

# July 2003

## ARIZONA MOUNTAINEER



*North Twilight Peak is not one of Colorado's 14'ers but it presented a far greater than ordinary challenge to a band of AMC'ers last Memorial Day Weekend. Spring snowmelt made getting near the peak an exhausting trek—and avalanche danger tested their ability to pick safe ascent routes. Photo by John Keedy.*

# THE ARIZONA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

**MEETINGS:** The AMC normally meets the 4th Mon. each month (Nov. & Dec. meetings are usually the 3rd Mon.) at 7:00 pm at:

Los Olivos Senior Center  
2802 E. Devonshire Ave.  
Phoenix, Az.  
(28th St. just north of Indian School Rd.)

**BOARD MEETINGS:** Board meetings are open to all members and are held two Mondays prior to the Club meeting at Los Olivos Center.

**DUES:** Dues cover January through December. A single membership is \$25.00 per year; \$30.00 for a family. Those joining after June 30 pay 50% of the yearly rates. Members joining after October 31 who pay for a full year will have dues credited through the end of the following year. Dues must be sent to:

AMC Membership Committee  
6519 W. Aire Libre Ave.  
Glendale, Az. 85306

**OTHER CORRESPONDENCE:**

Arizona Mountaineering Club  
4340 E. Indian School Rd.  
Ste 21-164  
Phoenix, Az. 85018

**SCHOOLS:** The AMC conducts several rock climbing, mountaineering and other outdoor skills schools each year. Contact the Training & Safety Committee for schedules and costs.

**NEWSLETTER**

Send stories and photos to Wally Vegors, 6151 N. 8th Ave., Phoenix, Az 85013 or e-mail <vegors@worldnet.att.net> Electronic photos should be 300 dpi in JPG. If possible.

(AMC0603 )

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

|                |                |              |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| President      | Bruce McHenry  | 602-952-1379 |
| Vice-President | Jutta Ulrich   | 602-234-3579 |
| Secretary      | John Keedy     | 623-412-1452 |
| Treasurer      | Tim Ward       | 602-212-1929 |
| Director-2yr   | Kathy Granger  | 602-942-1673 |
| Director-2yr   | Rich Kocher    | 480-966-5568 |
| Director-1yr   | Dave Larimer   | 480-425-689  |
| Director-1yr   | Scott Hoffman  | 623-580-8909 |
| Past President | Erik Filsinger | 480-314-1089 |

**COMMITTEES:**

|                  |                                   |              |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Access           | Jen Davies                        | 480-473-3742 |
| Archivist        | Jeff Sloat                        | 602-316-1899 |
| Classification   | David Larimer                     | 480-425-9689 |
| Conservation     | Charlene Todd                     | 480-917-5354 |
| Elections        | Don Thomas                        | 480-892-9513 |
| Equip Rental     | Tom Burmer                        | 480-354-1392 |
| Email            | Jeff Hatfield                     | 480-783-8779 |
| Librarian        | Richard Kocher                    | 480-966-5568 |
| Membership       | Rogil Schroeter                   | 623-878-3914 |
| Mntneering       | Erik Filsinger                    | 480-314-1089 |
| Newsletter       | Wally Vegors                      | 602-246-9341 |
| NL Distribution  | (vacant)                          |              |
| Outings          | Monica Miller                     | 623-362-0456 |
| Programs         | Steven Tillery                    | 480-496-7339 |
| Trail Maint.     | Jutta Ulrich                      | 602-234-3579 |
| Training/Schools | Wayne Schroeter                   | 602-402-1631 |
| Basic Class      | Sally Larimer                     | 480-425-9689 |
| Anchors Class    | Tom Conner                        | 480-897-7623 |
| Lead Class       | Mick Strole                       | 520-586-3335 |
| T-shirts         | Sally Larimer                     | 480-425-9689 |
| WebSite          | Kirra .....                       |              |
| .....            | webadmin@azmountaineeringclub.org |              |

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Call (623) 878-2485  
Email info@azmountaineeringclub.org  
president@azmountaineeringclub.org  
board@azmountaineeringclub.org  
Web www.azmountaineeringclub.org

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**THE AMC ACCESS COMMITTEE:** The Committee works by itself and with the national Access Fund to maintain public access to climbing areas. If you know of areas that are threatened with closures or climbing restrictions, please notify the Access Committee Chair, Jen Davies, 480-473-7342.

**THE ACCESS FUND:** This is a national, non-profit, climber's organization that works to maintain access to climbing areas nationwide. Climbers can join The Access Fund by mailing an annual, tax-deductible donation of \$20 or more to: The Access Fund, P.O. Box 17010, Boulder, CO 80308, or giving it to the AMC Club Treasurer to be sent to The Access Fund in your name. A donation of \$20 or more is needed to receive Vertical Times, The Access Fund newsletter. One can also join electronically — <<http://www.accessfund.org/Join.html>>

## **THIS MONTH IN THE AMC**

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- 1 Index, Club Info.; Birthdays this month
- 2 Board Meeting Minutes
- 3 Discounts, Treasurer, Equipment to Rent
- 4 Slots and Tops Program
- 5 President's Corner; Members' Page
- 6, 8, 10 Climbs on Twilight Peak
- 7,10,11 Tuolumne Climbs
- 11 Outings, New Members, Book Bargain
- 12 Outings for July; Leader list.

### **AMC NEWSLETTER**

The *Arizona Mountaineer* is published monthly by the AMC. Items for publication, subject to approval, should be sent to the editor at 6151 N. 8th Ave., Phoenix, 85013. Photos and other mountaineering photos are welcome (please submit prints). Climb write-ups ARE welcome. For info call the editor at 602-246-9341. Address e-mail to vegors@worldnet.att.net. Advertising in the *Arizona Mountaineer* is accepted, subject to approval, at the following rates:  
Personal ads: free to members.  
Business ads: \$5.00 for business card;  
\$10.00 for half page; \$20.00 for full page \$25.00 for inserts/mo

**August Deadline: 18 July, 2003**

# **HOT STUFF!!!**

**VISUALIZE:**

**Alpine meadows with acres of bluebells, paintbrush, elk slip, columbine, gentian, sky pilot, little pink elephant, .....  
Icy, clear streams of water emerging from snowbanks and talus slopes....  
...And it is cool.**

**What are you doing here????**

### **AMC LIBRARY**

You must be an AMC member; i. e., your name must be on the most current membership list.

The circulation period is 1 month. Materials are due at the next general club meeting. The overdue fine is \$2 per title per month. Please contact the librarian if unable to return your books and tapes.

The circulation limit is three titles per person. One of these may be a videotape, for which a \$50 deposit is required. Each guidebook requires a \$25 deposit.

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## **JULY BIRTHDAYS**

Scott Bauguess 2, Terry Nelson 6, David Bay 7, Michael Anderson 9, Mark Donahue 9, Maria Kotarska 9, Jason Laird 10, Michelle Garland 11, Thomas Burmer 13, Steve Dilley 16, Ken Steven 16, Felicia Terry 16, Anita Pietrofitta 17, Fred Padgett 18, Kelly Hiatt 22, Carol Rubin 23, Amanda Schrader 23, Valerie Paulus 24, Juan Restrepo 24, Dan Briggs 26, Ron Jachimowicz 27, Jay Skardon 27, Kirsten Brock 28, Joe Garcia 29

## **MINUTES OF THE AMC BOARD MEETING: June 9, 2003**

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Board Members Present – Filsinger, Granger, Keedy, Kocher, McHenry, Ulrich, Ward  
Committee Chairs Present – Vegors

I. A quorum being present, meeting called to order by president McHenry at 7 PM.

II. Minutes of the May 2003 Board Meeting were approved as published.

III. Treasurer's report approved as amended.

IV. President's Updates – Present membership of the AMC is 369 which is slightly below most recent past years.

V. Old Business

a. Insurance update – McHenry has received the requested quote from WOGA of \$9601.46. McHenry has requested a quote from K&K Insurance Group who has a local representative. AIG may also consider insurance in this industry as well.

b. Land Advocacy – Initial Committee meeting last week with 20 present. Some specific responsibilities were identified. Ulrich will handle Access. Adopt-a-crag day is set for September 6, 2003. Filsinger stated he still needs people to handle the many areas of responsibility.

c. Outing Leader Documents – McHenry presented "Policy to Maintain Outing Leader Status" document. Following discussion and one deletion, motion was made, seconded and carried to approve this policy as modified.

d. Newsletter – Wally stated he has a few articles for the June Newsletter but needs more.

e. Documents on Club Website – The Outing Leader documents are about ready to be made available on the website. McHenry coordinating.

f. Risk Management – Changes to the Club Waiver have been sent to Bill Demlong for legal recommendations.

VI. New Business

a. 40<sup>th</sup> AMC Anniversary Celebration – discussion about what events we may want to host. A committee should be in charge. McHenry will address to membership.

b. Grand Canyon Cleanup – It's not too soon to get started with the planning. We need to identify a Leader for the event. Keedy asked to head up. If no one else

wants to do it Keedy will do it.

c. Discussion held concerning School Manual publication on the web site.

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM

### **ECO-GRUMP OF THE MONTH**

I think the solution to many of our access issues would be to impose a punitive tax on golf balls similar to the one imposed on cigarettes. If it didn't cut down on the uncontrollable scabies epidemic of new golf courses it would at least bring in tax money to buy un-manicured open space while there is still raw open space to be had.

### **GIVING THANKS – AND LEAVE NO TRACE**

If you recall a year ago major forest fires were raging through many parts of Arizona and the West. Many of our favorite summer (I.E. cooler) climbing areas were closed due to fire, or to prevent further fire outbreaks. Let us give thanks that, so far, there have been no major fires this year and we can head up north to enjoy cooler climes and northern climbing.

We can all do our part to prevent forest fires. One of the seven principles of the Leave No Trace ethic is to minimize campfire impacts. Here are some suggestions:

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

Thanks

— Bruce McH

## DISCOUNT DIRECTORY

The following merchants currently offer a discount to AMC members.

Arizona Hiking Shack - 11645 N. Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85020, 944-7723

Show your AMC membership card and get a 15% discount.

### AMC RENTAL EQUIPMENT:

| EQUIPMENT                       | Lb-Oz         | Qty | Cost/Wk |
|---------------------------------|---------------|-----|---------|
| Tents:                          |               |     |         |
| 4-season 2-3 man 7-6 .....      | 1             | 1   | 10.00   |
| 4-season 2 man ....             | 6-0           | 1   | 6.00    |
| 3-season 2 man ....             | 5-0           | 3   | 5.00    |
| 4-season 1 man bivy .....       | 1-15          | 1   | 7.00    |
| Sherpa Snowshoes .....          | 8             | 1   | 5.00    |
| MSR Alpine snowshoes ....       |               |     | 15.00   |
| Ski poles (var. sizes) .....    | 4             |     | 0.50    |
| Ice Crampons.....               |               |     | 15.00   |
| Snow Crampons (sizes 6-14)..... | 10            |     | 2.00    |
| In-step crampons. ....          | 1             |     | 2.00    |
| Gaitors (Goretex) .....         | 2 pr          |     | 2.00    |
| Ice axes (70-90 cm) .....       | 12            |     | 2.00    |
| Snow shovel.....                | 1-10          | 2   | 5.00    |
| Snow pickets;flukes .....       | 10 @          |     | 5.00    |
| MSR Multifuel Stove.....        | 1             |     | 3.00    |
| Yates Big Dudes .#6, #7 ....    |               |     | 5.00    |
| Haul bag .....                  | 1             |     | 10.00   |
| PortaLedge .....                | 1             |     | 50.00   |
| Jumars .....                    | 3             |     | 5.00    |
| Climbing shoes.....             | Various sizes | ... | Call    |

EQUIPMENT RENTAL GUIDELINES: Your name must be on the most current membership list. Deposit required; varies by item; generally \$20-\$50. The two-personal-checks system works best. Advance reservation suggested. If not using the reserved equipment, please call and cancel. Call Linda Locke at 602-997-4235 for shoes. For everything else, call Tom Burmer 480-354-1392.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement of Operations

01/01/03 Thru 05/09/03

Category Description Amount

| Category Description                | Amount   |
|-------------------------------------|----------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                       |          |
| Advertising .....                   | 320.00   |
| Equipment Rental (incl shoes) ..... | 107.00   |
| Interest.....                       | 9.63     |
| Membership Dues .....               | 4,630.00 |
| Mountaineering Schools .....        | 125.00   |
| Program Income .....                | .00      |
| Tee Shirts & Etc.....               | 239.00   |
| Training .....                      | 5,410.00 |

**TOTAL INCOME** 10,840.63

| Category Description        | Amount    |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| <b>EXPENSES</b>             |           |
| Access Committee .....      | .00       |
| Access ,other .....         | 137.41    |
| Administration .....        | 1,029.29  |
| Bouldering Contest.....     | 300.00    |
| Capital Exp .(mntng) .....  | 59.30     |
| Classification .....        | 576.50    |
| Equipment Maint .....       | 125.00    |
| Insurance.....              | 956.01    |
| Library .....               | 41.90     |
| Merchandise Exp .....       | 644.40    |
| Mountaineering.....         | 272.85    |
| Newsletter .....            | 1,459.61  |
| Outings .....               | 80.78     |
| Programs .....              | 1,730.00  |
| Service/Bank Charge .....   | 14.82     |
| Training .....              | 6,314.96  |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b> ..... | 11,524.02 |

OVERALL FOR YEAR TO DATE.....-1,683.39

ACCOUNT BALANCES (05/09/03)

|                 |           |
|-----------------|-----------|
| CD Account..... | 5,210.59  |
| Savings .....   | 1,530.32  |
| Checking .....  | 10,061.18 |

**TOTAL CASH ASSETS** .....\$18,480.33

OTHER ASSETS (Club gear mainly) .....7,779.00

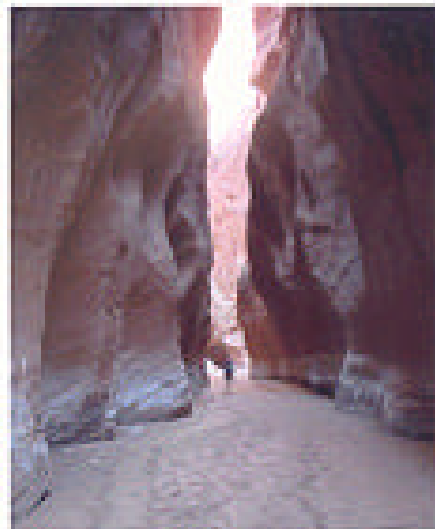
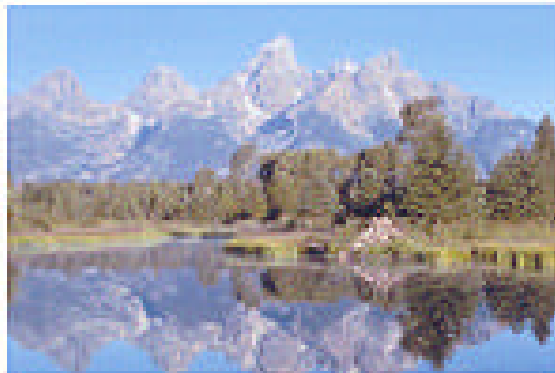
**OVERALL TOTAL**..... 24,581.09

# The Helms Tillery Duo

## Deep slots to high tops

Monday, July 28,  
Los Olivos Senior Center, 7 PM

From the depths of Buckskin Gulch to ...



(hopefully) the Summit of the Grand  
Teton.

Kate and Steve's most excellent summer adventures

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AMC Meetings are from 7 - 9 pm at the Los Olivos Senior Center,  
2502 E. Devonshire Ave. 1 block north of Indian School on the east side  
of 20<sup>th</sup> St.

Non-AMC members are asked for a \$5.00 admission fee



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER – July 2003 Potpourri

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Since I am having writers block this month to write a column, I will instead hit some highlights of various items from the board and climbing in general.

Insurance – the board continues to look for a general liability insurance policy. For a while, the insurance industry was reluctant to write policies for organizations like ours. Several factors, such as increased litigation, highly visible accidents and deaths, and general losses in the industry, all contributed to restrict new policies. With settlement or resolution of several outstanding issues, including the one involving Jeff Lowe, insurers are more willing to write policies. That's the good news. The bad is that premiums remain very high. The board has received a quote from one company, WOGA, and is waiting for another.

Club web site – we are looking for ways to use the web site to help with club activities. Recently, many of the documents used by Outing Leaders were made available through the web site. When Outing Leaders need a waiver, log form or other document, they can go to the web site and print one out. For now these documents are available directly to the outing leaders. The board is looking at pros and cons of other documents publicly available on the web site.

Outing Leaders – The recent first aid seminar for Outing Leaders was very successful. By doing a group class, Outing Leaders could renew their first aid certification, while the club received a group discount, reducing the cost. I would like to see other seminars like this, for leaders and members, if we had the opportunity.

Club Anniversary – you will see elsewhere in the newsletter we are beginning work on the club's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Yours thoughts, contributions, and volunteering would be welcome!

Climbing – most of you likely saw the news item of the climber in Utah who was pinned beneath a boulder for 4 days, and survived only by cutting off his trapped right arm. We can give thanks he lived to tell the tale. However, I have to ask why he was traveling alone in a very remote area?

And you probably know that local climber Ming Shih died in a climbing accident at Paradise Forks. I offer my condolences to his family, and to all who knew and climbed with him.

We are awaiting word from Richard Horst and Sean Colonello of their first ascent attempt on the Moose's Tooth in Alaska.

On a personal note – most of you know I am the father of 3 great kids. This past month I've had to "let go" a bit with all of them. My oldest daughter Lauren moved to Florida, my youngest daughter Lindsay went to Ireland for a week, and my son Brian is starting to lead climb. While it is tremendously fulfilling to watch them grow and move on, I believe letting go of your kids is about the toughest challenge any parent can face.

Climb Hard!

— Bruce McHenry

### MEMBERS' (Piece of a) PAGE

OH NO! THE BIG FOUR OH! HELP AMC TURN 40!

That's right; in 2004 the AMC will be forty years young! The club was founded in 1964 when some good folks got together and thought a climbing club would be a great idea. I think they were right: AMC was and still is a great idea!

Obviously some things have changed in the last 40 years. We have moved from goldline, keds tennis shoes, and pitons, to dynamic rope, stealth rubber and clean climbing. What hasn't changed; this is the members club, your club.

The question is - how do you want to celebrate? The board is looking for ideas on celebrating our fortieth anniversary? What should we do and how should we do it?

To make our celebration happen, volunteers for an Anniversary committee will be needed. The committee will plan and carry out our anniversary activities. Some thoughts that have been suggested are:

- An anniversary climb
- A banquet
- Programs from former members
- What do you want to do?

If you have ideas or would like to volunteer, please contact any board member or myself.



## The Ascents of North Twilight, Memorial Day 2003 – This Game of Shadows

In what is becoming an annual tradition, I took a large group of AMC'ers to Southwest Colorado to tackle an alpine ascent of some lesser known peak. This year's target was North Twilight Peak (13,075). It is the prominent peak south of Snowden that figures so prominently in views between Coal Bank Hill Pass and Molas Pass on CO 550 from Durango to Silverton. Its southwest facade forms the mountain views from Purgatory ski area. Its selection was an intentional "up the challenge" for some of our more veteran alpinists. Perhaps we even entered some shadowy terrain in our twilight ventures...

The team of John Keedy, John and Kathy Granger, Bill Demlong, Dave Hansen, George Krall, Dan Bolin, Grant Loper, Maja Kotarska, Steve and Kate Helms Tillery, Tom Conner, Zack and Susan Morris and myself met Saturday morning for the 5 mile backpack into Crater Lake under North Twilight. The trail starts at Andrews Lake near Molas Pass and after initially ascending toward Snowden contours to the South through forests and meadows. For us the snow and mud obfuscated the trail and we basically broke trail most of the way. The team members did yeoman work taking turns in snowshoes "post-holing" our way south. I believe everyone can attest to its being a very, very difficult backpack in those conditions. In fact, the very helpful assistance of a couple of friends, Ryan and Francisco, made the backpack possible for all of the team members to complete.

To give a baseline to the venture, I've been told by several strong, marathon-type athletes who were along that it was one of the toughest couple of days they have faced physically.

Pretty well whipped, we found a not-totally-mushy meadow about 3.5 miles in. Two streams bracketing the meadow provided a welcome water source so we didn't have to melt snow. Our hiking had started at around 8:30 a.m. and in evidence of the difficulties encountered, we dumped ourselves into camp about 2:30. Slow going!

But oh what a view. The mile-long east to west ridge of North Twilight spread out before us. And the North face was the front view to our tent doors. With the summit being close to the middle of the ridgeline, both the left and right wings of the ridgeline were framed by cliff bands and cornices. Frequent avalanches had swept parts of the face into the central bowls that lay toward us.

The mass of the mountain under the summit formed a perfect isosceles triangle, capped by a triangle cliff band. A plumb line from the summit formed a leaf

like formation with a central vein of gullies forming the core of the leaf and from about one-third of the way up leaf veins radiated out and up to form couloirs and rock ribs.

Several aesthetic lines therefore presented themselves. The East and West Ridges were obvious lines. In fact the East Ridge is the normal class 3 ascent route (maybe European PD- in these conditions, maybe F) and the parties that summited used it as a descent route. The central north face presented three obvious lines. One was the left part of the isosceles triangle where a rock rib rose elegantly to the summit. The right hand edge of the triangle also presented a rising rib of rock and snow. And of course the plumb line directly up the face captured an elegance of its own.

One of our main joys was that aside from the East Ridge, we were facing totally unknown routes with just our eyes and ears to guide us.

Behind the joy of facing beautiful mountain challenges was the obvious threat of avalanche conditions. We tried to pick routes that were relatively less threatened by hanging snow overhead. This led us to avoid the very prominent snow couloir on the right edge of the North face triangle, a line that is described in various guidebooks. While it had slid already in part, it was overhung with cornices and with the general looseness of the snowpack did not merit the risk. Therefore, we focussed mainly on rock ribs, somewhat protected from snow slides.

The hike in had done in several team members, so after reconstituting the remaining troops, we assigned duties to our rope team leaders for the next mornings summit ascent.

Rising at 4:00 a.m. the teams were underway at 5:30. Everyone did a great job getting themselves together. We then began an arduous snowshoe wallow toward the North face. Deep snow, no trail, and obscured views made the two hour hike a taxing approach in itself. We all gathered in the large bowl somewhat under the left edge of the triangle forming the core of the face. Here are accounts of the various ascents as bits and pieces were gleamed by me.

What appeared to be the most physically challenging line was the West Ridge. I put probably two of most physically fit team members on it. Susan Morris was rope team leader and Dave Hansen her able second. They made the long traverse across the basin (about 3/4's of a mile), traipsing over recent avalanche debris. They chose a couloir of snow and rock to gain the West Ridge. The ridge itself was quite technical with many tedious snow cornices and rock passages. There were a large number of roped pitches.

Thigh deep snow overhung serious exposure both the South and to the North. Probably the two most difficult as  
(Continued on page 8)



## Tuolumne Meadows , 1999

*This is an excerpt from an account I wrote to my family about our vacation in 1999. David and I met fellow AMC'ers Mick Strole and Sherrie Holbrook in Tuolumne Meadows in June, to climb for a week. Joining us was Maureen "Mo" Hamilton, AMC member from San Francisco. Sally Borg Larimer*

We met everyone in Tuolumne on Sunday. Tuolumne meadows is east of Yosemite Valley by about 40 miles and has an elevation of 8,600 feet, with towering granite domes, lofty peaks, meadows, and beautiful Tenaya Lake near by.

Thursday, Mick, Mo, David, & I planned to climb the "regular route" on Fairview Dome, the tallest dome in Tuolumne. We got to the base of the climb around 10:30AM and found that there were 3 parties on the route in front of us. We waited until 12:00 and the third party's second was still on the ground. Mo had been caught on Fairview in the dark before, so she convinced us to bail. She said we'd never be able to finish in the daylight at the rate it was moving.

Reluctantly, we left, picked up Sherrie from the campground and climbed a bunch of shorter routes on Daff Dome, which was just across the road from Fairview. From Daff, we used binoculars to watch the progress of the bottom team of climbers. They were really moving slow, so we were glad we weren't stuck behind them. Watching them inch up the wall from belay ledge to belay ledge got us pumped up to climb that route! It looked beautiful. When we got back to our car close to sundown, the climbers were still 4 or 5 pitches from the top and we were certain they'd be topping out in the dark. I wondered if they were nervous about their position on the wall that late in the day. I felt sorry for the poor fools and was glad that we were so smart.

Friday morning we got up earlier and were at the base of Fairview at 9:00AM. The route is listed in the "Fifty Classics" book and is so popular that there were 3 parties in front of us already. One team was up on the first ledge, another team was just starting. We talked to them a bit and found they were from Minnesota. Also waiting to climb were two young men from Liverpool, England.

After the Minnesota lead climber left the first belay ledge, the Liverpool, England school boys would start, then Mick & Mo would go, then David and I. We got "in line" and sat around telling climbing stories, waiting for our turn on the rock. The climb is 10 pitches, the first 3 being rated 5.9, the next 4 are 5.6-5.8, and the final 3 are considered 4th class. There is a bottleneck near the bottom where the climbing is more difficult. In one section, if you don't have a 200 ft rope, you have to turn it into two pitches and set up a hanging belay, which slows things down. Also, there is only so much room on each ledge, so it's best to wait

until the ledge above you starts to clear out before you begin climbing. Each party would wait until the other party's lead had left the ledge above them before they started.

Two guys from Oregon came along and waited in line behind us. They entertained us for a while by teaching us how to tie a one handed clove hitch. We'd crane our necks to see where everyone was on the rock above us and give "traffic reports" -- "Unknown lead has left the nice ledge on #3, Minnesota's second is leaving the hanging belay, Liverpool has both members on the first ledge, next up is Arizona 1, Arizona 2 and Oregon are on stand-by."

We must have wanted that route *bad*, because it was 12:30 before Mick and Mo got their start and it was 1:10 when David and I started. You're thinking, "if they bailed at noon the other day because they'd run out of daylight and they're not starting until after 1:00 today, what makes them think they won't run out of daylight today??" Like I said, *we wanted that route bad!* We convinced ourselves that the groups were moving much faster today and conveniently ignored the fact that they really were not moving all that fast. We optimistically started out and from the first pitch, the climb was incredible. I can't get over how spectacular it was. What made it so great? Challenging climbing with fun moves on every pitch, straight up a 900 foot face, beautiful belay ledges -- no hanging belays for this party! -- beautiful weather, nice sunset.... did I say sunset?? Ack!! Yeah, we kind of got caught.

As we were slowly making it up the bottleneck, we'd be waiting on a belay ledge for Mick to leave the one above us for David to start and David would ask "what time is it?" Around 4:00, I couldn't bear to look at my watch any more. We had no choice but to go up, and it didn't really matter what time it was -- we couldn't go any faster than the party in front of us. Of course Mick was waiting for Liverpool to leave the ledge above him, and Liverpool was waiting for Minnesota to leave, etc. As soon as David would leave our ledge, Oregon would come up to our ledge. We talked about getting stuck in the dark and I found out that they had no headlamp. They were joking, "it's an epic!", but we were all kind of serious inside. When I got to the top of the 6<sup>th</sup> pitch, the angle of the sun was really low. Shadows were long, and the sunlight had that warm glow that photographers love. I know that warm glow doesn't last more than a few minutes before the sun dives out of sight, so it didn't give ME a warm glow! We weren't in a whole lot better shape than those fools the day before and suddenly, I wasn't feeling quite so smart.

We could hear Mick and Mo exchanging climbing calls over the radio, so we could monitor — *Continued on page 10*)

## TWILIGHT PEAK — *Continued from page 6*

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pects of the traverse were the overall length of the undertaking and ever present cornices to be negotiated. In a couple of places the ridge was corniced on both sides and extreme care was needed. Susan and Dave performed as I knew they would and in good form submitted in a timely manner ahead of approaching storms. They completed the elegant traverse of the mountain by descending the East Ridge back to the snowshoe depot. A very commendable job we would expect of the duo.

Dan Bolin and Kathy Granger took on the East Ridge. Kathy bailed early and Dan summited with friends Ryan and Francisco in easy fashion. Kathy appreciated Dan's patience and instruction. A true trooper Dan stayed on the summit to help coordinate the arrival and subsequent departure of the other teams. Thanks, Dan.

John Keedy, who had stayed in camp as our base camp manager, put in yeoman duty himself as the central radio coordinator, relaying messages of teams' progress, summitteers, and approaching storms. He really helped put the whole show together. Thanks, John. Zack Morris functioned as his able assistant.

Steve Helms Tillery led Grant Loper and Bill DeMlong up the left edge of the North face triangle. They had a relatively easy time of low 5th class and 4th class scrambling from the bottom to the top and summited in relatively easy fashion. I believe they said they had one roped pitch and simul-climbed the rest. A strong team put down a great line in good form. I'd recommend this line to future parties.

Tom Conner led Kate Helms Tillery and John Granger to the right hand edge of the North face triangle. They did two technical rock pitches before bailing in front of approaching storms and slowness of progress. The second pitch in particular was a fairly difficult 5th class and slowed going to the extent that Tom's decision to bail while still low on the mountain was very prudent. I'm sure his team had a great learning experience under his able leadership. Maja Kotarska and I took on the North Face Direct. We had our hands full in no time. After some initial rock and snow scrambling, we were soon in a very committed position. The rock pitches were technical on loose rock and little protection. To work our way up we had to make several traverses across sheer ice over sloping rock. We were able to get in some rock protection, but the main safety was our own abilities not to fall. Interesting terrain.

The veins/couloirs of the North face were filled with deep snow that was fairly unstable. Retreat was no longer a viable option. In fact, as we moved up,

snow sloughing sometimes ran over where we had been 15 minutes before. With storms approaching and conditions marginal, we opted out of the plumb line ascent route and decided to take about the third vein couloir/rib up to the right edge of the triangle. I made a trench across the central vein to gain the rib and found good anchors to bring Maja across. We definitely felt in the middle of a rather large north face. As with most difficult climbs I'm on, there is little time or inclination for photos -- oh well...

Again, rock and soft deep snow made progress slow, but we maintained our pace. The long rock rib provided protection from snow sloughing that ran down the couloir to our left. Swapping leads, we gained the right edge of the triangle, but to our dismay the rib was covered with waist deep snow. I plowed a furrow upward. It was very hard going. Fortunately the weather held while we made oh so slow progress. Gendarmes sometimes blocked out progress and we either crawled over them or skirted them on deep, deep snow to the West. While at times chest deep in the mass, I found that at other times if I lay on the snow I could squirrel along on top just fine. Try climbing uphill like that!

The mental and physical crux of the climb occurred about 100 meters from the summit. Maja was ensconced on a rock pinnacle while I took on the only part of the climb that got my attention from an adrenaline rush perspective. Unfortunately we didn't have many options. Mark Twilight would have been proud. I had to lead up 40 degree waist deep snow that overlay ice covered rocks. The whole slope could go any minute, as evidenced by stretch marks in the snowpack. I tried to stay on the arete so that if it slid it would go to either my right or left and hopefully not take me. Also, the only way I could make uphill progress was to take my ice ax and pull down a two-foot wide channel of snow at chest level and compact it at my feet. I then stood on that platform and pulled down the next mass. I also figured that if I burrowed the two-foot wide channel straight uphill, compacting the snow under me as I went, I would minimize the tendency of the snow pack to collapse under me. In theory the snow could go to the right or left, but not the compacted snow channel I was climbing. As evidenced by my writing this, the trick worked, but let's not rush off so fast.

At one point I had placed a rock piece and moved up a rock step. As I moved upward, the rock "unfroze," the piece pulled, and the rock and a chunk of snow fell off to my right a few vertical feet to the snowpack at the bottom of the step. To Maja's and my horror, a slab avalanche released just at the bottom of the step. Thank God I was on top of the step when it did. The slab was about 10 feet across and its path had 4 foot deep side walls. The whole day had been pretty committing with us moving confidently and competently just a couple of steps ahead of potential disaster, but this avalanche being so close reiterated just how committed the climb was. To be fair, it did go off not where I was climbing on the arete, but to my right

*(Continued on page 10)*



Arizona Hiking Shack  
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2. The **staff** at the Arizona Hiking Shack **are climbers** too. You get knowledgeable, friendly advice on gear, places to climb, and the absolute best fit on harnesses, shoes and helmets. The Arizona Hiking Shack is locally owned and has been selling gear to valley climbers since 1972. We take pride in helping to select the right hardware for your climbing adventures. (Besides most of us are AMC members also!)

At the Arizona Hiking Shack, **AMC Members get a 15% discount** on everything they buy, everyday of the week, every week of the year. Why? Two Reasons. First, we respect the job the AMC does. The AMC not only teaches people how to climb safely, they also teach an ethic of responsibility to the outdoors that is essential to keeping our climbing areas open. Second, you learn to climb in the valley. . . well, like it or not. . . we consider you one of OUR homeboys or girls and simply said, we want your business! Ultimately, we know you have many choices when it comes to purchasing your equipment and by having a great selection of gear, a knowledgeable staff, and totally killer deals, we hope you'll come shop with us.

where it looked really, really scary all along.

Refusing to focus on the avalanche, I slowly plowed higher as Maja prayed. (I must say that Maja did an impressive job and showed tremendous courage on committing and scary terrain all day long. It was an impressive ascent. Let's hope future ascents are tamer by comparison.)

After placing marginal rock pro 50 meters up, Maja led on to the summit. By then it was storming snow and with Dan and Francisco we worked our way down the East Ridge.

At the East end of the ridge where the descent began in earnest, we only marginally entertained a glissade. With images of real avalanches occurring at our feet there was no way I was about to intentionally jump on one of those couloirs. Probably the scariest part of the descent was watching Francisco put on his skis and start across an east facing gully. In moments he triggered what I thought he would...a major avalanche. Safely on the other side, I couldn't believe he chose to jump in again, with similar avalanche results, which again he outran to the other side. He repeated this down the couloir, until to our horror, he fell upside down in a slide, only to be stopped when his skis caught above him between two rocks. I thought that this was a whole new definition of risk sports, until I reflected that we each in our own way have comfort zones. Francisco is a world class alpine face skier and felt in control. I really was not scared on my climb because I felt in control. Thankfully the mountain let us pass. But what shadows we had skirted amongst!

Lower down we enjoyed the nice butt channel for a wonderful and relaxing series of glissades to our snowshoes. Absolutely whipped we stumbled (literally) back into camp at dinner time. Maja and I had been on the face for 10 hours of climbing and for a 14 hour day overall.

The next day we all made an enjoyable and safe return to the cars. The trench we had worked so hard to create going in had frozen into a veritable highway and made progress relatively easy going out. Smiles, friends, sunshine and beautiful mountains made for an enjoyable end to the weekend. Hopefully we left the shadows behind but in our memories.

Way to go everyone!

Submitted by Erik Filsinger

their progress and we'd know when we were cleared for take-off. The sun was almost below the mountain to the west when David started on pitch #7 and by the time he brought me up to him, the sun was completely down. Mick had left an anchor set up on the belay ledge for us to save time. We were really racing the clock.

The final 3 pitches were considered 4th class. That means you could do it without technical climbing skills, but if you fall you might die. We remained roped up the entire time for safety, but on the 9th pitch, Oregon suddenly sprinted up behind me, unroped to make better time. I felt like a mom, cautioning them to be careful as they passed me. Like kids, they nonchalantly said "Yeah, we will!" Shortly after they passed me, I came upon them, they were roping up again -- even 4th class didn't seem easy in the fading light and I was glad they were being smart.

When David radioed to me that he was on top with Mick and Mo, I breathed a sigh of relief. By now it was completely dark and getting darn cold. I quickly joined them on top and almost cried with relief. We were all exhilarated and emotionally drained from the stress of running out of daylight. We were hollering like a bunch of sailors, about what an awesome #@!% @#!\* climb it was. It's no wonder it's listed as one of the 50 classics in America. We got out our cameras and took some summit photos and reveled in the joy of the climb. We waited for Oregon to top out, to make sure they were OK. They sounded just like us when they topped out!

I was sure glad we had Mo with us, to aid us in finding the route down. The back side sloped down and we found the walk off with her help. If we hadn't known to bear left until the big crack and then gradually head to the right, the descent could have been a lot more scary. The moon was 1/2 full, so we didn't even need our headlamps. When we got to the base of the dome, we followed it around to the front, dodging the wet heaps of snow leftover from winter. We thrashed through the forest out to the highway because we couldn't find the trail in the dark. There was some comfort in the fact that there were 6 of us, but it was pretty disorienting to thrash in the dark. I swore we were way too far to the left and needed to make a sharp right hand turn to reach the highway. Fortunately, there were still a few cars passing by and the sound helped orient us to the road. When we got to the road, we split into two groups, one heading each direction to find the cars.

It turned out we were too far to the right. So much for my sense of direction! It was 10:45pm

— (Continued on page 11)

## AMC OUTING CALENDAR *(Continued from page 12)*

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and should contact the member planning the outing. You are responsible for your own safety, not the person leading the outing. You should always be aware of the risks involved in outdoor activities and conduct yourself accordingly.

Wednesdays     **North Mountain Hikes** after work. Rogil Schroeter 623-878-3914 or rogil.schroeter@honeywell.com.

### Commercially Provided Training and Events

The events listed below are provided by commercial outfitters for the benefit of AMC members. They are not AMC Outings, nor are they led by AM Outing Leaders, though they may be open only to AMC members. The commercial outfitter is solely responsible for all aspects of the outing, not AMC. While, in most cases, an AMC member may provide a service by AMC collecting the names of prospective participants and handling the logistics of out-of-town events, participants will sign up directly with the commercial outfitter.

*None scheduled at present.*

#### NEW MEMBERS

Ryan Wilhelm  
Travis Worden

#### TRAVEL TIP

If you want to make certain your checked luggage is hand searched when traveling by air, include a set of artificial climbing holds. — Ed.

#### Tuolumne — Continued from page 10)

when we got to our vehicles, tired, hungry, and overjoyed.

Sherrie, who hadn't climbed with us, had a roaring campfire going and cooked dinner and served ice cream for desert, in spite of the fact that she was not happy with us for starting as late as we did. She had been watching from the slabs near Daff dome and said she absolutely couldn't believe it when she saw us start as late as we did. She couldn't bear to watch us for long, so she went back to camp.

The dinner and ice cream was superb. You'd think I'd have slept good that night, but I climbed and re-climbed those twilight pitches over and over again all night long.

Saturday, we headed back to Phoenix. We took our time, stopping to see the ancient Bristlecone Pine forest on the way and spending one night in a motel. I was looking forward to sleeping in a real bed, sitting on a toilet seat that wasn't freezing cold, and having a hot shower every day.

One thought kept wandering through my mind on Saturday, but I kept it to myself until Sunday when I finally had to say it. "So Dave, where do u want to climb next weekend?"

—Sally Borg Larimer

#### Discount Mt. Lemmon Guidebooks

I recently met Eric Fazio-Rhicard at Mt. Lemmon while climbing. He has offered a deal to the AMC for his guidebook, *Squeezing the Lemmon*. This guide costs \$27.50 in stores. He is offering a bulk deal for \$21.50 each if we have at least 10 people who want a copy.

If you are interested, please mail me a check for \$21.50 payable to Eric Fazio-Rhicard. I will keep track of everyone's order. If the deal somehow falls through, I will return or destroy the check.

Mail the check so that it gets to me by July 14 at:

Wayne Schroeter  
4337 E Sunrise Dr  
Phoenix, AZ 85044

—Wayne

## **AMC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

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*Participation on AMC outings requires club membership. Outings vary in degree of danger. When you participate in an outing you should be both physically and mentally prepared and equipped with the appropriate gear. You should always be aware of the risks involved in outdoor activities and conduct yourselves accordingly. The outing leader is not responsible for your safety; you are. Please contact the outing leader before going on an outing, discussing your capabilities with the outing leader. You must be over 18 years of age to participate, or must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult, and obtain prior consent from the outing leader. Those accompanying minors are responsible for the minor's safety.*

### **WHEN & WHERE & WHAT & WHO**

- Jun 28 **Windy Point, Mt. Lemmon.** (5.7-5.10). Mixed face and crack climbs. Limit 8. Wayne Schroeter wschroeter@cox.net or 602-402-1631.
- Jul 4 **Mt. Elden** (5.7-5.10). Crack climbs. Limit 8. Wayne Schroeter 602-402-1631 or Wayne Schroeter wschroeter@cox.net or 602-402-1631. (Note: Please sign up for either Jul 4 or Jul 6 so more people can go.)
- Jul 6 **Windy Point, Mt. Lemmon.** (5.7-5.10). Mixed face and crack climbs. Limit 8. Wayne Schroeter wschroeter@cox.net or 602-402-1631. (Note: Please sign up for either Jul 4 or Jul 6 so more people can go.)
- Jul 14 AMC board meets, Los Olivos, 7:00 p.m.
- Jul 19 **Oak Creek Overlook** (5.7-5.0). Crack climbs. Limit 8. Wayne Schroeter wschroeter@cox.net or 602-402-1631.
- Jul 28 AMC Members' Meeting, Los Olivos, 7:00 p.m.
- Aug **Land Navigation** Class, two eves and weekend, details TBA, Chris Query cquery@hotmail.com
- Aug 29-Sep 1 **Indian Creek, Utah.** Amazing crack climbing. Richard Horst 602-953-9198.

To request outings: call outings chairperson Monica Miller 623-362-0456. To cancel after saying you will participate in a climb, call the outing leader as soon as possible; there may be a waiting list. Also, the leader will know not to wait for you on outing day.

\*A group outing: Where possible a campsite is reserved by AMC. There is no designated leader although there may be a leader to work with non-leaders (call to find out) Call to find car-poolers. Parking may be limited or only for equipment vehicles.

### **BILLBOARD – Other Scheduled Events**

Outings listed in this section are not AMC sanctioned outings. Any AMC member can list an event he or she is planning and which is open to other AMC members. The member does not have to be an approved AMC Outing Leader. If you wish to participate you should be physically and mentally prepared with the appropriate gear

*(Continued on page 11)*

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### **AMC OUTING LEADERS**

Requirements for becoming a leader: take the basic, AARS and Lead classes (or equivalents), be a member for at least one year, complete a basic first aid and CPR class (8 hours or more), and be approved for leadership by at least five current leaders through formal application process and by the Board of Directors. Contact Dave

|                                   |                                  |                               |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Sally Borg Larimer...480-425-9689 | Tim Medlock.....719-494-1171     | Jef Sloat.....602-316-1899    |
| Tom Conner .....480-897-7623      | Paul Norberg.....602-808-9244    | Mick Strole .....520-856-3335 |
| Eric Filsinger.....602-906-1186   | Paul Paonessa.....602-493-7356   | Rick Taylor.....623-487-8507  |
| Jeff Hatfield .....480-783-8779   | Chris Query .....480-967-9268    | Tim Ward.....602-212-1929     |
| Scott Hoffman.....623-580-8909    | Tim Schneider.....480-497-8377   | Frank Vers .....480-947-9435  |
| Richard Horst.....602-953-9198    | Rogil Schroeter.....623-878-3914 |                               |
| David Larimer.....480-425-9689    | Wayne Schroeter.....602-402-1631 |                               |

# July 2003

## AMC Outing Calendar

| Sun                                         | Mon                                                  | Tue | Wed                                                           | Thu | Fri                                        | Sat                                 |
|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                             |                                                      | 1   | 2<br><i>Sunrise 5:22<br/>Sunset 7:42<br/>Moonset 10:21p</i>   | 3   | 4<br><b>Mt. Elden<br/>Climbs,<br/>Flag</b> | 5                                   |
| 6<br><b>Windy<br/>Point, Mt.<br/>Lemmon</b> | 7<br><i>New Moon</i>                                 | 8   | 9<br><i>Sunrise 5:26<br/>Sunset 7:41<br/>Moonset 1:35a</i>    | 10  | 11                                         | 12                                  |
| 13<br><i>Full Moon</i>                      | 14<br>AMC Board                                      | 15  | 16<br><i>Sunrise 5:30<br/>Sunset 7:39<br/>Moonrise 10:12p</i> | 17  | 18                                         | 19<br><b>Oak Creek<br/>Overlook</b> |
| 20                                          | 21<br><i>Last Qtr Moon</i>                           | 22  | 23<br><i>Sunrise 5:34<br/>Sunset 7:35<br/>Moonrise 12:57a</i> | 24  | 25                                         | 26                                  |
| 27                                          | 28<br><b>Reg. AMC<br/>Meeting</b><br><i>New Moon</i> | 29  | 30<br><i>Sunrise 5:39<br/>Sunset 7:70<br/>Moonset 8:57p</i>   | 31  |                                            |                                     |