



# Rock Rendezvous



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## All quiet on the north face

**A very small issue this month. Aside from Joan Marshall and Hal Tompkins I guess the rest of you have been couch potatoes. No? Well, prove me wrong by sending me a trip report for the November issue!!**

**I didn't get a write-up of September's meeting, so I will try and let you know what happened from memory. It was another good meeting, with plenty of new faces. Ricardo opened the doors to his lovely new pad near Golden Gate Park, where we were treated to a BBQ in his serene backyard. After some introductions by a few new faces (mostly, friends of Paul M.) we sat back to enjoy an awe-inspiring slideshow by Gus Benner of his ascent of Denali in 1969.**

**Hopefully I'll get a write-up of September's meeting that I can include in October's newsletter.**

**Anyhow, see you at the next meeting! We're still looking for a host for that meeting, so please let us know if we can borrow your pad for the evening next Tuesday. We're also looking for a slideshow as well, so please get in touch!**

**Thanks!**

*-- Linda*

## Climber of the Month



*October's Climber of the Month is Sue Edwards, founder of Rock Rendezvous!*

**Name/ nickname:** Sue, although earlier RR members called me Soooooooo!

**No. of years climbing:** To my amazement, it is about 24 years now.

**RR member since:** Since it's inception in 1990 – or thereabouts. [Sue founded the club] Yes, it's wonderful to see how the club has grown and flourished!

**First climb:** First one of any length, and that I remember, was Old Original (on Machete Ridge at Pinnacles). I believe it is 5.3 although I think we did a 5.5 variation at

the start. I believe it was fairly recently rebolted – it was a bit scary on the rappels when I did it.

**Favorite climbing destination:** It has to be Yosemite because the rock is so beautiful and because I have accumulated so many wonderful memories from being there.

**Favorite post-climb eatery:** Are there any good ones? Just kidding, although I'm always looking for a better one. My favorite is the one that is about an hour and a half from the Valley and that makes a good break



in the journey home - I'm always hungry by then and anything tastes good!

**Favorite climbing gym:** They are all so different but I did enjoy City Rock gym because it was so new and different. It also had a good mix of slab, vertical, and steep walls.

**Ski or snowboard?:** I ski of sorts! I backcountry ski and have plenty of endurance and “go-for-itness” but no skill or style.

**Other outdoor pursuits:** I have done a lot of trail running and, about 10 years ago, was crazy enough to do the Western States 100. I also love to hike, backpack, and peakbag.

**Favorite travel destination:** Bhutan was the most beautiful and interesting country I have been to - simple living surrounded by spectacular scenery, and colorful people reflected in their colorful artworks.

**Person most like to be stuck on a ledge**

**with:** I have shared many enjoyable bivies with Inez Drixelius and would willingly (!) be stuck on a ledge with her again. Inez, incidentally, was very involved in getting RR off its feet.

**Favorite climbing read:** There are so many – I’m a bit of a collector – but ones like Touching the Void by Joe Simpson or Deep Play by Paul Pritchard are particularly riveting.

**Earliest childhood memory:** Can't remember! Probably around 5 years old - enjoying imitating people, to the disapproval of my parents!

**Climbing motto:** Climbing has its darker aspects - always carry a flashlight! (Or torch as we Brits call it!)

**Climbing hero:** Or heroine? It has to be Catherine Destaville. She’s so versatile, adventurous, and unpretentious.



# New Routes

*Topos supplied by Bruce Binder*

Over the next four pages are routes of unpublished climbs in the southern Sierra, as supplied by Bruce Binder. The climbs include two first ascents by Bruce, Em Holland and Allen Steck.

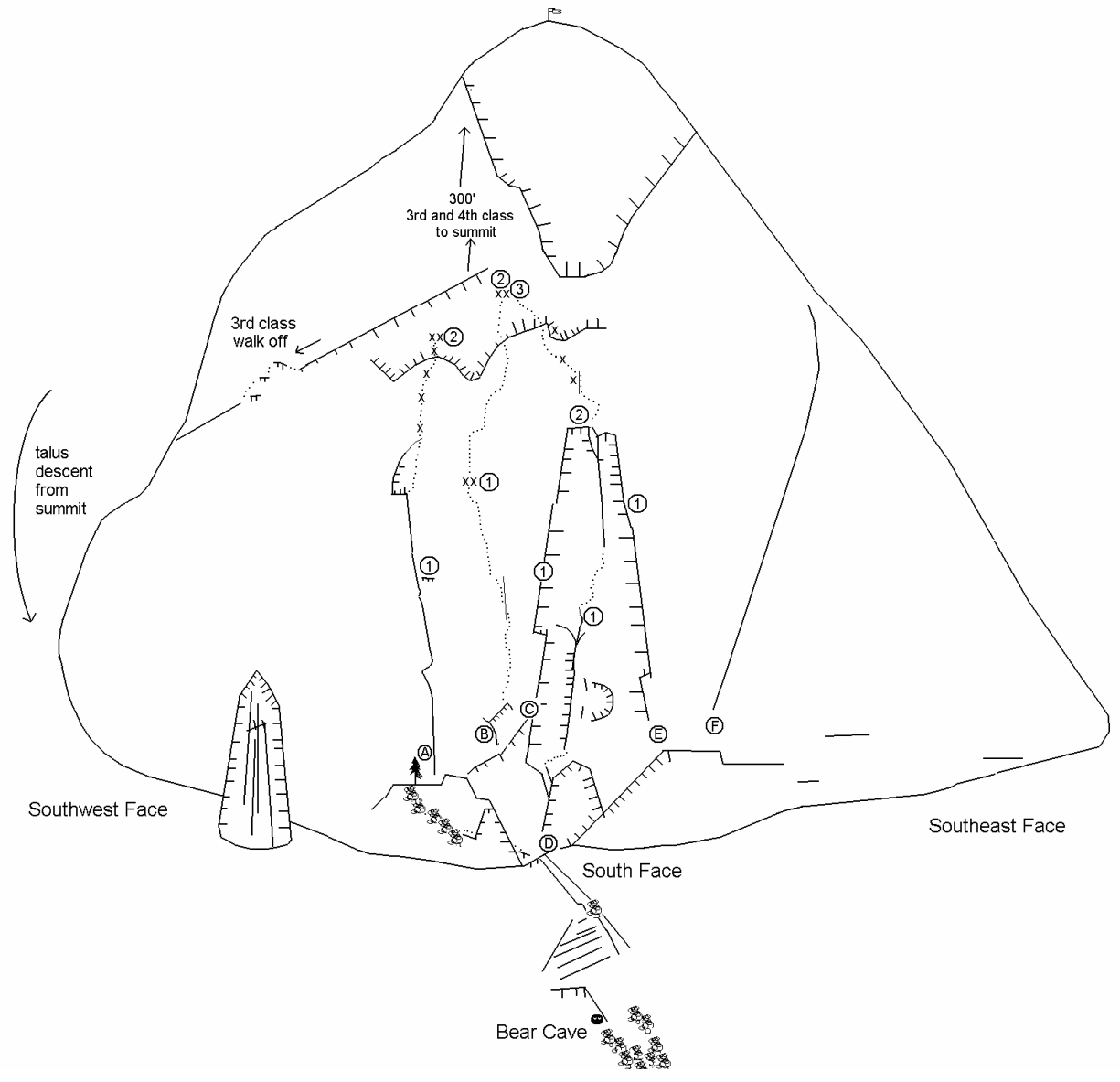
The first three topos are of routes established on Hoffman Mountain, and the last topo is of the North East Face of Pingora Peak in the Wind River Range. Bruce says: "The topos of Pingora NE Face in existing guidebooks are dangerously misleading."

Of the Hoffman Mountain, Bruce says: "We have not climbed the Leversee Route, but the correct location is given on the drawing. Information on this route was from the American Alpine Journal."

Thanks to Bruce for sharing the topos with Rock Rendezvous.

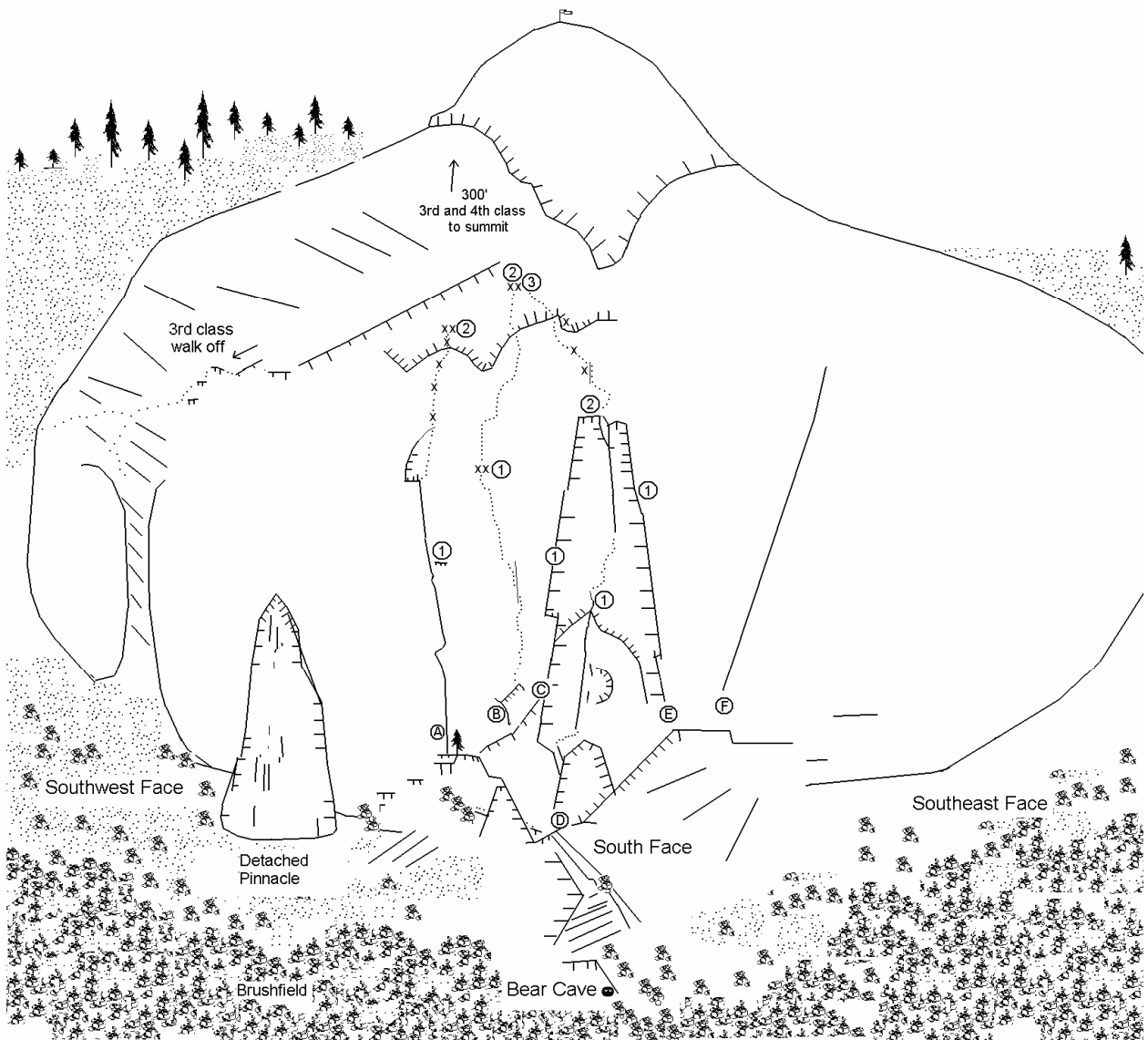
**High Sierra -- Little Rancheria Creek Area**  
**Hoffman Mountain 9,622 ft.**

- |                                   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| A. Bear's Lair 5.8 ***            | F.A. Woodchuck Dumbclucks 09/04                   |
| B. Gold Nugget 5.10b *****        | F.A. Woodchuck Dumbclucks 09/04                   |
| C. Shooting Star Chimney 5.8+ *** | F.A. Woodchuck Dumbclucks 09/04                   |
| D. Golden Tower Direct 5.7 *****  | F.A. Allen Steck, B. Bindner and E. Holland 10/04 |
| E. Seem's Holy 5.9 ***            | F.A. Allen Steck, B. Bindner and E. Holland 10/04 |
| F. Leversee Route 5.8 or 5.9      | F.A. Richard Leversee, Mark Leffler 07/97         |



High Sierra -- Little Rancheria Creek Area  
Hoffman Mountain 9,622 ft.  
Route Locations

- A. Bear's Lair 5.8\*\*\*
- B. Gold Nugget 5.10b\*\*\*\*\*
- C. Shooting Star Chimney 5.8+\*\*\*
- D. Golden Tower Direct 5.7\*\*\*\*
- E. Seem's Holy 5.9\*\*\*
- F. Leversee Route 5.8 or 5.9

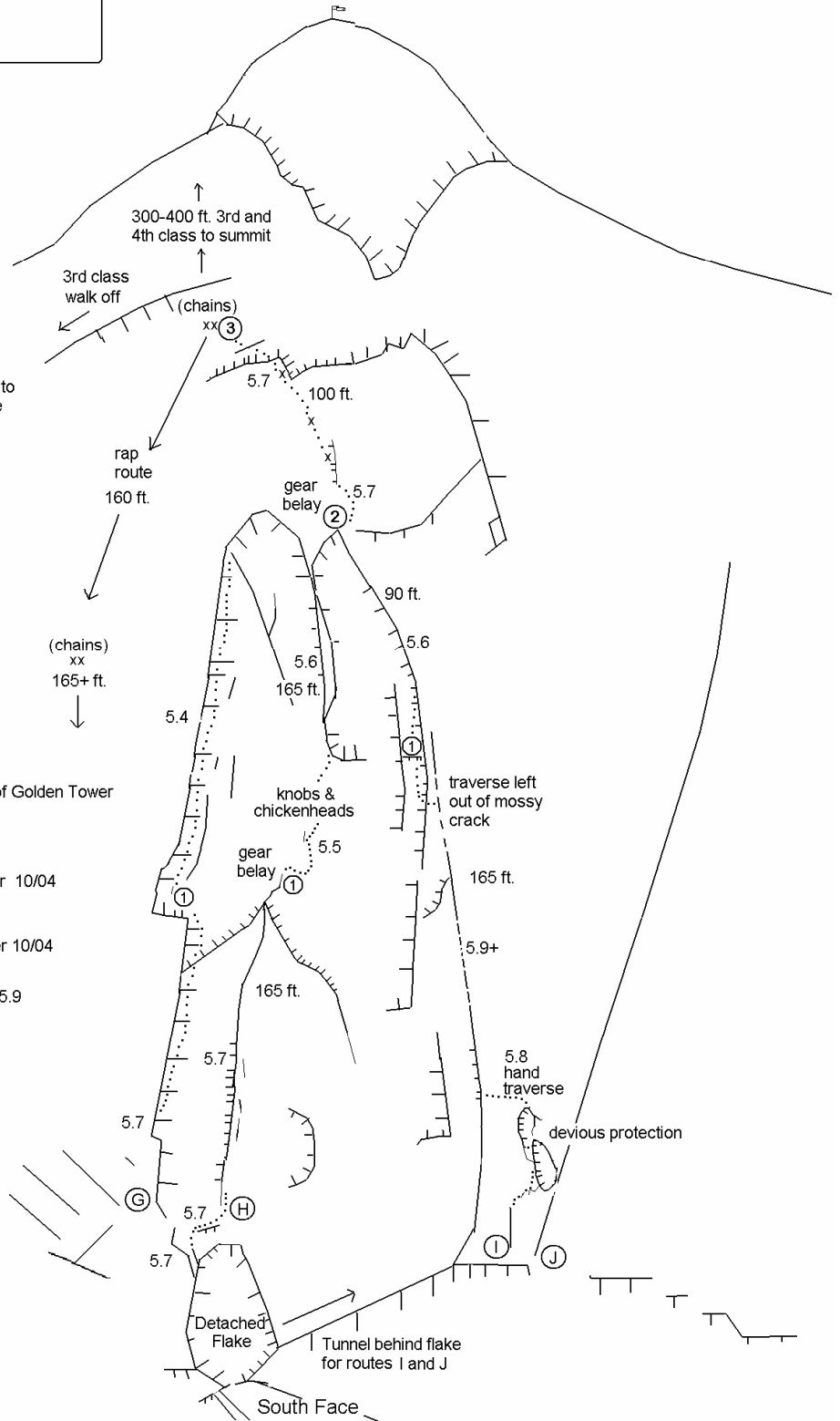


**High Sierra -- Little Rancheria Creek Area**  
**Hoffman Mountain 9,622 ft.**

South Face -- Right Side

Descent (3 options):

- (1) Rappel from the top of pitch 3. Two 165' ropes required with some 3rd class downclimbing at the bottom.
- (2) Continue to the summit, and descend easy slopes to the east or west of the peak back to the base of the South Face.
- (3) From the top of pitch 3, 3rd class up to ramp, then down and left to the talus field to the west. Then descend a slabby gully to the base of the face. A few short exposed sections are encountered.



- G. Red Tail 5.7 \*\*\*\* Follows L. Arete of Golden Tower  
F.A. E. Holland, B. Bindner 09/05
- H. Golden Tower Direct 5.7 \*\*\*\*\*  
F.A. Allen Steck, E. Holland, B. Bindner 10/04
- I. Seem's Holy 5.9+ \*\*\*  
F.A. Allen Steck, E. Holland, B. Bindner 10/04
- J. Leverage South Face Route 5.8 or 5.9  
F.A. Richard Leverage 07/97



## *TRIP REPORTS:*

# HAVING A BALLS OF A TIME

**Words: Joan Marshall**

Hal Tompkins and I made a climbing trip to the "Balls", one recent weekend, an area south of Yosemite, east of Bass Lake, along Besore Road. We had the whole place to ourselves, as well as Bowler Campground. Admittedly, it was cold at 8,000 ft, but not unbearably. The climbing was great. We climbed the three pitch route of southwest buttress on the Golden Toad, a moderate route. The last pitch ended abruptly with no walk off or rappel that we could see, so we continued on up for three more pitches to the summit. These last pitches were more runout, but still class 5.5, 5.6. At the top, it looks like someone was doing bolting practice as there are bolts all over the top of the rock, but no hangers or rap rings. As we were looking for a rappel, Hal spied a pile of ropes laying on a ledge about 25 feet below, on the back west side. Next to the ropes a plastic box that appeared to be split open. We could only surmise, a group had come up to practice some sort of rescue and suddenly aborted the training. Anyhow, the ropes might still be there! Most looked brand new.

One has to look hard for the rappel, on the back side to the east, a short downclimb, exposed, to a couple slings slung over a rock. Two 50 meter ropes gets you down in one rappel.

As a side note, we were amused to see a new parking lot along the road, pretty much out in the middle of nowhere, with painted markings for a bus, and a handicap ramp that takes you some 400 ft out to a lookout point to view Jackass Meadow, which is pretty, but not sure it's worth an hour and a half drive to see.

Sorry, we didn't take any pictures. No camera.



## UPCOMING TRIPS:

There are only a few climbing trips left that we have campsites for, so make sure you get yourself on a trip soon. Trips that have been posted on the Website are the Valley trips over the following weekends: 9/23-9/24; 9/30-10/1; and 10/7-10/8. Please check the Website for availability on those trips.

And don't forget our annual Thanksgiving trip to Joshua Tree! RR has secured three group sites in Indian Cove for Nov. 23 through Nov. 27. You should start thinking about how you're going to get there – whether you want to fly or drive – start making plans now!

As always, if you have an upcoming trip you'd like to open up to other club members, or if you'd like to organize another outing for the club, please drop me a line – Linda ([llhleung@hotmail.com](mailto:llhleung@hotmail.com)).

<i>DATES</i>	<i>TRIP VENUE</i>
<b>11/23 – 11/27</b>	Indian Cove, Joshua Tree Thanksgiving Trip
<b>9/23 – 9/24 9/30 - 10/1 10/7 – 10/8 10/14 – 10/15</b>	Upper Pines, Yosemite Valley

## NEXT ROCK RENDEZVOUS MEETING:

**When:** Tuesday, Oct. 4 @ 7 p.m.

**Where:** We're looking for a hot spot – if you can spare us your house/room, please let us know.

**Slideshow:** Few also need a slideshow – if you did something spectacular this summer, or even a few summers/winters ago, please give us a slideshow!

### 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.*