

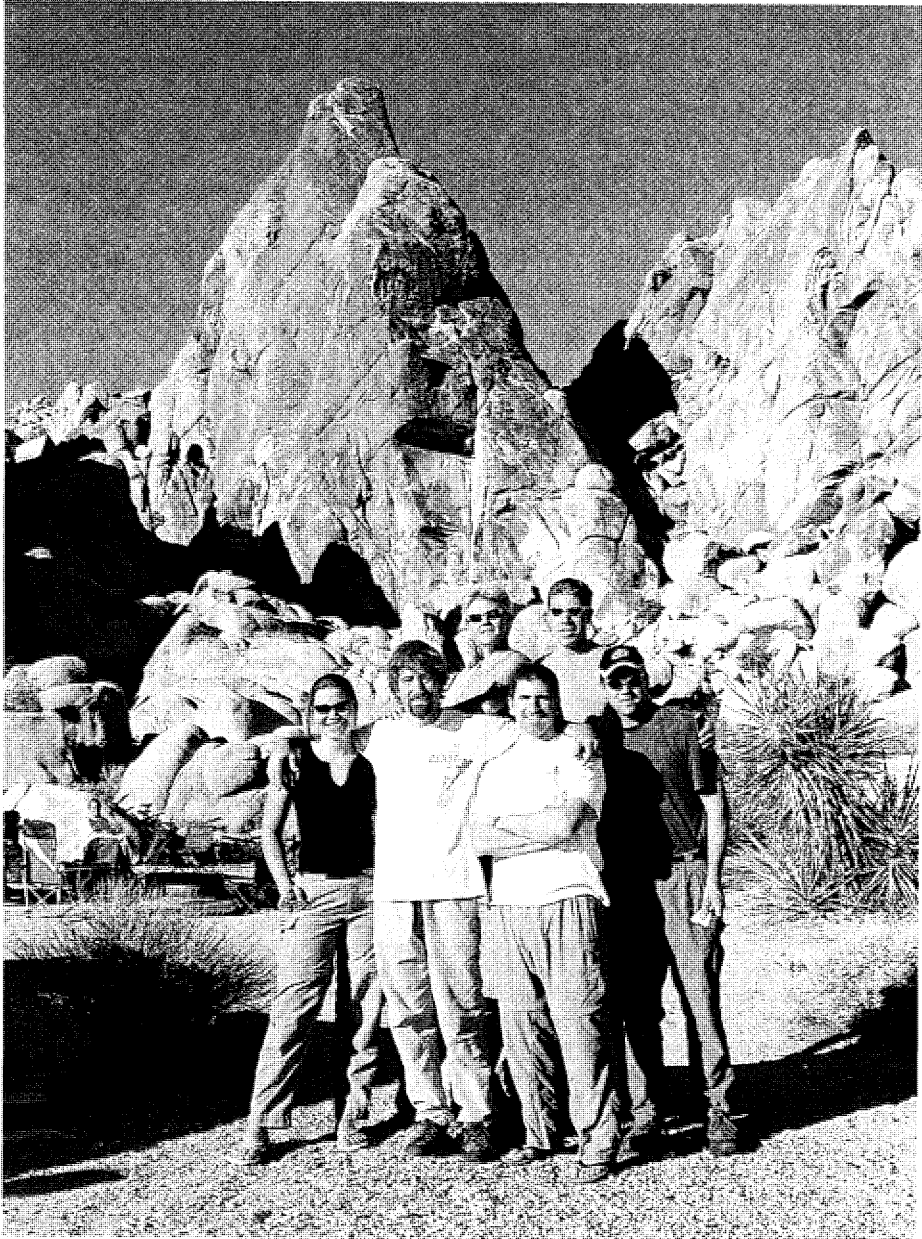
FEBRUARY 2005

ARIZONA MOUNTAINEER

Moosedog Tower at J-Tree's Indian Cove area backdrops six successful climbers who ascended the Direct South Face (5.9) or Lucky Charms (5.7).

They are Monica Miller, Mike Knarzer, Marc Henning, Courtney Barnes and Tim and Ryan Lee.

Story page 14.



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

*****Note: See page 4 for meeting locations for Jan-Mar 2005.*****

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 \$13 or \$15. 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

Schools: The AMC conducts several rock climbing, mountaineering and other outdoor skills schools each year. Browse the AMC website or email info@azmountaineeringclub.org for information on schedules and classes.

For More Information:

Call: (623) 878-2485

Email:

info@azmountaineeringclub.org
president@azmountaineeringclub.org
board@azmountaineeringclub.org

Website: www.azmountaineeringclub.org

Mail:

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

Board of Directors:

President..... Bruce McHenry . 602-952-1379
Vice-President Jutta Ulrich 602-234-3579
Secretary John Keedy 623-412-1452
Treasurer Clay Vollmer 602-595-7266
Director 2-year Scott Hoffman.... 623-580-8909
Director 2-year Wayne Schroeter 602-402-1631
Director 1-year Rich Kocher..... 480-966-5568
Director 1-year Erik Filsinger 480-314-1089
Director 1-year Lynn Readicker.. 480-970-1991

Committees:

Advertising..... Open
Archivist..... Jef Sloat..... 602-316-1899
Classification..... David Larimer.... 480-425-9689
Elections..... Dave Van Hook . 602-790-6283
Equipment Rental ... Erik Filsinger 480-314-1089
Email..... Jeff Hatfield 480-897-1750
Land Advocacy..... Erik Filsinger 480-314-1089
Librarian..... Richard Kocher.. 480-966-5568
Membership..... Rogil Schroeter .. 623-512-8465
Mountaineering..... Erik Filsinger 480-314-1089
Newsletter Wally Vegors..... 602-246-9341
Outings..... Open
Programs Sheri Kenly..... 602-242-0504
Training & Schools.. Wayne Schroeter 602-402-1631
 Basic Class Sally Larimer 480-425-9689
 Anchors Class..... Tom Conner..... 480-897-7623
 Lead Class Wayne Schroeter 602-402-1631
T-shirts..... Sally Larimer 480-425-9689
WebSite..... Kirra
webadmin@azmountaineeringclub.org

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 Fund representative Jutta Ulrich at (602) 234-3579.

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 \$35 or more to: The Access Fund, P.O. Box 17010, Boulder, CO 80308, or calling 888-8MEMBER or giving it to the AMC Club Treasurer to be sent to The Access Fund in your name. A donation of \$35 or more is needed to receive *Vertical Times*, The Access Fund newsletter. One can also join electronically at https://www.accessfund.org/secure/joinnow/join_indiv.php

NOT STUFF!!

This Month in the AMC

- 2 Who does what, addresses and numbers
- 3 Birthdays; Index
- 4 Board Minutes; New Members
- 5 Treasurer's Report; Discounts; Rentals
- 6 February Program—Lisa Rands
- 7 Gripped on Pond Wall
- 8, 9 Viva Rock Vegas
- 10, 11 Heather & Marilyn Tear Up Red Rocks
- 12 Lead School Info
- 13 Basic School Info
- 14 Moosedog Tower at J-Tree
- 15 Wanted — Mountaineering Outings
- 16 Hiking Shack
- 17 Viva Rock Vegas contd.
- 18 Heather & Marilyn contd.
- 19,20 Outing list , Hart Route update
- 21 February Calendar

Newsletter

The *Arizona Mountaineer* is published monthly by the AMC. Members are encouraged to submit articles and photos about their climbing- or mountaineering-related activities. Submit items for publication (subject to approval) to AMC Editor, 6151 N. 8th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85013 or through email to azmountaineer@azmountaineeringclub.org. Prints are preferred over slides. Digital photos should preferably be in JPG format and at least 300 dpi. Articles can be in any standard word processing format. For more info call the editor at (602) 246-9341.

Advertising in the *Arizona Mountaineer* is accepted, subject to approval, at the following rates. Personal ads are free to members. Business ads are \$5.00 for a business card, \$10.00 for half page, \$20.00 for full page, and \$25.00 for inserts.

You are invited to *cheat!*

Join the ranks of those who took the lead or basic school a second time — for free. Sign up to help instruct. It is amazing how much you gain the 2nd time through.

Spring flowers do it. You can do it too. Bloom amid the rocks!

Library

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

The circulation period is one 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. (Note — **Library is kaput during Los Olivos expansion.**)2005

March Deadline: 19 February

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Sutton Demlong 3, Chris Kline 3, Melody Moses 3, Voytek Ciula 5, Scott Frankel 5, Charles Kurth Jr. 5, Charlie Lee 5, Sharon Gordon 6, Julie Dehlin 7, Brad Rutkowski 7, Kurt Gusinde 9, Donald Gotelli 11, Michael Baker 12, Daniel Gonzales 12, Linda Kriegel 12, Jason Grothaus 13, Douglas Roill 13, Christine Bolick 14, Alex Richards 15, James Larson 16, Yen Vu 17, Matthew Hendrickson 19, Clare Norman 19, James Tracy 19, Richard Balland 20, John Schneider 23, Robert Lea 25, Jim Kline 26, Paul Buckley 27, Burke Kascha-Hare 27, Scott Hoffman 28, Anthony Mavis 28, Gregory Sirek 29, Maria Stoianova 29

Minutes of the AMC Board Meeting January 10, 2005

Board Members Present: Bruce McHenry, Jutta Ulrich, Clay Vollmer, John Keedy, Erik Filsinger, Wayne Schroeter, Richard Cocker

Committee Chairs Present: Wally Vegors, David Van Hook

Members Present: Bill Fallon, Robert England, Jeff Nagel

Meeting called to order at 7PM with quorum present.

Motion made, seconded and carried to approve minutes of December Board Meeting as published.

Treasurer's Report

A. Clay discussed report and explained two Balance Sheet inequities.

B. Clay discussed the CD and Saving Account and stated he will renew the CDs and negotiate a better interest rate.

C. Motion made, seconded and carried to approve Treasurer's Report.

Presidents Update:

D. Present Membership is 449.

Old Business

E. Bruce arranged for January, February and March General Membership Meetings at Pueblo Grande 4th Mondays.

F. General Liability Insurance Policy received.

G. Elections—David Van Hook presented the final slate of candidates. Discussion was held concerning absentee ballots. They will be sent out by email and must be returned by Jan 24th to be counted. Motion made, seconded and carried to accept the slate of candidates as presented. Slate is Jutta Ulrich—President, David Van Hook and John Keedy—Vice-President, Robert England—Secretary, Clay Vollmer—Treasurer, Bill Fallon, Jeff Nagel and Lynn Readicker—2-Year Director. Nominations will be opened from the floor before elections at the January 24th Meeting.

New Business

H. Friends of Queen Creek—Erik and Clay briefed the Board on issues. The Access Fund, Sierra Club, Friends of Queen Creek and other organizations are involved. Options were discussed.

(1) Issues seem to be about the type of ore extraction method Resolution Copper will use, Block Caving or Room and Pillar with back fill. The latter method is what Resolution Copper has used in the past. The Block Caving method will undoubtedly

cause subsidence of surface landscape.

(2) Because the copper ore deposit is under public land, Resolution Copper will attempt to do a land swap in order to have unbridled control of the mining operation.

I. The club has received a request from Jim Waugh to speak to the AMC Board of Directors. He will be invited to speak at the February Board Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Member Meeting Locations

Jan, Feb, Mar 2005

The January, February and March member meetings will be held at Pueblo Grande Museum on the SE corner of 44th St. and Washington in Phoenix (4619 E. Washington), just off the freeway. The entrance to the property is off of Washington. There are two buildings; follow the signs to the Community Room. This is a sizeable conference room which will accommodate our programs and meetings. (The dates will remain as scheduled on the fourth Mondays of the month.)

New Members

Beatrice Allen
Javier Gonzalez
Laura Jastrzab
Mary Jo Kearney
Calvin Norman

Clare Norman
Simon Norman
Stephen Norman
Brad Rutkowski

Dues be Due

It is that time again — \$25 for a single or \$30 for a family

See Rogil at a meeting or send your check to the address on page 2.

Discount Directory

The following merchants currently offer a discount to AMC members:

Arizona Hiking Shack—11645 N. Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85020, (602) 944-7723. Show your AMC membership card and get a 15% discount.

Az on the Rocks Gym — 16447 N. 91st St., Scottsdale, Az.85260. 480-502-9777. Gym membership 10% off for AMC members.

OvertheCrux —2655 W. Guadalupe, #4, Mesa, Az 85202. 480-890-0997. 15% off to AMC members.

Solid Rock Gym — 23620 N. 20th Dr, Phoenix, Az 85027 (623) 587-7625 Gym membership 10% off for AMC members.

Rental Equipment

EQUIPMENT.....	Qty	\$Dep	1-3day	4-7day
MSR Alpine snowshoes.....	5	32	10	16
Ice Crampons	5	26	8	13
Ice axes (70 cm)	6	16	5	8
Ice axes (90 cm)	5	14	5	7
Snow shovel	1	8	3	4
PortaLedge	1	100	30	50
Climbing shoes.....	Various sizes .. Call			

Equipment Rental Guideline: 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 Erik Filsinger at 480-314-

Treasurer's Report

Statement of Operations Year Ending Dec 31, 2004

Category Description	Amount
INCOME	
Admin income.....	167.00
Advertising.....	245.00
Decals	8.00
Dues 2004	8,037.00
Dues 2005	1,700.00
Friends of Queen Creek	384.00
Interest	46.00
Merchandise (Tee Shirts & Etc).....	615.00
Mountaineering Schools	400.00
Program Income	101.00
Rental Income (incl shoes).....	15.00
T&S School Rental Income	120.00
Training	18,450.00
Uncategorized	60.00
TOTAL INCOME	30,349.00

EXPENSES	
Administration.....	798.00
Bouldering Contest.....	300.00
Capital Exp	4,496.00
Classification.....	537.00
Equipment Maint.....	63.00
Friends of Queen Creek	384.00
Insurance	4,842.00
Land Advocacy Committee.....	250.00
Library	40.00
Merchandise Exp.....	261.00
Mountaineering	71.00
Newsletter	3,254.00
Outings	513.00
Programs	4,734.00
Service/Bank Charge	92.00
Training	7,157.00
Uncategorized	53.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 27,844.00

OVERALL FOR YEAR TO DATE 2,504.00

ACCOUNT BALANCES (01 Dec 04)

CD Account	5,271.00
Savings	1,680.00
Checking	14,909.00

TOTAL CASH ASSETS 21,860.00
Other Assets (gear)..... 2,048.00

OVERALL TOTAL 23,908.0019

Financial Statement Notes

Large drop in Other Assets due to depreciation booked at year-end. Additional Depreciation booked to correct errors and clean up accounts. We stopped carrying the Library as an asset. One-time "write-up" made to balance books to bank.

Questions, comments — contact Treasurer



Lisa Rands:

From driller's helper to rock-climbing diva.

In the spring of 2000, Lisa Rands quit her job at a geotechnical company in Colorado to pursue climbing full time. Soon after, she was winning major international bouldering competitions, climbing V11/12 (twice in a weekend), and gaining back-to-back victories at the Phoenix Boulder Blast. Recently, she began pushing women's climbing into the frightening realm of "hard grit" with her extraordinarily bold ascents on the gritstone cliffs of England where she became the first woman ever to climb "E8." Lisa will talk about her passion for rock climbing, her motivation to push herself both physically and mentally, plus all the fun she's had traveling the world, mixing with the international climbing elite from Joshua Tree to Japan.

**Meet Lisa Rands at the
Feb 28th
Arizona Mountaineering Club
Meeting at the
Pueblo Grande Auditorium,
44th St. and Washington.
7:00 p.m.
(Exit 143 (Hohokam) at
Washington and drive one
block west)**



Photo: Wills Young

Gripped in Upper Pond Wall

Sometimes rock climbing is miserable. Sometimes all your best plans fall apart. You fail, you fall, you feel ashamed, and the mountain wins.

Our destination was Upper Pond Wall in the Queen Creek climbing area. Upper Pond Wall is located just off of US-60 East of the town of Superior and just after the tunnel. Karen and I were getting back into the climbing gym routine after some business travel and illnesses put us out of commission for a few months. Spending enjoyable hours at the rock gym and reading guidebooks on climbs in the area whetted both our thirsts for getting out on real rock again.

We picked Upper Pond Wall because the description of the area highlighted well bolted 5.6 and 5.7 routes which would line up well with our lead climbing skill level. We easily found the parking area and were able to hike to the base of the lower Pond Wall area before things started to go wrong.

We got a late start (you try to tell Karen that she can't sleep in on her vacation). As a result, we shared the parking area with four other cars and were following another group of climbers up the approach. As we hiked, I could see we were gaining on them, as they were struggling with what looked to be a pretty aggressive scramble up the gully. They were able to make it to the top of this scramble just as we reached the base. From the bottom of the scramble, things were less clear. The scrambling looked more like climbing and although it did not look difficult, there was exposure. We were wearing hiking boots and carrying heavy packs stuffed with all the pro Santa brought us for Christmas. Karen wisely shed her boots for climbing shoes, but this also accentuated the fact that this was no ordinary approach. As we tried scrambling the exposure was getting to both of us. We tried climbing without the packs, but soon discovered it was too difficult to pass them up to move any closer to the top. We both realized it was time to back off and re-evaluate this.

While down climbing, my thoughts turned dark. I was dejected. I can't even climb the approach... what was I thinking about trying to lead climb in this area? Stupid, stupid, it's just a scramble... do it! Stop thinking about it and do it. It was no use, we were both gripped.

Soon, another climbing pair approached us. Perfect. Now we get to share our failure with an audience. They asked us if we were on the approach for Upper Pond Wall. We replied that we thought so, as we followed other climbers, but this was our first visit to the area and we weren't sure. As we down climbed, they climbed past us.

The doubts returned. On the trudge back to the car

I couldn't stop thinking about our retreat. Stopped by an approach! We didn't even reach the rock. I turned back once in a while to check their progress and they made it up just as previous climbers had.

The last climbers recommended Atlantis wall as an easier approach. We would hope Atlantis would lift our sinking spirits.

After a short drive, we approached Atlantis wall. The scramble down to the climbs had a great deal of skree, but was not nearly as exposed as the Upper Pond Wall. Still, with our battered egos, every step down looked like trouble. Through slow, careful hiking we reached the bottom to take a look at the climbs. The first climb we were able to recognize from the guide book was the 5.7 route "Mondo Freako." The route described three bolts to one cold shut anchor, but we could see two anchors at the top. The rock looked inviting, as we could see a multitude of delightful hand and foot pockets on this route. We decided to give this route a try.

Now the challenge was to get mentally ready again. As we were racking up, I was trying to push the doubt down and recapture my confidence. After going through our checks, I was physically ready to climb, but was uncertain if I was mentally ready. The first bolt was only about 15 ft above the ground and the climbing was well within my skill level. Searching for rock solid hand holds and foot holds, I clipped in to that first bolt. Being clipped in did wonders for my battered ego and the climbing went smoothly after that. I set up a top rope on the two bolts and we happily climbed on the pocketed face for several hours.

We were both in much higher spirits. The miserable start to the day had been washed away by successful climb on great rock. This climb fixed our once broken adventure. It would not be a lost day, just a day with a disappointing start to an inspired finish.

We decided to scout the other routes in the Atlantis area for next time. As I confidently walked over the bolder strewn canyon floor, my eyes wandered up the walls. It's not every day you can snatch victory from the jaws of defeat. Our climbing would not be stopped today. My satisfaction was shattered by a sudden cry. Karen was on the ground, holding back tears. She had rolled her ankle... badly. Game over.

Sometimes you just can't win. You tuck tail and whimper back home to lick your wounds.

But scars heal. Ankles mend. Minds become confident again after time.

...you'll be back.

- Scott Frankel and Karen S.

Viva, Rock Vegas

It was my great fortune to have experienced my first fall in Red Rocks, located outside Las Vegas, Nevada. By fall I mean the foliage. The red, gold and green colors along the Pine Creek trail were glorious as Paul and I hiked in pursuit of Geronimo, a beautiful 4-pitch classic moderate located on Jack Rabbit Butress. The route offers variety from great crack to face, stemming and arête climbing, all on intricate rock. Geronimo is a great line. I led pitches 2 and 4 and found each to be delightful. The moves on pitch two were so cool I even yelled out Geronimo...! While belaying at the 3rd pitch you have a wonderful view of Crimson Chrysalis, a tasty 5.8+ nine-pitch route located on Cloud Tower in Juniper Canyon. (I bagged Crimson in May earlier in the year.)

I felt so blessed to be in the midst of such an awesome canyon doing what I love most, climbing. The finish on top of Jack Rabbit butress was beautiful as far as the eye could see. Also encountered was a small summit registrar, date: November 5th 2004. It was now the four-year mark in which I lost the love of my life, my husband. In those moments as I was alone at the summit, certain visions of my life passed before me. As I recalled holding Jerry in my arms for the last time, kissing him our last kiss as I watched his life slip from between us. These words came to me in this moment, "You shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace. The mountains and the hills will burst forth in song before you and all of the trees in the fields will clap their hands" Isaiah 55:12. I arose and gathered my thoughts as a sense of peace had calmed my soul in this beautiful setting. For it was then that I vowed to always ascend a mountain on November 5th until I can climb no more...

I prepared to rappel, and then met Paul on the ledge below. He looked into my eyes and noted a glow that he had not seen before, as he reached out to catch the rolling tear drop from my cheek. In that silence was true peace. We continued our descent on that fine November day. When we unloaded the gear and got comfortable in Paul's truck, he turned on the CD player (it was Waylon Jennings) and then he handed me a cold one. Now what more could a Texas girl ask for. Paul, my angel for the day.

As the sun was setting, we drove away. Off to meet with Tim Lee, Mike Knarzer and Scott Parsons. As more adventures were to come in the remainder of the weekend.

Day 2: 4:50 am up and getting ready, Mike and Scott set out for Olive Oil, a classic 5.7, as Tim Lee and I set out in search of Tunnel Vision, another 5.7 R classic, located on Angel Food wall. Tim and I were intent on being the first on the route and we barely made it. As we flipped for pitch 1, two Canadians were at our heels. Tim Lee started on the 5.8 boulder variation move to begin the route, a scary traverse; you do not want to fall here. He placed a bomber cam. We both felt better. I led pitch 2, fun climbing all the way until I realized that I was in a big chimney crack and then noticed the anchor bolts were dismantled. I was a bit dismayed at this encounter. I set up a three-point trad anchor and brought Tim to meet me. We did a quick belay change as Tim started preparing for the famous 3rd pitch 5.7 R chimney. I looked at Tim and said, like a fat kid loves chocolate cake...! He smiled and checked the spring action on the big navy blue Metolius cam and off he went. Nothing like the sound of hearing an ass rub the rock loaded with shiny gear, sweet music to my ear. Now I was blessed with the luxury opportunity to only clean the 3rd pitch. I popped up from the anchor, stemmed out, then climbed very confidently up the exhilarating chimney. It is all there but protection, so you must be able to climb with confidence or keep your ass in the crack, as there are some protection opportunities there and it is unlikely that you would fall out of the crack. Great lead by Tim Lee.

Now for the cool tunnel pitch. I gave it away as Tim earned the honor by leading the 3rd R pitch. The anchor was set up, headlamp turned on. Tim began shopping through the polished huecos as he set pro behind him in the darkness of the tunnel. The polished rock will make you damn nervous, but it never gets too hard. Off I went on pitch 5, not much protection, choose the best line, climb smoothly and maintain good footwork. Pitch 6, burly roof move not far off the belay anchors. The descent requires some scrambling and locating natural rappel anchors. Tunnel Vision, a classic moderate, was everything we had envisioned.

Day 3: The grand finale, Dark Shadows, a 5.8 + located on the Mescalito. Thirty percent chance of rain in the forecast, not enough to deter me from my mission to ascend this classic. 6:45 am Sunday November 7th. The approach hike to the Mescalito formation was an awesome experience. Oh, the splendor of natural silence as we were the only ones on the trail. The color

Viva, Rock Vegas (cont.)

of the foliage was magnificent, and the air was filled with excitement as we ventured onward. We located the right trails at every turn, and found ourselves at the base of Dark Shadows. We stood in awe as we viewed the line and felt the power of the huge overhanging dark roof. The sky was overcast. I looked into Tim's eyes and knew immediately he was with me all the way on this one. The climb starts between two small waterfall pools on both sides of the boulder. We located the first bolt; it was a long way off the deck; falling was not option. Tim offered to start, but I insisted that I must take this one. I was focused to the core and my face climbing skills were dialed. I grabbed my quick draws, buckled my helmet and took off. I remained calm and climbed with confidence until I clipped that 1st bolt. Ah, sweet music to our ears. Tim was racked and ready when he left the 1st pitch. He started out on lead for pitch 2; some tricky liebacks and jamming, holds appear just in time. Tim sewed this one up. As I cleaned the gear, I thought this was stiff for the grade of 5.8. I met Tim at pitch two; he

had broken down several of our trad draws to use in the anchor as he did not have his cordelette. I racked up with the gear that I thought I would need. I began the 3rd pitch. It started out as fun but soon became a little scary. The good news was that the line protects well. I found myself in a major lieback section. I yelled down to Tim that it was now ok to start talking to me, as I needed to calm down. He looks up at me and says, "You know I am a quite guy". I said, NOW is the time to get over that...! Tim did his best to calm me down. I had to admit that I had not been faced with the kind of liebacking I was going to have to do on lead at the moment. Then I said, hell it looks like my turn starts now; I blasted into gear and shuffled my hands in the precise manner Richard Horst had taught me back in the day at Indian Creek, UT. I did not want to blow the technique. Wow, I did it and got through the section, I heard Tim telling me to place protection

Continued page 17



Moon Over Red Rocks
Monica Miller

Heather and Marilyn tear up Red Rocks

Climbing beta by MG and Heather Nagel on:
Catwalk (back of Oak Creek Canyon) 8-pitch, 6+ trad
Birdland (Brass Wall area) 6-pitch, 8+ trad
Johnny Vegas (Oak Creek by *Solar Slab*) 4-pitch, 6 or 7 trad
Going Nuts (just above *Johnny Vegas*) 2-pitch trad
1st ascent of *HMS Pinnacle* just to right of true first pitch of *Going Nuts* 5.7 ISH+ trad
Unimpeachable Groping (near Ginger Buttress) 6-pitch, 10 to 10+ sport

December 2004

Sometimes, you can really keep the adrenaline flowing for four straight days. You cannot plan it; neither can you order it. But when you get four intense wonderful climbs in four days and perfect weather, it can be said that Red Rocks will do the rest.

I got picked up by Heather—new climbing buddy, easily a full inch shorter than me—at the airport. Her job was gear (rack and rope) and tent. Mine was route beta. I had gotten out *Supertopo*, Todd Swain's books and Joanne Urioste's as well as Larry DeAngelo's *Red Rock Odyssey*, and was honing in on what I thought was the best 12 or so routes to choose from. I had unbridled enthusiasm about our potential as climbers having done the *Monk* as our total “together” climbing experience when buddy Ed introduced us two weeks before. We chattered excitedly till 3 or 4 am and awakened at 8 am—hardly a crack-of-dawn start.

Spunky and enthusiastic, Heather assured me this would be our highest energy day. That said, I suggested a moderately long approach moderate climb in the back reaches of Oak Creek Canyon.

Catwalk beta: headlamp essential; LED or backup batteries a good idea. Scrambling on 5.4 friction slab helpful for the approach if you exit or get out of the canyon and go up right early on the approach. The climb can probably all be done in a really good pair of approach shoes if you are confident climbing in them.

The approach actually took us closer to 3.5 hours but we spent a lot of time convincing ourselves just how far to walk in to find the route. Park at the Oak Creek pullout. I highly recommend using the in-park last turnoff rather than parking outside the park and just go ahead and call for a late exit pass so as not to get a ticket (702-515-5050). This saves 30 to 40 min-

utes of walking in both directions. The furthest thing IN that you will see on the right from your car is the Rainbow Mountain... you will walk a LONG time around the buttress. You must take the right fork of the canyon and the route is really obvious between two water streaks in the rock as depicted on 308 of Swain and 128 of 1st ed. *RR Select*. Though slightly exposed, the first two pitches are casual and can be done unroped or simul-climbed. The next few pitches are best served by a piece or two of gear. I developed a sneaking suspicion that the route beta was wrong—or that our rope was not a 60-meter rope but did not muse about it much that day. (Read on and rub your hands in anticipation of another MG epic story!)

This is an awesome backcountry route but not a short day. The only real climbing is on pitch 6 and 7—a chimney and a beautiful steep crack. I would have given lower ratings to the other pitches but thought the 7th pitch was harder than 5.6 plus. Heather disagreed. There was snow at the last 500 feet of the surrounding mountains; we grabbed a few quick photos and did the easy walk-off and got to the canyon floor at dark. The return was 4 hours with headlamps but not excessively difficult. I think Heather disagrees with that also but she used quads on the rock hopping and I used my beefy deltoids and traps.

Somehow, we got a good night of sleep and started our second day ALMOST as early as the first day—tongue in cheek there. We were lucky enough to meet Jeb the climbing ranger and beat him up for more beta. He gave us a route topo to *Birdland*, a 6-pitch route put up two years ago by Mark Limerge and Chris Burton. This is a wonderful climb with a modest approach and fantastic rock. It is on the Brass Wall or just west of it—so Pine Creek is the pullout for the climb. If you look on page 221 in Swain's big book, the climb starts just above the letter ‘I’ in “to the Mes-calito area”, and heads up and slightly right with bolted (illegally placed I might add) anchors at the top of each pitch. It is in the sun till relatively late in winter most of the day. Most folks say to do just the first 5 pitches. If you send me a SASE (email is rocdocmg@cox.net), I will mail you the topo.

Birdland beta: Do not believe the route topo. You need one 70-meter rope or double 50's or better. Ropes CAN get stuck. The first pitch likes your small Aliens and zero cams; pitch two likes bigger stuff, and neither requires a ton of gear.

Heather and Marilyn tear up Red Rocks (cont.)

When we rapped, we discovered that we did not have even a 50-meter rope. I lowered Heather from the spot she had to stop; i.e., she was at the end of her rope literally but not emotionally—yet! YET! She was lowered another 40 feet to the anchors. I then pulled the rope again and equalized the end lengths. I rapped as far as I could and put a piece of pro in, threw an end to Heather and tied in to the rope, removed my Alien and down-climbed very, very slowly—sort of on belay by her. We did this for all of the pitches finding the easiest place to downclimb. At the base, we confirmed that our rope was about 152 feet!!!! We raced into town, acquiring cell phone access minutes before 7 pm and convinced the guy at Desert Rock Sports to stay open ten extra minutes. He had only one rope left which turned out to be PERFECT—and perfect will just have to do. I now own a bright yellow-green luminescent 70-meter dry rope and I think I am in love! It is very photogenic. Did I mention that we got a ticket since we never thought we would be coming out in the dark? Neither did we think we would actually have to downclimb the entire route! Oh, well. Shows in Vegas cost more than 50 bucks!

Day three—time for something casual. We hiked into *Johnny Vegas* territory, a few feet to the left of the base of *Solar Slab*, and ran into a couple starting up the climb. He was drinking a "soft drink" and chatting us up. She looked familiar and suddenly I realized, we were hanging out with an old acquaintance of mine, Joanne Urioste. She is only a major first ascensionist, nurse, mother of two and former marathoner, but what the heck, an incredibly sweet lady. AND she showed us the line to climb.

Heather led our team, getting a major female bonding session with Joanne at the first belay while I seconded the pitch. We swung leads. At the belay ledge between pitch two and three I detected the odor of alcohol. "That's beer you are drinking, isn't it?" I asked Joanne's buddy/belayer as Joanne disappeared out of sight on a runout 5.6 slab/ to roof. Her climbing partner Bill said, "Yeah, I only drink on vacation and seldom more than a six-pack before noon."

At the top of Vegas, Heather and I tried to do a two-pitch 5.6 route called *Going Nuts*. I misread the topo and went up a line that Joanne says is a first ascent. Now its named *HMS Pinnacle*—Heather and Marilyn Oh Shit Pinnacle. When I got up about 180 feet I found a good perch and brought Heather up. I

lowered her 40 feet and she traversed over about 70 feet to the second pitch of our intended climb. Another long climb and a hike out in the dark but we were calm as the Dead Sea by now doing everything in declining light with ease. We made it in time to Jorge and Joanne Urioste's party to help them polish off a half case of wine and tell war stories and meet their way, WAY cool friends. And get fed too.. Cost. Coupla bottles of S. American red for Jorge who comes from Bolivia.....

Johnny Vegas.beta: All alcoholic beverages allowed and you can do it in three pitches but need a 200-footer for 3 plus 4. Sling some chicken heads on the runout on three and carry ONE number 3 or 4 for the first move up on 3.

By the way *HMS* goes at about 5.7-ish. And has no anchors YET! (Route beta...take a hand drill and a couple of 5-inch bolts and make it a legit climb.) Look at *Supertopo* from the top of *Johnny Vegas* and look for the HUGE McDonald's arch not the skinny one that has my climb on it to see the route called *Going Nuts*.

Going Nuts beta: Tricams are your friends on pitch two. (I did not really ever DO pitch ONE)

Day four: Heather wants to do sport and get on hard stuff because she has not been challenged (yeah, right!). I want to miss my plane, have a true adventure and maybe even a REALLLLLLL epic. I am amped How do we do both?

Simple—*Unimpeachable Groping*. (Joanne has this route in her two latest books.) This aesthetic line goes up the east face of the Ginger Buttress and the first few moves off the ground are up a pine tree. The whole route is well bolted and you might take 18 draws and maybe a few tiny Aliens if you are lame like me. (I thought the crux move on each of pitch one and two was the last move before the anchors) We turned around to rap at 2 pm with the gnarly crux roof of pitch 4 staring at us. Jorge Urioste was 150 feet to our left working on a new route and he gave us the beta on how to do that roof. I am not sharing. He says pitches 4 thru 6 are sportier but NOT HARDER than the first three even though they are rated 10 plus and the first three 10.

At 67 and still climbing hard and living well, he is one of my heroes. We actually reached the car before complete dark and had time to hit a brewery with

Continued page 18

Lead Climbing School
Arizona Mountaineering Club
Spring 2005

This is an advanced climbing class. Even if you don't plan on leading, you will learn much about the dynamics of climbing, and it will make you a safer climber. Protecting a climb is a different skill from climbing itself. We will talk about the dynamics of lead falls, how to prepare for a climb, the differences between single-pitch and multi-pitch, and the differences between clipping bolts and placing natural pro. There will be no "true" lead climbs during the class, but we will provide simulated leading exercises.

Class curriculum:

Tue	Lecture, slide show: introduction, the lead fall, lead belaying, equipment
Wed	Lecture, slide show: equipment (continued); the process and techniques of leading
Thu	Lecture, slide show: multi-pitch techniques, descent, leader rescue, aid climbing
Sat	Hands-on practice: natural pro placement (Prescott)
Sun	Hands-on practice: leading on bolts (Prescott or Scottsdale)

Class schedule:

Feb 8	Tuesday	6:30 pm–9:30 pm	*Dreamy Draw Park
Feb 9	Wednesday	6:30 pm–9:30 pm	Dreamy Draw Park
Feb 10	Thursday	6:30 pm–9:30 pm	Dreamy Draw Park
Feb 12	Saturday	9:00 am–5:00 pm	Prescott (directions will be in syllabus)
Feb 13	Sunday	9:00 am–5:00 pm	Prescott or Scottsdale (directions will be in syllabus)

*Take SR 51 (Piestewa Peak Parkway) to Northern and turn east. This dead-ends at Piestewa Park. We will be at the big ramada next to the parking lot. Directions to the other locations will be given out then.

Experience required: Preferably, AMC Basic School and AMC Anchors School or equivalent experience. This includes knowing how to tie a variety of knots, belay, rappel, prusik and set anchors.

Cost: \$75 plus membership if not already a member (\$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family). Membership is good through Dec., 2005. Register by sending a check payable to AMC Lead School to 1654 W. Boston St, Chandler, AZ, 85224. No credit cards accepted. (Please note: the registration fee is fully refundable if you cancel.) Call Nancy Birdwell at 480-821-1932 or email lead.school@AzMountaineeringClub.org for more information. The number of students will be limited to 30.

Equipment required for the class:

The following will not be needed the first night. Listen to the gear lectures before making purchases.

1. All climbing gear (harness, prusiks, biners, etc.)
 2. Helmet—mandatory for all on-rock sessions
 3. Specifically needed:
 - 2 20' slings (untied length), preferably different colors
 - 2 10' slings (untied length), preferably different colors
 - 1 20' cordelette (20-foot length of 7 mm cord)
 - Nut pick
 - Quickdraws with biners—at least 5 per person
 - All pro that you own, which may include cams, hexes, wired nuts, Tri-cams, etc.
 - Consider combining with another person to have enough gear
 4. Hiking boots or shoes with stiff soles for Saturday, climbing shoes for Sunday
 5. Optional: kneepads for Saturday (\$3–6 at Home Depot, \$5 volleyball pads at sporting goods stores)
- For more information:** Visit the Arizona Mountaineering Club website at www.AzMountaineeringClub.org.

Basic Rock Climbing School
Arizona Mountaineering Club
Spring 2005

The Arizona Mountaineering Club (AMC) has been teaching basic rock climbing for over 35 years. We place maximum emphasis on safety and self-rescue. This is a beginning climbing class. We will teach you equipment care and usage, rope handling, climbing knots, belaying, rappelling, climbing techniques, and self-rescue. Enrollment fills up quickly, so don't delay; make a reservation to join us soon!

Class schedule (this is 2-week class):

Mar 8	Tuesday	5:30 pm–10:00 pm	*Havasupai Ramada, North Mountain Park
Mar 10	Thursday	6:00 pm–10:00 pm	Havasupai Ramada, North Mountain Park
Mar 12	Saturday	8:00 am–5:00 pm	North McDowell Mountains, Scottsdale
Mar 13	Sunday	8:00 am–5:00 pm	North McDowell Mountains, Scottsdale
Mar 15	Tuesday	6:00 pm–10:00 pm	TBA
Mar 17	Thursday	6:00 pm–10:00 pm	TBA
Mar 19	Saturday	all day	Various times, various places

*North Mountain Park is located at Peoria and 7th St, 5 miles north of Camelback on 7th St. Turn west into the park and look for the orange traffic cones imprinted "AMC" at Havasupai Ramada.

Experience required: None. Even if you have never climbed a tree before, this class is for you.

What is provided by the AMC:

- Technical climbing gear that will be used for the school (**and is yours to keep**): 1 belay/rappel device, 2 non-locking carabiners, 3 locking carabiners, 4 prusiks, one 5' sling (subject to change)
- Harness and helmet provided free by the AMC for the duration of the class if needed
- Basic climbing textbook
- Instruction through all phases of the class
- Discounts from local retailers on climbing gear

Equipment recommended for the class: You will wear a climbing harness at every class, so dress casually. Most sessions will be held outside, so watch the weather. Climbing shoes are recommended for the weekend sessions only. The AMC rents climbing shoes on a first-come, first-serve basis on the **second** night of class for \$10 for the class. We will discuss what to look for in a shoe on the first night of class.

Paperwork: You will be required to read, fill out and sign an AMC release of liability on the first night of class. Students under 18 must have the release signed by their parent or guardian (no students under 14 please; students 14-15 years of age must be accompanied by an older adult).

Class fee: \$160 plus membership if not already a member (\$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family). Membership is good through Dec., 2005.

Registration: The class is limited to 40 students. To reserve a spot, send a check for \$160 + membership cost (see Class Fee above) made out to AMC Basic School. Include your clearly printed name, address and current phone number(s). Mail to: AMC Basic School, 1025 E. Highland Ave., #26, Phoenix, AZ 85014. No credit cards accepted. If you have further questions, please call Slawa Ciula at 602-265-2661 or email at amcbasic-school@hotmail.com. (Please note: \$75 is a non-refundable deposit; the rest will be returned if you cancel. If someone else can be found to take your place, the entire \$160 will be refunded.)

For more information: Visit the Arizona Mountaineering Club website at www.AzMountaineeringClub.org

JTree, Moosedog Tower Ascents

Day after Thanksgiving, Mike Knarzer and I swung by AMC Short Wall top rope event to socialize and gathered some regular partners. We also gathered a couple of new AMC members and headed for Moosedog Tower, located in Indian Cove for some multi-pitch routes. The routes we selected were The Direct South Face 5.9 and Lucky Charms, a 5.7.

Mike Knarzer, myself and new member Marc Henning set out for The Direct South Face, a 5.9 *** two-pitch climb. The route starts out of the boulders at the base of the south face, in a prominent left-facing dihedral with an obvious roof capping it. Can't miss it...! Thanks to Mike's brute strength, smearing foot work and my yellow Alien we all got through the burly roof crux. Then fabulous climbing up the seriously featured face above took us to a bolted belay station.

Pitch 2: We climbed out of the alcove above the belay, taking the very obvious left-leaning crack (5.7+). After angling up and left, the crack goes vertical. We continued up past a belay notch in order to make this a two-pitch climb. A short face section of (5.6) leads up and left to gain the bottom of an easy crack leading to the summit ridge. If you lead this section you must stay close to the crack to place protection. Your second will have the luxury option to go far right once the protection is cleaned in order to enjoy some great 5.7+ face moves on the featured tower. Fun stuff...! Once on the ridge, run the rope via the easiest route across to the anchor bolts at the back of Moosedog. In this traverse section be sure to place gear to protect your second and sling liberally or you will be get a serious case of rope drag.

Luck Charms 5.7. Tim Lee of Flagstaff, AZ and Ryan Lee of St. Paul, MN took new member Courtney Barnes up Lucky Charms in two pitches. This route starts at a ramp about 50' below the notch going up a left-facing book just to the left of the The Direct South Face.

We all met on the top of Moosedog Tower at the same time for some camaraderie as we enjoyed the excellent views from the top. We simul-rappelled off the backside of Moosedog Tower with one 60-meter rope with a slippery figure 8, taught to me by our own famous Wayne Schroeter. Mike Knarzer cleaned the rappel anchor and joined us at the bottom for a photo shoot and a cold one. Another great climbing day!

- *Monica D. Miller*

Queen Creek—Letters Needed

In recent weeks, Friends of Queen Creek (FoQC) Steering Committee members have met with representatives of the Tonto National Forest, Sonoran Audubon Society and the Maricopa Audubon Society, Sen. John Kyle, Lori Faeth (Gov. Napolitano's Environment/Natural Resources Advisor), the Arizona Center for Law and Public Policy, and the Mayor and Board of Supervisors of Globe, Az. Many other phone contacts were made. We regularly consult with The Access Fund. We have upcoming presentations scheduled with the Tucson Audubon Society, The Arizona Center for Law and Public Policy, and the Arizona Native Plant Society.

The Board of Directors of the Access Fund will hold a regular meeting in Phoenix on February 26. A number of events, a party, a fundraiser, an outreach event and other meetings are being planned for that weekend. Details will be announced when firm. Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 26!

The Access Fund has engaged a professional mining engineer, with experience planning mines, to advise and consult the AF and FoQC. Some alternative mining methods were discussed that would preserve climbing access and yet still allow for responsible mining.

There are forces trying to falsely depict the climbing community as divided and in favor of compromise or a giveaway. Please make your opinion known, NOW!

The FoQC and the Access Fund are urging everyone, especially residents of the Arizona 1st Congressional District (Prescott, Flagstaff, Payson, Florence, Casa Grande, Winslow, most of NE Az) to write their representative, Rick Renzi, to urge him to oppose any legislative land swap. Also, please mention that you are not anti-mining, but are in favor of responsible mining techniques that will not destroy the surface area. You could mention that you are in favor of permanent public access to the Oak Flat area. Please write your concerns in your own words. Your letter does not have to be long, but it should be clear.

If you have friends that live in Renzi's district, please pass this message along to them and urge them to write a letter to: Representative Rick Renzi, 418 Cannon, House office Building Washington D.C. 20515-0301

Ask them, urge them, call them and remind them! The FoQC would appreciate it if you could send a copy of your letter to us at FoQC, P.O. Box 24435, Tempe, Az. 85258 ...or email to info@friendsofqueencreek.com.

More information at www.friendsofqueencreek.org. Please write a letter today!!

- *Clay Vollmer*

Mountaineering Outings Wanted!

Whereas for Rock Climbing outings where AMC Outings are activities generated by the approved list of Outing Leaders, AMC Mountaineering Outings occur within a different process that recognizes that mountaineering consists of a host of activities that relate to rock, snow and ice climbing in alpine settings. Some of those activities lie pretty low on a technical scale, e.g., most Colorado 14'ers, so pretty much anyone with background and experience in the mountains could reasonably lead them. In order to recognize the variability of Mountaineering Outings, the AMC Board in 1999 approved a policy that "matches" the technical difficulties of the proposed climb against the background and experience of the proposed Mountaineering Outing Leader.

In short, any and all members interested in offering a Mountaineering Outing submit a Mountaineering Outing Proposal to the Mountaineering Chair (MC). This form can be obtained from the current MC (write to: smorefil@aol.com (mailto:smorefil@aol.com)) and ask for one.

The form seeks information on the background and experience of the Proposed Mountaineering Outing Leader as well as information on the Proposed Mountaineering Outing.

Here are some key excerpts to give a sense of the information requested: (Note: This abbreviated listing leaves out many details and is presented herein for informational purposes only and does not substitute for the use of the appropriate AMC form.)

All outings, regardless of leader, must go through the proposal process. Offering an outing in the past does not constitute current approval. Each and every Mountaineering Outing must go through the approval process each time it is offered.

1. Trip Name:
2. Outing Leader:
3. Outing Description:
4. Technical Aspects:
5. Cost:
6. Hazards/Dangers/Medical Considerations:
7. Participant Qualifications:
8. Emergency Medical Aid:
9. Outside Services:
10. Leader Remuneration:

After the MC receives a correct and completed Mountaineering Outing Proposal form, he or she will review it to see if the information provided provides sufficient detail to make an evaluation of the trip and trip leader's qualifications. If the form is incomplete or inadequate, a request will be made for supplemental information.

Generally there should be evidence of:

1. A well thought out and researched proposed Mountaineering Outing.
2. A trip leader with a background and experience that matches the trip requirements and who has done a bunch of similar climbs in the past (you wouldn't want your wife, son or daughter going on a trip with someone who has never climbed a mountain, right?)

Here are a couple of points, just for example, that I as Mountaineering Chair would want to see:

If a backcountry ice climb during winter time was proposed, I would want to see that the Proposed Outing Leader has formal Avalanche Safety training. If they don't have it, they don't go.

If a Grade IV 5.6 alpine rock route was proposed, I would want to see that the Proposed Mountaineering Outing Leader has at least 5 prior successful ascents of similar Class and Grade climbs under his or her belt before taking AMC'ers. Mountains have such varied conditions that you need to have more than one experience in order to anticipate what might occur. No experience, no go.

And I want to see that they have been the leader independent of someone else (like a guide) who may have been in the role of making the serious decisions on the climbs provided as evidence of experience.

I suspect that if folks are being honest with themselves, they would hold nothing less as sufficient standards.

While this process constitutes some "gatekeeping" function, the good news is that we have a ton of folks out there doing personal Mountaineering around the world. If they ever feel like sharing that type of experience with others, please let me know and we'll try to find something appropriate to offer.

- Erik Filsinger, AMC Mountaineering Chair



Arizona Hiking Shack
11649 N. Cave Creek Rd.
Phoenix, AZ 85020
Phone: (602) 944-7723
www.hkingshack.com

We're located 1/8 mile south of Cactus
on Cave Creek Rd.

Three great reasons to shop at the Arizona Hiking Shack for all your climbing gear

1. The Arizona Hiking Shack has **IN STOCK** the largest selection of climbing gear in the Valley. Petzl, Metolius, Black Diamond, Misty Mountain, Omega, DMM, 5-10, Scarpa, La Sportiva, Yates, PMI, Sterling, 2-Cam, Climb Tech, Kong, Trango, Camp, Mammut, Boreal, Pica Mountaineering, and Trango are just a few of the brands we carry. If we don't have what you need in stock. . . we'll order it for you. . . with **FREE** shipping!

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.

Viva, Rock Vegas (cont. from page 9)

as soon as I could. I reassured him I was ok and would place a piece ASAP. I then began to notice that I had climbed a long way and was now running out of draws. The weather was also coming in.

I climbed up a bit further to a tiny ledge on this very Vertical route. Placed a #10 nut and then decided I could not finish the pitch with one quickdraw and the thought of making some others up with two prusik cords. I set a bomber anchor, yelled down to Tim to clean and rack the gear the way he wanted it on his way up. I told him we did not have much time as the rain clouds and fog gathered behind us. Tim arrived at the anchor, we looked at each other and I told him we must make the anchor bolts above quickly, as the rain was going to take us soon and the rock would be SLICK. The cold, dark black polished dihedral and huge roof looming above us was intimidating as we were facing bad weather conditions. Tim was quite brave and confident as he took off to finish the pitch. He began placing nuts as he was finding his way through the coke-bottle-polished rock. Now raindrops were setting in and the temperature suddenly dropped. I could see the clouds and fog coming to greet us. While on belay, I asked the good Lord to please give me a window to get off this climb. I remained faithful in that we would get that window, as my mind stayed focused. Then I heard, Monica, off belay..! Tim had quickly set up the anchor. I had several nuts to clean on the way up as they were set in concrete. Good thing I had my nut pick rather than my trad comb for this one...! (Inside joke for those that know me well)

When I arrived, Tim was glowing with joy. I saw a sparkle in his eyes as he looked up at the fourth pitch roof. I said I wanted it too. But we must abort the climb. He asked if we could hang out and enjoy the beauty of the mist and view before us. The scene as the weather and fog rolling in through the foliage and waterfalls below was spectacular...! I told Tim we must go, as I made a promise if we got a window. I would get off the route as soon as possible. We had three rappels before us with one rope. And we knew we must be very careful in getting off the third pitch rappel, as the rope might not take us to the ledge. I was the first rappeller, and the rope did not quite carry me to the second-pitch ledge. I placed the orange TCU, set a sling and downclimbed to the ledge. Tim followed. He came out of his rappel device pulled the cam as I spot-

ted him on the down climb. We pulled the rope hard from the right side and prayed for no tangles. Bingo, we got it and set the next rappel to pitch 1 anchors. On this last rappel be careful not to throw your ropes into the water pools below. The best solution, have the first rappeller rack the rope gunslinger style and make the descent.

Finally we were down, no problems and no regrets. As we prepared to hike out a light steady mist of rain followed us all the way to the trail head. A beautiful but wet experience we would not trade with anyone. When we reached the truck, we quickly sought dry clothing and cranked up the truck heater. Tim prepared our traditional crag snacks of peppered turkey breast slices, salami, hummus with cheese served on pita bread. Then we popped the top on some Coca Colas. I picked up my cell phone, which had messages from Mike and Scott, as they were worried about us in bad weather on the rock. We toasted to our wonderful trip success and great fortune to be partners in climb...!

- Monica D. Miller



Tiny ledge—dark shadows
Monica Miller

Heather and Marilyn (cont. from page 11)

Jorge and his partner in crime Geoffrey Conley. For *Unimpeachable Groping* park at the Oak Creek pullout in the park or at Pine Creek. Route finding, i.e., getting back to the car in the dark, can be tough so get your act together or hike with someone with a good sense of direction. Am I right, Jim Anglin????

Memos from the week:

Know your gear and don't trust even your long-term climbing partner to know everything. If something doesn't seem right, (rope length) check it out!

ALWAYS call for a late exit pass. At the park, you must use a pay phone or hope the your cell has reception. You get reception at the 215 and Charleston but you cannot count on it in the park.

Always take enough gear that a bivy out all night will not kill you. That means clothes, water, food if you are into eating, and a headlamp. Assume you are going to have an epic and you will not.

Have fun learning together and finding the perfect climbing partner that agrees with YOUR risk tolerance and safety demands. Makes for a wonderful time if you can find these elements which we did.

Well.....It just don't get much better than this. Must go back to do the entire route (*Unimpeachable Groping*) someday. JOIN ME??? Promise to get you out by midnight.

- Marilyn Geninati



First ascent of HMS Pinnacle
Marilyn Geninati

Queen Creek climbing area access issue Climb it? Or mine it?



Recreational access to the Queen Creek climbing area is being threatened by a copper mine that has been proposed by the Resolution Copper Company.

Resolution Copper is trying to take over Oak Flat campground via a congressionally legislated land swap, which in turn would threaten access to all these areas: Queen Creek Canyon, Apache Leap, Devils Canyon, Hackberry Canyon, etc.

We need your help to keep this world-class climbing area (and home of the Phoenix BoulderBlast) from disappearing forever into a big hole in the ground. Join the Friends of Queen Creek!

We are not opposed to mining. But we are FOR ACCESS! We need to make Resolution Copper develop their mine in such a way as to preserve recreational access to these public lands.

Be a Friend of Queen Creek. Act now to help preserve access to your public lands by subscribing to the Friends of Queen Creek FREE e-mail action list at info@friendsofqueencreek.com

www.friendsofqueencreek.com

The AMC is represented on the Steering Committee of Friends of Queen Creek.

Calendar of Events *(Continued from page 18)*

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.

Feb 19-21 **Beginning Ice Climbing and Avalanche Awareness.** Offered by Southwest Adventures in Durango, Colorado. \$205 to AMC members (\$150 for ice alone and \$55 for avalanche alone). Contact smorefil@aol.com for background info or email Nate at info@mtnguide.net directly to register.

Hart Route Update

On Halloween, Nick & Eve Hoffman and I (Rogil) went to climb the Hart Route to check out the bee situation. When we got there I got inspired & climbed the crack just right of the Hart Route instead. I did it as one 60 meter pitch to the bottom of the Hart Route's third pitch. There are chains lower down that would be good for the belay if you are using a 50 meter rope. The difficulty was the same as the Hart Route and was trad with a couple of bolts. I started the next pitch, checked on the bees and decided that they looked a little too healthy for us. After their attack on the two men earlier, I've decided they must be Africanized, so I didn't want to push my luck. I set a rap from the two bolts below the bee hive and rapped to the two previously mentioned chains. We did a two rope rap from there to the ground and ran away.

With cold weather this route will be doable in the mornings before the bees thaw out, just remember to wear white.

Dues Paying Time Again

Need to refresh your dues by January in order to vote and participate in '05 AMC activities. The tab is \$25 for an individual or \$30 for a family. If you can't pay at a meeting, mail your check to:

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

Zen-Lizard Systems Presents

X-Chalk

The world's first rock climbing chalk that soothes hot and ripped up fingers—as you climb! Also helps heal cuts and scratches. All natural—no chemicals. Available at the Phoenix Rock Gym, Climbmax, the Arizona Hiking Shack, and online at:

<http://www.zen-lizard.com>



Calendar of Events

AMC Outings

Participation in 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.

Feb 8 **Lead School.** Feb 8,9,10,12,13. See page 12

Feb 19 **Superstition Ridgeline Hike.** Very strenuous hike. Experienced hikers only. Contact Rogil at Rogil.S@Honeywell.com or 623-512-8465 before Feb. 12.

Mar 8 **Basic School** March 8,10,12,13,15,17,19. See page 13

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 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) 512-8465

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 AMC 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

(Continued on page 17)

Outing Leaders

Requirements for becoming a leader: take the Basic, Anchors 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 Larimer at (480) 425-9689.

Tom Conner	480-897-7623	David Larimer	480-425-9689	Rogil Schroeter	623-512-8465
Erik Filsinger	602-906-1186	Sally Borg Larimer	480-425-9689	Wayne Schroeter	602-402-1631
Jeff Hatfield	480-897-1750	Tim Medlock	719-494-1171	Jef Sloat	602-316-1899
Scott Hoffman	623-580-8909	Jeff Nagel	602-318-9538	Mick Strole	520-856-3335
Richard Horst	623-434-4769	Paul Norberg	602-808-9244	Rick Taylor	623-487-8507
David Johnson	623-486-7387	Paul Paonessa	602-493-7356	Frank Vers	480-947-9435
John Keedy	623-412-1452	Chris Query	602-323-5927	Tim Ward	602-212-1929
Tim Lange	480-598-9124	Tim Schneider	480-497-8377		

February 2005

AMC Outing Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1	2 <i>Sunrise 7:24 Sunset 6:01 M-rise 1:11a Last Quarter</i>	3	4	5	
6	7	8 Lead School, Dreamy Dr <i>New Moon</i>	9 Lead Sch. <i>Sunrise 7:18 Sunset 6:08 M-set 7:17p</i>	10 Lead School, Dr. Draw Park	11	12 Lead School, Prescott	
13 Lead School, TBA	14	15 <i>1st Qtr Moon</i>	16 <i>Sunrise 7:11 Sunset 6:14 M-set 1:45a</i>	17	18	19 Superstition Ridge line Hike	
20	21	22	23 <i>Sunrise 7:03 Sunset 6:20 M-rise 6:04p Full Moon</i>	24	25	26 Access Fund Meeting	
27	28	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 0 auto;"> Celestial events occur about 10 minutes earlier on Arizona's eastern border; 10 later on its western edge. </div>					

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