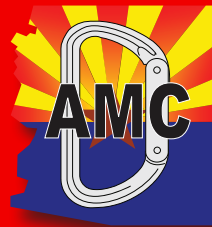


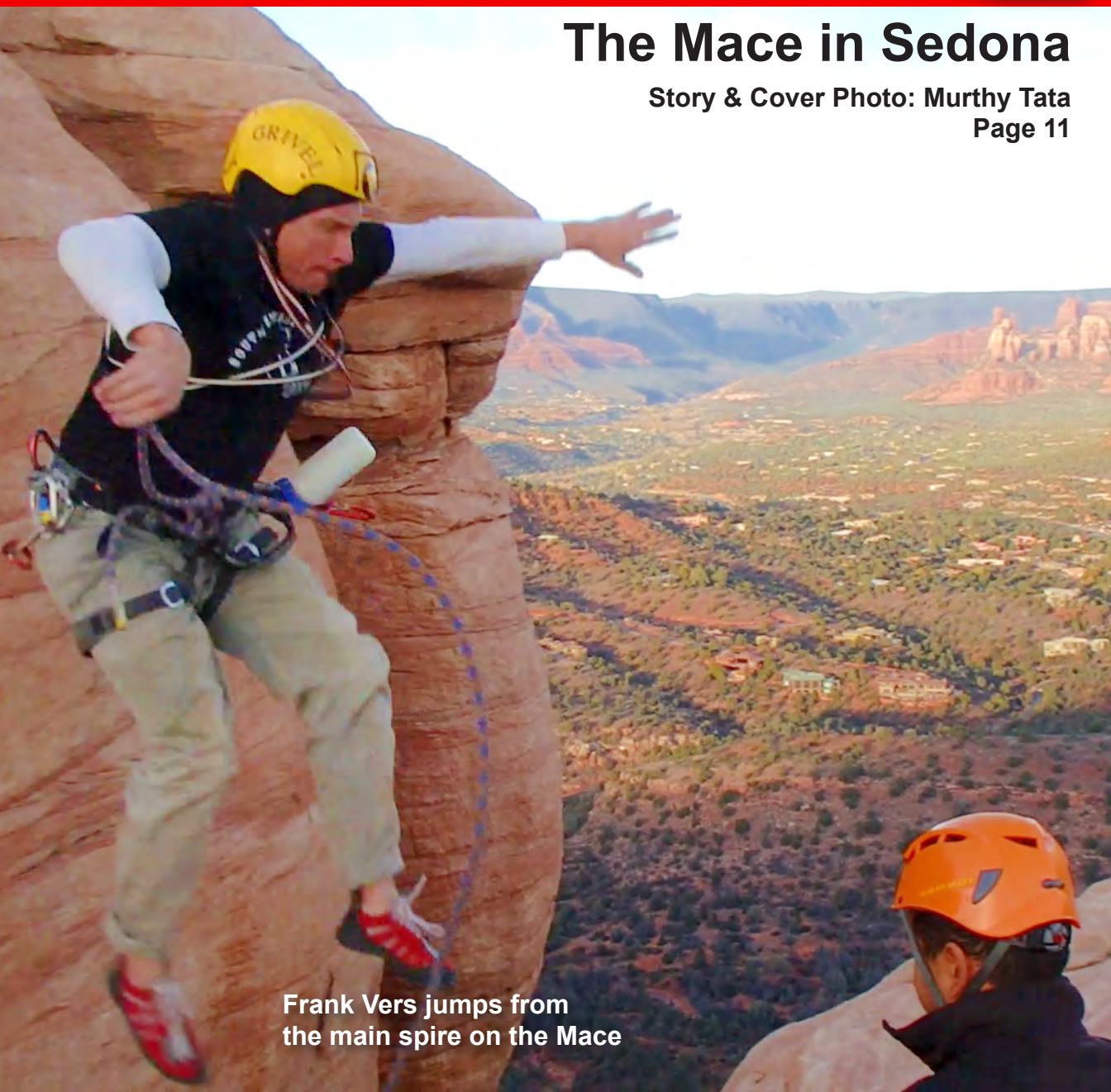
# The Arizona Mountaineer

February 2014



## The Mace in Sedona

Story & Cover Photo: Murthy Tata  
Page 11



Frank Vers jumps from  
the main spire on the Mace

# The Arizona Mountaineering Club

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President .....	Bill Fallon .....	602-909-8889
Vice-President .....	John Gray .....	480-363-3248
Secretary .....	Erik Filsinger .....	smorefil@aol.com
Treasurer .....	Thad Colgrove .....	602-795-2167
Director-2 .....	Mike Lust .....	mwlust49@gmail.com
Director-2 .....	Cheryl Beaver .....	cherylbeaver@cox.net
Director-2 .....	Douglas Matson .....	douglas.matson@gmail.com
Director-2 .....	Gavin Storey .....	gavinxd@yahoo.com
Director-1 .....	David Arthur Sampson .....	dasampson@gmail.com

## COMMITTEES

Advanced Rock Climbing .....	David Arthur Sampson .....	dasampson@gmail.com
Canyoneering .....	Matt Kalina .....	MattKalina@yahoo.com
Classification .....	Nancy Lust .....	602-770-8326
Climbing Shoe Rental .....	Linda Locke .....	602-371-9300
Elections .....	John Keedy .....	623-412-1452
Equipment Rental .....	Jeff Crosby .....	480-516-7815
Email .....	Rogil Schroeter .....	amcazemail@gmail.com
Land Advocacy .....	Erik Filsinger .....	smorefil@aol.com
Co-Chair .....	John Keedy .....	623-412-1452
Librarian .....	David McClintic .....	602-885-5194
Membership .....	Erin Matson .....	480-818-9306
Mountaineering .....	Erik Filsinger .....	smorefil@aol.com
Co-Chair .....	Jeff Crosby .....	480-516-7815
Co-Chair .....	John Gray .....	480-363-3248
Newsletter Editor .....	Cheryl Beaver .....	amcaznewsletter@gmail.com
Outings .....	Dave McClintic .....	602-885-5194
Programs .....	Kim McClintic .....	480-213-2629
Technology .....	Steve Crane .....	480-812-5447
Training & Schools .....	Bill Fallon .....	602-909-8889
ORC .....	Bill Fallon .....	602-909-8889
Anchors .....	Eric Evans .....	602-218-3060
Lead .....	Mike Knarzer .....	602-751-1701

**Meetings:** The member meeting location is:

Granite Reef Senior Center: 1700 North Granite Reef Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 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 can be paid using PayPal on the AMC website or mailed to AMC Membership, PO Box 30163, Mesa, AZ 85275-0163. (Checks only).

## The Arizona Mountaineering Club

**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.arizonamountaineeringclub.org](http://www.arizonamountaineeringclub.org)

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

**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](mailto: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. Submit to: [amcaznewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:amcaznewsletter@gmail.com) by the 1st of the month prior to the month to be published.

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

**Advertising in the newsletter** 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: [amcaznewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:amcaznewsletter@gmail.com) by the 1st of the month prior to the month to be published.

**SUBMISSIONS DUE ON FEBRUARY 1ST FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER**  
**SEND TO: [AMCAZNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:AMCAZNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM)**

## 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 Lust at (602) 770-8326.

### OUTING LEADER

### CONTACT INFO

Steven Crane.....	480-812-5447 .....	<a href="mailto:stevencrane@live.com">stevencrane@live.com</a>
Eric Evans .....	602-218-3060 .....	<a href="mailto:gae100@yahoo.com">gae100@yahoo.com</a>
Bill Fallon .....	602-909-8889 .....	<a href="mailto:bill.fallon@cox.net">bill.fallon@cox.net</a>
Erik Filsinger.....		<a href="mailto:smorefil@aol.com">smorefil@aol.com</a>
Jeff Hatfield.....	480-440-6840 .....	<a href="mailto:jeffhatfield1@gmail.com">jeffhatfield1@gmail.com</a>
John Keedy.....	623-412-1452 .....	<a href="mailto:jwkeedy@cox.net">jwkeedy@cox.net</a>
Mike Knarzer .....	602-751-1701 .....	<a href="mailto:mike@outdooradventuresaz.com">mike@outdooradventuresaz.com</a>
Douglas Matson.....	480-648-3009 .....	<a href="mailto:douglas.matson@gmail.com">douglas.matson@gmail.com</a>
David McClintic.....	602-885-5194 .....	<a href="mailto:david.mcclintic@cox.net">david.mcclintic@cox.net</a>
Bruce McHenry.....	602-717-8956 .....	<a href="mailto:bamchenry@att.net">bamchenry@att.net</a>
Chris Meyer .....		<a href="mailto:Sun2stone@cox.net">Sun2stone@cox.net</a>
Jeff Nagel .....	602-318-9538 .....	<a href="mailto:azfreedheart@yahoo.com">azfreedheart@yahoo.com</a>
Rogil Schroeter.....	623-512-8465 .....	<a href="mailto:rogil@cox.net">rogil@cox.net</a>
Curtis Stone.....	602-370-0786 .....	<a href="mailto:curtis_j_stone@yahoo.com">curtis_j_stone@yahoo.com</a>
Frank Vers .....	480-947-9435 .....	<a href="mailto:climbbox@gmail.com">climbbox@gmail.com</a>

## Treasurer's Report

### Arizona Mountaineering Club Income Statement Period Ended December 2013

#### INCOME

Advertising	0.00
Dues	5,218.00
Grants Received	0.00
Interest	22.45
Mountaineering Schools	1,190.00
Rental Equipment	263.00
AARS Fall	2,755.00
AARS Spring	2,090.00
Basic Fall	6,470.00
Basic Spring	5,380.00
Lead Fall	1,140.00
Lead Spring	1,140.00
Training Other	270.00
Merchandise & Other	3,087.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>29,025.45</b>

#### EXPENSES

Admin	2,415.31
Promotional	2,159.34
Bank chgs	698.39
Capital Expenditures	98.72
Equipment Maintenance	128.61
Grants Expended	0.00
Insurance	3,645.20
Land Advocacy Committee	423.64
Library	0.00
Newsletter	1,415.53
Outings	273.59
Outing Leaders	270.00
Programs Monthly Meeting	2,591.74
Training	8,237.41
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>22,357.48</b>

**OVERALL TOTAL 6,667.97**

#### ACCOUNT BALANCES

Checking & PayPal	22,034.79
Accounts Receivable	0.00
CD Account	15,000.00
<b>TOTAL CASH ASSETS</b>	<b>37,034.79</b>
AMC Outing Gear	0.00
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>37,034.79</b>

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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](http://www.hikingshack.com). Show your AMC membership card and get a 10% 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.

## AMC Board Minutes - January 13, 2014

Call to order: Bill Fallon called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Board Members present: Bill Fallon, David Sampson, Erik Filsinger, Gavin Storey, John Gray, Mike Lust, and Thad Colgrove

Board Members absent: Cheryl Beaver, Douglas Matson

Committee Chairs present: Only as Board members

Members present: Chris Canevit, Maureen Nowland, Lynn Folden

Minutes: The Minutes of the December 2, 2013 Board meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer's Report for December/Year End 2013 was approved.

Committee Reports:

Membership – The current number of dues paid members stands at 311. Bill will remind Erin to send out a “Dues be due” reminder.

Programs – Kim McClintic submitted a report concerning upcoming member meeting programs through June

Outings – Recent:

Alpine Series Seminar – Wed Dec. 4, Jan. 8 – Erik F, Jeff C

Alpine Rock Seminar – Sat Dec. 7 - Erik F

AMC Stewardship Day – Sat Dec. 14 – Erik F

AMC Holiday Party – Fri Dec.13

Winter Camping Seminar – Sat/Sun Jan 11/12 – Erik F

Outings – Upcoming:

Alpine Series Seminar – Wed Feb 5 –Jeff C, Erik F

REI “Rock Climbing 101” Clinics – Tues/Wed, Feb 4/5, Tempe/PV – Bill F

Lead School – Feb. 11/12/13/15/16 – Mike Knarzer, David Sampson

Ice Climbing Class, Ouray – Feb 14-17 – Bruce McHenry

Ice Climbing Outing, Ouray – March 7/8/9 – Bruce McHenry

Basic School – March 11/13/15/16/18/20/22 – Bill F

AMC 50th BD Event – Sat/Sun, March 29/30

April will be a busy month with the QC clean-up, Advanced Rock seminars of Crack

Climbing and Multipitch, and Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue classes – announcements to follow

Land Advocacy – Erik discussed items with regard to rock climbing access in the McDowells in Scottsdale and at Camelback Park in Phoenix

Mountaineering – Erik reported that attendance at the Alpine Seminar Series remains at about 20 per monthly session. Upcoming activities include Ice Climbing in February and March, and Glacier Travel and Snow Skills in April, with a potential Colorado mountain climb over Memorial Day weekend

Canyoneering – Matt Kalina submitted a written update that proposed policies and guidelines for the committee have been drafted and a second draft will be circulated soon within the committee.

T & S – Bill outlined the Spring rock climbing schools. Erik will assist in obtaining the required permitting from the City of Scottsdale.

## AMC Board Minutes - January 13, 2014 (continued)

Newsletter Committee – No Report. Discussion to be continued with regard to place of newsletter in mix of other channels of communications for AMC business and potential for reconfiguring the Newsletter as a quarterly publication.

Technology Committee – No report

### New Business

2014 Elections – The Board approved the Ballot for the 2014 elections to be held at the January member meeting.

Proposed Intellectual Property Policy – Erik presented a revised draft based on attorney input and input from an ad hoc committee of Bill, Cheryl and David S. The following AMC Intellectual Property Policy was moved, seconded and approved by the AMC Board.

#### AMC Board Policy on Intellectual Property (January 13, 2014)

The AMC solicits and/or accepts Intellectual Property in the form of a variety of work products from members and non-members during the course of its activities. These work products can be anything from the written word to photography to design of websites, logos and t-shirt artwork. Individuals submitting a work product to the AMC implicitly grant the AMC the right to use and publish the work product currently and in the future unless the creator places restrictions on the current or future use of the work product. In such cases where the creator wishes to place restrictions it is his or her duty to inform the AMC President of such restrictions and the AMC President shall enter the restriction into the AMC records and seek compliance with the request. The AMC will use its best efforts to comply with the restrictions placed.

In cases where the AMC wishes to change the work product for future use, the AMC should ask the creator for such permission.

In cases where the AMC wishes to own the work product it must solicit and obtain appropriate legal assignment from the creator to the AMC.

2014 Dues Waiver and Newsletter Publication: Erik submitted a report for year-end 2013 on the AMC Outing Leaders' Activities for 2013. Based on that report and following club policy, a list of active Outing Leaders to receive dues waivers for 2014 will be sent to Erin and a list of those with at least one "activity credit" will be given to Cheryl to guide listing of Outing Leaders in the Newsletter.

### Old Business

AMC 50th Birthday Celebration planning – The planning subcommittee of Maureen Nowland, Lynn Folden, and Laura Nagy submitted a written report and engaged the Board in a lengthy discussion of the event. Based on the conclusions reached, they will brief the Board again shortly. David Sampson will organize and lead the climbing activities for the day.

Advanced Climbing Seminars planning – David Sampson gave the Board an update on the A.C.S. activities and a potential multi-pitch climbing seminar and a potential crack climbing seminar.

OL apprentice process, qualification & outing policy changes. Tabled for a future Board meeting due to time constraints

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 p.m. - Respectfully submitted by Erik Filsinger, AMC Secretary

# HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR AMC MEMBERSHIP FOR 2014?

Go to: <http://arizonamountaineeringclub.org/>

## AMC 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 Jeff Crosby for information on how to rent AMC equipment. 480-516-7815

## January Birthdays

Kurt Licence 2, Fox Stone 2, William Kirsch 3, Mark Sharp 4,  
Scott Frankel 5, Jonathan McLin 6, Julie Dehlin 7, Kurt Gusinde 9,  
David Cameron 12, Michael Faux 12, Daniel Gonzales 12, Linda Kriegel 12,  
Wes Gross 13, Greg Frantz 17, John Gray 20, Stephanie Johnson 25,  
James Marsh 28, Susana Casanova 28

## Welcome New Members!

Justin Brown, Yvette Gallagher, Emily Wagner, Brian Wagner, Henry Matson

### ALPINE ENDEAVORS

Marty Molitoris ( AMGA Certified Alpine Guide ) is one of only a few guides with a PERMIT to GUIDE COCHISE STRONGHOLD AZ.

Marty Molitoris and Chris Meyer will host a trip to Cochise this spring (March / April). Marty has generously discounted his professional services to AMC members.

Please contact for more information:

<http://alpineendeavors.com>

[info@alpineendeavors.com](mailto:info@alpineendeavors.com)

877-486-5769

Advertisement



## **PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!**

There will also be a grand prize winner this year. Entrants are limited to one photo per category. The categories are: Alpine/Mountaineering, Canyoneering, Scenic, Rock and Humor. Photos need to be printed (not on CD or computer). Dues must be paid in order to participate.

Located at Granite Reef Senior Center, 1700 N. Granite Reef Rd., Scottsdale

Contact Kim with questions. [canyonkim@gmail.com](mailto:canyonkim@gmail.com)

## AMC Lead Climbing School - Spring 2014

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, equipment
Wed	Lecture, slide show: equipment (continued); the process and techniques of leading
Thu	Lecture, slide show: multi-pitch techniques, the 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 11	Tuesday	6:30 pm–9:30 pm	*Chateau de Vie 5 Clubhouse, Scottsdale, AZ
Feb 12	Wednesday	6:30 pm–9:30 pm	Chateau de Vie 5 Clubhouse, Scottsdale, AZ
Feb 13	Thursday	6:30 pm–9:30 pm	Chateau de Vie 5 Clubhouse, Scottsdale, AZ
Feb 15	Saturday	9:00 am–5:00 pm	Prescott (directions will be in syllabus)
Feb 16	Sunday	9:00 am–5:00 pm	Prescott or Scottsdale (directions will be in syllabus)

\*Address for the Chateau de Vie 5 Clubhouse: 5900 N 83rd St.

Directions: From McDonald Rd East of Hayden Rd and West of Granite Reef, turn south on 83rd St. Take the 2nd right into the parking lot. The Clubhouse is the only free standing building in the complex.

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: \$95 plus membership if not already a member (\$30 for an individual and \$35 for a family). Membership is good through Dec., 2014. Register by the Paypal link on the website ([http://arizonamountaineeringclub.org/?page\\_id=262](http://arizonamountaineeringclub.org/?page_id=262)) or if you need to send a check you can contact Nancy Lust [amcleadschool@gmail.com](mailto:amcleadschool@gmail.com) for the address. No credit cards accepted. The registration fee is fully refundable if you cancel. Contact Nancy Lust by email: [amcleadschool@gmail.com](mailto:amcleadschool@gmail.com) for more info. The number of students will be limited to 30.

Equipment required for the class:

The following will not be needed the first night. You may want to 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
  - 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 <http://arizonamountaineeringclub.org/>.



# Save The Date!!

## AMC 50th Anniversary Celebration March 29th, 2014

2014 is a very special year for the Arizona Mountaineering Club as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary. Please plan to join present and past AMC members for a special day of climbing and celebration in a near and dear climbing locale, Queen Creek. We'll be gathering at the Oak Flat Campground, spending the morning and early afternoon climbing at various favorite crags, and meeting back at the campground for a late afternoon celebration.

All current and former AMC Members are invited to join in the celebrations. This is a wonderful opportunity to reunite with friends and celebrate the AMC that brought so many of us together over the years. Please help us re-connect to past AMC members and pass this message on.

Watch your email and the AMC Meetup group for more details as the date approaches.

photo: Anne Han

## The Mace in Sedona, AZ

When Frank Vers posted the 20th annual AMC outing to climb The Mace, I made a note to self: “gotta get on this one!” The last two years, I wasn’t quite ready for this. This time, I signed up the moment it was open. Jose Sosa also accompanied us on this climb. The three of us left for Sedona early in the morning December 1st, 2013.

I was anxious because this climb was near the limit of my ability. I had barely done a couple of ~5.10 rated climbs, and those were very short routes. My all-hands power-through technique (or lack thereof) was not such a serious handicap. With the Mace, it was different. Would I really be able to finish an all-day, off-width crack and chimney multi-pitch climb? I had hardly done much crack climbing before, let alone any that combine with overhangs. I really struggled a couple of weeks earlier, and gave up a little skin off my knuckle, when Chris Meyer, Rogil, and Dave set up the Y-crack outing at Pinnacle Peak.

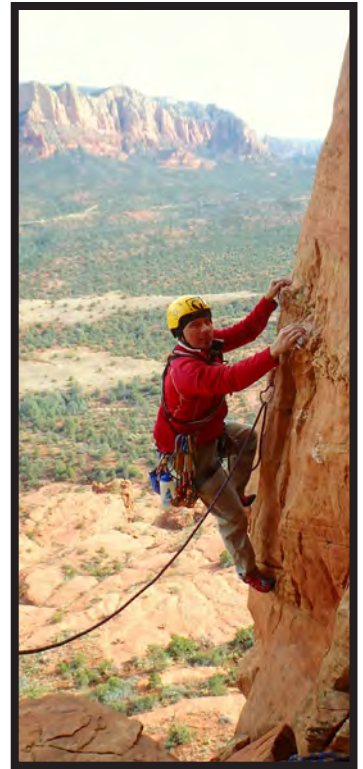
When I mentioned my Y-crack experience on the drive to Sedona, Frank said “I wish you had mentioned it before!” However, by then we were well on our way to Sedona. It was a beautiful chilly (38 °F) morning with clear skies. The Cathedral Rock formation and the Mace looked magnificent in the early dawn light. Frank led up the first pitch with Jose belaying him. Five pieces of protection was all Frank said he needed to carry for the entire outing. I remember thinking that we better not lose any of those pieces while cleaning during the follow through.

Frank moved smoothly past the overhung crux at the top and set up a belay for Jose. Jose followed him and trailed the second rope for me and cleaned the gear that Frank placed along the route. Once they were set up at the top of the first pitch, it was my turn. It was fairly easy until I reached the crux. Here, I forgot that I had two perfectly usable legs. All-hands climbing did get me through the crux after sitting in the harness once. After I topped out, my forearms were so pumped that I couldn’t even tear open the wrapper off a Cliff Bar.

While Frank started leading the second pitch with Jose belaying him, I worked on loosening my forearms with some success. Legs! Lesson learned the hard way, again. The belay station for the second pitch is a beautiful alcove overlooking some fantastic Sedona scenery. The bulge at the start of the second pitch was the crux. When

Jose slipped, his ‘water broke’. The smashed bottle allowed him one last gulp of water and it was water rationing for him for the rest of the climb. By the time it was my turn, my hands were loose enough that I was able to move past the crux and finish the second pitch.

I took some pictures and



*Photo: Murthy Tata*

*Frank begins leading 3rd pitch*



*Murthy stepping on to the main spire*

*Photo: Jose Sosa*

snacked a little as Frank did an airy traverse around the corner at the beginning of the third pitch. We saw only little bit of him even after we made the transitions ourselves in succession. The third pitch was mostly straightforward crack-chimney climbing. The views were spectacular as I looked outward. Looking down, we could see the shadow of the needles on the ground. There was also this beautiful logarithmic spiral on the checkered, quilt-like red clay plain a couple of hundred feet below us. The spiral, full of spiritual and religious symbolism for the native people was made by arranging white stones in perfect geometry. The view looking inward toward the needles near the beginning of the fourth pitch was just as beautiful- classic Arizona red rock spires.



*Jose down-climbing to jump-off point* Photo: Murthy Tata

The crux was an off-width crack and a bulge at the top of the 4th pitch. After having Jose give me another 'take', I hauled myself up over onto the nice large platform on top of the smaller needle, with fantastic views all surrounding me.

The true summit was over about 15 feet to the right. Frank leaned across on to the main summit needle, The Mace. He then shuffled across to reach the flake to his right with hands on the main needle and feet on the smaller needle, bridging across the 250 to 300 foot chasm. I had heard about this part of the climb before, but seeing it done was a moment of Zen. Once Frank was up on the Mace, he anchored to the strange maritime-looking container that was bolted into the rock with four bolts. It was my turn to follow Frank now. After reaching the flake, I got up on the main needle far less gracefully than the pictures show. Jose followed me clean.

I unscrewed the sturdy lid off the anchor to reach for the summit register, and we all signed in. After a couple more pictures, we down-climbed the main needle to the small ledge from where we finished the obligatory jump-across the chasm onto the smaller needle. After two beautiful rappels down the west side, we were on terra firma.

By the time we reached the parking lot, the sun had just set, and Venus was bright and high up over the Cathedral Rock formation.

What a day!

~ Murthy Tata



*Atop The Mace*

*Photo: Murthy Tata*

## Chris Meyer recalls - Mt. Katahdin February 1996

*The three of us are just avid recreational climbers seeking the challenge of mountaineering. This is our second trip to Baxter State Park, returning because in all the adventure of summiting in 1993, we failed to climb a direct route or play on the vertical walls of ice. This time, the direct ascent of the Cilley-Barber route is our primary goal. <http://www.mountainproject.com/v/cilley-barber/106061987>*



*Cilley-Barber route*

ing harness with two carabiners. A view of Pamola Peak breaks from the pines as we see the miles ahead to flank its right shoulder only to reach the first bunkhouse at Roaring Brook. Chimney Pond awaits our week stay.

Unbelievable excitement arriving at Chimney Pond so early and invigorated. Katahdin in all its strength with massive flows of ice billowing from within surrounds us. We spot a line of ice to climb. Only minutes from the bunk house, it forms from a diagonal chimney up three hundred feet. It is known as Pinnacle #2. After a quick cup of soup, we pack a rack of ice screws, grab the BD straight shaft axes and navigate a maze of large boulders at the base.

I get the first lead, going up twenty feet and force a screw into the ice, clip the double ropes into a biner then travel up and right across a ramp. Turning this corner, I hammer in a snarg screw and clip again. Now directly up the ice flow I run out a stretch of rope, placing a screw whose teeth and large threads bite into a bulge of solid blue ice. At about -2F, in the shade, it is hard ice. With thirty of the 180 feet of rope remaining, just enough to stretch to a block of ice below the bulging chimney rock. Anchor ready, I huddle

It is Sunday and -18 F. Our breath freezes instantly on our faces, turning eye lashes downy white. Later, at the peak of trail endurance, our body moisture also vaporizes on our jackets as the GoreTex and fleece wick moisture outward to balance a comfort range. Miles slowly pass as we each ski, pulling a plastic sled filled with 65 lb pack, white gas fuel and snow shoes. Carrying 20lbs of rock and ice tools on my back in a small day pack; tethered to the sled with cord and pvc tubing attached to my climb-



*Chris*



*Marty*

into the cold corner, my feet pointing to the expanse below. Marty and John follow up and remove the screws. By now, I am exhausted after the repetitious rope handling and approach from lower camp.

Marty's turn to lead; he has a great line over umbrella shaped ice flows formed by the uplifting wind and protected by a great diagonal ceiling of slab rock. Freezing cold, the wind picks up the spindrifts of ice from the pick strikes and blows them upward against gravity. Marty is barely discernible as he stretches the rope to the top and on belay 500 feet above the cabin.

During the week, the weather trend has improved. Anxiously preparing for the Cilley-Barber route; visualizing each length of rope for its rising

2300 feet. The approach, first ice cliff with two pitches, a large steep snow field, the second ice cliff, next a very steep snow and ice field, 500 ft rock buttress behind which I'm told lies the crux : 15 ft of vertical ice. and finally diverse lines of rock and ice which lead to the summit.

Cilley-Barber: Here is the first ice flow. John takes it cautiously one full rope length. I'll lose count soon enough, but that is pitch one. Marty gets a great line next, quickly out of sight on a series of ledges and steep verticals. Great, a massive snow field ahead about the angle of a moderate ski slope. John and I can hike up together, place a snow picket as running protection, and climb on as Marty simultaneously climbs below us. We are swimming through the depth to reach the next icefall. Excellent, my lead now so I change to my second pair of gloves. I shoulder a huge rack of screws and begin to climb with so much confidence in my new 'CM Grade 8' brand crampon. I swing a left hand, stab right, step, step repeat ; up a bulge, place a screw. I run out the rope 25 ft at a time and place five screws over the 150 ft. I charge for distant block of rock which already had an anchor sling on it, so I knew I was at the standard belay station. Leaning into the 50 degree wall of snow, I let them know I am ready to belay by giving a blast from a pressurized can horn that I thought to bring along. so above the wind and out of the erie gray, this blast is acknowledged as I feel the tension in the rope.

About this time, the day is half night. There is no contrast or depth perception. The comatose white pervades the atmosphere as we have been in and out of clouds and snowfall. Of course there is a wall of rock and ice but it feels imposing like a gray curtain draped over my shoulder. This is an epic.... an epic. Just as I begin to shiver, it is time to move. Stuck on a section that should normally be simul-climbed on thick ice, instead we scrabble through layers of snow looking for a decent place to clip into protection. I lead left on a diagonal to get us back on course. Quickly, I yell to simul-climb but the others don't like the conditions.



*Into the void*



*John, Chris and Marty*

Up the vertical, complaining how rotten the ice is, he fights off being scared and he is finally able to place a BD screw. I believe Marty has a moment of inspiration. An unprecedented lead for him, he runs out a committing length of rope even over an umbrella ice flow which is precariously off balance. The pitch completed quickly, we follow and John's light shines into the umbrella. I hop on and its like climbing on a huge light bulb; as my axe strikes, the bulb refracts a volt instantly in all directions. We remove only three screws for that steep 160 ft. I'm really proud for him at that moment, a definite classic.

The epic is relentless. I go for speed, leading to the summit with an occasional hip belay. The knife edge arete is always just a little further but we finally summit very late. Stinging ice pellets blow into our face. Now, to get down in this nighttime blizzard. We determine a northwesterly course to follow the Saddle Trail by holding the glaring light onto a flapping map. By the lengths of a rope and a beam of light, Marty sets a course to descend. Only a short distance later we rejoice at finding a trail marker for which we have to scrape off the rime ice to read we are exactly on course.

~ Chris Meyer

Instead, I anchor into an island of hard ice but it is like being in the middle of a river of snow, which could slide us over the falls. Regardless, I just throw the rope over my hips and belay them up. So many great moments can only be experienced by us, within this timeless environment. I reflect on it often; the shapes of iceflows, the wind creating thunder in your jacket, and daring to look between your feet at the base thousands of feet below.

But, the best moments can happen in a small beam of light at night. Marty concludes that this is an EPIC now as we turn on our headlamps! The hidden crux is in sight now. John leads a path so that Marty can rest to handle the next vertical section. He sizes up the next climb and opts to trade into my light pack.



*Katahdin Card*

# AMC Mountaineering

## Committee Activities

2014

Sign up through the AMC Meet-Up site.

**Alpine Seminar Series** - The first Wednesday of each month. Jeff Crosby leads this informative series of talks based on chapters from Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills. Jeff is soliciting speakers to cover each evening's topics.

**Beginning Ice Climbing** - Saturday, February 15 to Monday, February 17 – Bruce McHenry will take AMC'ers to Ouray Ice Park to learn ice climbing.

**Top Rope Ice Climbing Outing** - Saturday, March 7 to Monday, March 10 – Bruce McHenry will lead an ice climbing outing to Ouray.

**Glacier Travel Class** - Saturday, April 19 to Sunday, April 20 – Erik Filsinger will hold a snow skills, glacier travel, and crevasse rescue class on Mt. Humphreys.

**Colorado Mountain Climb** - Saturday, May 24 to Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day Weekend)– Erik Filsinger will take an outing to Southwest Colorado to climb a mountain in practice for AMC alpinists pursuing other mountain climbs in 2014.

Submitted by Erik Filsinger  
AMC Mountaineering Committee Chair



## 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.*

- 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
- Feb 8, 2014 -    **Annual Superstition Ridgeline hike -** Strenuous 13 mile hike.  
Experienced hikers only. Contact Rogil@cox.net or 623-512-8465 by 2/1/14 at latest.

**Go to the AMC meetup for a complete list of outings and activities.**

**Up to date information and registration will be available.**

**<http://www.meetup.com/Arizona-Mountaineering-Club/>**

## Gear Head

### **Therm-a-rest NeoAir Mini Pump**

*Reviewed by Mike Lust*

I don't know about anyone else but the last thing I look forward to after a hard day on the trail is blowing up my Big Agnes sleeping pad, leaving me all lightheaded and a little dizzy. Until now I came across this little gadget in one of my motorcycle magazines it looked pretty cool so it went on the Christmas list. Well Santa delivered, I could not believe how small it was. Measuring 2-7/8 x 2-1/8 x 1-5/8 inches it's so small it'll fit into any nook of wasted space. Better yet it weighs in at 2.5 ounces (with two AAA batteries) and will inflate my Big Agnes in just over 3.5 minutes to a nice firm enough to keep you off the ground. If you like a firm mattress it only took two breaths to make a very firm sleeping pad. One set of batteries should give you about 15 inflations; it works with Them-a-rest Neo Air, Big Agnes Air Core and Q core. Available at various online retailers for \$39.99.



**For all you gear junkies out there.**

**What is your favorite, can't live with out, go to piece of gear??**

Whether it's for rock climbing, alpine mountaineering, canyoneering, backpacking, mountain biking etc., (you get the picture), I'd love to hear about it and post it in the March issue of the newsletter. Please send to Cheryl at [amcaznewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:amcaznewsletter@gmail.com)

# AMC 2014 Calendar

## FEBRUARY

- 5 Alpine Seminar Series
- 10 AMC Board Meeting
- 11 Lead School - 11, 12, 13, 15, 16
- 15 Beginning Ice Climbing Class – 15-17
- 17 Presidents Day (Monday)
- 24 AMC Member Meeting-photo contest

## MARCH

- 5 Alpine Series Seminar
- 5 Basic Outdoor Rock Climbing School  
Instructors Meeting
- 7-10 Top-rope Ice Climbing Outing – Ouray, CO
- 10 AMC Board Meeting
- 11 Basic Outdoor Rock Climbing School -  
11, 13, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22
- 24 AMC Member Meeting
- 29 AMC Anniversary Celebration/Climb

## APRIL

- 2 Alpine Series Seminar
- 5 Queen Creek Cleanup and Climb
- 8 Anchors School - 8, 10, 12, 13
- 14 AMC Board Meeting
- 20 Easter
- 26-27 Glacier Travel, Snow Skills and Crevasse  
Rescue Class
- 28 AMC Member Meeting

## MAY

- 5 AMC Board Meeting
- 7 Alpine Series Seminar
- 19 AMC Member Meeting
- 24-26 Memorial Day Weekend - Alpine Climbing  
Outing to CO
- 26 Memorial Day (Monday)

## JUNE

- 9 AMC Board Meeting
- 23 AMC Member Meeting - Swap Meet

## JULY

- 4 Independence Day (Friday)
- 14 AMC Board Meeting  
(No Member Meeting in July)

## AUGUST

- 11 AMC Board Meeting
- 25 AMC Member Meeting

## SEPTEMBER

- 1 Labor Day (Monday)
- 8 AMC Board Meeting
- 9 Lead School - Sep 9, 10, 11, 13, 14
- 22 AMC Member Meeting
- 27 Grand Canyon Clean Up

## OCTOBER

- 8 Basic Outdoor Rock Climbing School  
Instructors Meeting
- 13 AMC Board Meeting (Columbus Day)
- 14 Basic Outdoor Rock Climbing School -  
14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23, 25
- 27 AMC Member Meeting

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Queen Creek Cleanup and Climb
- 3 AMC Board Meeting
- 11 Veterans Day (Tuesday)
- 12 Anchors School - 12, 14, 16, 17
- 17 AMC Member Meeting –Activities  
Expo
- 27 Thanksgiving at Joshua Tree

## DECEMBER

- 1 AMC Board Meeting
- 7 Alpine Rock Semina
- 12 Holiday Party



**We've got room!**



**We can even put our tents on the floor now!**



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



## NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED!

You will learn and practice all the skills necessary for safe top-rope rock climbing including:

*Gear selection (shoes, harness, helmet) & climbing equipment (ropes, carabiners, belay & rappel devices) • Climbing knots and personal anchor systems • Climbing techniques, belaying, and rappelling • Escaping the belay and critical self-rescue skills and techniques*

### 40 HOURS IN 7 SESSIONS, INCLUDING 4 EVENINGS AND 3 FULL DAYS OUTSIDE ON THE ROCK

All equipment is provided and you get to keep five carabiners, belay & rappel device, prusiks, webbing and a comprehensive manual.



### CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED

Register now to reserve your spot in the AMC Basic Outdoor Rock Climbing School!

Spring 2014 class schedule:

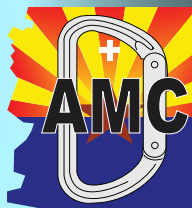
March 11 & 13 (Tues/Thurs) 6 am – 10 pm

March 15 & 16 (Sat/Sun) 8 am – 5 pm

March 18 & 20 (Tues/Thurs) 6 – 10 pm

March 22 (Sat) – All day graduation climb & evening celebration

An AMC membership and a fee of \$195 is required to participate. See our website at [arizonamountaineeringclub.org](http://arizonamountaineeringclub.org) for complete details and registration.



## LEARN TO CLIMB ROCK WITH THE ARIZONA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

AMC is the oldest and largest climbing club in Arizona, an all-volunteer organization dedicated to teaching safe rock climbing and mountaineering skills.

AMC members receive a 10% discount at  
Arizona Hiking Shack, AZ On The Rocks Gym, Climbmax Gym and Phoenix Rock Gym

