

The Arizona Mountaineer

June 2012



Baboquivari Summit à la
Forbes Route
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Photos & Story:
Dave Cameron



The Arizona Mountaineering Club

Meetings: The member meeting location is:

Granite Reef Senior Center
1700 North Granite Reef Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85257

The meeting time is 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

Check Calendar for date.

Board Meetings: Board meetings are open to all members and are held two Mondays prior to the Club meeting.

Dues: Dues cover January through December. A single membership is \$30.00 per year: \$35.00 for a family. Those joining after June 30 pay \$15 or \$18. 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 for information on schedules and classes.

For More Information:

Website:

www.amcaz.org

Mail:

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Bill Fallon	602-996-9790
Vice-President	John Gray	480-363-3248
Secretary	Kim McClintic	480-213-2629
Treasurer	Curtis Stone	602-370-0786
Director-2	Eric Evans	602-218-3060
Director-2	Steve Crane	480-812-5447
Director-2	Cheryl Beaver	cherylbeaver@cox.net
Director-2	Douglas Matson	
Director-1	Daniel Gonzales	602 550-08371

COMMITTEES

Archivist	Jef Sloat	602-316-1899
Classification	Nancy Birdwell	602-770-8326
Climbing Shoe		
Rental	Linda Locke	602-371-9300
Elections	John Keedy	623-412-1452
Equip. Rental	Bruce McHenry	602-952-1379
Email	Curtis Stone	602-370-0786
Land Advocacy	Erik Filsinger	smorefil@aol.com.
Co-Chair	John Keedy	623-412-1452
Librarian	David McClintic	602-885-5194
Membership	Rogil Schroeter	623-512-8465
Mountaineering	Bruce McHenry	602-952-1379
Newsletter	Cheryl Beaver	cherylbeaver@cox.net
Outings	Dave McClintic	602-885-5194
Programs	Kim McClintic	480-213-2629
Technology	Steve Crane	480-812-5447
Trng & Schools	Bill Fallon	602-996-9790
ORC	Bill Fallon	602-996-9790
anchors	Eric Evans	602-218-3060
Lead	Mike Knarzer	602-751-1701

The AMC Land Advocacy Committee: The Committee works to maintain public access to climbing areas. If you know of areas that are threatened with closures or climbing restrictions, please notify the Land Advocacy representative Erik Filsinger at smorefil@aol.com.

Newsletter: The Arizona Mountaineer is published monthly by the AMC. The newsletter depends on contributions from its members so PLEASE send us your articles, gear reviews and/or photos.

Digital photos should preferably be in JPG format and 300 dpi. Articles can be in any standard word processing format.

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. Contact Dave McClintic at 602-885-5194 about billing. All ads are to be submitted to the newsletter committee by the 1st of the month prior to the month to be published.

Submit items for publication and direct any questions through email to Susan at SHarnage@aol.com. All submissions are subject to approval by the AMC newsletter committee: Cheryl Beaver, Tracy Fleming, Susan Harnage, and Jutta Ulrich.

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 Nancy Birdwell at (602) 770-8326.

<u>Outing Leader</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>
Eric Evans	602-218-3060 eae100@yahoo.com
Bill Fallon	602-996-9790 bill.fallon@cox.net
Erik Filsinger	smorefil@aol.com
Jason Garvin.....	480-734-6801 beach_bum43@hotmail.com
John Keedy.....	623-412-1452 jwkeedy@cox.net
Mike Knarzer	602-751-1701 thrashndangle@gmail.com
David McClintic.....	602-885-5194 david.mcclintic@cox.net
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Frank Vers	480-947-9435 climbros@gmail.com
Justin York.....	480-229-8660

Treasurer's Report

Arizona Mountaineering Club Income Statement Period Ended April 2012

INCOME

Advertising	0.00
Dues	3190.04
Grants Received	0.00
Interest	0.00
Mountaineering Schools	600.00
Rental Income	20.00
AARS Fall	0.00
AARS Spring	945.00
Basic Fall	0.00
Basic Spring	3380.00
Lead Fall	0.00
Lead Spring	570.00
Training Other	0.00
Other	5.00

TOTAL INCOME	8,710.04
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EXPENSES

Admin	694.12
Promotional	0.00
Bank chgs	216.85
Capital Expenditures	0.00
Equipment Maintenance	0.00
Grants Expended	0.00
Insurance	0.00
Land Advocacy Committee	0.00
Library	0.00
Newsletter	416.20
Outings	72.36
Outing Leaders	265.00
Programs Monthly Meeting	286.86
Training	5,223.59

TOTAL EXPENSES	7,174.98
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OVERALL TOTAL	1,535.06
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Discount Directory

These merchants offer a discount to AMC members:

- **Arizona Hiking Shack** - 3244 E. Thomas Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85018, (602) 944-7723 www.hikingshack.com. 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. 10% off membership.
- **Climbmax Gym** - 1330 W Auto Dr, Suite 112, Tempe, AZ 85284 - 480-626-7755. 10% off membership.
- **Phoenix Rock Gym** - 1353 E. University, Tempe, AZ 85281. 480-921-8322. 10% off membership.
- **TUFA Gear Shop** - Located at these gyms: AZ on the Rocks, PRG, Climbmax, & Ape Index. 10% discount.

July Newsletter Submission Deadline: June 1st

Rental Equipment

<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>\$Dep</u>	<u>1-3day</u>	<u>4-7day</u>
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
Avalanche Kit (probe & Shovel)	2	10	5	8
Curved Ice Tools (pair)	2	40	20	35

Contact Bruce McHenry for information on how to rent AMC equipment. (602) 952-1379

Climbing Shoes are also available to rent.
Contact Linda Locke (602)-371-9300

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Library

The AMC has a library available to members. Dave McClintic, our librarian, has been working on a way to share the list of books online.

To check out the work in progress, go to:

<http://www.myhomelibrary.net/share.php?un=AMC&pc=1242>

The passcode to access the library is : 2421

For inquiries, email Dave at david.mcclintic@cox.net.

June Birthdays

Stormy Rose 3, Tyler Sharp 3,
John Kadylak 5, Nancy Birdwell 8,
Eric Evans 11, Anne Tian 11,
Steven Crane 18, Karol Harvey 21,
Jennifer Spantak 22, Brian Park 25,
Chelsea Beechel 26, Tiina Perlman 30,
Karla Sharp 30

Welcome New Members

Kayla Burd,
Larry Goodwin, Steve Scalzo

Congratulations Anchors Students!

Students

Chelsea Beechel, Vicki Engbrecht, Frank Fischer, Lynn Folden, Larry Goodwin,
Michael Inzano, Michael Mendoza, Brian Park, Kevin Pugh, Steve Scalzo,
Jerry Smit, Angela Storey, Anne Tian, Laura Wilfong

Instructors

Eric Evans

Ronald Auerbach, Cheryl Beaver, Katie Beaver, Nancy Birdwell,
David Cameron, Mark Christiani, Thad Colgrove, Chris Curtis, Bill Fallon,
John Farrell, Daniel Gonzales, John Gray, Vinay Hanumaiah, Mike Knarzer,
Michael Lust, Gary Martinez, Douglas Matson, Erin Matson, Christopher Novick,
Paul Paonessa, Elaine Quigley, Rogil Schroeter, Curtis Stone,
Gavin Storey, Diane Taulborg, Kelly Trainor

Note: Timezone Wall

Just wanted to update everyone on some developments out at Timezone Wall. A new trail from the boat ramp to the dam has been developed by a group called Boys to Men. The new trail shortens the approach to Timezone Wall to 5-10 minutes. ~ Curtis Stone

AMC Board Minutes - May 7, 2012

1. Call to Order: 7:01 PM Board Members present: Bill Fallon, John Gray, Curtis Stone, Cheryl Beaver, Eric Evans, Douglas Matson, Steven Crane. Committee Chair: Erik Filsinger. Members present: Paul Paonessa, Gia Solorio.
2. Minutes of last months meeting were approved as published in the May newsletter.
3. Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved. The report will be published in the June newsletter.
4. Committee Reports:
 - a. Membership: 222. The Board plans to send out postcards for membership renewal reminders.
 - b. Programs:
 - i. The April program: The Refuge at Lower Devil's Canyon was given by David Sampson and Arjen Heimsath. Thanks, guys!
 - ii. The May program will be given by Kevin Cherilla, former AMC member and director of K2 Adventures. Kevin is a mountaineer and has been on expeditions in 20 countries.
 - iii. The June program will be held at PRG. The annual Climb and Gear Swap. Club members with dues paid will get in for free. Erik Filsinger will extend an invitation to the local chapter of the AAC (June 25)
 - iv. Board members expressed desire to bring in a big name climber.
 - c. Outings/Activities:
 - i. Upcoming: Alpine Snow Skills Class/Mountaineering Outing-Memorial Weekend (Bruce McHenry). Bill to confirm this with Bruce.
 - ii. Recent Past:
 1. Anchors School April 10, 12, 14, 15 (Eric Evans, lead)
 2. Timezone Wall: April 28 (Curtis Stone lead)
 - d. Land Advocacy:
 - i. QCC has signed a temporary license with Resolution Copper making it legal to climb in the areas that are private property owned by Resolution Copper, such as The Pond and Atlantis.
 - ii. McDowell Sonoran Preserve: Climber Access. The city is requesting assistance with climber paths. This would include input on the locations of paths, trail building, and trail maintenance.
 - e. T & S: Jeff Watkins expressed a willingness to design a new flyer for the rock climbing schools. Board members discussed the importance of increasing promotion (publicity) for the schools.
 - f. Newsletter Committee: no changes. They are receiving pictures and articles; keep them coming.
 - g. Technology Committee: Curtis distributed a draft for club email procedure. Board members are to review the procedures before the next meeting.

AMC Board Minutes - May 7, 2012 (cont)

5. New Business:

- a. Trail Project Proposal: Paul Paonessa presented a proposal for an AMC-sponsored climber trail maintenance project in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. He is working with the City of Scottsdale staff to evaluate alternative projects and make a selection. Tentatively there will be an event in the fall.
- b. J. Tree: Curtis Stone will be the outing leader. Tiina Perlman and Cathy Wise are assisting with organization. Campsite reservations will be made for Wed through Saturday night.
- c. Desert Sun Academy Elementary School Climbing Club: the school contacted AMC via Meet.up regarding possible climbing instruction assistance. The board agreed to move forward with discussions, with the understanding that parents would join AMC and that any activities would utilize existing AMC procedures.

6. Old Business:

- a. T-Shirt orders: Cheryl and Curtis will look into T-Shirts with the new design. The two winning designs will be offered, as well as a variety of shirt designs, including women's T's.
- b. Arno Ilgner: We will continue to pursue having Arno to speak at a member meeting and/or run a workshop for AMC in the Fall.
- c. Club Documents: Bill Fallon, with assistance from Erik Filsinger, is working to update the set of club By-Laws, Policies, and Procedure documents on the website to bring them up-to-date with changes that have been approved by the board over the last several years. Numerous changes, as reflected in published board minutes going back as far as 2005 have been identified as missing in the set of documents currently located on the website.
- d. John Gray is working with a representative of the Grand Canyon Park to get the Grand Clean Up set up. Reservations for Soshone Point must be made a year in advance.

7. The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Kim McClintic, club secretary.



AMC thanks Rockford Corporation for the use of their facilities for board meetings. Rockford is a local maker and distributor of high-end audio components for cars, trucks and boats.

JUNE MEMBER MEETING

AMC SWAP MEET

Monday, June 25, 2012

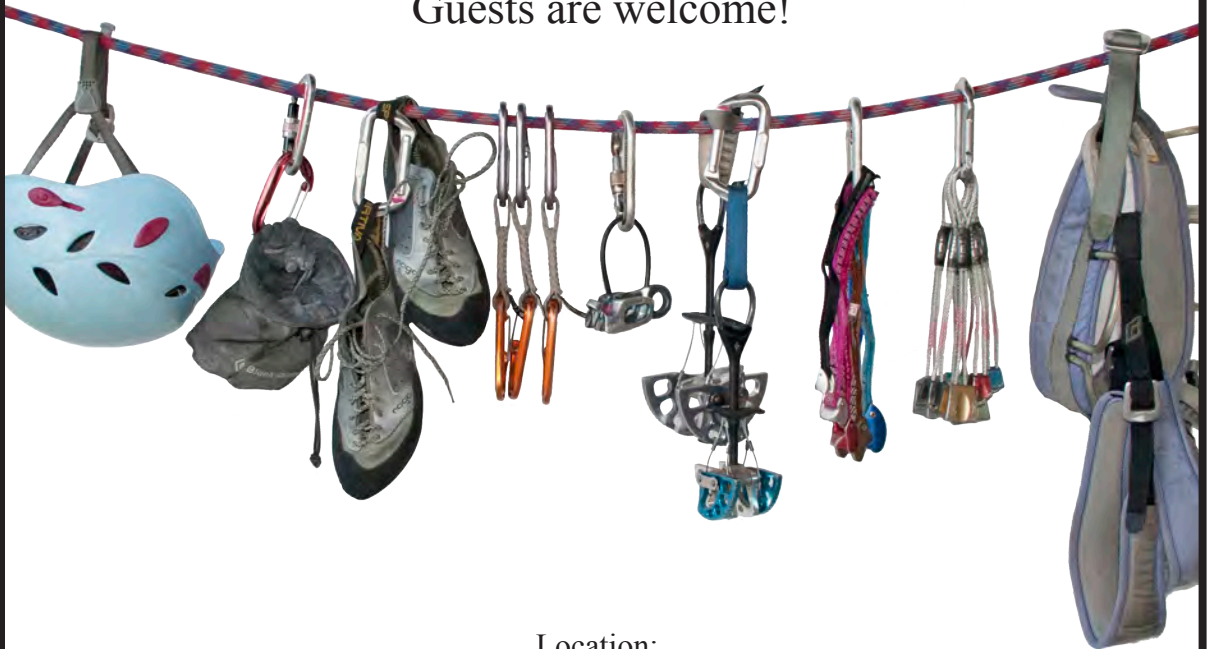
7:00pm -9:00pm

at the Phoenix Rock Gym

**Bring Gear to Sell or Swap
or Come to Shop**

Free Admission & Climbing
for AMC Members

Guests are welcome!



Location:

Phoenix Rock Gym, 1353 E. University, Tempe

For more information call Kim McClintic at (480) 213-2629

McDowell Crags Series

One For The Road

Up and left of the popular Sven Slab climbs is a great little area that sees much less travel. The classic two-pitch climb, One for the Road, is the hallmark climb, but the others are also worth the effort, especially for someone practicing trad leading whether it's getting the feel back or just learning how to handle oneself on the sharp end. The second pitch of One for the Road takes you to the top of the Sven Slab hill and is worth the trip in itself.

The area is approached by hiking to the base of Sven Slab and then keeping the rocks as a right hand rail move around climbers' left and contour up and around the steeper rocks through a more or less defined path to the base of the routes. Keep looking around for the best path, which some times can seem like you are moving down and pretty far left. That is probably the right way, although you should keep the rock formation in view as you will approach it finally by climbing directly up boulders and pathways from the east heading due west.

One note of caution to mention up front is that this crag area has a large Africanized Bees nest about 30 feet directly below the top of pitch one of One for the Road just above a prominent boulder in the gully. Most climbers can make all the way up One for the Road, but it will take a strong stomach (and some luck) to sneak by the patrolling bees. It is possible to head up and left to clip the last bolt on Crawl of the Wild and stay sufficiently away from the bees.

There are four defined routes available. Moving from left to right (numbered 1 through 4 on the map):



McDowell Crags Series (cont)

Crawl of the Wild, 5.4. 30 meters. Start on a platform just up and left of One for the Road. In general this route follows the arête and chute left of One for the Road. There are a handful of bolts, as well as trad placement opportunities. The bolts appear to have been placed to provide protection for climbers wishing to stick pretty much to the arête itself rather than the low angle right facing dihedral further to climbers' left. Note: the two-bolt anchor at its top is also the best rap line if you do not wish to scramble down.

One for the Road, 5.6. Two pitches. First pitch – 40 meters. Climb up and into the obvious right leaning hand crack. You can sew this climb up, so it is a great climb for someone honing/regaining their trad leading skills. Most folks end this pitch at the tree on the major ledge system. It has slings and a quick link for rapping, but it probably would be best practice to use the rap line available on Crawl of the Wild. (or scramble down as described below). The second pitch of One for the Road is a great climb and too frequently missed. Starting behind the tree, climb up steeply initially and then bend right around and underneath the prominent rock horn. Follow up the right face. As I recall there used to be a fixed pin or two in this section that I believe are now missing, so it may feel a little run out. Place pro when you can. To return to the major ledge system at the top of the other climb and the top pitch of One for the Road you will need to scramble down climb climbers' left from the boulders at the very top of the hill. It is a bit tricky in places with some big down steps but is doable and once you start down it makes quite a bit of sense. You'll end up about 20 feet left of the starting point for this pitch.

Left Chute, 5.4. 40 meters. The left hand of the two options on the east facing slab. Climb up past a crack, clip a bolt, and run the climb out between trad placements. It ends on the ledge that runs all the way from Crawl of the Wild over to Right Chute. The anchor is bolted. (Due to the relative proximity in the top third of the climb to the bees, this is probably a cold weather climb.) Hike off climbers' left and either rap or down climb.

Right Chute, 5.4. 40 meters. Scramble down and over right to the start of the climb under the right hand slab. Clip a bolt and use mostly horizontal gear placements. It's pretty low angle and some folks practice balancing on feet and finger tips. Trad anchor on the major ledge system. Walk off climbers' left and rap or down climb.

Descent. As mentioned above, once on the ledge system at the top of the first pitch of all of the climbs, it is possible simply to walk over to climbers' left and rap from the anchor at the top of Crawl of the Wild. The rappel is exactly 30 meters to the platform at the base of the climb above and left of the start of One for the Road so it is possible to rap easily with one full 60 meter line. It is also possible to down climb this pitch either in the right facing dihedral to the left of Crawl of the Wild or further to climber's left down a boulder chute. If you topped out on the second pitch of One for the Road down climb as described for the route above.

One for the Road Area is a great climbing alternative with an easy approach that provides some tranquility in its setting overlooking the McDowell Regional Park.

Enjoy!

Submitted by Erik Filsinger

Queen Creek Clean-up

“ The Perfect Day to Pick up Trash !”

We had our semiannual Queen Creek Clean Up and Climb event on April 7th. With 21 people to pick up trash and 7 to set up climbs- it went very smoothly!

You know every perfect day temperature starts with a little cool morning, and that what it was! We have done this 10 yrs and this is the first time it was never too hot, never too cold- like California! I guess it's good that it's not always like that, otherwise I would quit working and live for climbing, and everyone else would do it too!!! So, with a perfect day we picked up 20 bags of trash (which me, John & Emily had been carefully tossing out last 6 months - just kidding!)

Then we headed to Pancake House for climbing and so far no one had got lost or hit by a car! (I think because they all wanted to go eat that perfect and famous Pancake - right?) So, we got there and there it was: David McClintic our OL with his right hand helps had set up a load full of climbs between 5.7 to 5.11b, to keep us all happy and busy and sore afterward! Thank you to David & Kim McClintic, Frank Vers, Noah Vers, Cheryl Beaver, Douglas & Erin Matson! After we all had enough of “Pancakes”, most of us headed for Superior to delicious Mexican Dinner served by a sweet waitress.

Thanks to all of you for serving our community and picking up trash: Katie Beaver, Bill Fallon, John Gray, Angela Storey, Debbie Standal, Brian Park, Mark Christiani, Chris Novick, Gavin Storey, Justin Getelman, Jerry Smit, Scott Kuchman, Murthy Tata, Curtis Stone, Gary Martinez, Chris Curtis, Ted Zarbock and Robert England. (I am sorry if I spelled some of your names wrong, but I tried my best from the sign in sheet)

This Perfect Trash and Climb day marked 10 yrs ago when we met here; John and me- Tiina. John gave me a trash bag and later that day we tied a knot -to climb - I think that was another perfect day, and over a year later we got married! Can it be more perfect than that?!

So for the last 9 yrs we have been running this Clean Up Event, and it's always as exciting and important to come back, serve the community, meet with great people and restore the memories, thank you to all of you who participated in all the last years!!!

See Ya here next time - Tiina , John and Emily Perlman.



*The clean-up crew.
photo: Robert England*



*CW from Top: 1) Angela Storey, Bill Fallon, Erin Matson, Douglas Matson, and John Gray. 2) Frank Vers with his son Noah. 3) David McClintic OL giving high knuckle to Cheryl Beaver. 4) after climb dinner at Los Hermanos in Superior
photos: Tiina Perlman*

Baboquivari Summit à la Forbes Route

An unsolicited contact appealing for support in satisfying a life-list of peaks goal prompted Rogil to set up a trek to one of Arizona's prized southern summits: Baboquivari Peak, about 20 miles north of Sasabe, AZ (photo 1). We chose to approach from the east and use the Forbes Route to summit. The trip involves a hike to a saddle, then continuing up the primary mountain, eventually including three pitches of climbing (reportedly YDS 5.3 max.), before a final, brushy scramble for the summit. We reached the summit successfully on 2012 April 21.

Accessing the peak from the east side eliminated possible reservation issues, while the Forbes Route offers a desirable three pitches for our climbers and provides an excellent introduction to the area. I did some homework using both Todd Martin's and Tyler Williams' writings on this peak, plus additional map/GPS efforts.

Most of us set out Friday afternoon, meeting in south Phoenix on our way to pick up Rick in the Tucson area. There were no issues with the drive. Rogil, Rick and I were in one car with Cheryl and Jutta in another. The map/GPS work made navigating to the camp and trailhead areas a straightforward task. The road in is rough in places:

high clearance is a must. We went first to the trailhead to check out the initial part of the trail before returning back down the road a ways to the landowner-preferred camping area. Nick left Phoenix later and arrived after dark (we watched his headlights for quite a while as he came up Thomas Canyon).

A sign prohibits camping closer than about 1 km from the locked gate at the trailhead. There are a couple of decent spots by that sign; we were very satisfied in the one atop a small rise to our left on the way in.

Rogil wisely insisted on an alpine start and we began hiking just after 05h00. The trail leads past the ranch area and up the drainage. Eventually it abandons the canyon bottom to switchback up the side hill. While we generally had no problems following the treadway, we did have a minor delay when one of us inadvertently got off trail. As the day dawned, the light changed and we were treated to a variety of illuminations of and perspectives on the peak while we advanced toward the saddle and a short break.

From the col, the beta said to take the trail heading west and go up to the wall and then up and along the base of the wall. We did, and wrapped up and around the north side of the mountain. The trail approaches the wall through a forest of local oak trees and zigzags



Photo 1: Baboquivari Peak as viewed looking NNW up Thomas Canyon.



Photo 2: Cheryl on lead for the first pitch.

Baboquivari Summit à la Forbes Route (cont)

its way up and across the side the mountain. At times we seemed to have lost the trail, but found it again. It was longer and took us more time than we thought it should, but eventually we broke out onto a more rocky area. Coming into the open and seeing the first climbs' landmark 'gunsight notch' feature immediately ahead was a welcome bit of positive reinforcement. Up to this point there had been only hiking and very modest scrambling.

Near the base of the first climb we cached water, hiking poles, hiking shoes, etc. Having geared up for climbing we then scrambled up a loose approach into the notch under a chockstone, to the base of the first climb. It's a very short pitch with a couple different options: either up through a tunnel under the chockstone or around it rock-right. Cheryl led up about 25 feet through the tunnel (photo 2), placing one small nut to the left along the way, and I followed. It was a challenge to get up through the tunnel with a pack.

The area immediately above the first pitches' belay station has some quite loose areas; as I scrambled up I knocked a few rocks loose, sending everyone below scrambling. Jutta apparently made a nosedive for the wall to avoid being hit and gave her nose a scrape – not good, but it was to prove the worst injury of the day.

Nick followed quickly after and brought up the second rope. He then stayed behind and belayed others, while Cheryl and I advanced to locate the bottom of the second pitch. Following the beta we headed up and to the right along the wall. The 'bulging face' attribute of this climb made it pretty easy to recognize that we were in the right spot, but the line up was not as obvious.

As we prepared, Rick showed up and helped manage the rope at the base. Cheryl started out and placed four or five pieces as she went up (Aliens and Tricams). I yelled up to her that, based on the amount of rope on the ground, she should probably be approaching the belay station. She had only advanced a short distance further when she found it... guess she picked the right line. I followed and cleaned again.

The anchor placement at the top of the second pitch is just left of a small dished out area in the wall and allows for a good stance. It is not poorly selected, but the climber must continue up beyond the hangers essentially on the same slope and with the same exposure they had been at while climbing. Most of our climbers opted to go 'on lead' above the belayer for perhaps 25 feet before getting "off belay". Base to anchors, our best estimate is that this was a 150 foot pitch, compared to the beta of 120 feet. We used a climbing rope in combination with a 100 foot pull cord to facilitate this climb.

A word on technique here: We were using two, 60m ½ ropes and climbing on a single strand at very modest levels (YDS 5.2 to 5.3). Our approach to multiple climbers was to have the belayer work the belay station with the very top end of the rope. The following climber would tie into the rope not at the end, but along the length where it rested at the base of the climb. We employed an alpine butterfly and a pair of locking biners for the harness attachment. To the following end of the primary rope (trailing below the climber) we tied a 6mm pull chord (if necessary), allowing us to pull back the rope to



Photo 3. Cheryl at the second pitch belay station.

Baboquivari Summit à la Forbes Route (cont)

its full extent for each successive climber. Obviously this only works on climbs like these that have essentially unobstructed retrieval paths for the ropes' return. Nonetheless, we did it without a hitch (so to speak) on all three pitches even while leaving the butterfly and a biner in place during the return. It is a good iterative method where it can be used: rapidly resetting for the next climber and allowing the lead members to move ahead to the next pitch as soon as the second primary rope is brought up.

The top of the second pitch is where you really start getting the feeling of being "up there" and the views to the N and W are impressive! Photo 3 shows Cheryl at the belay station with a fine backdrop. It's a good safe spot with plenty of room to move about and sample the scenery before moving on.

True to beta, the route to the third pitch again started up and to the right. The path follows the rock wall, almost traversing amongst the trees, eventually opening to a less vegetated area with a small basin above. This basin is the start of the 'ladder' pitch, so called because the remnants of an old ladder are still in place.

Once more Cheryl led and I belayed. She placed several pieces, took advantage of one old ¼" bolt with equally aged hanger, a nice new bolt/hanger combo, and girth hitched a sling on one of the ladder brackets on her way up-and-right to the anchors. A fine new anchor arrangement was there with chains, creating a belay station just to the left of a tree that sticks out of the wall. It offers a good stance, although you're competing with some old steel brackets at your feet. Because the lead-line and the general climb-line was longer than the rap line, we used a 50 foot pull cord on this pitch to assure rope retrieval to the base.

When I arrived at the top of the third pitch I noted that the route immediately requires a traverse to the right across the top of a chute that leads directly back down into the climbing route, having no intervening features to arrest a fall. I promptly set up a line from the tree to the solid base of another bush to assist our climbers safely across this gap of approximately 15 feet. I highly recommend adding this to your 'to-do' activities at this point. Actually, a quality 30 foot line directly off the anchors, run under the tree and over to that bush or another safe attachment point to the right would be the best bet – that way the ascending climber could just clip their personal anchor into the traverse line at the belay station and move directly over in safety. The traverse is not technically difficult, but is somewhat awkward in working around the tree and the consequences are likely catastrophic.



Photo 4. Babo summiteers. Left to right: Dave, Jutta, Rogil, Nick, Cheryl, and Rick.

Continuing above the third pitch involves a short upclimb then another traverse to a ravine. The route runs up the ravine, but it is blocked by a large chockstone that is immediately on your left as you enter the gully. Most of us climbed the rock-left margin of the chockstone – pretty good feet and some nice handholds if you take the time to find them. Cheryl went up (and later down) the rock-right side.

Above the chockstone is a relatively loose gully with hike/scramble options that transitions to a small basin before leading up and left along the rock wall. You're clearly not at the top yet, but you're getting darn close. A short stint through the 'shrubby', then more open areas on fairly distinct trails takes you up and around until you finally top out at 7730 feet, nominally 3300 feet

Baboquivari Summit à la Forbes Route (cont)

above the trailhead.

WOW! All the hype about views from the summit is TRUE!!! Amazing place. We stopped and admired the small monument there, added our names to the summit register, snacked, took photos, relaxed briefly, and attempted to absorb the incredible vistas (which my camera cannot do justice to). We were delighted to have successfully summited: photo 4 shows our group by the monument. Rick added a Mazamas neckerchief and pin to the tributes at the peak (photo 5). At this point we were roughly at the 7 hour mark from our start. Knowing this, we did not tarry long.

Shortly after we left the summit we encountered a group of 6 climbers ascending (actually they'd come up the W side and caught up to our groups' last members at the bottom of the 3rd pitch). We re-entered the gully and continued down (photo 6). At the top of the 3rd pitch we met up with what would become another group of six climbers on ascent.

Interesting crew at that spot, I don't recall seeing any helmets. They indicated that an individual had indeed died in a fall from the top of that very chute... Hmmm. Then their belayer crossed over without using the readily available traverse line and managed to slip at the last step, causing some sharp uptakes in breath amongst the observers.

Rogil had set our rap line through the chains as the last of their climbers topped out.



Photo 5. Rick places a Mazamas neckerchief on the monument.



Photo 6. On the way down – our descent near the top of the gully above the third pitch.

The rap essentially consumed the full, doubled length of our 60m rope, making it a 100 foot rappel off the chains (beta said 70 feet).

We returned to the top of the second pitch where the second rope had remained tied into the anchors. A handline was rigged to assist descent to the belay/rap station for added security. I started rigging the rap anchor with a sling and rap-ring combo, and Jutta joined me to complete the other side. I set a biner-block at the rap-ring with an appropriate length of rope out (those canyoneering techniques do work well). Nick then joined us to throw the rope and be the first customer for the single rope rap. Jutta and I followed. There was enough loose material about above that the other three waited for us to completely clear the lower area before descending to the anchors and converting to a

Baboquivari Summit à la Forbes Route (cont)

conventional two rope rap. This went well and without incident.

Nick, Jutta and I waited in the safe area above the first pitch rap and had a chance to relax and get a snack. It was a nice break. When the other climbers arrived most of us continued our wait above before sequencing down to the first pitch's anchors for the short rap. The climb through the tunnel may have been about 25 feet, but the rap was somewhat longer because we rappelled rock right around the outside of the chockstone and the landing area was below the level where we had started the climb. Again we had difficulty with loose rock while getting to the anchors and more than once dislodged debris. YIKES! Be VERY careful up here! Makes one kind of Babo-quivery just thinking about it. It's also a good thing that well-merited expletives don't trigger additional rockfall.

Ahhhhh, climbing gear and shoes off, hiking shoes on, restock water, and hit the trail back to the saddle. No problem. A short break there, then simply head down on the same trail we came up on.... BUT, somehow we managed to find ourselves off trail not long after we left the saddle. We scouted various ways up and back and dithered a bit. Eventually this challenge was resolved when we noted a group of 4 hikers coming UP the trail toward the saddle. A movement of 30 to 50 meters down and right put us on the trail by them and, having re-established our correct path to the ranch, the cars, and CAMP, we were off again.

The remainder of the hike was uneventful (except maybe for spotting a beautiful rattlesnake as we entered the canyon bottom) and we progressed reasonably quickly to the cars. As we finished Rick remarked that we had taken 13 hours, 'plus change' for our hike/climb. Rough estimate: we probably had an hour 'plus change' of unintended delays along the way.

Nick and Jutta, opting to return to PHX that very night, packed up quickly and departed. Rick, Cheryl, Rogil and I camped again – and a glorious night it was (at least after the gnats went to bed). Special thanks to Cheryl for providing celebratory beverages!

We were all elated at having summited essentially without incident. Sixteen other hikers and climbers were encountered on the crag (one of them remarked it was a busy day on Babo); they clearly exhibited a wide range of experience/expertise. Beta was generally good, but we did find pro useful and desirable. We'd suggest small to medium nuts, Aliens and Tricams to #2, with six to eight trad draws to complement the mini-rack. The pitch length on both upper climbs we found to be about 30 feet longer than beta had indicated.

Participants in this exploit were Rogil Schroeter (organizer), Rick Craycraft, Jutta Ulrich, Cheryl Beaver, Nick Hoffman, and myself. Rick had contacted Rogil over two years ago looking for assistance in completing peaks on his AZ to-do list: this trip was part of the successful culmination of that request. Rick is a member of Mazamas – a climbing/hiking club in Portland, OR with about 3000 members and impressive climbing/mountaineering/snow/ice programs. Check them out: <http://www.mazamas.org/> OK Rick, great trip! Now what's next???

~Dave Cameron

For additional info contact: Dave Cameron d.cameron.phx@gmail.com

Calendar of Events - Outings/Schools/Events

JUNE 2012

- 11 AMC Board Meeting
- 25 AMC Member Meeting - Swap Meet

JULY 2012

- 4 Independence Day (Wednesday)
- 9 AMC Board Meeting
- 23 (no member meeting)

AUGUST 2012

- 13 AMC Board Meeting
- 27 AMC Member Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2012

- 3 Labor Day (Monday)
- 10 AMC Board Meeting
- 12 Lead School Sep 11, 12, 13, 15, 16
- 24 AMC Member Meeting
- 29 Grand Canyon Clean up

OCTOBER 2012

- 3 Outdoor Rock Climbing School Instructors Meeting

- 8 Columbus Day AMC Board Meeting –
Reminder: D&O Insurance Policy due
- 9 Outdoor Rock Climbing School Oct 9, 11,
13, 14, 16, 18, 20
- 22 AMC Member Meeting
- 27 Queen Creek Cleanup and Climb

NOVEMBER 2012

- 7 Anchors School Instructor Meeting
- 11 Veterans Day (Sunday)
- 12 AMC Board Meeting
- 13 Anchors School Nov 13, 15, 17, 18
- 22 Thanksgiving at Joshua Tree
- 26 AMC Member Meeting –Activities Expo

DECEMBER 2012

- 3 AMC Board Meeting – Reminder: General
Liability Insurance due
- 8 Alpine Rock Seminar
- 14 Holiday Party
- 25 Christmas (Tuesday)

Billboard- Other Scheduled Events

Footnotes: Car-pooling is optional on all outings and is not part of the outing. The outing begins at the trailhead designated by the Outing Leader and ends at the same place. Each participant should bring a First Aid kit. If you leave the outing, with or without the leader's permission, you are considered to be on your own until you rejoin the group. Each participant will be required to sign an AMC Activity Release Form at the beginning of the outing. 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.

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. AMC is also on meetup. For official and unofficial outings go to: <http://www.meetup.com/Arizona-Mountaineering-Club/>

- Tuesdays **North Mountain hikes after work.** Rogil Schroeter (623) 512-8465
- Wednesdays **Ape Index Gym Climbing -** Rogil Schroeter (623) 512-8465
- Thursdays **Phoenix Rock Gym Climbing -** AMC Members \$10 admission with ID card.
Curtis Stone - Kim McClintic



We've got room!



We can even put our tents on the floor now!



**We've
MOVED!
To 3244 E. Thomas Rd.**

AMC Bi-annual Clean-up & Climb Spring 2012



Story on page 11
Photo: Robert England