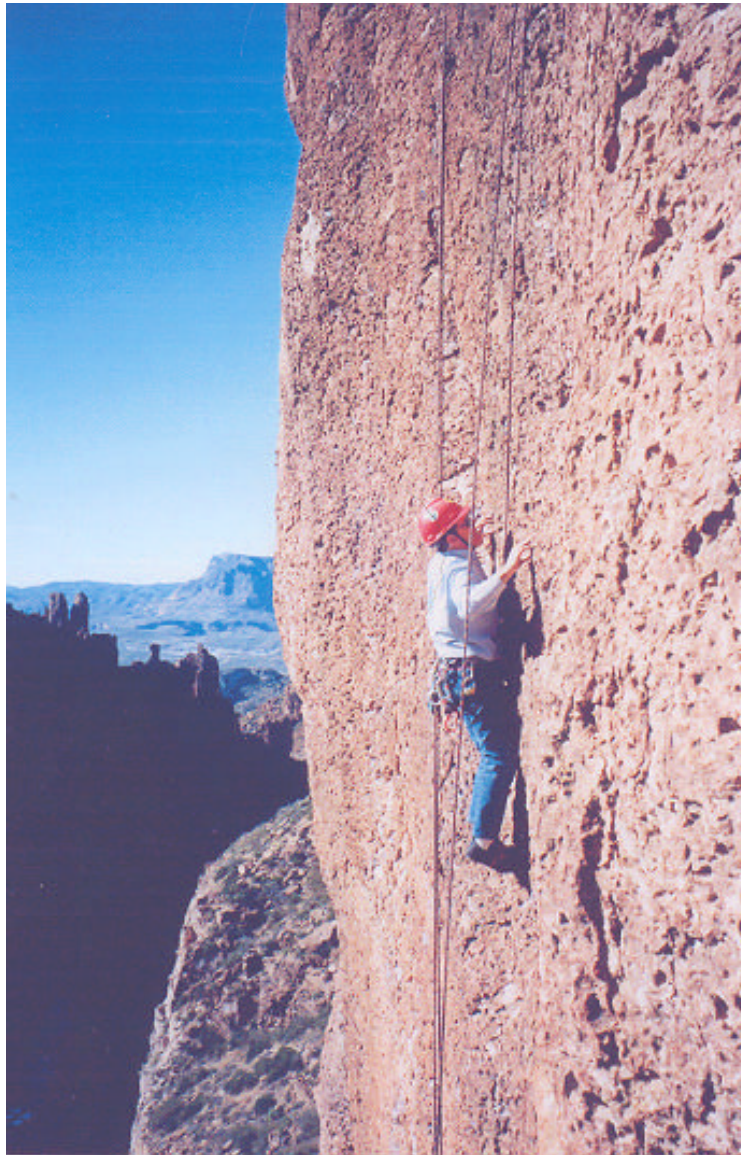


AUGUST 2002

ARIZONA MOUNTAINEER



JD proves age is no deterrent to climbing high fives in this shot taken last spring at the Pond outing.. Photo by (I think) Sally Larimer

THE ARIZONA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER CORRESPONDENCE:

Arizona Mountaineering Club
P. O. Box. 1695 (for now—will change soon.)
Phoenix, Az. 85001-1695

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

NEWSLETTER

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President	Erik Filsinger	480-314-1089
Vice-President	Bruce McHenry	602-952-1379
Secretary	John Keedy	623-412-1452
Treasurer	Tim Ward	602-212-1929
Director-1yr	Tom Conner	480-897-7623
Director-2yr	Mark Hubble	480-804-1822
Director-2yr	Scott Hoffman	623-580-8909
Director-1yr	Tim Schneider	480-497-8377
Director-1yr	Dave Larimer	480-425-9689

COMMITTEES:

Access	Jen Davies	480-473-7342
Classification	Scott Hoffman	623-580-8909
Conservation	Charlene Todd	480-917-5354
Elections	Don Thomas	480-892-9513
Equipment	James Iverson	602-395-1581
Rental	Paul Norberg	602-808-9244
Email	Jeff Hatfield	480-783-8779
Librarian	Richard Kocher	480-966-5568
Membership	Rogil Schroeter	623-878-3914
Mtneering	Erik Filsinger	480-314-1089
Newsletter	Wally Vegors	602-246-9341
NL Distribution	Robert England	480-821-4243
Outings	Bruce McHenry	602-952-1379
Programs	Steven Tillery	602-224-9003
Trail Maint.	Jutta Ulrich	602-234-3579
Training; Safety	Jeff Hatfield	480-783-8779
Basic Class	Sally Larimer	480-425-9689
Anchors Class	Tom Conner	480-897-7623
Lead Class	Mick Strole	602-788-4031
T-shirts	Wendy Gaynor	602-547-2560
WebSite	Kirra	
.....	webadmin@azmountaineeringclub.org	

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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

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

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

THIS MONTH IN THE AMC

HOT STUFF!!!

- 1 Index, Club Info.; Birthdays this month
- 2 Board Meeting Minutes
- 3 Discounts, Treasurer, Equipment
- 4 Survival Kit Program
- 5 President's Corner: Gilpin Couloir
- 6 AMC'er Does Australia
- 7 Jack's Canyon Outing
- 8- Dumb, dumb, dumb
9. Navigation; J-Tree
- 10 Different Route on Sneffles
- 12 Lead School
- 13 Outings Continued
- 14 Outings: Leaders

NO JOKE

**IT'S
THE
STUPID
WEATHER**

SEPTEMBER, PLEASE HURRY

AMC NEWSLETTER

The *Arizona Mountaineer* is published monthly by the AMC. Items for publication, subject to approval, should be sent to the editor at 6151 N. 8th Ave., Phoenix, 85013. Photos and other mountaineering photos are welcome (please submit prints). Climb write-ups ARE welcome. For info call the editor at 602-246-9341. Address e-mail to vegors@worldnet.att.net. Advertising in the *Arizona Mountaineer* is accepted, subject to approval, at the following rates:

Personal ads: free to members.

Business ads: \$5.00 for business card; \$10.00 for half page; \$20.00 for full page \$25.00 for inserts/mo

AMC LIBRARY

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

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

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

September Deadline: 16 August 2002

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Gary Hendrickson 1, Barton Santello 1, Mark Trainor 6, Steve Balance 8, Tom Kreuser 11, Steve Tillery 11, Justin Hall 12, Jennifer Ottolino 14, Georgiana Goebel 15, Kit Strole 15, Dayna Aston 16, Martin Combs 17, Kathy Sharp 17, Max Olivas 19, Sam Digard 20, Debby Brown 21, Chris Query 21, John Ainlay 22, Aaron Ewing 23, Bryan Howell 23, Twana Fox 24, Jim Waugh 24, Sage Dunham 25, Maria Rojas 27, Emma Benenati 29, Tim Lange 31

MINUTES OF THE AMC BOARD MEETING: July 10, 2002

AMC Board Meeting, July 10, 2002.

Present -

Board: Erik Filsinger, Tim Ward, Tom Conner,
Dave Larimer, Mark Hubble, Bruce McHenry

Committee: none

Members: none

Call to order 7:00 pm, a quorum was present

1. Minutes of the June meeting approved as published.
2. Treasurer report was approved as submitted. Discussion that revenue and expenses are generally in line with budget.
3. Insurance. A partial refund has been received from the cancelled liability policy. Board consensus was to follow-up on remaining amount that has not been received.
4. Outing Leaders - the sign-up sheet to be used for each outing is in progress. Discussion on implementation of Outing Leader procedures and status of Inactive Leaders.
5. Post Office Box - motion was made seconded, and carried to authorize McHenry to contract for a box and forwarding services at Mail Boxes etc. A check was disbursed for the first year expense. The existing USPS box at the Central Post Office will expire and not be renewed.
6. 2003 Meeting Schedule - motion was made seconded and carried to adopt the proposed 2003 meeting schedule. This will allow Programs to schedule in advance.
7. Member Code of Conduct - discussion of need for a member code of conduct and how to create. Work is continuing.
8. By-law Review - A change in the by-laws may be proposed to change the name of the T&S committee from "Training & Safety" to just "Training". This will be proposed at a later time along with a justification, but mainly this change is sought on two fronts: recent developments in risk management suggest that clubs should not advertise that they guarantee in any way "safety", so it would be prefer-

able not to have a "safety" committee. On the other hand, the concept of safety is really broadly spread amongst the day to day operations of each of the AMC's committee's activities that it would be just as appropriate to say, "Outings and safety", "Classification and safety," and the like, which would be burdensome. Therefore, it is likely the Board may recommend the change to drop the advertised term "safety" while encouraging everyone in the club and the club's positions to keep concerns for the welfare of club participants in mind, but with recognition that the club cannot guarantee safety.

9. Committee Report - Outings has made reservations for Thanksgiving at J-tree. There was discussion of asking Outing Leaders to take a specifically scheduled outing. Discussion that the board will work to identify new Outing Leader candidates. Outings Committee Chair McHenry has requested to search for a replacement, with the intention to step down after training the new person.

10. Committee Report - Mountaineering reports increased interest in alpine and mountaineering activities, with full sessions for the Winter camping, Alpine rock, and Glacier Travel classes already offered this year. More classes will be offered in the fall. To accommodate the demand, additional equipment is needed and consistent with the adopted policies of the Board that committee chairs should seek Board approval when they anticipate running over their annual budget authorization the Mountaineering committee informed the board it will exceed the budget by less than \$300, which is the amount allowed in the by-laws prior to seeking a budget override. The expense will be for additional alpine ropes and slingage.

11. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 pm.

NEW AMC MEMBERS

George Berger
Christopher Furguson
Clarke Lambe
Laurel Lambe

DISCOUNT DIRECTORY

The following merchants currently offer a discount to AMC members.

Arizona Hiking Shack - 11645 N. Cave Creek Rd.,
Phoenix, AZ 85020, 944-7723
Show your AMC membership card and get a 10%
discount; special orders 15%.

AMC RENTAL EQUIPMENT:

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

EQUIPMENT RENTAL GUIDELINES: Your name must be on the most current membership list. Deposit required; varies by item; generally \$20-\$50. The two-personal-checks system works best. Advance reservation suggested. If not using the reserved equipment, please call and cancel. Call Linda Locke at 602-997-4235 for shoes. For everything else, call Paul Norberg at 602-808-9244 .

TREASURER'S REPORT

Statement of Operations

01/01/02 Thru 06/09/02

Category Description	Amount
INCOME	
Advertising	30.00
Equipment Rental (incl shoes)	173.00
Interest	15.61
Membership Dues	5,995.00
Mountaineering Schools	0.00
Program Income	5.00
Tee Shirts & Etc	65.00
Training & Safety	8,240.00
TOTAL INCOME	15,523.61

EXPENSES

Access	0.00
Access Committee	500.00
Administration	931.74
Bouldering Contest	300.00
Capital Exp	1,169.83
Equipment Maint	99.45
Insurance	2,422.36
Library	41.90
Merchandise Exp	579.40
Mountaineering	30.30
Newsletter	2,253.55
Outings	0.00
Programs	836.00
Service/Bank Charge	33.37
Training & Safety	6,628.07
TOTAL EXPENSES	15,802.47

OVERALL FOR YEAR TO DATE-278.86

ACCOUNT BALANCES

CD Account	5,156.02
Savings	1,527.15
Checking	4,130.72
TOTAL ASSETS	\$10,813.89

Staying Alive:

The Wilderness Survival Kit

Monday, August 26, 2002, at 7 pm.

A basic survival kit contains a distillation of the most simple and effective means of staying alive.

Cody Lundin is the director of the Aboriginal Living Skills School and has been featured in dozens of national media sources including Dateline NBC, CBS News, USA Today, The Donny and Marie Show and CBC Radio One in Canada. In 1999, he was honored as the third person in history to appear on the cover of Backpacker Magazine.

Join us at the Arizona Mountaineering Club as Cody addresses the choice, preparation and use of survival kit components for desert and mountain regions.

Whether you hike, bike, or backpack, this lecture will help you learn to return!!!

AMC meetings are from 7-9 at the Los Olivos Senior Center, 2802 E. Devonshire, one block north of Indian School off 28th St.

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

Presidential Corner — Erik Filsinger

August 2002

Diversity and Complexity

We have been anticipating that the AMC is becoming a more and more diverse group of folks. Some of "us" are focusing on tougher and tougher sport climbing. Some enjoy hanging out of traditional routes. And more are climbing mountains. In short, we represent diverse cultural backgrounds and diverse avenues for enjoying our sport.

For those of us who are doing more of the alpine side of things, I thought it might be useful to share some of the diversity and complexity of planning a trip to Europe. This July Greg Bellamy, Ron Logan, Bruce McHenry, Mark Hubble, and I have laid out a two-week itinerary in the Alps. Far from the relative ease of a guided tour where the clients show up and shown around, we have chosen to try to do it right, and "right" has been highly complex. Little has been left undiscussed.

Team selection began back last summer when I surfaced the idea with a handful of AMC'ers. The criteria were Physical and Mental Toughness, Technical Capacity, and perhaps most importantly Team Compatibility. We placed a high priority of maintaining the likelihood of success, so we put maximum effort in preparation.

Over the ensuing time we have held: at least 6 evening long team meetings, 6 practice weekends training for the physical exertion (let alone our individual weekly training), 4 practice trips/outings (Squaw Peak rock, Brown's Peak west face, Snowdon in CO, and Sneffels in CO), 2 classes helped (Alpine rock and glacier Travel), and detailed checklists, numerous emails, at least 4 drafts of planning documents, probably resulting in over a 100 hours of planning and communicating apiece.

The team has been great in splitting out the responsibilities for airfare, cars, hotels, huts, variety of insurance, obtaining maps and route descriptions, money exchange and other assorted details. We have evaluated, prioritized, analyzed, synthesized and optimized our trip hopefully with becoming paralyzed -- simply put this trip has been a year of learning to get along, plan, and prepare for our great adventure.

Interestingly our trip plans have gone through a group decision making that lead to the following itinerary: warm-up adventure on the North Face of the Eiger (maybe up to the Shattered Pillar), regular route on the Jungfrau, South Ridge of the Eiger, Southwest Ridge of the Schreckhorn, Hornli Ridge of the Matterhorn, and the East Ridge of the Weisshorn. Best laid plans and mice and men will inevitably be challenged, but interestingly our highest "priority" is the relatively obscure but aesthetically superior Schreckhorn climb, with the Eiger and Matterhorn falling to "we'll get them if we can..." Careful study and engagement reforms many thoughts.

No matter what happens we will have an adventure, of which we were the planners and stars.

North Face Couloir on Gilpin.

Route: North Face Couloir of Gilpin, Ouray area.

Height of ice climbing: About 600 feet

Rating: low 5th class mixed. Water ice to WI 4.

Slope angle on ice: 50 degrees up to 70 degrees, with the average angle probably being near 55 degrees in the upper half of the climb.

Protection: almost absent in these conditions.

Danger: Objective dangers high when rock plates not frozen together.

Level of commitment: In dry summer conditions, very committing.

Should AMC'ers do this route in these conditions? Probably not unless you did want to test yourself with cognizance of the high level of objective danger and level of commitment involved. Having lead the Second Gully climb at Eureka near Silverton, I can attest to this being a much more serious endeavor under the conditions we found. However, from what I hear, however, it is a very worthwhile "moderate" snow/ice route under better conditions and I would encourage you to take the challenge then.

Submitted by Erik Filsinger

It is a G'day for Climbing in Katoomba!

Karin Callan is a member of the AMC who is currently traveling in Australia. Her two-month trip turned into five months and counting...

During the past months, she has climbed, dived, hiked, and biked. With her permission, I've consolidated some of her emails for our newsletter. I have enjoyed reading about her adventures in Australia and Thailand, and hope you do too.

—Tim Ward

From: Karin Callan

Subject: Hi from Katoomba!

Hi Everyone! I'm in Katoomba in the Blue Mountains! The hostel here is great! This is a beautiful place! Sydney was getting to me ... all the traffic and the noise. When I got here on Tuesday, I did a hike in the "Grand Canyon", 2 1/2 hrs.

Yesterday I went rock climbing with the guy Brian I met on the Internet. We did a FIVE-pitch climb, (my first multi-pitch) 520 ft high, totally exposed, 5.6 supposedly. The last pitch was like a 5.8. That was before lunch. After lunch we did a 4-pitch rappel (they call it abseiling here) then a 2 pitch 5.6 climb out. The rock is sandstone, lots of features, usually nice stuff.

Gotta go my time is almost up on this thing.

G'day mates!
Karin

Subject: more climbing stories from Oz

Hi again! I went climbing the past 2 days here in Katoomba, in the Blue Mountains of Australia. Yesterday we went to this place that was newly developed 1.5 yrs ago, called Kangaroo Corner. They have different ratings here. Like a 13 is a 5.6 and a 17 is a 5.8.

I don't know what is in-between. I think a lot gets lost in the translation. This is sandstone, and I have found it can be as feature-full as Basalt, as smooth as granite or pockety as rhyolite. This particular climb was more like granite. In fact, it was reminiscent of Crown King. The climbs were supposedly the 13/14 range but they were at least 5.9. Then the swarms of biting flies up'd it to a 5.10. It was horrible. After 2 climbs, the second one was 2-pitches, I said I couldn't

take the flies anymore. Plus it was extremely hot. So, if there is such thing as a bad day climbing, that was it.

Today was a little more pleasant. We went to a place 5 min from town called Narrow Neck. We had a long abseil down, then a nice hike through bushes. (not sticky like Arizona though), then we did a nice 3 pitch, rated 13. Then we had to climb out, walk down the road and through the bushes to our abseil station and back down. Then we did a single pitch 18 rating, which seemed about the same difficulty as the first. These had nice cracks. Then we hiked back to the base of our abseil station and did a 3 pitch to get out. A nice day of climbing. Now my fingers are getting sore!

Well, Im about out of time again. I just have to say, I'm glad I'm not driving here, driving on the left is very confusing!

Bye from Aussie Land,
Karin

Subject: The latest from Oz

Hi Everyone!

On Snday I went rock climbing again, it was OK. It was pretty easy stuff. Did 2 one-pitch climbs, a 4-pitch and a 2-pitch. Then on Monday, I went Canyoneering. This involves putting on a wetsuit and helmet, hiking down into a canyon. Then when we get to the river, we hike down the river, through the water and slippery rocks, sometimes wading, sometimes swimming, and sometimes jumping into pools. The grand finale was rappelling down through a big waterfall. The water was cold! Don't worry, I got it all on film.

Still I have not met any more Americans. Lots of Brits, probably because this place is a lot like England, only better weather. Everyone is traveling for long periods of time, some for a year! Most quit their jobs to do the trip.

G'day mates
Karin

Hi Everyone, I'm in Thailand. Railay Beach was cool. I went on a kayak tour one day that went through limestone caves. I climbed a few days with some partners that I found. They liked doing hard stuff, like 5.10's. It was so hot during the day that we didn't like to climb till about 4:30, and then we could only go for a couple hours. The last day I hired a guide from the shop

JACK'S CANYON ROMP

“Bulldog” and “5.10 Sally” and I headed up to Jack’s on the evening of June 15th. Carrie was sick and could not make it, but she insisted I go. Still being relatively new to Arizona, I was amazed by the beauty of the landscape and the weirdness of the road construction on the drive up Highway 87.

We arrived to the parking lot of Jack’s around 7:00 p.m. Shortly thereafter, we set up our sleeping arrangements for the night and Sally cooked a fabulous meal, for which I was very grateful. After Dave and Sally listened to my incessant questions and taught me how to spot satellites traveling in their orbits across the sky, we settled in for a good night’s sleep. For some reason, they wouldn’t let me share their bed.

After a windy and pleasantly cool night, I was the first one to roll out of the rack. I quickly bundled up my tent and sleeping bag in anticipation of getting an early start on the “pockety” limestone that is Jack’s. Then, in a flash of genius (Jeff, I’m not a smart man, but I know what crag is.), I remember

G'DAY Continued

.for \$10 for 2.5 hrs to work with me on leading and technique. He had me lead about 5 or 6 5.8s and 5.9s. It was great. I will probably go back there after my tour.

Well, Thailand has come to an end and I'm back in Australia. Seems kinda boring here compared to Thailand. Anyways, I spent my last week at Railay Beach, mostly climbing. I found a partner, a guy from New Zealand who was about the same level as me, slightly better. He was cute, but married. We hired a rope, he had quick draws, and we climbed several hours each of the last 3 days. We did ALL lead climbing. I was happy with how I did. According to their ratings, I was leading 5.10a - 5.10b's. :) So either I got really good, or their ratings are a bit soft. Most likely the latter. Nonetheless, I did feel like I improved a lot. I wish I could stay there 2 or 3 weeks straight and climb every day and get REALLY good!

Take care!
Karin

If you want to see Karin’s pictures, you can check them out at <http://photos.yahoo.com/>

with whom I had journeyed. Sally was out of bed shortly after me, but Dave “Where’s my Q-tips?” Larimer just kept on sleeping. After some intentional noise making and a “wet-willy”, Dave finally arose from his slumber. We were on the trail down to the canyon at 8:30 am.

We spent most of the day in a nice shady spot, rock right on Cracker Jack Wall. We started on a short 5.9 just right of “Betty Cracker”, a climb with a bit of a tricky start and then moved around the corner to do some longer and tougher routes. Dave led all of our climbs for the day including the three 5.10’s at the end of the wall which go 10b, 10c, and 10a from left to right. These climbs are decent with some tough “balance” moves. I managed to accomplish a new climbing feat in that I caught my first lead fall. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Dave for his involvement in that first. Switching gears; good thing the Salster had the Gri-Gri to keep me on belay as I “hang-dogged” my way up the cruxes of these climbs.

In the afternoon, we moved over to the Main Wall for a little more climbing action. Dave was next in line to lead Genesis (5.10d) as we watched Felicia Terry finish her lead with Greg Opland on belay. Dave then stepped up and made two impressive “big-step” moves in his lead. Sally then made quick work of the climb. As for me, well, I could have done a little better. As the day started winding down there under the well-shaded overhanging formations of the Main Wall, Tim Ward and his band of “craggers” walked up to chat. Each of them took their shot at Genesis before Dave scampered up again to break down the climb.

As we gathered our gear and started thinking about the hike out, a striking pain erupted in my foot. I grunted in anguish. It was an odd pain. I looked down to notice that Sally’s hiking pole (and Sally plus her pack) was the culprit. After her delayed reaction and a little tap on the shoulder from me, she finally released me from her clutches. The pain was worth a good laugh.

Other than a 20 minute delay in a traffic jam on Highway 87 due to an accident, the drive home was pleasant. “Outdoor Gym” or not, Jack’s is a nice place to climb even when everything is open, but now that it’s one of the few places to go, it seems all that much better. Maybe next time Carrie will be there so I won’t have to make the Borgs (Larimers) my belay slaves.

Waiting for the rain, —Bryan M. Howell

Crime Doesn't Pay

Good news!

Three people have been arrested in Prescott for a string of trailhead vehicle burglaries, which included breaking into my vehicle over Memorial Day weekend. In the last AMC Newsletter, Jeff Hatfield reported that we had been ripped off.

On June 20th, we got a call from the Prescott PD Detective assigned to the case informing us of the arrest. The thieves had bought new tires at Costco, using my checks, which ultimately led to the police being able to track down their vehicle and get a search arrest for their house. They recovered a pile of wallets from that house and expect the culprits to do some serious jail time.

Woo hoo!

The detective asked me if I would identify my wallet for her. Let's see... no money, some cancelled credit cards, and a photo of a bulldog and a mutt? Yes, that's the one! It's nice to know that the thieves are in jail. Trailhead parking doesn't seem as risky now, but I've learned my lesson about leaving valuables in the car.

One thing still puzzles me. David has a hard time finding his wallet most days – and the thieves didn't find his wallet when they broke into our truck... could it be that David isn't absent minded after all? Maybe he just has a hard-to-find wallet!

— Sally Larimer

Any Areas Open for Climbing?

As of this newsletter's deadline, no new info was available on which areas, if any, have been opened to climbing. July's edition listed practically the whole dang state as closed. Access Chair Jen Davies plans to announce current status at the July 22nd meeting.

If you can't make the meeting, your best bet would be to call the phone numbers listed in July's story or check <www.fs.fed.us/r/3/fire>

SCREE – BY Wally

If you can't climb where you want to in Arizona, and you can't get away to Alta California or more northerly states for a vacation... in other words if you are stuck here with not much to do — you might consider giving Michael Baker a call and offer to help spread mulch on some USFS reseedings of burned forest areas.

He and the USFS can use help July 27-28 and August 3-4. To quote Michael:

"The Forest Service is doing aerial seeding in the burned areas. They need to add mulch in these areas. This is what the volunteer work will involve, maybe other stuff. Goal is to hold soil and ward off invasives. Simple not especially hard but dirty work."

Find him at 602-522.9127 or <www.dgcenter.org/voa>.

On playing the who-is-to-blame game regarding the recent fires, may I offer my two cents based both on history and my past in the US Forest Service?

The basic problem with almost any plan of timber harvest is that a thicket of dog-hair seedlings results. This was definitely so back in the early clear-cut days (we're living with that one now) and it is true today when one removes only larger, marketable logs. Big tree removal and its resultant — additional sunlight, soil nutrients and moisture that is up for grabs — produces a wild race among the too-numerous seedlings for dominance.

In a "natural" forest where old trees die one by one, the race still happens, but it is in a smaller area among fewer trees. The more frequent, lower intensity fires had far fewer same-age seedlings to help them crown and run. Mostly fires crept along through the grasses, forbs and understory of oakbrush, manzanita, etc.

For a *healthy* forest, imitating "nature's way" is by far the best. But cutting only mature trees whose limbs have begun to droop is a losing proposition to a logger. The USFS is hard-put to get bids on a timber sale like that. Contrarywise, KV work, thinning out the surplus youngsters without taking big trees, is hard work and so expensive that little of it has been accomplished.

The USFS is virtually forced to "sweeten" a timber sale by including too many immature but usable jack pines in order to get rid of the too-thick seedlings. That brings in the so-called tree huggers. Controlled burns? That stirs up the local residents. My solution? During the depression which I hope is not approaching, recreate the CCC camps of the 1930's to solve two huge problems at once — sick forests and jobless youths.

QUERY'S NAVIGATION CLASS COMING

Chris Query is prepared to again put on his excellent map reading and land navigation course for AMC members. Concentrating on the 7.5 min USGS topo maps, he will cover the basics of land navigation — and then some. Topics covered:

- How USGS maps are generated
- Map interpretation
- Use of altimeter and GPS in navigation
- Many techniques and valuable tricks

The course will include two nights of classroom instruction July 30 and Aug 1. with many visual aids and hands on exercises. A one day field exercise will be held Aug 2 in the Flagstaff area (or alternate depending on fire restrictions) to practice new skills on a land navigation course set up for the day. Cost of the class is \$20 for materials.

Please REVP to <cquery@hotmail.com> or call 480-967-9268

J-Tree is Calling . . .(a Food Coordinator!)

OK, the climbing sucks 'cause 99% of Arizona is closed. The weather sucks 'cause it's hot. What do we rock-starved sun-baked climbers have to look forward to? JOSHUA TREE!!! The cool breezes and awesome rock of J-tree await all who attend the annual AMC pilgrimage for Thanksgiving. Although November seems a bit far off, it will be here faster than a factor 2 lead fall. While J-tree is great fun and relaxing, part of a successful trip is the food for the Thanksgiving day potluck dinner. A volunteer is needed to be Food Coordinator. The Coordinator takes sign-ups for the potluck and makes sure that we have lots of every thing, and not end up with 27 lima bean casseroles.

If you would like to volunteer to be food coordinator, please contact Bruce McHenry, Outings Committee. Your fellow climbers will be eternally grateful. If not, then please start thinking about what you sign-up to bring. Turkey, desserts, ham, desserts, salads, desserts, side dishes, desserts, stuffing, desserts, casseroles, and desserts are all welcome.

Supplies are also needed: stoves, fuel, tables, silverware, serving ware, plates cups napkins and the usual kitchen and camping gear. And don't forget your plaid!

- Bruce McHenry

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A Better Route on Sneffels

Over the years I have tried to write reports for the AMC Newsletter on interesting mountain climbs that are accessible to Phoenicians over a long weekend. In the Yankee Boy Basin area outside of Ouray these have included Teakettle (August 1996), Dallas (November 1997) and Potosi (September 1998).

This past long July 4th weekend Susan, Mark Hubble and I headed up to Ouray to climb the classic Snake Couloir on Sneffels. Unfortunately when we arrived in town it was obvious that it was not in shape - ice tools on scree just wouldn't work. The dry and hot year left most of the couloir bare.

Casting about for other nearby routes we hit on the North Face Couloir of Gilpin (elevation 13,694), which is the mountain directly south of Mt. Sneffels across Yankee Boy Basin. Although I had never climbed it, Rosebrough in his climbing guide to the San Juan mountains mentioned that my father, John Filsinger, had found a miner's pick near the summit in 1952.

To do a warm-up acclimatizing climb we decided to spend Friday doing the SW Ridge of Sneffels. It is a nice little Class 3 scramble up from Blue Lakes Pass. Fortunately no other party was on the SW Ridge when we did it and the route has the added attraction of winding amongst some impressive pinnacles, although anyone with minimal rock scrambling skills could do it. Only did the day become less pleasant on the summit with every shape and form of humanity possible. Part of me was disgusted at the hordes of ants driving their 4 wheelers up to 12,000 feet into the upper heart of the basin for a short stroll up the class 2 gully standard route on Sneffels. It was as bad as a Squaw Peak in Springtime weekend, replete with sandals and sneakers and nothing but their T-shirt and shorts. Luckily the descent down the standard route took only a couple of minutes.

Camping in Yankee Boy Basin is now limited to designated campgrounds and we were fortunate to get a spot in the highest one, about a mile short of where the road becomes the steep 4-wheel upslope.

The real treat of the weekend (besides escaping AZ heat) was the North Face Couloir on Gilpin, a route you won't find described elsewhere is only known to locals like Clay Patten and the climbing shop employee who had just spent the previous couple of days climbing with Jeff Lowe on Courthouse Mountain near Ouray.

From Sneffels, the face looked dead vertical and is about 1,500 feet high, depending on where you begin your measurement. As is usually the case its angle was not quite that intimidating when actually standing under it. The North Face is maybe a half-mile wide at its base and is characterized by almost continuous cliff bands. The middle of the North Face is cut-out by a fairly wide couloir narrows. In winter conditions, much of that couloir fills up with steep snow and the locals know it as a great steep snow/ice climb.

At this time of year and/or because of the dry season, the snow was gone, but down the middle of the couloir ran a couple of ice runnels, each somewhat discontinuous and about 3 feet wide.

Early Saturday a.m. we ascended the lower section which had some small snow fields and then scree and cliff bands and were soon being engulfed by the surrounding cliffs towering overhead. At a rest stop in which we were making our final go-no go assessment, a natural salvo of rocks came raining down. They whirled by our protected position to the side, but my partners felt that they could handle the objective risk, which I placed at about 5 on a 10 point scale. What was happening, of course, was that the gully was there because it was a natural weakness in the rock of the mountain and the salvos were starting because the sun was hitting the west side of the top of the gully. After the climb I would rate the objective danger even higher in those conditions.

About half way up, Susan and I were pausing on a central buttress with sub-couloirs on either side. Mark was still making his way up to our left. A huge natural release of rocks came raining down the right hand sub-gully and I grabbed Susan and pushed her under a ledge while I just manage to play a successful game of dodge ball with at least 20 rocks. Ducking and jiving we made it through okay.

Most of the ice we had planned on climbing was on the left sub-gully which was still in the shade, so we decided to push on. We roped up and got on the ice in simul-climbing mode with me attempting to place pro on a running belay. I say "attempting" because it soon became apparent that the rock was really not rock. It was simply an odd assemblage of rock plates loosely and arbitrarily stacked around to give an outward appearance of cliffs and ledges. More often than not the rock features would come off in your hand. Pro placed in what seemed like a crack would only move the plates further apart.

Continued on page 11

Sneffles (Contd. From page 10)

After about 2 rope lengths (300 feet) of this simul-climbing, my feeling of insecurity made me want to pitch it out and I brought Susan and Mark up to a somewhat protected promontory. So far the 3 foot wide ice runnel had probably averaged about 55 degrees (Let me make a note here on two things—because climbers almost always over-rat the steepness of snow and ice, when I hear someone say 60 degrees I say to myself 35 degrees, which may be closer to objective measure. In other words, I have made a conscious effort to be “objective” about slope measurement even if it feels steeper. Also, in this situation whereas the slope might be a 55 degree snow and ice climb in full conditions, because it was so melted out, the ice was probably just about 2 inches thick and ran much more parallel to the physical features of the “rock” bands underlying it.) The ice varied in width from the 3 feet wide to places as narrow as 18 inches and frequently there was water running down it in a little stream.

My first pitched-out 60 meters quickly showed the seriousness of the route. I had only one good pro placement and yet I had to deal with continuous falling rock I was knocking off that rained down on Susan and Mark. Whether it was a foothold or a handhold, a certain percent of the time they “came out” when weighted. Practicing the old climbing adage of 3 secure points of contact I was myself secure, but the testing weighting often peeled off the new “hold”. In fact, in one particularly scary point I was going up a short vertical section and placed my weight on a two-foot high and about a foot deep section of stacked rock plates. The whole ledge came off and went screaming down the mountain.

A further complication was that I was practicing with my ice ax that I was planning on taking to Europe later in July and it would just not “stick”. I whammed it in, but then it was hard to remove. Susan and Mark had ice tools and had a great time on the ice. Fortunately it was very plastic and whenever I managed to front point I felt very good on my feet. The general technique I use was one tool (my ax) on the ice, one foot on the ice and then the other hand and foot stemming off to the cliffs on either side.

I was able to run the rope out to a nice break in the cliff band on my left just about at 60 meters and set up probably my only really secure anchor on a ledge set back away from the gully. I brought up my partners and the strain was a little evident as they plopped down. We were now above most of the danger of natural rock releases but it would have been a very serious proposition indeed to have had to reverse out route. It was up and

out. Thoughts of rappelling would not have been easy carried out and would have taken us back down into the natural rockfall.

The next decision was whether to take a left or a right hand runnel for the next pitch. I could see the left hand ice end abruptly in a 30 foot cliff band, but the climbing would have been mid-5th class and probably doable. I couldn’t see the left-hand option as it curved away in a deep chimney about 4 feet wide, but something told me to take it. The ice became progressively steeper and the “mud” at its sides left secure. Using a fair amount of chimney stemming I managed to move higher and when I made the bend in the pitch I could see sky above the ice. At about 40 yards out, I could see the top of the climb. This was the area where the cornice had been and it really got steep. With hefty grunts and groans, and some pretty confident foot work on the black ice I topped out and took a bunch of deep breathes to calm myself down and regain my strength.

The top of the ridge was just a scree pile and I had to go back over the west side of the ridge to position myself behind a ledge to bring Susan and Mark up. After a while they merrily appeared and we gave some serious high-fives for a serious route.

Standing at the top and peering down the ice in its narrow slot finish we readily agreed that the top pitch was damn near vertical. I’ll say 70 degrees to be conservative.

We had topped out about 100 feet from the summit and after dumping our technical gear we strolled on up.

Our descent was down the NW ridge, a route described in some of the guidebooks, but with scant evidence of traffic.

**LEAD CLIMBING SCHOOL
ARIZONA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB**

PURPOSE

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. There will be no "true" lead climbs during the class. 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, the differences between bolted routes and natural pro, and we will provide actual leading exercises.

DATES, TIMES AND PLACES FOR THE LEAD SCHOOL ARE:

Oct 1	Tuesday	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Dreamy Draw Park
Oct 2	Wednesday	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Dreamy Draw Park
Oct 3	Thursday	6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Dreamy Draw Park
Oct 5	Saturday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Prescott (directions will be in syllabus)
Oct 6	Sunday	9:00 am - 5:00 pm	Prescott (directions will be in syllabus)

To get to Dreamy Draw Park take SR 51 (Squaw Peak) to Northern and turn East. This dead-ends at the Park. We will be at the big Ramada next to the parking lot. Directions to the other locations will be given out then.

ITEMS YOU NEED FOR THE CLASS:

- 1) \$75 plus membership (\$13) if not already a member. Register by sending a check payable to AMC Lead School to 6519 W. Aire Libre, Glendale, AZ, 85306. No credit cards accepted. (Please note: the registration fee is fully refundable if you cancel.) Call Rogil Schroeter at 623-878-3914 for more information. The number of students will be limited to 30.
- 2) All climbing gear (harness, prusiks, biners, etc.)

The following will not be needed the first night, if you want to wait to talk with us before making purchases.

- 3) Helmet - mandatory
- 4) Specifically needed:
 - 2 20' (untied length) slings, preferably different colors
 - 2 10' (untied length) slings, preferably different colors
 - Nut pick
 - Quickdraws w/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
- 5) Hiking boots or shoes with stiff soles for Saturday, climbing shoes for Sunday
- 6) Optional: kneepads for Saturday (\$3-6 at Home Depot, \$5 volleyball pads at sporting goods stores)

ITINERARY

<u>Tue</u>	Lecture, slide show: Introduction, the lead fall, equipment
<u>Wed</u>	Lecture, slide show: Equipment (continued); the Process and Techniques of Leading
<u>Thu</u>	Lecture, slide show: Multi-pitch techniques, the descent, leader rescue, aid climbing
<u>Sat</u>	Prescott: practice natural pro placement (Sullivan Canyon)
<u>Sun</u>	Prescott: practice leading on bolts (Watson Lake)

AMC OUTING CALENDAR *(Continued from page 12)*

BILLBOARD

Other Scheduled Events

Outings listed in these sections are not AMC sanctioned outings. Any AMC member can list an event he or she is planning and which is open to other AMC members. The member does not have to be an approved AMC Outing Leader. If you wish to participate you should be physically and mentally prepared and equipped with the appropriate gear and should contact the member planning the outing. You are responsible for your own safety, not the person leading the outing. You should always be aware of the risks involved in outdoor activities and conduct yourself accordingly.

Thursdays North Mountain Hikes Eves . Rogil Schroeter, (623) 878-3914 rogil.schroeter@honeywell.com

Commercially Provided Training and Events

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

The following classes/outings are being offered to AMC members through Southwest Adventures, a professional guide service located in Durango, Colorado. Please contact Erik Filsinger for more information at smorefil@aol.com if you are interested and want to sign up.

The image is a real estate advertisement for Rita M. Ingram, a RE/MAX Excalibur agent. It features the RE/MAX logo at the top left, with a blue and red hot air balloon graphic. Below the logo is the slogan "The Real Estate Leaders" and a large, faint "RE/MAX" watermark. At the bottom left, there are icons for "Equal Housing Opportunity", "NAR", and "Equal Housing Opportunity". On the right side, the text reads: "RE/MAX Excalibur Each Office Independently Owned and Operated", "Rita M. Ingram", "15100 N. Hayden Rd., Ste. 100 Scottsdale, AZ 85260", "Bus: (480) 483-3333", "Fax: (480) 483-6438", "Cell: (602) 524-4031", and "E-mail: reets13@cox.net".

AMC CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

- July 30, Aug 1 and 3 Land Navigation and Map Reading. \$20 for materials. Field day on Aug 3 at location TBD. Register with Chris Query <cquery@hotmail.com>, 480-967-9268.
Aug 31-Sept 2 Enchanted Towers, NM. Richard Horst 602-953-9198
Sep 5 Expedition planning seminar at PV REI
Sep 7 Access Adopt-A-Crag — Jen Davies 480-473-7342
Sep 25 Lead School Instructor Meeting Mick Strole 520-586-3335
Sep 28* Grand Canyon Clean-up. Gary Youngblood 602-508-9696.
Oct 1 Lead School Oct 1,2,3,5,6. \$75 (Plus membership if not already a member) Rogil 623-878-3914.
Oct 2 Clothing Systems seminar at PV REI
Oct 9 Basic Climbing School Instructors' Meeting. Sally Larimer 480-425-9689.
Oct 15 Basic Climbing School Oct 15, 17, 19, 20, 22, 24, 26. \$160 (Plus membership dues if not already a member. Kevin or Linda Kriegel 480-705-0428.
Nov 1 Judgment and Alpine Accidents seminar at PV REI
Nov 2 Queen Creek Cleanup and Climb. Charlene Todd 480-917-5354.
Nov 6 Anchors School Instructor Meeting Tom Coinner 480-897-7263
Nov 12 Anchors School. Nov 12, 14, 16, 17. \$75 (Plus membership if not already a member). Rogil at 623-878-3914.
Nov 27* H-Tree Thanksgiving Nov. 27-Dec 1.

*Group outings: The campsite, where possible, is reserved by the AMC. There is no designated leader, although there may be a leader to work with non-leaders (call to find out). Call to find car-poolers. Parking is first-come, first-served in some cases To request outings: Call Outings Chairperson Bruce McHenry 602-952-1379. To cancel: Please call the outing leader to cancel as soon as possible: there may be a waiting list. Also, the leader will know not to wait for you on outing day.

AMC OUTING LEADERS

Requirements for becoming a leader: take the basic, AARS and Lead classes (or equivalents), be a member for at least one year, complete a basic first aid and CPR class (8 hours or more), and be approved for leadership by at least five current leaders through formal application process and by the Board of Directors. Contact Scott Hoffman at (623) 580-8909.

Bill Berkley.....480-945-4346	Tim Medlock.....719-494-1171	Jef Sloat.....602-843-2490
Sally Borg Larimer...480-425-9689	Jeff Nagel.....602-318-9538	Bill Stinson.....602-547-2560
Tom Conner.....480-897-7623	Paul Norberg.....602-808-9244	Mick Strole.....602-788-4031
John Ficker.....602-867-1487	Paul Paonessa.....602-493-7356	Rick Taylor.....623-487-8507
Eric Filsinger.....602-906-1186	Chris Query.....480-967-9268	Tim Ward.....602-212-1929
Jeff Hatfield.....480-783-8779	Brad Sanders.....480-961-3674	Frank Vers.....480-947-9435
Scott Hoffman.....623-580-8909	Tim Schneider.....480-497-8377	Gary Youngblood.....602-508-9696
Richard Horst.....602-953-9198	Rogil Schroeter.....623-878-3914	
David Larimer.....480-425-9689	Wayne Schroeter.....480-829-9313	

WILSON.....002-341-2300