

The Arizona Mountaineer

December 2011



ORC students and instructors
Day 3 - McDowell Mountains
Photo by John Keedy

The Arizona Mountaineering Club

Meetings: The member meeting location is:

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

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

Check Calendar for date.

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

Dues: Dues cover January through December. A single membership is \$30.00 per year: \$35.00 for a family. Those joining after June 30 pay \$15 or \$18. Members joining after October 31 who pay for a full year will have dues credited through the end of the following year. Dues must be sent to:

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

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

For More Information:

Website:

www.amcaz.org

Mail:

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Bill Fallon	602-996-9790
Vice-President	John Gray	480-363-3248
Secretary	Kim McClintic	480-213-2629
Treasurer	Curtis Stone	602-370-0786
Director-2	Eric Evans	602-218-3060
Director-2	Steve Crane	480-812-5447
Director-1	Gretchen Hawkins	520-907-2916
Director-1	Bruce McHenry	602-952-1379
Director-1	Jutta Ulrich	602-738-9064

COMMITTEES

Archivist	Jef Sloat	602-316-1899
Classification	Nancy Birdwell	602-770-8326
Elections	John Keedy	623-412-1452
Equip. Rental	Bruce McHenry	602-952-1379
Email	Curtis Stone	602-370-0786
Land Advocacy	Erik Filsinger	480-314-1089
Co-Chair	John Keedy	623-412-1452
Librarian	David McClintic	602-885-5194
Membership	Rogil Schroeter	623-512-8465
Mountaineering	Bruce McHenry	602-952-1379
Newsletter	Cheryl Beaver	480-659-6078
Outings	Frank Vers	480-947-9435
Programs	Kim McClintic	480-213-2629
Technology	Steve Crane	480-812-5447
Trng & Schools	Bill Fallon	602-996-9790
ORC	Bill Fallon	602-996-9790
anchors	Eric Evans	602-218-3060
Lead	Mike Knarzer	602-751-1701

The AMC Land Advocacy Committee: The Committee works 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 Land Advocacy representative Erik Filsinger, 480-314-1089.

The Access Fund: This is a national, non-profit, climber's organization that works to maintain access to climbing areas nationwide. Climbers can join The Access Fund by mailing an annual, tax-deductible donation of \$35 or more to: The Access Fund, P.O. Box 17010, Boulder, CO 80308, or calling 888-8MEMBER or giving it to the AMC Club Treasurer to be sent to The Access Fund in your name. A donation of \$35 or more is needed to receive Vertical Times, The Access Fund newsletter. One can also join electronically at [https:// www.accessfund.org/join](https://www.accessfund.org/join)

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Welcome New Members

Anthony Angus, Matthew Branche,
Breanna Buerckholtz,
Emmerson Hammerslag,
Vinay Hanumaiah, April Haradji,
Russell Kemp, Katherine Kincaid,
Daniel Kraus, Jason Krug, Kaleo Mattern,
Sean Murphy, Elizabeth Parmer,
Jonathan Prakash, David Sampson,
Aleksandra Slaski, Dino Subasic,
Murthy Tata, Bruce Terry

Newsletter

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

All submissions are subject to approval by the AMC newsletter committee:

Cheryl Beaver, Tracy Fleming, Susan Harnage, and Jutta Ulrich

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

Get a new piece of gear? Send us your reviews after you've tested it out. We'd love to hear about it

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

Submit items for publication and direct any questions through email to Susan at SHarnage@aol.com.

January NL Submission Deadline: December 1st

December Birthdays

Maya Kowalski 5, Shannon Flowers 7, John Hamilton 7, Robert England 9, Jon Fallon 9,
Frank Fischer 12, Dino Subasic 13, Frank Hertz 15, Taylor Clarkin 16, Al Potter 18,
Cliff Littell 19, John Keedy 20, David Wermuth 20, Philip Goebel 21, Nikki Khraizat 21,
Breanna Buerckholtz 24, Susan Harnage 24, Wallace Vegors 25, Mara Linder 26, Eric Lewis 31

Discount Directory

These merchants offer a discount to AMC members:

- **Arizona Hiking Shack** - 3244 E. Thomas Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85018, (602) 944-7723 www.hikingshack.com. Show your AMC membership card and get a 15% discount.
- **AZ on the Rocks Gym** - 16447 N. 91st St., Scottsdale, AZ 85260. 480-502-9777. 10% off membership.
- **Phoenix Rock Gym** - 1353 E. University, Tempe, AZ 85281. 480-921-8322. 10% off membership.
- **Climbmax Gym** - 1330 W Auto Dr, Suite 112, Tempe, AZ 85284 - 480-626-7755. 10% off membership.
- **TUFA Gear Shop** - Located at these gyms: AZ on the Rocks, PRG, Climbmax, & Ape Index. 10% discount.

Rental Equipment

EQUIPMENT	Qty	\$Dep	1-3day	4-7day
MSR Alpine snowshoes	5	32	10	16
Ice Crampons	5	26	8	13
Ice axes (70 cm)	6	16	5	8
Ice axes (90 cm)	5	14	5	7
Snow shovel	1	8	3	4
Avalanche Kit (probe & shovel)	2	10	5	8
Curved Ice Tools (pair)	2	40	20	35

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

Treasurer's Report

Arizona Mountaineering Club Income Statement Period Ended October 31, 2011

INCOME

Admin (TRSM before scholarships)	0.00
Advertising	80.00
Dues	5,582.26
Grants Received	0.00
Interest	28.39
Mountaineering Schools	875.00
Rental Equipment	158.00
AARS Fall	1,830.00
AARS Spring	1,830.00
Basic Fall	6,125.00
Basic Spring	3,325.00
Lead Fall	950.00
Lead Spring	300.00
Training Other	0.00
Other	25.00
TOTAL INCOME	21,108.65

EXPENSES

Admin	2,353.96
Promotional	570.55
Bank chgs	0.00
Capital Expenditures	469.87
Equipment Maintenance	21.53
Grants Expended	0.00
Insurance	2,734.80
Land Advocacy Committee	233.65
Library	0.00
Newsletter	1,281.52
Outings	0.00
Outing Leaders	0.00
Programs Monthly Meeting	1,821.61
Training	7,540.78
TOTAL EXPENSES	17,028.27

OVERALL TOTAL 4,080.38

AMC Board Minutes - November 14, 2011

1. **Call to Order:** 7:04 PM. Board members in attendance: Bill Fallon, John Gray, Curtis Stone, Bruce McHenry, Jutta Ulrich, Gretchen Hawkins, and Kim McClintic.
Committee Chairs: Erik Filsinger.
2. Minutes of the October board meeting as published in the October Newsletter were read and approved.
3. Treasurer's report was presented and approved.
4. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Membership-301**
 - b. **Programs:**
 - i. November 28th: 2nd Annual Activities Expo-CAMRA, Orienteering, Canyoneering, Ice Climbing, Kayaking, Cross-Fit, Todd Martin, Caving, Tri-Sports, and more.
 - ii. Holiday Party: December 16th will be hosted by Curtis Stone. This will include a potluck and an optional gift swap.
 - iii. The January program will be the annual Photo Contest, elections, and T-Shirt design contest.
 - c. **Outings/Activities:**
 - i. Upcoming:
 1. The Mace- November 19-Frank Vers.
 2. Rock Knob- November 20-Erik Filsinger.
 3. In March or April 2012 the club will provide CPR and First Aid training for outing leaders. The last class was 4/2010.
 4. Reminder to Outing Leaders: Schedule outings and submit signed waivers to the Secretary after the outings.
 - ii. Past:
 1. Fall ORC- 36 students completed the course.
 2. Outings-Time Zone Wall (Curtis Stone) and Spider Walk (Chris Meyer).
 3. QC Cleanup and Climb-11/5 (Tiina Perlman & Curtis Stone)-23 participants. Thanks to all.
 4. Anchors School-(Eric Evans) -21 participants
 - d. **Land Advocacy:**
 - i. QCC is waiting on Resolutions Copper. At the Federal level, legislation affecting the area has not concluded.
 - ii. The City of Scottsdale is set to acquire land North of Dynamite. Once this occurs there will be a process to develop trails in the area. Climbing access will be a consideration. Erik will be available at the November Club Expo to discuss access to the McDowell's during the Tom's Thumb Trailhead construction as well as to provide info about climbing in the area.

AMC Board Minutes - November 14, 2011 (cont)

e. **Training and Schools:**

- i. 21 members/students completed Anchors School in November.
- ii. Upcoming:
 1. Alpine Rock Seminar-Dec. 9-10, Bruce McHenry.
 2. Alpine Snow Skills Class- Jan. 11, 13-15, Bruce McHenry.
 3. Lead School: Feb. 14-16, 18-19, Mike Knarzer.
 4. Ice Climbing Seminar (Ouray, CO): March 9-12, Bruce McHenry.

f. **Mountaineering:** Recently purchased 3 additional Avalanche Beacons, See T&S and website for upcoming classes and seminars.

g. **Newsletter Committee:** Submissions are due the 1st of each month and can be submitted to Jutta, Tracy, Susan, or Cheryl. The Board discussed options to reduce costs and will try to reduce mailing costs. Members are encouraged to sign up for electronic newsletter distribution. The Board stated that the Newsletter Team is doing a great job and they should not reduce the size of the newsletter if good articles are available.

5. **New Business:**

- a. **Budget:** The 2012 Budget was reviewed and approved by the Board. The Budget will be published in the December newsletter. Club members will vote to approve the budget at the December Holiday Party, 12/16 which replaces the December club meeting.
- b. **2012 Calendar:** The Calendar was reviewed, amended, and approved. The 2012 will be available on the club website and will be posted monthly in the newsletter.
- c. **Club Elections.** John Keedy is the elections chair. Those interested in a board position should contact John. A slate of candidates will be distributed in December and voted on at the January Club meeting. Dues must be paid in order to participate in the election and in order to vote.

6. **Old Business:** T-Shirt Contest. We need a new design for club shirts. Submit entries by email to Jutta Ulrich or Kim McClintic. Submissions will be voted on at the January member meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:07 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Kim McClintic, secretary. Members you are welcome to attend board meetings.

If you are interested in attending and need directions or information, contact me at canyonkim@gmail.com



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

AMC Proposed Budget for 2012

INCOME

Advertising	200.00
Dues	5,000.00
Grants Received	-
Interest	100.00
Mountaineering Schools	500.00
Fundraising	1,200.00
Rental Equipment	200.00
Anchors Fall	1,710.00
Anchors Spring	1,710.00
ORC Fall	5,265.00
ORC Spring	5,265.00
Lead Fall	760.00
Lead Spring	760.00
Training Other	10.00
Other	2.00

TOTAL INCOME	<u>22,682.00</u>
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EXPENSES

Admin	2,722.00
Promotional	1,200.00
Bank Charges	400.00
Capital Expenditures	500.00
Equipment Maintenance	10.00
Grants Expended	-
Insurance	4,000.00
Land Advocacy Committee	500.00
Library	50.00
Newsletter	1,470.00
Outings	400.00
Outing Leaders	1,000.00
Programs Monthly Meeting	3,030.00
Training	7,400.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>22,682.00</u>
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T-Shirt Contest

We've heard there is a demand for club t-shirts out there. The ladies want some stylish shirts, and the guys want some more choices. First things first, we need a design. So the AMC is proud to announce this t-shirt design contest for 2012

Voting will be held during the elections and photo contest at the member meeting on **January 23rd**.

Guidelines:

To try to keep production costs down and allow for greater flexibility here are some basics:

- Simple designs are better.
- Fewer colors are better.
- Designs that can be printed on different kinds of items (tanks, polos, long-sleeve, short-sleeve) are better.
- Words and pictures are both acceptable.
- Appropriateness is a given.
- No limit to number of entries per member.

Submission:

Send your designs by **January 22nd** to:

Jutta Ulrich at jutta.ulrich@cox.net or Kim McClintic at canyonkim@gmail.com

Entries will also be accepted anonymously if preferred.

Please contact Jutta or Kim with any questions.

Prizes:

If your design is chosen, you win a free shirt of your choice!.



AMC Holiday Party

Friday, December 16, 2011

6:30 PM 'til 10:30 PM

*Please come and celebrate the holiday season
in the glow of the fire and the warmth of
good friends, good food and good cheer.*

Bring your favorite holiday dish to share
and your favorite beverage (to share or not).

Also, join in the ruthless good fun of the
annual gift exchange by bringing a wrapped
gift of \$15.00 or less.

The AMC will provide a spiral cut ham, bread,
condiments, chips, soft drinks, plates and utensils.

Location:

Chateau de Vie 5 Clubhouse
5900 N 83rd St., Scottsdale, AZ 85250

Directions:

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

If there is no space in the parking area then park
along 83rd street.

*There will also be pool tables, ping pong, and
foosball available.*

If you have questions please contact Curtis Stone at curtis_j_stone@yahoo.com

Election of Board Officers and Directors

Annual election of AMC officers and directors will take place at the January 23rd meeting.

All the Officer positions are one year terms so they are all open, President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. There are also three Director positions open for one and two year terms.

Requirements for nomination to any Board position are; (1) Have been a member of the AMC for one year as of January 2012. (2) Have dues current for 2012. (3) Be willing and able to serve the term of office.

This is your club and the future of the AMC depends on people who are willing to serve and direct the current and future activities of the AMC. Please contact the Elections Chair, John Keedy at jwkeedy@cox.net to place your name on the 2012 ballot. Also if you would like to nominate someone, first get their permission and then e-mail their name and desired position to jwkeedy@cox.net.

Deadline for submitting nominations for the board is January 9th

John Keedy

Glacier Travel, Snow Skills, & Crevasse Rescue Seminar

January 14-15, 2012: AMC Mountaineering Committee offers an introduction to winter mountaineering and skills required for climbing the glaciated peaks of North America. For full details of topics covered see list below. Glacier travel school is a multi day course that will be held Wednesday January 11, 2012, 7:00-9:00pm at Papago Park (SW corner of College St. and Curry Rd. in Tempe) and all day Saturday/Sunday January 14-15, 2012 on Mt. Humphrey's near Flagstaff, AZ. All class participants must also be available to meet in Flagstaff the evening of Friday January 13 at 20:00, location TBA. The seminar fee is \$60 for first time students and \$30 for returning students.

The Saturday and Sunday portions of the course will be conducted in the field on the slopes of the San Francisco Peaks and will include one night of camping on the snow above 10,000 ft. Students are expected to be in reasonable physical condition and prepared for long days of working in cold weather and camping on the snow.

Class time will run late into Sunday, expect to return home late Sunday night. The course has an extensive list of required equipment; get the complete list at the time of signup. Some items such as crampons, ice axes and snow shoes can be rented from the AMC for a small fee. All participants must have among other things mountaineering boots, winter weight sleeping bag, suitable clothing for climbing and camping in the snow. All boots used in the class must be approved by the instructor.

DEADLINE to sign-up is December 10, 2011

Prerequisites: Instructor approval.

Space is limited.

To signup contact Lead instructor Bruce Mchenry at bamchenry@att.net.

The topics covered will include:

1. Travel in the alpine environment: rest step, pressure breathing, moisture management, caloric intake, load management, rest management.

Glacier Travel, Snow Skills, & Crevasse Rescue Seminar - (Cont)

2. Altitude sickness awareness, AMS, symptoms, CE and PE signs and symptoms, AMS -> Stay put, CE or PE ->go down
3. Risk management and time management
4. Snow travel on snowshoes and crampons
5. Roped team travel
6. Ice Axe self arrest
7. Snow anchors (Pickets, Flukes, Dead-men, Snow Bollards, nature of snow as an anchoring medium, matching your anchor to job it needs to perform
8. Methods of dynamic belay, quick belay and running belay
9. Glacier travel: anatomy of the glacier, characteristics of crevasses and snow bridges
10. Crevasse extraction, building the C+Z haul system and the standard three member team rescue scenario, hauling weight and stressing anchors.
11. Avalanche Awareness: importance of the critical angle, slope angle identification, clues to snow loading, womphing, layer formation and slab avalanche ingredients, trigger events
12. Basic Avalanche beacon usage – Only a fool gets trapped in an avalanche, beacon or no beacon - function, key features and characteristics, placement on the body, what it can and can't do.
13. Avalanche victim/body recover: locating a buried beacon, timely searches, organized rescue effort, search patterns, importance of terrain survey and visual clues, scene safety, fine probing techniques, digging techniques
14. Winter camping: site selection, mostly experience life living on the snow and elements
15. Team resource and camp management: fuel planning, team management, securing winter camp for wind and snow fall.
16. Snow shelters, trenches, wind breaks, block walls and snow caves

A partial list of required gear includes the following items:

- Snow shoes
- Waterproof and breathable shell, pants and parka,
- Mountaineering boots (must be instructor approved)
- Crampons with front points, must be capable of fitting your boot
- Ice axe
- Climbing harness
- 0 ° F or warmer sleeping bag
- Insulated sleeping pad
- Tent suitable for use on snow
- Layering system suitable for temperatures ranging from 0 ° F to 50 ° F and high winds and snow
- Water proof and insulated gloves
- Camp stove
- Water bottle insulators or thermos
- Head lamp
- Karabiners, say eight to ten and at least two large D karabiners you can manipulate with a gloved hand
- A few sewn runners
- Set of prussics
- Sunglasses or glacier glasses
- Pack large enough to carry equipment for the weekend

Congratulations ORC Students: October 2011

Students:

Anthony Angus, Matthew Branche, Breanna Buerckholtz, Vicki Engbrecht, Kate Fallon, Lynn Folden, Emerson Hammerslag, Christopher Hanrahan, Vinay Hanumaiah, Katherine Kincaid, Daniel Kraus, Eric Lewis, Matthew Line, Melissa Line, Gary Martinez, Kaleo Mattern, Sean Murphy, Kristin Murray, Brian Park, Elizabeth Parmer, Jonathan Prakash, Kevin Pugh, Adam Saieed, Aleksandra Slaski, Jerry Smit, Joshua Smit, Becci Stoflet, David Stoflet, Angela Storey, Gavin Storey, Dino Subasic, Murthy Tata, James Teasley, Bruce Terry, Daniel Warren, Laura Wilfong

Instructors:

Bill Fallon

Ronald Auerbach, Cheryl Beaver, Katie Beaver, Chelsea Beechel, Nancy Birdwell, David Cameron, Mark Christiani, Thad Colgrove, Greg Crook, B'Etta Euler, Malia Euler, Eric Evans, John Farrell, Erik Filsinger, Tracy Fleming, Randi Folwell, Tom Folwell, Daniel Gonzales, John Gray, Nick Hoffman, Robert Kessenich, Mike Knarzer, Rich Kocher, Tim Lange, Michael Lust, Douglas Matson, Erin Matson, David McClintic, Kim McClintic, Jonathan McLin, Lisa McLin, Christopher Meyer, Jeffry Nagel, Silvy Nasser, Al Potter, Elaine Quigley, Merlin Repp, Rogil Schroeter, Kathy Sharp, Curtis Stone, Diane Taulborg, Jutta Ulrich, Elizabeth Vito, Keith Waldrup, Patti Waldrup

Well, it's Basic Rock class again and a good time was had by all as 38 eager students strapped on climbing harnesses in a sea of yellow t-shirts, wide-eyed as Bill Fallon tirelessly drilled them with safety tips in an attempt to prove that it is both inherently dangerous yet quite safe to ascend such valley classics as the Monk and the Hand.

The slide show rolled at Cactus Park impressing upon the students the thrill that surely awaited them once they learned to climb efficiently. Many had barely any gym experience and the backdrop of sky or sand against climbers moving on precious little real estate surely must have knotted a few shoulders. Some fumbled with carabiners and cordelette seemingly concerned about how these tools would help them defy gravity.

As class moved to the practice area in the McDowells many students took to the rock without so much as a backward glance. A few got through Energizer cleanly while others preferred to stay close to the short rappels. Over the lip, many thought the hanging rap' the most fun of the day and returned to it many times to work it more gracefully. By day's end all were tired and most had gained much confidence and a greater appreciation for the sport and the outdoors.



Student Lynn Folden starts a climb in the McDowell's

ORC Students: October 2011 (cont)



Left to right: Kaleo Mattern on Energizer. Tony Angus on rappel. Chris Hanrahan on rappel.

Photos: Tracy Fleming

Class moved to Magma Gardens where instructors set up many routes for the students to climb. A few fairly impressive leads were sent and several instructors probably had as much fun as the students. Before graduation arrived, a short tutorial on prusiks, as usual, was provided at PRG.

Graduation day finally arrived and helping out at Rosetta Stone I got a glimpse of how many of the students had progressed over the short introduction they had received. Four routes were set by Curtis Stone and his cadre of yellow t's. Due to the fact that all were fairly low angle with abundant relief every student topped out without even thinking too hard about it. Confidence grew the second time around and students started to ask normal questions about ERNEST climbing, instructor experience, and other climbs about which they knew and wanted to try. All too quickly it was over and the routes were broken down and the hike out progressed.

Ron Auerbach, the congenial host, threw the social event of the season where the newly badged members eagerly swapped stories about their day's adventure. Risking a poor guess, I would say there were close to a hundred people there and I saw familiar faces and some not so familiar as I waded around. Thanks Ron. I was told plenty of beer remained after everyone had their fill. I hope that is sufficient payment.

Relatively new to helping out at basic class the experience was still novel to me. To those who have helped many times it was just another week with the new kids. Anyway, thanks to all who made the class a memorable experience for all the new students and to those who hopefully provided a breath of fresh air to those who have done this many times. I believe I can speak for all the statesmen of Basic Rock when I encourage all to come back and help out next time around when, in six months, Bill, Rogil, Ron, Nancy, and everyone whose name I have forgotten pull out the slide show and string of harnesses again and hit the highlights one more time.

Greg Crook

A Trip to the Boucher Shop

Rogil's 2011 Grand Canyon, Half-Fast Death March

In response to rim-2-rim-2-rim exploits and similar (to her mind) irrationalities, Rogil established a complementary day hike that would employ South Rim of Grand Canyon trail(s) as in-out or loop trips. These excursions have featured most of the S rim trails, but non-main corridor routes dominate. This year's nineteenth annual opportunity was no exception: we all accessed and hiked portions of the Boucher Trail on September the 24th.

The trek started at the road's-end, gated access to the Waldron trailhead, descended the Waldron Trail, and connected via pieces of the Hermit and Dripping Springs Trails to the Boucher Trail. From there most of us were in for the as-far-as-you-can-get-before-turnaround-time effort. Rogil, Jutta, Val and I were happy to get to the saddle between Cocopa Point and Whites Butte, John and Bill ventured further to reach the Colorado River, while Ted (having been a player in last year's epic escapade) opted for a somewhat less rigorous effort and turned back at Yuma Point.

Off to a fairly early start – we were on trail at 05h30 with a few headlamps agleam to help negotiate the road to the Waldron trailhead per se. We all hiked together to this point, but afterward John and Bill pulled ahead as it was their announced intent to try and make it to the river. The weather cooperated – meeting the forecast's propitious prediction for being a grand day to be hiking.

From the gate and using the Waldron Trail this leg of the hike drops about 300 meters into Hermit Basin and the junction with the Hermit Trail. As we hiked toward the basin the sun gradually emerged. With sunrise, effort, and descent we warmed and shed layers accordingly.

A short stint on the Hermit Trail took us nominally west to the junction with the Dripping Springs trail where we arrived just after 07h00. At the signed junction we found a posting indicating several slides along the Dripping Springs trail might offer some difficulty in passage. These proved no great challenge with only due diligence



Ted pointing into Travertine Canyon from Yuma Point.



Ted, Rogil, and Jutta carefully getting through one of the slides on the Dripping Springs Trail.

necessary in crossing the washed out areas. A somewhat undulating route, this part of the Dripping Springs trail traverses the head of the canyon formed by the upper part of Hermit Creek and offers the first 'exposure' to a bit of shelf walking. Total drop from the Waldron-Hermit trail junction to the turnoff onto the Boucher Trail is around 30 m.

The Dripping Springs portion of the hike going in took about $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. Before starting out on the trail of destination we took a short break and enjoyed a snack in the shade. It was a welcome stop. Then we were off toward Yuma Point, the headwall and descent through part of Travertine Canyon, and the to-become turnaround point of the Cocopa Point - Whites Butte saddle.

The route out to Yuma Point is mostly east-facing with

A Trip to the Boucher Shop (cont)

some views of the Hermits Trail on the opposite side of the chasm formed by Hermit Creek. There are some 'thin' areas with a bit of exposure, but it's mostly straightforward and easy to follow.

We stopped only briefly at Yuma Point after a rise of about 30 m from the last junction, getting there at around 09h15. This was Ted's designated turnaround spot; Jutta, Val, Rogil and I continued toward the saddle, 275 meters below. We were also able to get into radio contact with John and Bill. They were at the beginning of the descent into Travertine Canyon and had cached some water at that spot.

This leg of the trip, beyond Yuma Point, had the most consistent exposure of the hike as it essentially traverses the head wall of Travertine Canyon before reaching "the drop" and then a lower traverse over toward the saddle by Whites Butte.

At the beginning of "the drop" into Travertine Canyon the four of us cached water just like Bill and John had done. "The drop" then descends about 250 m in a horizontal, point-to-point distance of roughly 400 m – a traverse only appears to take some of the sting out of the trail's pitch. There are a few down climbs on the first bit, then a traverse to the nose of a small ridge, you follow that down to a shelf before continuing back up about 30 m in elevation to the saddle. As we made our way down we did get a glimpse of John and Bill ahead of us as they cut across the saddle's grassy tract. It took us about ¾ hour from the beginning of "the drop" to the saddle, reaching it at 11h15.

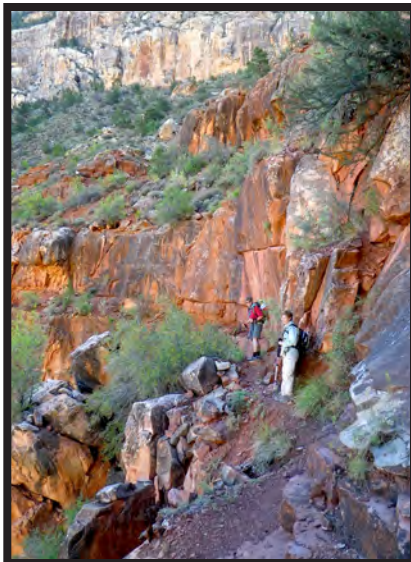
Lunch was definitely in order by this time and we all gathered in the shade of a small cliff on the west side of the saddle to rest and eat. The sun was plenty warm at our turnaround point.

As we finished lunch we also contacted John and Bill again. They had made their way down the red wall switch-backs beyond the saddle to the Boucher Camp area (another 450 m change of elevation), taken a break, pumped some water, and were intending to continue toward the river. We figured it might be the last time we heard from them for a while because of interfering geography.

Later we found that Bill and John had indeed made it to the river and were soaking their toes in the cool Colorado at noon – their turnaround time.

Lunch / break-time was not long-lived as we four needed to start our return trip. Just about ½ hour after arriving we were headed back toward the Dripping Springs Trail junction, with the possibility of taking a side trip up to Dripping Springs proper if it seemed like time was available.

The Travertine Canyon rise was exposed to the sun and tiring. We reached the top hot and sweaty and took a needed break plus recovered our cached water. Out around Yuma Point (a fantastic, but dry, camp spot) we rambled and repeated the traverse on the flank of the canyon above Hermit Creek.



Rogil and Jutta on the headwall of Travertine Canyon.



A steep part of the Boucher Trail going down Travertine Canyon.

A Trip to the Boucher Shop (cont)

Intermittent and pretty ragged radio communications with the John and Bill duo indicated that the switchbacks up the red wall had been telling on them, slowing them down considerably on the ascent even before encountering the Travertine Canyon rise. They suggested they might need additional water on the way out.

When the four of us reached the Dripping Springs Trail junction somewhat after 15h15, Jutta, Rogil and I decided to make the 0.8 km hike up to the springs. That was a fine side trip. Rogil and I got a quick head rinse that was REALLY refreshing AND we filled a couple of liter bottles with spring water to leave along the trail for Bill and John should they need it.

Regrouping, we returned on the Dripping Springs Trail and re-traced our way along the piece of the Hermit, etc. As we started up the Waldron Trail and got out of the shelter of Hermit Basin we were once again able to reach Bill and John by radio, but it was really a fragmented conversation due to poor signal strength. We did manage to communicate about the water we'd left for them just past the Dripping Springs Trail junction, and deduced that they were quite a bit behind us at this time.

The switchbacks on the Waldron Trail have been constructed with a reasonable grade, but they certainly took their toll on our way out toward the end of the day. A number of short breaks were necessary on my trip up to the top. Post hike conversation also revealed Bill and John also had a rough time on this section too.



From the saddle by Whites Butte looking down the notch that the switchbacks descend through to Boucher Creek.

Rogil and I caught up with Jutta and Val where they'd stopped by an earthen dam above the switchbacks on the Waldron Trail. We then met up with Ted at the Waldron trailhead as previously agreed. The five of us arrived back at the gate at just about 19h00: around 31 km (19 mi) hiking and 13-½ hours after the start, dipping about 700 meters into the canyon. John and Bill were still "out there"... and the last contact we'd had suggested they'd be awhile in emerging from the big ditch.

Val, Ted and Jutta were ferried back to our camp area by Rogil while I waited by the gate in the event that Bill and John would come along. Rogil returned and we ate our Mountain House dinners, enjoying the quiet and calm of the evening. About 22h30 we decided that perhaps John and Bill were going to be REALLY late and set about getting the Xterra ready for bed.

As often happens, as soon as you decide something won't occur right away, it does. Very shortly after starting to clear out the truck we heard voices and eventually caught sight of headlamps as Bill and John came up the road. They arrived at the gate at 22h45: having hiked an estimated 39 km (24 mi) with 1300 meters of elevation change in 17-1/4 hours. Now THAT is a pretty long day.

After a very short celebratory break gear was stowed; we drove back to the camp area to rejoin our friends and rejoice in the day's experience. Each delighted in his or her accomplishments and ALL were ready for a good night's rest!

Regarding the "Trip to the Boucher Shop" part of the title -- I think John and Bill will both own up to feeling like ready-to-be-hung dead meat upon their arrival at the gate. Continuing the association, morning revealed recovering life forms and fresh meat - with the new day's light exposing the multiple blisters on John's feet.

A Trip to the Boucher Shop (cont)

This year's participants ---a wiser Ted Parker; Saddle-ists: Val McNay, Jutta Ulrich, Rogil Schroeter and Dave Cameron; CO River toe-soakers: John Farrell and Bill Jay.

Every time I visit this area it provides additional perspective on the courage and chutzpa of the early explorers like Boucher who found and developed these routes. Perhaps such individuals were simply more common then, but certainly amazing folks in amazing times nonetheless.

As is characteristic of almost all our excursions, this trip also inspired interest in related future opportunities: like a 3 to 4 day Boucher – Hermits loop backpack and also dropping into the GC using the Dripping Springs trail connection at the top of Eremita Mesa. So, with a modicum of planning there'll be more adventure afoot.

Happy Trails!

Dave Cameron



Looking upstream from the Yuma Point area: a muddy Colorado River and part of the Hermit Trail (lower RH corner).

Update – Construction of Permanent Tom's Thumb Trailhead

The City of Scottsdale is beginning construction of the permanent Tom's Thumb Trailhead. The permanent Tom's Thumb Trailhead will be located southeast of the intersection of 128th Street and the Preserve boundary, and will be accessed via 128th Street. From now on the preferred access from the intersection of Pima and Happy Valley Road will be to take Happy Valley east to where it turns north and becomes 118th street. Turn east on Ranch Gate Road then south on 128th street. This route has been improved to the boundary of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. The old access route through Troon will be gated and closed to public traffic prior to completion of the new Trailhead.

You will see increasing construction activity throughout the winter climbing season. During the construction process, continue southbound on 128th Street to the T-intersection with El Paraiso and turn left/east and follow signage to the current Temporary parking areas near Sven Slab and underneath Morrell's Wall. The City is willing to allow temporary access to the trail systems in the area as long as the hiker/biker/climber/horse rider activity does not interfere with Construction. Please respect this effort by the City to attempt to avoid closure during the entire construction process, which will continue through early summer of 2012. Inevitably there could be some short term closures due to construction needs, so please follow any official signage. We will also attempt to get the word out when we know sufficient information.

The Preserve is owned by the City of Scottsdale and its primary purpose is to keep the natural habitat and geology in its native state. All usage is governed by the City of Scottsdale code and will be enforced. Once in the Preserve, please remember to follow all of the City of Scottsdale rules and regulations for the Preserve as indicated on the signage. These rules include no camping or overnight stays, opening at sunrise and closing at sunset, etc. Stay on the designated main trails, and only access crags on the official climber trails, most of which are marked by signage along the Tom's Thumb Trail. Under no circumstances use the old access to Tom's Thumb that enters near amcaz.org 16

Tom's Thumb Trailhead (cont)

the house SE of 128th and El Paraiso. (This signage was obtained by a grant the AMC received from the Access Fund and was installed by AMC and local climbers.)

Please remember that the City has been very good to climbers and is allowing us to continue to climb on all of the historic crags (albeit with new access). Your behavior can ensure that climbing can continue. Please respect the partnership we have formed with the City.

If you have any questions, please direct them to Erik Filsinger, Climber Liaison to City Staff, at smorefil@aol.com or Scott Hamilton, Preserve Planner, at shamilton@scottsdaleaz.gov.

Erik Filsinger

Calendar of Events - Outings/Schools/Events

DECEMBER		16	Martin Luther King Day (Monday)
5	AMC Board Meeting	23	AMC Member Meeting – Elections and Photo Contest, Member dues are due, Vote on t-shirt designs.
10	Alpine Rock Seminar		
10	Glacier Travel, Snow Skills, and Crevasse Rescue Seminar Sign-up Deadline		
16	Holiday Party		
25	Christmas (Sunday)	13	AMC Board Meeting - Installation of new officers –change statuary agent
JANUARY 2012			
9	AMC Board Meeting, Deadline for submitting nominations for the board	14	Lead School 14, 15, 16, 18, 19
11	Alpine Seminar, Glacier Travel, Snow Skills, & Crevasse Rescue Seminar 11, 13-15	20	Presidents Day (Monday)
		27	AMC Member Meeting

Footnotes: Car-pooling is optional on all outings and is not part of the outing. The outing begins at the trailhead designated by the Outing Leader and ends at the same place. Each participant should bring a First Aid kit. If you leave the outing, with or without the leader's permission, you are considered to be on your own until you rejoin the group. Each participant will be required to sign an AMC Activity Release Form at the beginning of the outing. Participation in AMC outings requires club membership. Outings vary in degree of danger. When you participate in an outing you should be both physically and mentally prepared and equipped with the appropriate gear. You should always be aware of the risks involved in outdoor activities and conduct yourselves accordingly. The Outing Leader is not responsible for your safety; you are. Please contact the Outing Leader before going on an outing, discussing your capabilities with the Outing Leader. You must be over 18 years of age to participate, or must be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult, and obtain prior consent from the Outing Leader. Those accompanying minors are responsible for the minor's safety.

Billboard—Other Scheduled Events

Outings listed in this section are not AMC sanctioned outings. Any AMC member can list an event he or she is planning and which is open to other AMC members. The member does not have to be an approved AMC Outing Leader. AMC is also on meetup. For official and unofficial outings go to: <http://www.meetup.com/Arizona-Mountaineering-Club/>

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

Outing Leaders

Requirements for becoming a leader: take the Basic, Anchors and Lead classes (or equivalents), be a member for at least one year, complete a basic first aid and CPR class (8 hours or more), and be approved for leadership by at least five current leaders through formal application process and by the Board of Directors. Contact Nancy Birdwell at (602) 770-8326.

Outing Leader

Contact Info

Eric Evans	602-218-3060.....	eae100@yahoo.com
Bill Fallon	602-996-9790.....	bill.fallon@cox.net
Erik Filsinger		smorefil@aol.com
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For all Your ROCK CLIMBING Needs!!!

Find TUFA Gear Shops at the Following AZ Rock Gyms:

AZ on the Rocks - Climbmax Gym

Ape Index - Phoenix Rock Gym



Email: tufagearshop@gmail.com

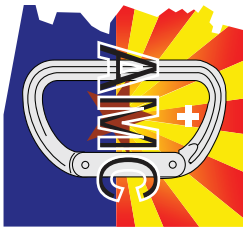


We've got room!



We can even put our tents on the floor now!





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