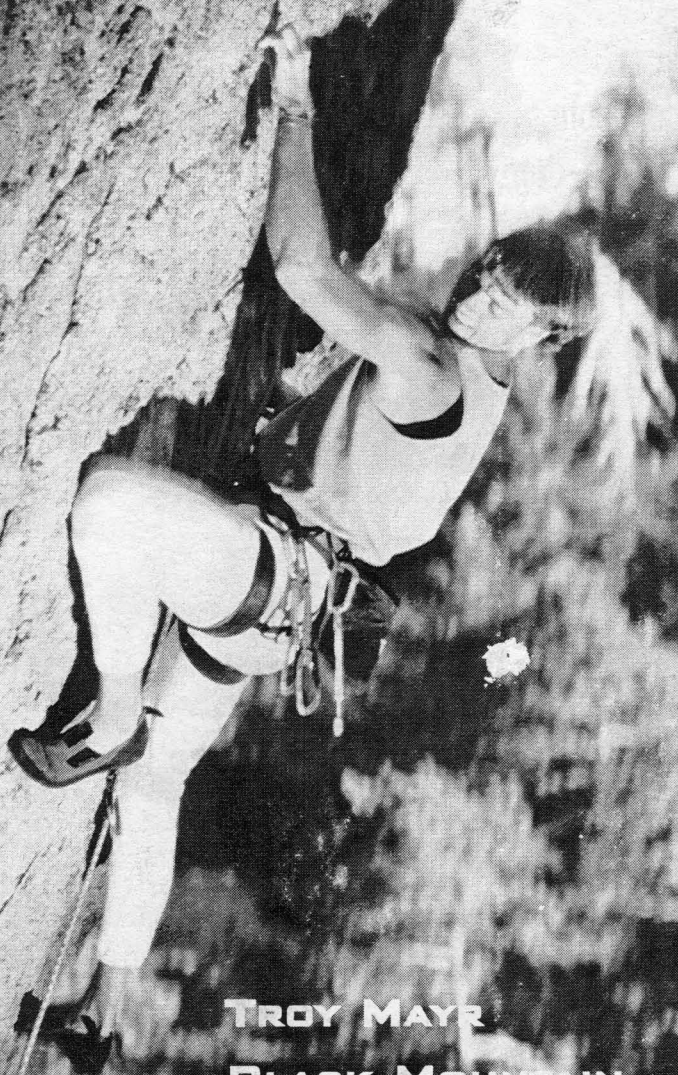
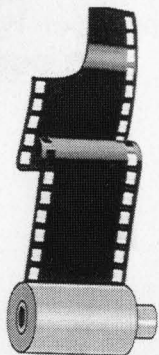


Sept - Oct 1994
a buck

Allez
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S CRAG MAG



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THE POWER OF VERVE
REGIONAL UPDATES
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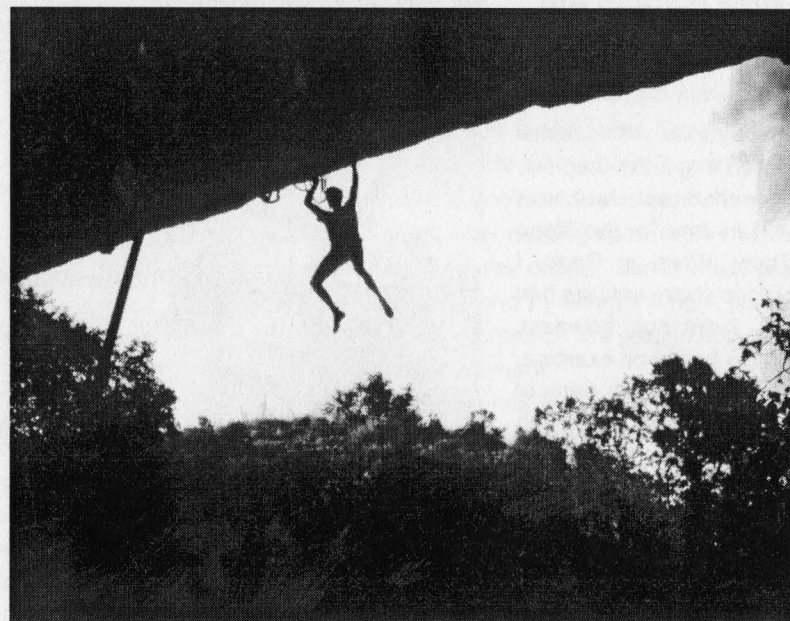
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Photo: Steve Edwards

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"No one would do anything, if they knew what they were in for."

— The Milagro Beanfield War

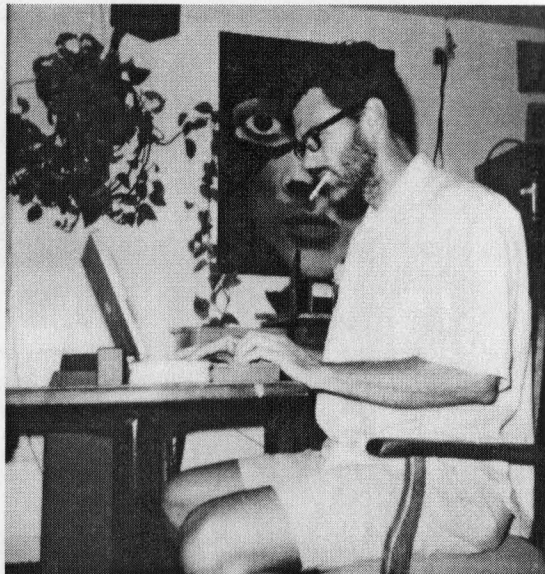
Sept. 15, 1994,

It began as a joke. A little test of my conviction to get the mag out. Our proposed street date was August 17, in time for the Reno Trade Show. While at Reno, I decided not to shave until we had it finished. I did not, however, decide not to bathe or exercise. Now here we are: at the brink of finishing, while I feel as though I'm at the brink of my existence. I

haven't exercised in weeks and I'm in probably the worst physical condition of my life. Is this how the other half live? I wouldn't know. Until now I've taken great pains to keep my life free. Time is my most precious resource and I guard this greatly. In as long as I can remember, I haven't gone more than three days without exercise. But at this moment, there just isn't time.

Why? Because I feel it's necessary. I've toyed with starting a magazine for a couple of years but to be honest, it's more fun to go climbing. Last spring however, a trip to Europe slapped me in the face. Most of us talk about how far the Europeans have advanced our sport, but to experience it first hand is a whole new ball game. An article in *Vertical* on 8c climbers put things in perspective. Around a hundred climbers were on the list, not just French, but Italians, Spaniards, even Slovenians. Tiny Switzerland had about six people. And all of America? Zero. That's right, a big goose egg. There was even an asterisk next to *Just Do It*, stating that while America had an 8c route, we had no 8c climbers.

So how will a local magazine help?



Being local, we should be able to keep more creative control of our direction. By not needing to spend time on making everyone happy, we should be able to focus more on local little folk. By helping inspire young climbers to keep cranking, even though they perhaps haven't reached levels of notoriety. By keeping those young guns motivated to improve. By using those tactics that have worked in other sports.

In a conversation with Udo Neumann (German co-author of *Performance Rock Climbing*), we argued about the motivation in Southern California. He pointed out our current lack of World and even National level climbers. I pointed out that at one time the World's best climbers were weaned here. My point is that it is not a lack of motivation, but a lack of guidance. Our goal, is to become that guidance.

So now an issue is out and it's up to you to determine whether Southern California gets back in the hunt, or America remains an asterisk in French magazines. As for me, I'm going climbing...

and I think I'll shave.

— Steve

Allez

Southern California's Crag Mag

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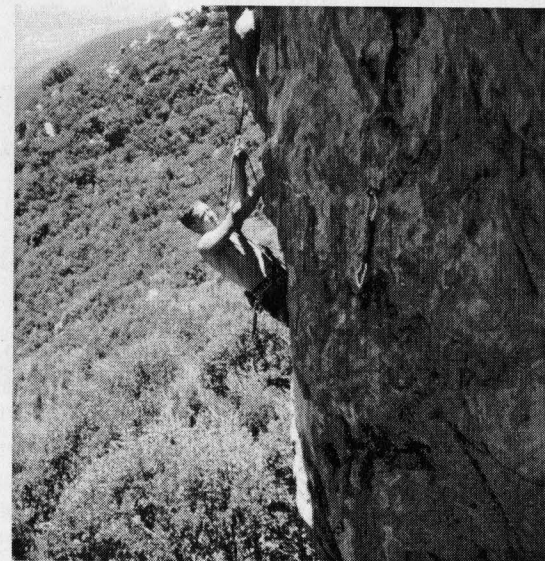
2nd Letter From Another Editor

Ever since Steve got back from Europe, he's been prone to raving like your run-of-the-mill Laundromat lunatic. Frequently I grab him by the lapels of his thrift-store sport coat and shake him around, just to give myself the feeling that I'm working on his rehabilitation. He talks about Slovenian limestone caves where one could spend a lifetime putting up multi-pitch, overhanging sport routes while happily munching on the cheap, Slavic meat products. I generally respond by either taking a plunger to his head, or lying prone on the ground until he takes his mumbling elsewhere.

Fortunately, this magazine seems to have set everybody straight. We've all been forced to focus our energy on the climbing around us; leaving dreams of dancing through European limestone behind until our work is done. For myself, and I suppose many others, the stories that we hear about such places inspire us. We want new places to go, new food products to experiment with, but if we don't take care of the business at home first, the journey won't be nearly as fun.

As for my home here in Southern California, I find out new things about it everyday. I don't need to

(see "2nd Letter" on page 32.)



Bink on *Driftnet* (5.11c) near Santa Barbara. Photo: Mike Brown

Allez — #1

The Endless Pump

The Endless Pump is our regional wrap-up of new developments across the Southland. Future issues will include information stretching from San Luis Obispo and the Owens River Gorge to San Diego and Las Vegas.

Santa Barbara

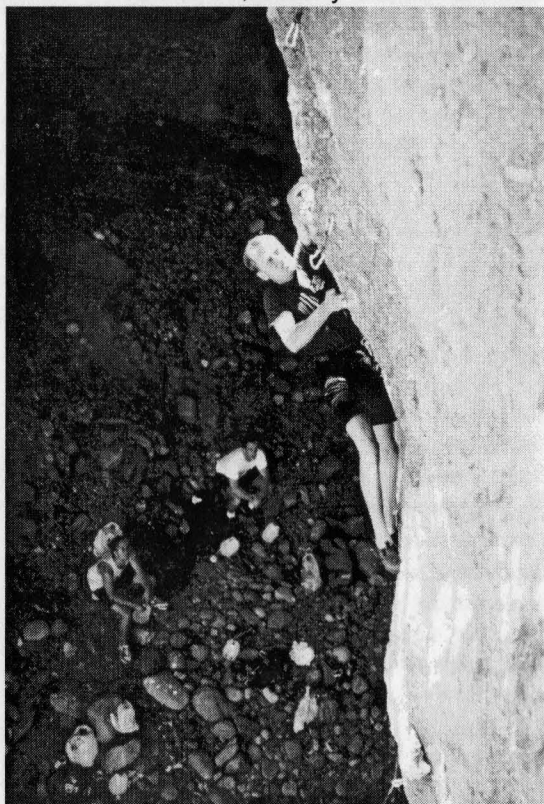
The summer finally saw the release of Steve Tucker and Kevin Steeles' long awaited guidebook: *Climbing! in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura*. Tucker had been compiling information for more than a decade and his dedication has resulted in an eloquent and informative guide to the area, featuring more than 300 routes. However, the guide went into production just as a group of locals started shattering standards.

A new area dubbed Silly Rock, has provided a theater for locals to push standards long into the future. John Perlin and Phil Requist dedicated their entire winter vowing to push standards and four routes have been redpointed which are harder than anything in the new guide. So far, the hardest line to go is Requist's *Better Than Life* which is probably one of the hardest routes in So. Cal. Given 13c, it could be harder. Hans Florine thinks it's harder than *Hebe* at Mount Lemmon, which is rated 13d.

The potential here is staggering. At press time, thirty-five lines have been bolted and less than half redpointed, most being 5.12 or 13. 5.14 is just a few training cycles away. Access is an issue but relations between climbers and rangers are positive. Peregrine

falcon nesting sites are in the area so we've been checking with the rangers before developing new sites. We're waiting to publish directions until access is no longer an issue, but if you stop by @#%? Video, we'll tell you how to get there.

Due to action at Silly Rock, development elsewhere has slowed, but there were still a few noteworthy achievements. Strangely enough the long established and very popular bouldering area Painted Cave saw some new action. Gabriel Lockwood linked a sit-down start with the *Trojan War* arete which he says is harder than any 13a he's done. Given 13a/b or B7, it has yet to see a second



John Perlin on Wild Kingdom (13a).

Photo: Steve Edwards

ascent. Something else which hasn't seen a second is Johnny Woodward's problem left of *Static Eliminator*. Craig Fry's *So. Cal. Bouldering Guide* lists this problem as "*Flake broke, doesn't go*," but Dick Cilly

thinks otherwise. The ubiquitous boulderer spent a couple of weeks here last winter and thought he could do it if he had "a couple more days." It hasn't gone yet but it should, just for the name. Steve Edwards then added a new problem on the up-hill side on the Trojan boulder. Traversing from left to right, *Slaphappy* (B6), starts with cranks on small holds to a slopey finish.

As usual, Randy Judycki was busy at the Fire Crag as he and Craig Harris cranked off three new lines on the lower boulder. *Mr. Centipede* is a good beginner lead with jug-hauling to a cruxy finish. *Epic Garuda* is a bouldery 5.11, while *Cuzco* could be the area's first 5.12. On the upper crag, John Perlin and Edwards linked up the cruxes of a few routes to establish *Crossfire* (5.11c/d).

At the Mystery Science Theatre, called Conejo Mountain in the Tucker guide, there are actually at least 10 routes. Only four are listed in the guide. Most were done by Stuart Ruckman, Jason Houston and Edwards and are between 10a and 12c. However I've recently heard reports,

though unconfirmed, of new activity, mainly easier stuff.

It also appears the hanger thief is back. Occasionally, someone steals hangers from routes around town. It can't be called route chopping since they leave the studs sticking out of the rock. It seems someone is so cheap they can't afford to buy their own hangers, so they take them off routes they've already done. This is the first incident in a couple of years.

The hangers will be replaced eventually, but don't assume a route you've done before will have all its gear. We've heard reports of missing hangers from: Painted Cave, Fire Crag, Lizards Mouth, the Brickyard, Upper Gibraltar and Crag Full of Dynamite. These are popular areas so we probably just haven't heard yet about other areas. Anyone who would care to help fund bolt and hanger replacement can bring donations to The @#%\$ Video Shop and Climbing Boutique.

— S.E.

Malibu

The Planet of the Apes Wall has seen a lot of development over the past couple of seasons. A veritable one-man Army, Jack Marshall has had something to do with every new route. The wall now has at least 15 routes, not counting link-ups, ranging from 5.9 to 5.13. Marshall's *Simian Survival* (12d/13a) is the current testpiece, but he thinks some new lines will be more difficult. However, one might ask, just where will they go?

Back at the Ghetto Wall, Steve Edwards redpointed the first recorded ascent of the line of bolts left of *Skeezer Pleazer*. Dubbed *Street Science* (12b/c), this has probably been done previously by some European passing through town.

Bigger news is the breaking of a key hold on *Maximum Ghetto*, formally 13a. Yet to see a redpoint, this line will probably be the hardest route in LA when completed. It is reported that both Kevin Thaw and

JAVA JONES

CAFE



"I'D NEVER HAVE SENT
BETTER THAN LIFE IF IT
WASN'T FOR THOSE
TRIPLE MOJOS."

PHIL "BAMBINO" REQUIST

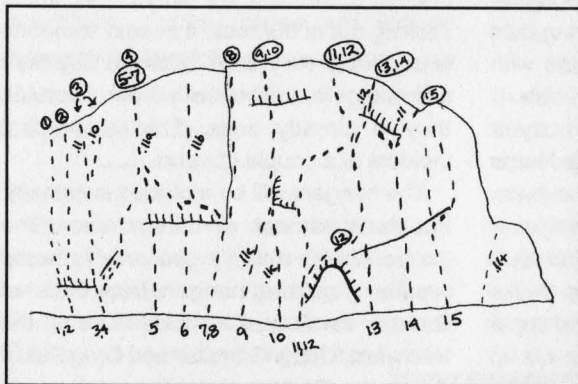
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ACROSS FROM @#%*! VIDEO

Gabriel Lockwood have come close. Uphill on the steep wall that can be seen from the Ghetto, Mike Verdugo established three bolted 5.11's. More potential exists in the area.

-S.E.



The Planet of the Apes Wall:

1. 5.9
2. Christmas Pump (10a)
3. Skock the Monkey (10c)
4. Spike (10c)
5. Spider Monkey (11c)
6. Finger Prints (11a)
7. Planet of the Apes (11a)
8. The Crack (11c)
9. Leftist Gorilla (12b)
10. Gorilla Warfare (12b)
11. Bat Flake (11d)
12. Monkey Sang, Monkey Do (11b)
13. Monkey Business (12b)
14. Simian Survival (12d/13a)
15. Walking on the Moon (11b)

High-Desert

The High-Desert area which Troy Mayr wrote about in *Rock + Ice* #61 has seen some recent developments. Immediately after the article appeared last spring, many of the routes were chopped.

It seemed to be more an act of thievery according to Reed Bartlett, who said, "There was no logic behind the chopping. It seemed like they just took anything that was easy to steal."

Some of these routes have been replaced by Richard Yamin, who plans to

eventually replace all of them. Sam Owings and Jack Marshall have also established over 70 new routes. According to Marshall, this will become Southern California's next major climbing area.

"The potential is staggering. Much better than Williamson," claims Marshall. Look for a guide in the next issue.

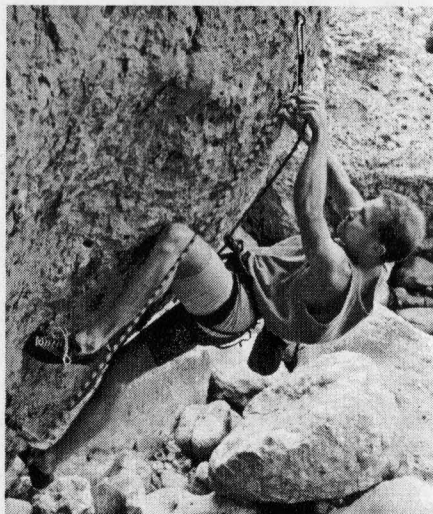
-S.E.

Mt. Williamson

As usual, it's been a busy season at Williamson Rock. Many new moderate routes were established late last season and some early this summer, rounding out the area

and increasing the popularity with beginner and intermediate climbers. The Pyramid area and the new routes *Butter Fingers* (5.7+) and *Rock-it* (5.8) on the Stream Wall are standout classics.

Wicked Garden saw a few repeats, most notable was Will Gove's of San Diego who sent the route on his third try, confirming the grade at 5.13a. Will has been cranking impressively all season; recently he fired off 12 5.12's in a day with no falls, the last six being on the London Wall including



Rob Norris on *Maximum Ghetto*. Photo: Jason Houston

Liquid Night (5.12c/d). Mike Ayon joined Will on this effort and cranked off 8 5.12's.

While on the topic of routes in a day, Troy Mayr and Jack "Tripper" Marshall did an "El Cap day" (over 3,300 feet of climbing) mid-way through the season, completing 60 routes in 12 hours (one route every 12 minutes) with no falls. Eager to see some team slave away all day, Jack offered \$100 to the team who could beat 60. Pompously accepting the challenge, Mark Maynard recruited Angelo Ghiglieri, claiming that they would do at least 75 routes. Fourteen hours later they had 47 under their belts and the sun was long gone; better luck next time, but good effort guys!

The Linder family (Tom, Elkie, and 10 year old Chris) has been busy this season redpointing the desperates. Elkie just added *The Furry Pump* (5.12a) to her list, while Tom and super-kid Chris both fired off *Liquid Night* and other London Wall classics with impressive fluidity. Other up and coming hotties include Angelo Ghiglieri and Matt Beebe. Angelo recently redpointed *Liquid Night*, his hardest to date, and was one move away from flashing *The New Creatures* (5.12a/b). Matt impressively cranked off the seldom done *Final Cut* (5.12b/c).

A Stokes Rescue Litter was donated to Williamson Rock by Charles and Kevin Mokracek. It, and a backboard, are located behind the Leaning Pillar (to the left of the Waterfall Wall). This is to be used for evacuating a victim if there is an emergency, such as a broken limb or severe laceration. Do not use to transport someone with potential head, neck, or back injuries; seek proper emergency assistance, call 911 from a call box or drive to Krakta Ridge Ski area. Please climb safe and watch for loose rock! A new guidebook is in the works and should be out soon.

We are in the process of replacing bolts that have gone bad (such as the Waterfall Wall's rusted bolts). Many of you have expressed interest in donating to the cause. Previously, the development of Williamson Rock was funded by those who established new routes, costing them thousands of dollars. Williamson is a valuable climbing resource for local and visiting climbers alike. With a little help from everyone we can keep Williamson the climber's playground that it is.

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Donations will be used to help establish new easy routes as well as to repair existing routes. If there is a particular route that you would like to see retro-fitted, please indicate the route name with your donation. **FIXE** and Associates are now offering hangers and anchors at wholesale to us for this project (a similar project is underway in the Owens River Gorge). Thanks to those of you who have donated funds in the past! Please send donations to:

Alliance TAM
P.O. Box 4903;
Covina, CA 91723

The Climbers Conservation Alliance is currently petitioning for a special use permit from the U.S. Forest Service. If granted this permit, it will allow the C.C.A. and volunteers to engineer and build a proper trail into the crag (from the west parking area). This will also enable us to construct a solar composting toilet at the base of the crag, and possibly in the parking areas as well. Tentatively, the project will be implemented at the beginning of next season. The C.C.A. will need donations of time and funds if this permit is granted. The purpose of this project is to protect the environment of Williamson Rock and vicinity. With the popularity of Williamson, this will make the crag a better place for all concerned. Find out what you can do! For more information, or to be put on our mailing list write:

Climbers Conservation Alliance
P.O. Box 488
Tuscon, AZ 85702

— **Troy Mayr**

Joshua Tree


The National Park Service has just released its long awaited Draft General Management Plan - Environmental Impact Statement for Joshua Tree National Monument (Draft GMP). The Draft GMP

sets forth the Park Service's and two alternatives for management, use and development of Joshua Tree for the next 10-15 years. It is a document that affects all aspects of the Monument and will directly affect climbing access and environmental issues which are very important to climbers.

It is vitally important that climbers send written comments on the plan. Comments are due by Nov. 7, 1994. Of major concern to climbers are: the extensive road developments and associated parking, campground redesigning, camping fees and a campground reservation system, and issues concerning bolting.

For more information and a background sheet, write to: Friends of Joshua Tree, P.O. Box 739, Joshua Tree, CA 92252.

— **Randy Vogel**



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San Diego

Climbing in San Diego is an oxymoron to most folks. Yet people here manage to pull down on what few resources exist. With the recent closure of Rainbow Boulders and other "secret" areas, even less is available. Even the Woodson glue-ups are falling apart.

There are some exciting prospects,

however. Several new or rediscovered areas are surfacing and being opened for all to enjoy. New crags have sprouted up in: Otay, Mexico, Jacumba, Ramona, Valley Center, Lakeside, Temecula, and God knows where else. Quarries have been discovered, and even strangely pocketed stone has been seen around San Diego.

Yes, a lot of it is just glorified slab climbing. And yes, some of it is a lot smaller than everyone has spewed about; but I've seen some things with my own eyes that I could not believe. 70-80' routes that overhang 10-15' with edges and pockets? Here? No way! Way! I measured them. Don't ask me where, the place will be open to all when the routes are done and access has been formalized (already confirmed to be on B.L.M. land).

Other secret places are also about to bust open all over. One that just recently opened up is the Kennedy Crag in Ramona near Mt. Woodson. It sports bolted routes to 5.11+, and has potential for some really sick stuff. It can be accessed via the Iron Mt. Trail of Highway 67, and is mountain bikeable.

Though I haven't journeyed there yet, the new Otay crag in South County sounds pretty good. Reliable sources have told me that the climbing is fun and the bolts are close. There are enough motivated climbers here to keep the ball rolling. Expect some radical developments here this winter.

— **Mike Verdugo**

Let's face it: San Diego is not mega. You know your climbing options are limited when the only nearby crag is the oak tree in your neighbor's yard—and you're considering a first ascent of the West Limb. Plastic walls will make you strong, but strength is nil if you don't get out and slog. Once you've done your ten-thousandth lap on your favorite TR at Mt. Woodson, you know it's time to get the hell out of Dodge! However, we can't all be the honed climbing transients we wish we could.

Here's where the N.C.C. (Nayfack Car-Pool Coalition) comes into play. Every weekend I shall be traveling to climbing areas outside San Diego. During the week, I shall be following a training regimen here at home. In an effort to create a motivated climbing community, I am interested in building a phone list network to encourage ride sharing. My ultimate goal is to assemble a group of people who train and climb together on a regular basis.

If you are interested in car-pooling and training, contact me at (619) 224-8150. Please leave your name and number so that I may contact you. **DON'T DELAY, SEND ROUTES TODAY!**

— **Nick Nayfack**

ASCF National Rankings

Men

1. Jim Karn
2. Scott Franklin
3. Doug Englekirk
4. John Cronin
5. Steve Hong
6. Tim Fairfield
7. Jason Campbell
8. Jeff Cloud
9. Jordi Salas
10. Bob Bergman
11. Ben Ditto
12. Hans Florine
13. Seth Johnston
14. Tom Richardson
15. Jake Slaney
16. Pat Adams
17. Kevin Branford
18. Ken Matys
19. George Squibb
20. Rudy Hofmeister

Women

1. Robyn Erbesfield
2. Mia Axon
3. Shelly Presson
4. Bobbi Bensmen
5. Georgia Phipps
6. Kadi Johnston
7. Suzanne Paulson
8. Nadine Gagnon
9. Rebecca Noyes
10. Diane Russel
11. Susan Price
12. Karen Rand
13. Margarita Martinez
Mindy Shulack
15. Kathy Yaniro
16. Heather Dorsey
17. Lizz Grenard
18. Hilary Silberman
19. Paula King
20. Tiffany Levine

The Power of Climbing

by Steve Edwards

"The depth of good standard climbing (in America) is very shallow, there are exceptions... but the whole scene is very different. The most noticeable part is the lack of history in their climbing. A lot of people I climbed with didn't appreciate climbing and its history of evolution. The other difference is the lack of bouldering..."

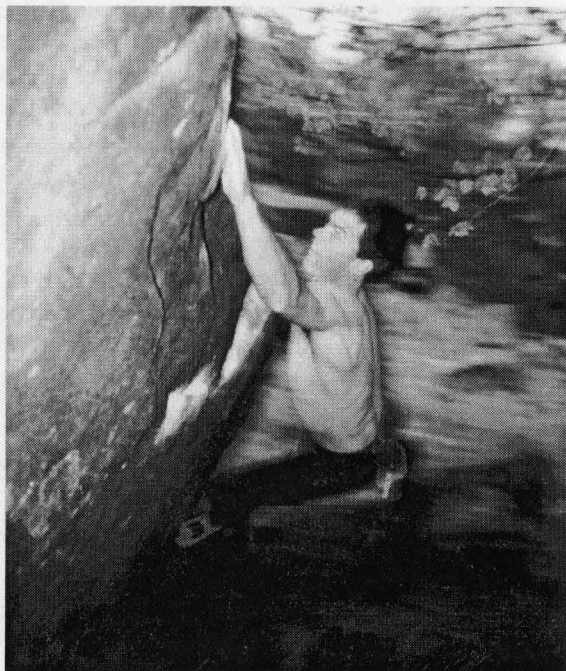
— Sean Myles, 1990

Bouldering has long been an integral part in the progression of climbing in the US. It served as the foundation for Robbins, Chouinard, Bachar and Long. In the 60's, John Gill was perhaps the most famous boulderer in the world. Many of his testpieces were so visionary that they weren't repeated for 20 years. In the 70's, Southern California's Stonemasters used bouldering as their main form of training to push World standards in the mountains. Stoney Point, Joshua Tree and Black Mountain were synonymous with the world's best training grounds and those who excelled there would often find themselves pushing world standards elsewhere.

The 80's saw a different trend, bouldering as its own end. Southern California's elite boulderers started to boulder exclusively, whereas its top climbers focused on roped climbing. The advent of sportclimbing exacerbated this situation as many of the sport's newer participants tended to forsake bouldering as a pastime in favor of clipping bolts. Power, the key element in bouldering, was pushed aside and endurance became the key to succeeding on America's hardest

climbs. The majority of "classic" new lines required mainly to link series of relatively easy moves before pumping out. Bouldering ideals changed as well, as the challenge altered from Gill's, how small a hold can one use, to John Sherman's, how high can one go. Most of America's three-star boulder problems have an OTD (Off the deck) attached to their name.

In the late 80's, unheralded Europeans started to tick America's hardest problems — usually while on vacation. America's hardest route was put up by a Frenchman. Our hardest boulder problem was put up by an Englishman and our 2nd hardest by a Swiss. Obviously something was going on across the Atlantic of which we weren't aware. The French were said to have the best rock for sportclimbing but this



Steve Edwards doin' the *Green Traverse* (B6), Stanage. Photo: Todd Mei

alone could not be the answer. In '89, Sean Myles, a Brit came to Smith Rocks, at the time (and maybe still) America's elite climbing area. He ticked all the hardest routes in a three-week trip. At the time a relative unknown,

Myles proved it wasn't the dearth of French limestone holding Americans back. All of Britain probably has less rock than Yosemite Valley. What was their secret? It was bouldering.

At last count more than 60 Englishmen had climbed 8b and a dozen have climbed 8c (as opposed to 0 Americans). In *The Power of Climbing*, a book with interviews of Britain's elite, bouldering was unanimously agreed upon as the main reason for England's prowess. On a recent trip, I went to England's Peak district in search of answers. Raven Tor, Rubicon, Cressbrook, Stanage, Frogget. The promised land. Home of Ben and Jerry. Touch this stone then go tick everything in the US. But I found the magic wasn't in the stone itself, but in the approach.

"You been to Stoney yet?" I was asked at Raven Tor.

"I heard it was really polished."

The two lads smiled and looked at each other knowingly. "You don't like polish then?"

I hesitated before answering, "uh... well... should I?"

Nodding in agreement they answered, "That's how you get strong."

I began to catch on. Cranking isn't about perfect rock and conditions. It's about motivation and desire. Bad conditions help one's conviction.

Cressbrook Dale is a small limestone embankment 10-15 feet high. A "nice line" doesn't exist here but hundreds of boulder problems do; most so polished its hard to hang the holds without ultimate concentration. Elimination is the name of the game and it's not uncommon to see one person work the same ten feet of rock for a whole season. Ben Moon probably spends more time here than on a rope. He does though, use a rope occasionally; perhaps to on-sight 13c or to put up the World's hardest climb (which he's done three times).

See, in Europe, the boulders are the training grounds. Spending time contriving desperate sequences close to the ground is a very

efficient way to gain the repertoire of movement and the power to do routes such as *Hubble* and *Action Direct*. Just as Robbins, Long and Bachar used boulders to perfect techniques needed to keep them alive high off the deck. Moon and Moffat use boulders to perfect techniques needed to keep them attached to the rock under the most physically demanding circumstances.

"He does use a rope occasionally; perhaps to on-sight 13c or to put up the World's hardest climb."

America has not always suffered from a lack of good standard climbing. Europeans set the World standards into the fifties; the 60's and 70's belonged to us. Robbins, Harding, Harlin, Gill, Kor... then Bridwell, Erickson, Long, Bachar and Kauk. Into the 80's the World followed our lead. As history shows, it could happen again.

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On Grades...

Over the last few years, the grading of boulder problems has become particularly absurd. Stemming from the obvious need for a change in the traditional B system, it seems each bouldering area has adopted its own system. Presently, there are four systems that are widely used:

The B system.

The English system.

The French system.

The V scale.

The B system, B1, B2 and B3 came about as bouldering branched off from climbing to the point where moves could not be classified the same as moves on climbs. B1 is generally a move which would be about 5.12 on a climb. B2 is a move around 5.13 and B3 is a move which has not had a second ascent. The shortcomings here are obvious. 5.12 has four subgrades, as does 5.13. There is no scale for 5.14 and many boulder problems, due to specific movement, would move into this category and beyond. The scale is a closed system, leaving no room for future advancements.

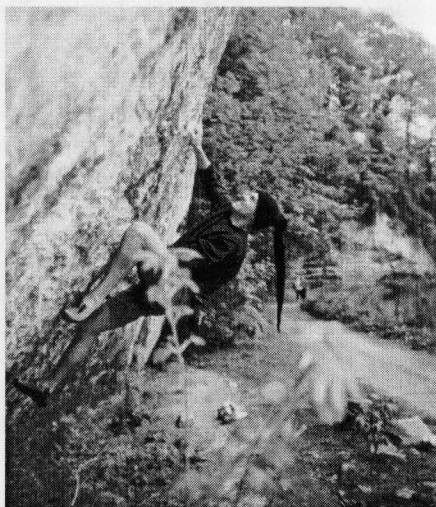
The English and French systems both look the same as their climbing systems. The difference being difficulty. A 6c boulder move is considered much more difficult than a 6c move on a climb. Also, the numbers don't correlate between systems. 6c English is more difficult than 6c French. Therefore, a problem rated 6c could range anywhere from 5.11- to hard 5.13, unless the specifics are known.

The V scale, developed by John Sherman for his Hueco Tanks guide, starts at 0 and is open-ended (currently topping out at 14). This system is also used in Phoenix, though with a different letter, P. As you may now be thinking, this is the most efficient system.

Mari Gingery's Josh system is fine, but

is virtually unknown outside Southern California. There is no need for another system, therefore it should be scrapped.

The V scale has been adopted at various locations but with some hesitancy. Some research has lead me to the cause. The V is for Vermin, John Sherman's nickname. It seems Mr. Sherman has rubbed more than a few people the wrong way, many of them quite influential in the climbing world. So while he has come up with (obviously, in my opinion) the best way to rate boulder problems, it is doubtful whether it will ever see widespread adoption.



Zeke the Freak, Rubicon.
6c, 7b, 5.13, V6, B2, or B6.

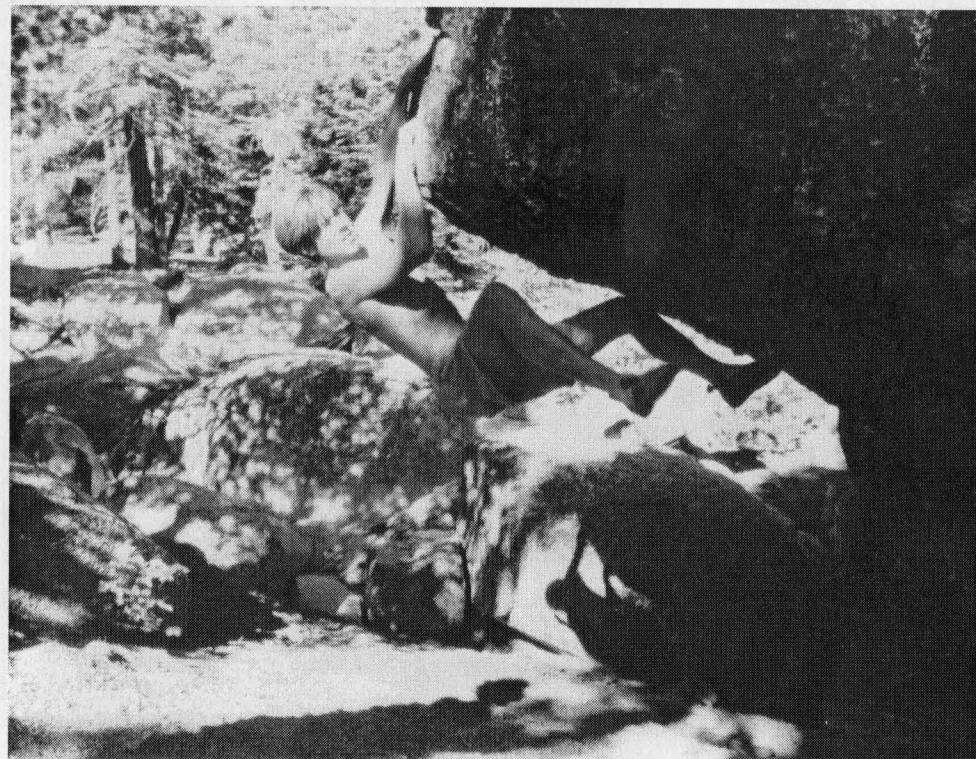
Photo: Todd Mei

So this is what Allez is going to do. Use the V scale without the V. The letter B (for boulder) will be substituted. This should both appease the anti-Sherman faction and scrap the B system at the same time. For those unfamiliar with the V (B) scale, I'll try and give a few examples:

- 3 Pigs (Stoney Point): 5.10, B0
- Gunsmoke (JT): 5.11+, B3
- South Ridge Arete (Idyllwild): B1, B5
- Midnight Lightning (Yosemite): 7b+, B7
- The Dominator (Yosemite): 8c+, B14

It may seem strange but you'll get used to it. Or you won't. But does it really matter?

— S.E.



Matt Beebe *Groveling* (B8) on the Visor at Black Mountain.

Photo: Steve Edwards

BLACK MAGIC

Increase your power at Black Mountain

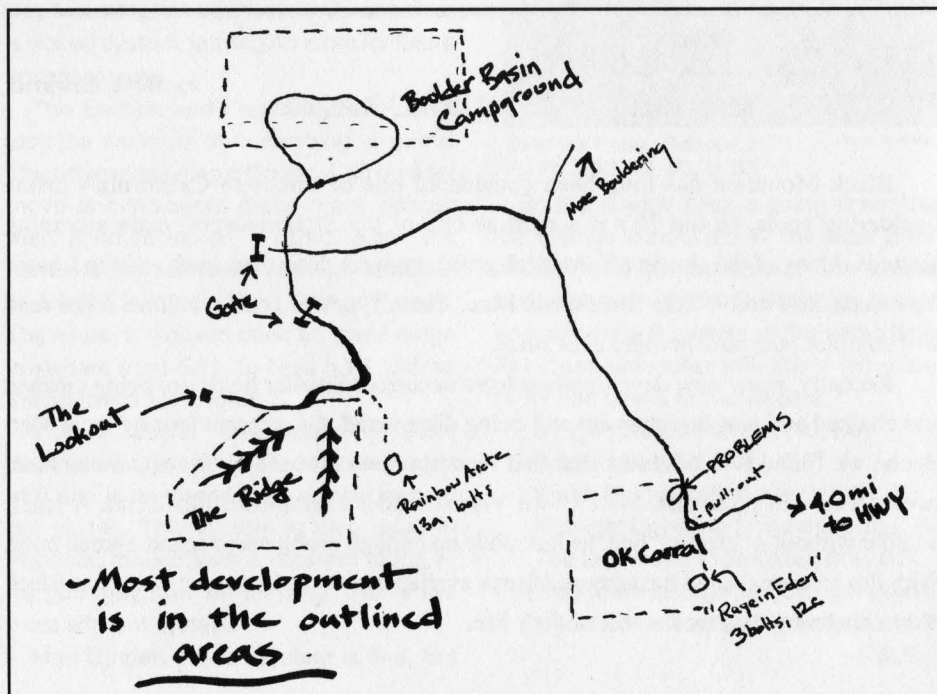
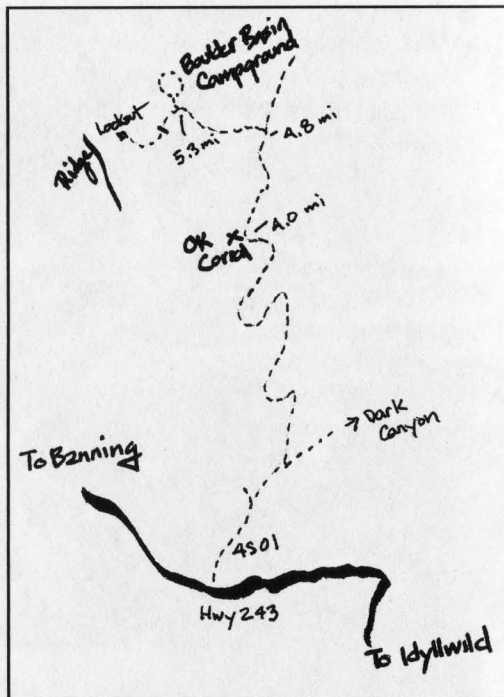
by Steve Edwards

Black Mountain has long been considered one of Southern California's prime bouldering spots. In the 70's it served as one of the Stonemasters' main stomping grounds. Many of the classic off-the-deck problems were done then, such as John Long's Moroccan Roll and Where Boneheads Dare. These types of problems have lured (and will continue) the pure boulder ever since.

Recently, many new developments have occurred. Smaller holds are being cleaned and chalked and new boulders are still being discovered. On a recent tour by local Matt Beebe we found two boulders that had recently been cleaned only steps away from twenty-year old problems. Matt's own Visor boulder exemplifies this trend. A small boulder without a "classic" line, he has made up enough problems to spend a week on it. With this attitude on and the amount of rock available, one could do a new route at Black Mountain every day, for the rest of their life.

Logistics: The amount of rock here defies a guide; however, Craig Fry has written one anyway. The second edition of his *Southern California Bouldering Guide* is due out this month and, in my opinion, everyone should own a copy. So buy it and get strong. Bouldering, and some climbing, exists all over Black Mountain but the main areas are the OK Corral, the Boulder Basin campground (largest area), and the Ridge. A creative boulderer could spend a year here but even a novice, sans guide, could spend a weekend. Don't park in the campground unless you're planning to stay there. The road is closed from the first snow until it's gone.

Directions: between Banning and Idyllwild on Hwy. 243, approximately 5 miles north of Pine Cove, turn off on dirt road 4S01 (marked by a sign saying Black Mountain). About 4.0 miles up is the OK Corral. Look for a small pull-out, it is just before some boulders right beside the road. Just over a mile further (stay left) is Boulder Basin campground. The Ridge is just beyond. Park at the closed road and walk uphill toward the lookout tower.



Boulder of the Month

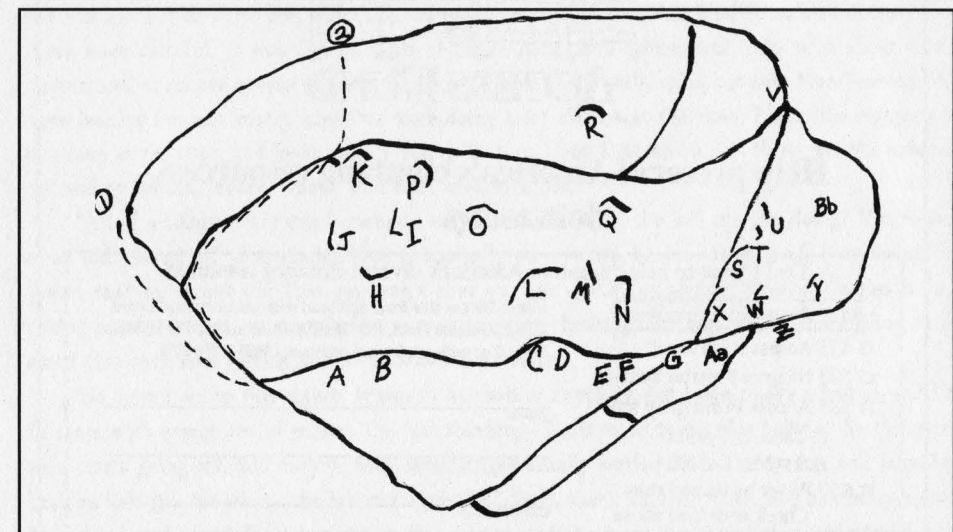
The Visor at Black Mountain

Though not too impressive at first glance, this tiny boulder features more climbing than some crags. Developed by Matt Beebe, it exemplifies the current trend in bouldering: eliminate problems. It's a good example of Southern California's bouldering possibilities.

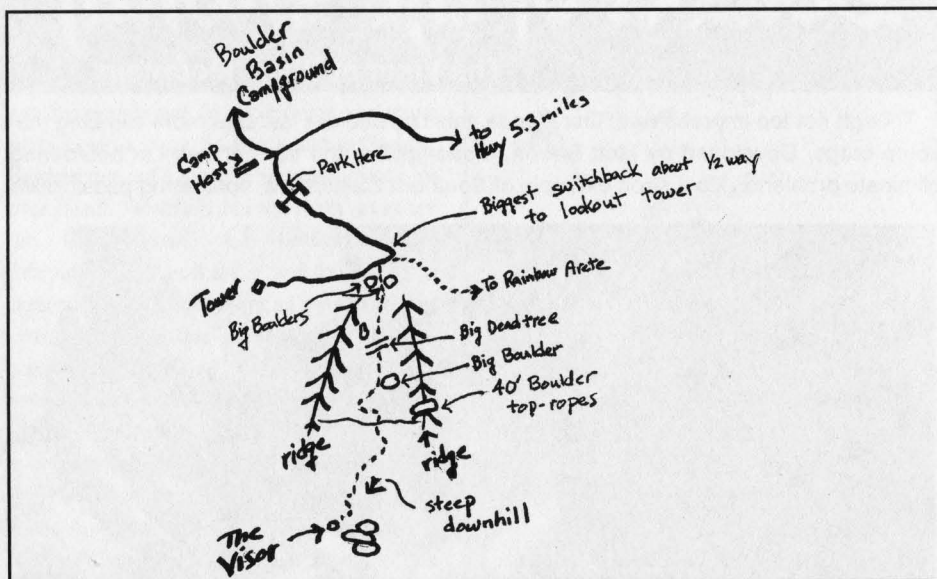


Matt Beebe on Grovel (B8).

Photo: Steve Edwards



1. Face (B0)
2. Rail (B3)
3. A, B, I, H, J, K, top (B5)
4. C, D, L, I, O, K, top (B4)
5. Grovel. E, F, N, M, Q, R, top (B8)
6. E, F, N, S, T, U, V, top (B6)
7. E, F, W, X, Y, V, top (B5)
8. Aa, X, Y, Bb, top (project)



Map by Matt Beebe

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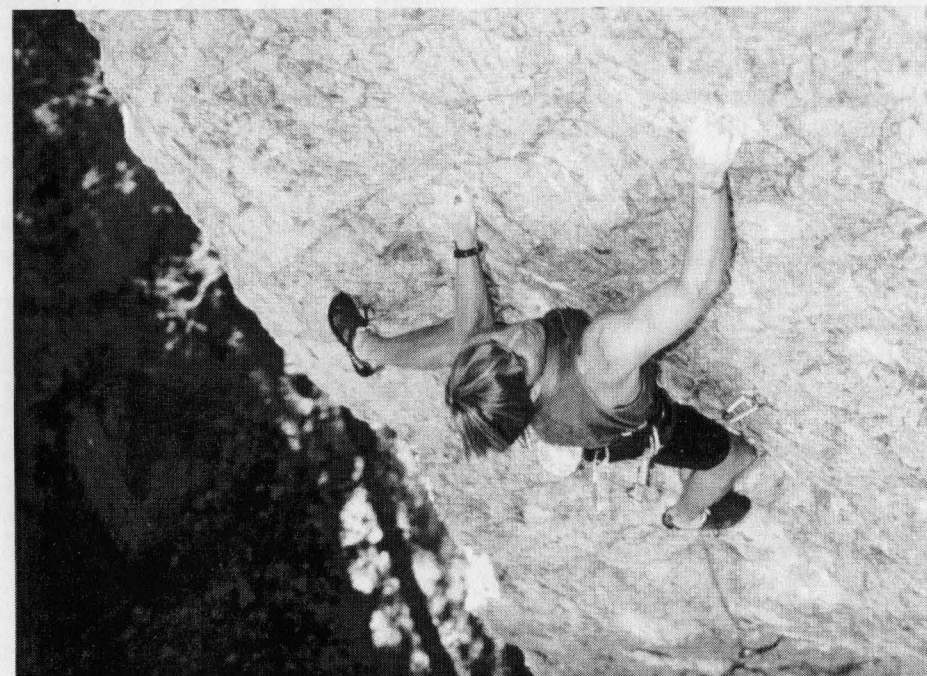
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AL94

The World According to Troy edited by Binky Greene



Troy Mayr on Wicked Garden (13a) at Mt. Williamson.

Photo: Stan Roy

"I guess a highlight of mine, and it's kind of a stupid little route, is *Peer Pressure* at Suicide. It's like 5.9, a little three bolt slab. It's really inconsequential, and that kind of makes the story that much more colorful. It was Charles (Cole of 5.10), and I. Bob Gaines was there with about thirty clients, and there are people all over the face. Charles and I are testing out new Five-Tennies. We were looking for new routes, since we were doing a lot of that at the time. I was like eighteen or nineteen at the time, and looked really young. So here I am, I get up on this thing, get the hammer out and go 'whack, whack, whack' and start drilling a bolt.

"All of a sudden, this guy launches a verbal attack: 'What the hell are you doing? You're just some kid.' Going off. Everybody there is basically on our side because they've all been doing the routes that we've put up. This guy won't shut up, he's going completely berserk. Charles is just sitting on the ground, an everybody's sort of laughing thinking, 'Oh boy, what's Troy going to do about this one? He's getting basically assaulted verbally.'

"So, here I am in this stance. It wasn't hairball or anything, but I don't have a bolt in and I'm in shoes with experimental rubber. I'm just thinking, 'I just want to get this bolt in.' So this guy's wife starts going off, and they're both screaming. I finally settled in to the stance, and launched back on this guy. 'So what's the last route you did? Well, that's Charles' route, and he's belaying me. This guy over here (Gaines) has put up five routes, and these are the guys I'm climbing with.' He thought I was just some Joe-blow kid who went to a climbing shop, bought a drill and started going nuts at the crag. This went on for like a half-hour, and the guy finally shut up. I popped in the other two bolts and did the thing. The guy was still climbing there, and just to blow his buzz, after we did the route, everybody there lined up to do it. The thing saw like fifty ascents that afternoon."

Steve and I met Troy for dinner after a day of climbing at Mt. Williamson, a climbing area that has been called, "Troyworld". After all of the hype I'd heard, it was a little surprising to actually meet him. I was expecting a stringy looking, middle-aged hard man. Troy Mayr has been around for a long time and is the most prominent name behind the development of Mt. Williamson. Troy turned out to be only a few years older than myself, clean-cut, and most impressively, non-assuming. This guy has a list of climbing credentials as long as anybody's, and he's under thirty years old. As the excerpt above illustrates though, he's been taking crap since he was a wee climbing tyke. *The following are excerpts from the interview. All questions were asked by Steve, unless otherwise noted.*

Before I'd started climbing, I'd heard of you. You were really young?

I learned to climb when I was fifteen or sixteen.

You were pushing standards.

Well... I progressed pretty quickly. Especially during that time, sport-climbing wasn't happening. I went to Tuolumne Meadows when I was sixteen... I did a couple of 11a's and I'd only been climbing for about six months. That's probably like doing 12a now, or something, I don't know.

Not to mention more serious.

Well...yeah. And then I hooked up with Charles [Cole]. We did a bunch of new routes at Suicide, and a couple at Tahquitz. It kind of went from there. Then when I was nineteen, that was the first year of Snowbird. I competed in that, and nobody really new anything about competitions at that stage of the game. I guess the combination of those things added up.

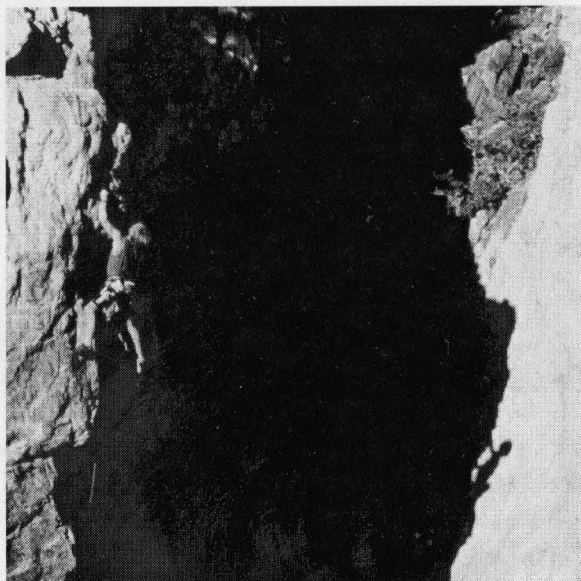
You were a bit controversial as well.

(Laughs) Controversial? I think the thing was back then, and only recently has this changed, I think, when I did new routes, or

something hard... with Charles, or whoever my partner was at the time, I wouldn't go back to Hidden Valley, in J-Tree and go talk to everybody and say, 'Guess what I did today? Blah, blah, blah... this and that.' So I think all the locals were going, 'Oh yeah, he's just some kid, he's not really doing anything.'

So you weren't sort of hanging out, living in a van?

No, I would hang out there sometimes, but I wouldn't hang with these guys, cause I didn't



Troy on No Rest For the Wicked (12a).

Photo: Stan Roy

know any of them. So you know, it's like, why would I do that?

What type of climbing do you like best, first ascents?

Yeah, I do like doing first ascents.

Why?

I guess just generally I like creating things. I'm basically a creative person and that kind of follows through with climbing.

Is there any public service involved with that? Do you feel a responsibility to climbing?

Now I do. Just because of the way the evolution of the sport is going. Which is sort of scary, actually. In jest, we named a route, "Created a Monster" at Mt. Williamson something like four years ago, kind of with the

"I mean how can you not respect gravity? You have to realize that if you fall, and you're not properly equipped, you're going to die."

thought of what Williamson might become. Like I said, it was in jest. And we did create a monster, I mean you've seen what it's like up there, it's crazy.

But there aren't that many people on hard routes...

No, there aren't.

...Or doing FA's.

No, just the same people.

You haven't created that monster.

Right, right, I've created the monster of a lot of people climbing. That's one of the funny things about Southern California is... and I think across the U.S. too, it's basically always the same people doing hard routes. Now you hear about these guys cranking in gyms and such, but you get these guys out to the crags... I mean some of these guys are incredibly good at the crags as well...

But when you were young, you did hard routes. You went out and freed aid climbs, and pushed limits. Why did you do it, and how come there aren't more people doing it?

I don't know, that's kind of baffled me. That's a good one. It seems like... I don't know... lack of drive in these young guys? Or they don't understand that you get better.

Might it have to do with criticism. You took a lot of criticism.

You have to be willing to take a lot of shit... you're going to have old guys breathing down your neck all the time...

(Waiter brings mud pies)

How did you start doing FA's? Was it through Charles?

Yeah, well actually I did a few FA's before I met Charles. It was more of an adventure thing at that stage of the game. If there was a route in the guide book, I knew what it was and that took away from the ascent in my mind somehow. So, I was just like, "O.K., let's do this, cause I don't know what it's going to be." Rise to the occasion of it.

Have you done any mountaineering or big-wall climbing?

Not much. Mostly just free-climbing.

Where have you climbed? Have you been to Europe?

I've never been to Europe. I'd love to go. I've been to most of the major areas in the Western U.S.

What's your favorite type of rock?

Granite. It's what I was weaned on.

Do you compete?

Not any more. I started competing in '88 and did most major comps until Berkeley. I just burned out on them... it was all right... I was never really motivated to compete. It was more like, "What's this all about?"

I don't like climbing on plastic, really.

You do FA's that are both easy and hard. Which do you prefer?

I prefer hard routes. But there's just not a lot of that rock around here...and, you know, climbing easy routes is fun too. I mean Williamson is like Disneyland for climbers.

It's kind like Disneyland, but even sportclimbing is not that safe.

Right, exactly. It kind of amazes me, the lack of common sense so many people have.

Do you think it's a lack of respect for the danger?

I mean, how can you not respect gravity? You have to realize that if you fall, and you're not properly equipped, you're going to die.

Do you think gyms give people a false sense of security?

Maybe, but there is only one gym in L.A., so I can't imagine that it's that widespread yet. I don't know... climbing is getting a lot of press. The funny thing is, it's something you'd expect if there were a lot of macho attitudes, like these Marine guys that were out there today. It's this full ego trip. I would expect it then; They're all pumped up. But, it's across the board, this lack of common sense.

The men's field sported some surprises, mainly Randy Leavitt who despite being perhaps Southern California's most famous climber, has rarely, if ever, been known to compete. Also in attendance were a group of Berkeley climbers including nationally ranked Ty Foose and Mike Papciak. As with the women, some local unknowns were attempting to steal the show. Frank Cornelius, Paul Livingston and most notably Ryan Hunt all made the finals. Hunt, the local favorite, was constantly executing impossible looking sequences to the delight of the crowd. In the semi-finals, after passing all previous high-points, he got crossed up, then found what appeared to be a heel-hook rest. With the



Rob Mulligan and Randy Leavitt Photo: Steve Edwards

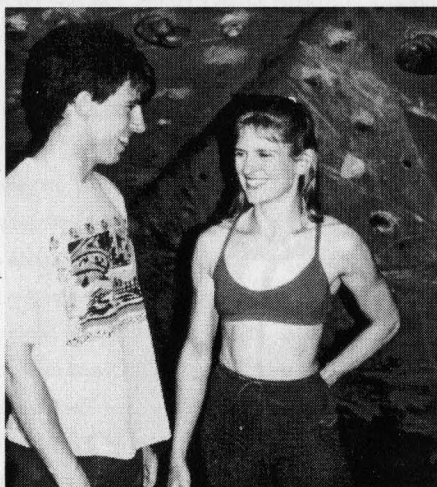
crowd going crazy, he turned around, flashed a smile, then fell. Also making the finals were Papciak, who came within a move of flashing all the routes, Rob Mulligan, who looked very strong after recently moving back from Colorado, and Leavitt, who looked as if he'd competed forever, basically hiking everything.

The women's final was a terse 17 move jug-haul with a stopper move at the top. First up was bay area resident Denise Danielson who made the final despite being in self-proclaimed "terrible shape." She fell low as did 20 year old Brandi Profitt, who has only been climbing for a year. Next up was Alexa Forstner, who, with Foose, had driven all night to make the comp.



Final. Crux. Alexa Forstner. Photo: Steve Edwards

She seemed unfettered by lack of sleep as she climbed smoothly to the stopper move where she ran out of power. Next was local favorite Magnus who climbed with the explosiveness of a person possessed. At the final move, she had the crowd holding their breath as she just missed sticking the final jug then clawed to hold on, literally sticking to her fingernails for an instant before plummeting. Paulson was last, her precise climbing style in contrast to Magnus, as she waltzed to the final move. Hesitating at the powerful roof where no amount of footwork was going to help her, she gathered, rocked, then threw but barely grazed the hold leaving the women tied for first.



Suzanne Paulson

Photo: Steve Edwards

Power of Verve

Results:

Men's Elite

1. Mike Papciak
2. Rob Mulligan
Randy Leavitt
4. Ryan Hunt
5. Frank Cornelius
6. Paul Livingston
7. Graham Doe
- Greg Loh
- Larry Siebold
10. Dan Delang

Women's Elite

1. Lori Magnus
Suzanne Paulson
3. Alexa Forstner
4. Brandi Profitt
Denise Danielson
6. Ellen Rescigno
7. Chris Daleiden
8. Kristin Northcote
9. Amno O'Neill
10. Rhonda Bragg

Men's Advanced

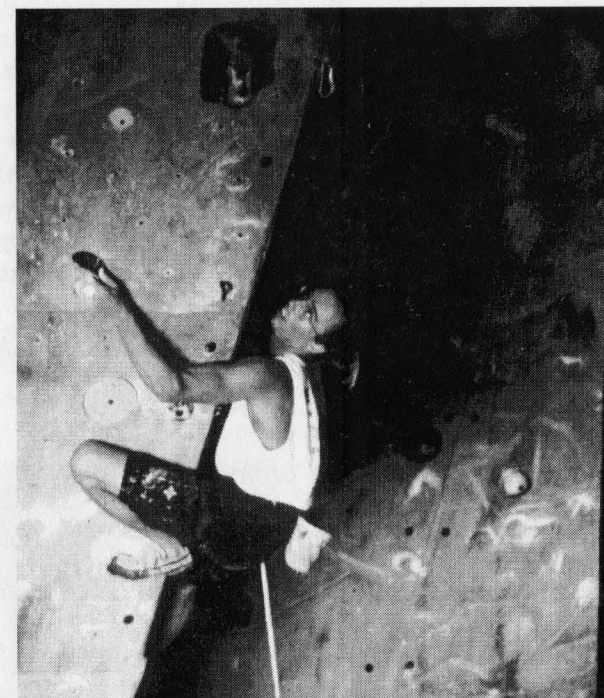
1. Eric Lake
2. Jack Hargis
3. Mike Murphy
4. Kris Charas
5. Jason Brown

Women's Recreational

1. Moi Wong
2. Terri Peterson
3. Cina Mele
4. Elle Von Schuler
5. Rhonda Moore

Men's Recreational

1. Joe Schoeningh
Sean Weymouth
3. Greg Castaneda
4. Anthony Aliva
5. Brett Miller



Papciak low on the final.

Photo: Steve Edwards

The men's final was long and steep with an interesting twist: Griffith told the competitors he'd designed a figure-4 somewhere on the route. Taking advantage of this beta was Hunt, the first man out. Ever the showman, he busted into a figure-4 way early which, of course, was very popular with the crowd, though not the prescribed beta. He fell before making it to the designed move. Cornelius and Livingston fell below Hunt's high-point.

Then came Papciak who looked smooth past Hunt's high-point, before hesitating at an obvious crux. Without wasting time he fired an off-balance dyno and nailed what proved to be the winning hold. This was the key figure-4 hold. After doing the figure-4 move, with only a move left to the top, he pumped out and fell looking for feet on the roof. Next up, Mulligan pumped out looking for a smooth way to get to the figure 4. Then came Leavitt, looking every bit like the only Southern Californian to climb 5.14, his form and footwork appeared flawless as he consistently used footholds overlooked by the other competitors. The crowd erupted when he appeared to find a heel-hook rest just below the crux. But, as Scott Frye likes to say, "Sometimes you've just got to paste and pull." This "rest" proved deceiving, while Leavitt proved to be human. Pumping out he threw and missed. Leaving Papciak the victor. Very exciting indeed.

This is the first article in a series covering not only specific training techniques, but the theories that are the backbone of any successful training regimen. You don't have to be an elite, or even a good climber to utilize this training knowledge, you only have to be interested in improving.

Phil Requist is without a doubt one of Southern California's strongest climbers. This year, Phil redpointed his project Better Than Life (5.13c), and has begun work on many new routes, some in the 5.14 range. He has achieved massive gains in power and endurance by taking a very scientific approach in his training.

Training: Goals

by Phil Requist

"The aim of art is to project an inner vision into the world, to state in aesthetic creation the deepest psychic and personal experiences of a human being."

— Bruce Lee

It is the *progress* in any endeavor that yields the rewards. Why then, has Joe Banks ("Anything can happen..." on page 31) taken the time to emphasize how far behind American climbers are? Are 5.13s inherently more fun to climb than 5.8s? No. Mastery of an art and pushing the limits of your own potential are where the joy in climbing lie. These rewards and more are possible only if the art is pursued with overwhelming passion, focus, and vision. We must, therefore, look to the European climbing scene for an objective yardstick of what can and will be accomplished.

There is no one reason why Americans are so far behind the Europeans in climbing. A comprehensive study of this fact is needed, but is outside the scope of my training articles. Three points which I believe act to keep the U.S. behind the Europeans are relevant to the subject of training. Therefore, they must be discussed before we reach the next, more 'practical' level; these points are the lack of:

- 1) Goals
- 2) Belief in Training
- 3) Training Knowledge

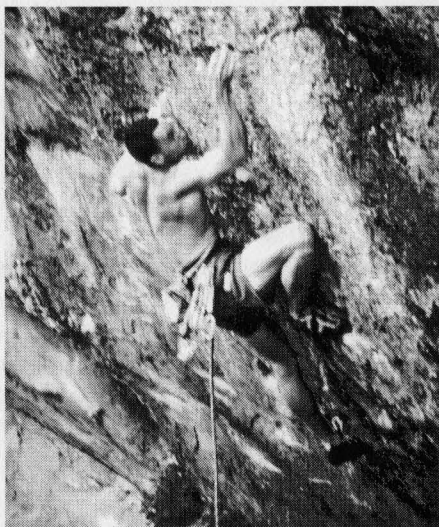


Photo: Steve Edwards

Goals

No human greatness is achievable without a *goal* that an *individual* envisions long before it is attainable. A goal is a person's highest ideal and motivation. Briefly, a proper goal should:

1) Evolve from the individual. These 'honest' goals require no outside source for motivation. Although I compete myself, I think competitions have had several negative effects on the focus of climbers in America. Although competitions are quite difficult, they are the easiest way for a person to get sponsorship or even earn some money. Unfortunately the same support base does not exist for those whose emphasis is redpointing and on-

sighting hard routes on rock. Also, with a rise in sponsorship the 'goal' of many young climbers is to become sponsored. Many French climbers climb 8b+ (14a) yet receive no sponsorship.

2) Not be bounded by the standards of the times or the society. Everything that has ever been done was at some time done for the first time. Unfortunately, many U.S. climbers seek success only on a national level which aids in keeping us behind the Europeans. This sells our country's climbing future short and it affects climbers of all levels.

3) Be clear and specific. "Wanting to be a good all-around climber" is too vague. A better goal might be: "I want to maximize my on-sight, redpoint, and competitive ability." By focusing on each one individually for one year, after three years you would be a better climber than if you attempted all three goals at once. Keep in mind that climbing is so advanced, it is unlikely that any one person will ever again dominate in

"If you are not improving as fast as Malcolm Smith (you're not) then you should want to rethink and redesign your training."

climbers and 'power' climbers simply cannot touch each others hardest routes.

4) Have a time-frame that you can relate to. Some people simply cannot focus on a goal which is too far off, that's fine. Others, like myself, love goals we know we will not achieve for a few years. Its probably best to have short (less than 6 months), medium (6-12 months), long (over 1 year) and very long (over 2 years) range goals. The very long range goal should be a logical consequence of multiple short range goals. The key is to be honest with what you can expect of yourself, but never to sell yourself short.

Belief in Training

Having a goal is only the first step. Hunger does not give us knowledge pertaining to growing food and goals do not inherently tell us how to achieve them. Thus, we must select a way to reach our goal. Furthermore, there will most likely be several ways in which we could attain our goal; but this does not mean that they are all equal. If you believe, as I do, that life is finite you will want to attain your goals in the *most efficient manner possible*.

Now we have reached the essential principle of training. If you are not improving as fast as Malcolm Smith (you're not) then you should want to rethink and redesign your training. If you do not want to do the training required to reach your goal, you must revise what your goal is. This step (the *willingness* to do whatever necessary to attain one's goal as efficiently as possible) seems obvious, yet this is where many climbers' plans go awry.

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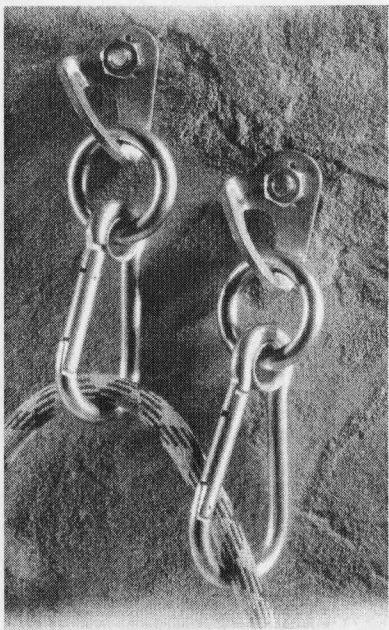
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Training Knowledge

The goal of my future articles is to raise the reader's level of training sophistication. 'Raw' knowledge will be emphasized because this allows you to *understand* how to customize your training to a particular situation. Schedules, exercises, and workouts will be recommended, but you are always free to adjust them. Highly specific issues for more advanced climbers will be covered as well. I do not pretend to know everything about training, but the majority of climbers will improve their training efficiency by considering these articles. Finally, a foundation for *communication* (regarding training) among climbers in southern California must be built, at present this is sorely lacking.

A Conversation From 1992 and

A Prediction of the Future...

"Training allowed Malcolm Smith to come out of nowhere and repeat the world's second hardest route," I said, provoking Hans Florine into another debate on the benefits of training.

"But he can't onsight for shit," was Hans' retort (debatable at the time).

In the two years since this conversation, Malcolm has onsighted 13c, redpointed 13d in a day, and put up the world's hardest boulder problem... Hans got injured.

Next Issue: Cyclic Periodization.

Recommended Reading: Goddard and Neumann's *Performance Rock Climbing*.



Facing Page:
The Bambino cranking
Better Than Life (13c)
at the Owl Tor.
Photo: Steve Edwards



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Gym Reports

Rock & Roll

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GYM IN SOUTHERN
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ROCKREATION

Sport Climbing Center

It's hard to believe it's been a year since Rockreation opened its huge roll-up doors to the southern California climbing community. But what a year it's been. With slide shows, clinics, and visits by such notable climbers as Lynn Hill, Peter Croft, Robyn Erbesfield, Didier Raboutou, Dale Goddard, John Bachar, John Long and Swiss hardman Elie Chevieux, Rockreation has certainly been an exciting place to climb.

Rockreation's first two competitions, the Boreal Boulder Blast and the Power of Verve On-site climbing competition both proved to be huge successes. The gym's varied terrain provided for exciting routes and boulder problems that challenged recreational and elite climbers alike. Lots of prizes, lots of fun and lots of good food will no doubt be a signature of future Rockreation competitions.

Up-coming events include the Reinhold

Messner slide show that is co-sponsored by Adventure 16. A limited number of tickets are on sale for this special event that is scheduled for November 2, 1994. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased in advance at Rockreation or at any Adventure 16 store. Look forward to a slide show later this fall by Randy Leavitt.

With one year behind us, Rockreation eagerly looks forward to more great climbing in the years to come. Look for new locations in the very near future. Climb On!

SolidRock gym

Indoor rock climbing has come a long way in recent years and many advances are due to the few climbing gyms that refused to accept second best. This is the attitude that SolidRock Gym maintains and, since opening its doors in the spring of 1993, it has quietly become one of the most successful gyms of its type in the nation.

SolidRock Gym is situated between Old Town and the San Diego Airport, off the 5 Freeway South and the Old Town Ave. Exit. Its central location makes it the perfect stopover for locals and tourists alike.

SolidRock Gym caters to all climbers from the beginner to the seasoned veteran and offers a large number of instructional programs for everyone, including a youth program, private instruction and a brand new outdoor guiding program. Along with the many programs SolidRock Gym is also proud to be the home of Team SolidRock, a nationally sponsored competitive climbing team.

SolidRock Gym schedules an exciting line-up of technical clinics, celebrity slide

shows, climbing competitions and other events each month. Recently two infamous San Diego climbers presented a great slide show and this past month an incredible training clinic was given by Phoenix Rock Gym team coach Jim Waugh.

VERTICAL

HOLD

SPORTS CLIMBING CENTER

Sporting nothing but the best, Vertical Hold is the largest sport climbing gym in Southern California. Within over 10,000 square feet lies a 2000 square foot bouldering area, over 80 routes on top-rope, and a spectacular 40 foot, wildly-steep lead cave. In the future, watch out for special events such as shoe demos, slide shows, and competitions. The most recent special event, "Lights Out," turned out to be a blazing success. With a great turn-out, all participants climbed, with the aide of headlamps, to the top of unforeseen routes. Many thanks to all who attended, and to Metolius, Eagle Creek, Sport Center, etc. for donating prizes. For climbing fun at one of the most spectacular gyms around, come to Vertical Hold.

Gym Information

Rock and Roll

26860 Jefferson Ave.

Murietta, CA

(909) 677-7430

Hours: Tue & Thur 3:30-10:30;

Wed 5-10:30; Fri 12-10:30

Sat & Sun 11-4; Mon closed.

Rockreation

1300 Logan Avenue

Costa Mesa, CA 92626

(714) 556-ROCK

Hours: Mon-Thur 11-10;

Fri 11-8; Sat & Sun 9-7.

SolidRock Gym

2074 Hancock Street

San Diego, CA 92110

(619) 299-1124

Hours: Mon, Tue 3-10;

Wed-Fri 11-10; Sat & Sun 11-7

Vertical Hold

9580 Distribution Ave.

San Diego, CA 92121

(619) 586-7572

Hours: M-F 11:30-10;

Sat 10-10; Sun 10-8

Event List

Date	Event	Location	Information
Sep. 21	Just For Kids	Vertical Hold	Special event for kids only.
Sep. 27	1st Anniversary!	Rockreation	Member slide show.
Sep. 26	Technique Clinics (thru Oct. 27)	Rockreation	Rob Mulligan instructs clinics designed for recreational, intermediate, and advanced climbers. Call for dates and times.
Oct. 22	Rocktober Fest	SolidRock	ASCF Local competition with Open and Expert categories. \$500 purse and prizes.
Oct. 31	Halloween Party	Rockreation	Guaranteed to be exciting!
Nov. 2	Reinhold Messner	Rockreation	Slide Show. Co-sponsored by Adventure 16. Tickets are limited. Cost is \$12.
Nov. 15	Randy Leavitt	SolidRock	Slide Show - His first in 2 years! All proceeds will benefit the Access Fund.
Nov. 17	Randy Leavitt	Rockreation	Slide Show - Advanced ticket sales. All proceeds go to the Access Fund.
Dec. 3	Kurt Smith	SolidRock	Slide Show - Awesome action of his latest endeavors in Mexico and Yosemite!
Dec. 8	Kurt Smith	Rockreation	Slide Show. Routes all over the country.
Jan. 7	Climbin' Into '95	Solid Rock	ASCF Regional competition.

Non-Linear

by Binky

Near Santa Barbara, there is a small bouldering crag. It is well travelled, but hardly notable. Near the base of this twenty foot top-rope area is a wide array of broken glass and graffiti. If you climb near an urban area, you become used to this aesthetic intrusion. Another interesting phenomenon found near climbing populations is a beginner crag. This is the crag with the easiest approach and routes least dependent upon technique. Well, the aforementioned crag is one such location. Generally, I like to see other climbers out getting fit, or sending some hard routes, rarely do I like to see them endanger themselves.

It seems as if I almost witness an accident every time I go up there. Sometimes the anchors are set improperly. Other times people are soloing on loose rock near the top. I've even seen someone give a partner a body belay while wearing a harness with a figure-eight hanging off their gear loop. Since Santa Barbara does not have the largest climbing population on the West Coast, it is reasonable to assume that this is happening all over: The inexperienced putting themselves in dangerous situations.

The word, "inexperienced" is not interchangeable with beginner in this context. Expert climbers make mistakes as well, and often times enough, the results are the same. There are always members of a climbing community that are careless concerning their personal safety. No one wants to injure himself, but it is

sometimes difficult to envision the consequences of one's actions without appropriate examples. This is why Non-Linear will exist.

Non-Linear will try to cover all of the accidents that occur in Southern California in an effort to keep climbers abreast of the mistakes other climbers make. You may not think you are vulnerable when you hear about a beginning climber tying in wrong and taking a big fall, but you might think twice about using a certain knot when you learn about it coming untied on someone well known.

One of the editors of this magazine reads *Accidents in North American Mountaineering* every year. One might find this a morbid hobby, but he claims it has saved his life on numerous occasions. What he has also discovered are mistakes that he himself has gotten away with where others have lost their lives. These revelations are the kind that stick with somebody for a long time.

Since we cannot do this alone, we need the climbers out there to report accidents and mistakes that result in injury. This will not be a means of reprimanding individuals since no names will be used, it will only be a way of networking in an effort to prevent any accidents that we can. Call or send correspondence to:

Allez
c/o The Video Shop
900 Embarcadero Del Mar #1
Isla Vista, CA 93117
(805) 968-7227

Anything can happen...

by Joe Banks

"You have a brain cloud. There's a black fog of tissue running right down the center of your brain."

— Joe vs. The Volcano

To say that the US climbing scene is suffering from a brain cloud is a major understatement. Our magazines seem to attempt to minimize the difference between US and European climbing standards. Even our top climbers shudder at the mention of the Europeans. This evasion of the issue only fuels the problem. Here are some of the facts.

Europeans have onsighted multiple 13c power and power-endurance routes, with 13d eminent. Stamina routes rated 13d have already been onsighted. US climbers that onsight at a high level are relatively few with the best onsights at 13b. This puts us, realistically, two letter grades behind in onsighting. This is ground that took the best European climbers about 5 years to cover.

In redpointing, the US is even further behind. 14c power and stamina routes and 14c/d power-endurance routes have been redpointed. No US climber has redpointed harder than 14a. (Except perhaps Tony Yaniro.) This puts us 2-3 letter grades, or 7-8 years, behind in redpointing.

By now, one might think that US climbers might be advancing more rapidly. Since the Europeans are at a higher level, advancement

should naturally be slower. Also, since they have invested time and effort to break new ground, we should be able to rapidly follow in their footsteps. Unfortunately, research into World Cup and US National competitions does not indicate this. Over the last five years, World Cup routes have increased by approximately 3 letter grades, whereas US National routes have increased one grade. That is to say that they're in the lead and picking up speed.

Their superiority is also evident in all aspects of climbing. You name it, they're setting the standard by far: bouldering, soloing, multi-pitch routes, traditional-style ground-up ascents, ice climbing, etc. Perhaps they are genetically superior, or they have more rock, or more funding from sponsors? No. In rainy Sheffield, England, without aid from sponsors, Malcolm Smith trained on a small wooden fingerboard in his bedroom for four years; then he became the fourth person in the world to climb 14c.

The reason for the difference in standards is psychologically based more than anything else. Brain cloud. Brain clouds, of course, do not exist. That is to say, our future is in our hands, anything can happen...

travel across the Atlantic to find new routes or suspect food. What I need is to stop dreaming a little and look around. There are so many places I need to go around here before I take off around the world that I'd have to be even more monumentally stupid than I appear to justify it to myself.

One of the key notions that we have to realize as a community is that we are all in the same boat. At the least we're in the same lake (I've noticed that most other people's boats are faster with more attractive crews). Regardless of the finer points, the sum of a community's resources are, without a doubt, greater than its whole. More often than not, these resources go untapped and unrecognized: we're here to change that. Whether or not we can do this is certainly subject to debate.

Look around, read what we have to say and decide for yourself.

— Bink

Our training guru, Phil Requist, is getting a lot of coverage in this, our first, issue. Being in the proverbial limelight, if you will, has both benefits and shortcomings. For instance, Phil hates this font and shudders to look at it, let alone be written about in what he considers a travesty of text. To further annoy Phil, we have established one of those ubiquitous "Top Ten Lists" to inform you, the reader, about Phil the man...

Top Ten Things Phil Requist Would Never Say:

10. I'VE GOT A NEW POETRY BOOK FOR OUR BIVEY ON DENALI.
9. LET'S GO ON A ROAD TRIP, I'D LIKE TO WORK ON MY ONSIGHTING.
8. DON'T FORGET THE CAMALOTS.
7. WHY DON'T YOU ROLL ME A SMOKE WHILE I CLEAN MY GEAR FROM THE CRACK.
6. I'M SICK OF BANANAS, LET'S GRAB A BURGER
5. NO, I CAN'T GO TO OWL TOR TODAY — I'VE GOT A HANGOVER.
4. HEY, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL DAY, HOW 'BOUT WE SKIP THE HANGBOARD SESH AND HEAD UP TO GIBRALTAR.
3. I DON'T KNOW GUYS, THAT LOOKS PRETTY STEEP.
2. I WOULD'VE GOTTEN THAT ROUTE, IF IT WASN'T FOR THE MONO.
1. TRAINING SUCKS!

Coming in the next issue:

Hi-Desert Climbing
Kevin Thaw interview
New Crag in San Diego

CLIMBER'S CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

The **Climber's Conservation Alliance** is a National non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of climbing and the climbing environment. The **CCA** promotes low-impact climbing practices while vigorously defending against unreasonable restrictions. The **CCA** works by empowering and supporting local climbers, and always seeking innovative means of balancing responsibility with preserving climbing freedoms. The **CCA's ALL VOLUNTEER** effort means that 100% of all funds directly benefit climbers and the environment.

WHAT EACH CLIMBER CAN DO:

- ✓ **LEAVE NO TRACE.** Pick up after yourself and others. Your example exerts the most powerful influence.
- ✓ **DISPOSE OF HUMAN WASTE PROPERLY.** Use toilets (even if its a walk). Bury waste at least 6 inches deep and well away (50 meters) from any lakes, streams or dry water courses.
- ✓ **USE EXISTING TRAILS.** Don't forge new paths or cut switchbacks. Help with trail maintenance and volunteer for trail building projects.
- ✓ **ABIDE BY RESTRICTIONS THAT PROTECT NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES.** Closures that protect nesting raptors, plant and animal life and Indian rock art must be honored.
- ✓ **CAMOUFLAGE ALL FIXED ANCHORS,** leave only rock colored webbing.
- ✓ **MAINTAIN A LOW PROFILE.** Respect everyone's right to undisturbed enjoyment of the outdoors.

CLIMBER'S
CONSERVATION
ALLIANCE

RANDY VOGEL, MICHAEL JIMMERSON,
TROY MAYR, DIRECTORS

P.O. BOX 488, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85702

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