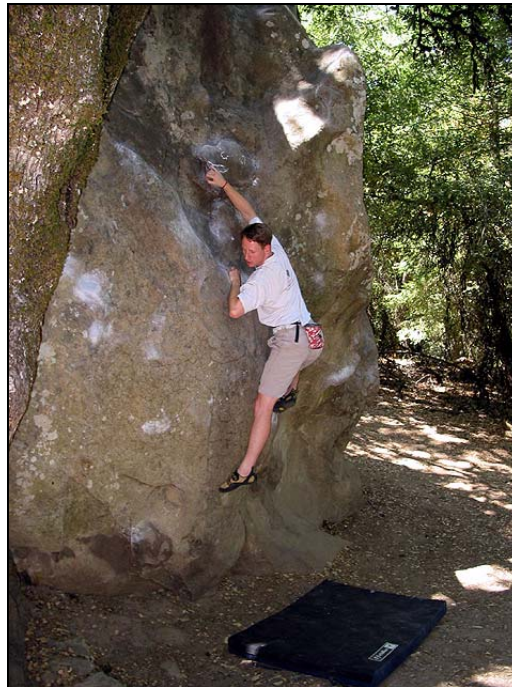




Bouldering at the Magoos

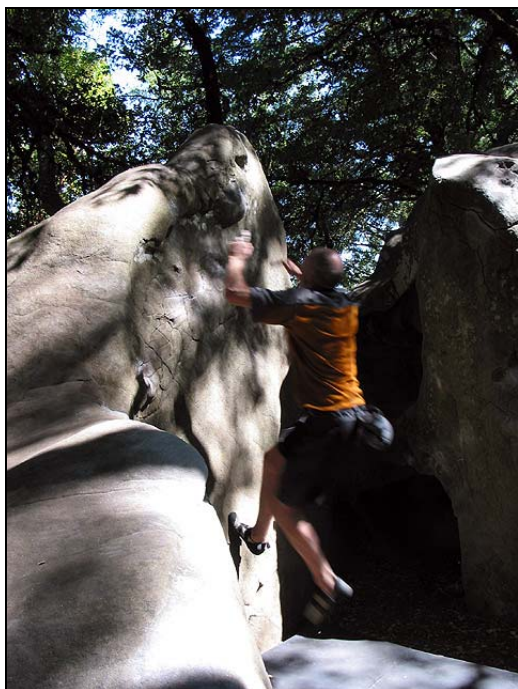
Photos from Peter Monks

Below: Justin Smith on a hyper-classic V0 at the Magoos



Above: Peter Monks on the V0 problem.

Left: An action photo of a Kiwi guy we met who showed us a cool variant on one of the slab problems at the Magoos - it involves taking a running start and launching for the rounded top of the slab - very cool!! He also showed us a one-handed version of the same problem which was also great fun - the crux move was the one handed slap / dyno for the rounded top - quite committing but actually not very hard





2004 Calendar of Events

This month we have trips organized to the Sonora Pass and Tuolumne Meadows. For those of you who have not been to the Sonora Pass, the trip organized by Sue, Em, and Bruce is not to be missed. It will provide a rare opportunity to discover a unique climbing area with some of the people who have been active in putting up the routes in that area.

If you would like to organize a trip please let me know (carolynldent@aol.com), and I can add it to the calendar, and advertise it nearer the time too... Please also let me know if you want your contact details (phone number and/or e-mail address) to be included in the newsletter. I am aware that some people do not like personal details publishing, so I will not do so unless you give me permission.

Thanks to Scott Johnston for booking our campsites for this year! All Yosemite Valley campsite bookings are in Upper Pines. Site numbers will be posted at the campsite entrance kiosk under Scott's name, unless otherwise stated in the table. Anyone who contacts Scott, the webmaster or the newsletter editor for campsite numbers will buy a large soda (for Scott) or beer (for the webmaster and newsletter editor).

Proposed dates (dates in bold are confirmed trips)	Trip	Organizer
August 6th – 7th	Tuolumne Meadows campsite booked	Carolyn Dent carolynldent@yahoo.com
August 20th-21st	Tuolumne Meadows campsite booked	Mei Xi
September 3rd-5th	Tuolumne Meadows campsite booked	
September 10th-11th	Yosemite Valley campsite booked, Upper Pines	
September 24th-25th	Yosemite Valley, Upper Pines	
October 8th –9th	Yosemite Valley, Upper Pines	
Thanksgiving November 24th – 28th	Two group sites booked at Indian Cove, Joshua Tree Site #2 (45 people) booked Wed Nov 24 th – Sunday morning Site #4 (25 people) booked Thursday Nov 25 th – Sunday morning	Simon Kenney





Next meeting: Tues August 3rd, 7pm

The next meeting will be held at Kathy Nerud's house in Oakland.

#3866 GLEN PARK ROAD PHONE 510 530 2095

Directions:

From: S.F. or North

Get onto 580 going south towards Oakland.

Take the PARK Street exit (exit prior is Grand) and then make a LEFT at the light and go back under the freeway and thru the next light.

Stay in the right lane to make the next RIGHT at the light onto PARK BLVD. (Note no right hand turn on red!).

Go about 5 blocks to the next stop light and make a SHARP RIGHT onto GLEN PARK ROAD. #3866 is the 11th house on the left.

From the South:

Get onto 580 going north toward Oakland.

Take the PARK STREET/14th AVENUE exit (exit prior is Coolidge) and make a RIGHT at the light. (Note - no right hand turn on red!)

Continue on Beaumont until it meets with Park and make a right onto PARK BLVD.

At the next stoplight make a SHARP RIGHT onto GLEN PARK BLVD.

#3866 is the 11th house on the left.

From the East

From highway 24 after the tunnel get off onto highway 13/Warren Freeway SOUTH.

Take the PARK BLVD. exit off highway 13 and make a RIGHT onto PARK BLVD.

Continue downhill thru the commercial area.

At the 1st stop light after the commercial area (a Church will be on your right) make an angled left turn onto GLEN PARK ROAD (a Dentist office is at the start of Glen Park Road)

#3866 is the 11th house on the left.

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.

