

The Arizona Mountaineer

January 2010



**2009 J-TREE THANKSGIVING
EVENT ORGANIZERS**

STORY ON PAGE 15

The Arizona Mountaineering Club

Meetings: The member meeting location is:

Phoenix Country Day School
3901 E. Stanford Drive
Paradise Valley, AZ 85253.

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

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	Grant Loper	602-684-3042
Vice-President	Robert England	480-688-5412
Secretary	Erik Filsinger	smorefil@aol.com
Treasurer	Jodie Bostrom	bostrom.jodie.amc@gmail.com
Director	Eric Evans	602-218-3060
Director	Bill Fallon	602-996-9790
Director	Danny Gonzales	602-550-8371
Director	Kim McClintic	480-213-2629
Past President	John Keedy	623-412-1452

COMMITTEES

Archivist	Jef Sloat	602-316-1899
Classification	Nancy Birdwell	602-770-8326
Elections	Dave Van Hook	602-790-6283
Equip. Rental	Bruce McHenry	602-952-1379
Email	Curtis Stone	602-370-0786
Land Advocacy	Erik Filsinger	480-314-1089
Librarian	Richard Kocher	480-966-5568
Membership	Rogil Schroeter	623-512-8465
Mountaineering	Bruce McHenry	602-952-1379
Asst Chair	Grant Loper	602-684-3042
Newsletter	Robert England	480-688-5412
Outings	Frank Vers	480-947-9435
Programs	Grant Loper	602-684-3042
Trng & Schools	Bill Fallon	602-996-9790
Basic	Bill Fallon	602-996-9790
Anchors	Justin York	480-229-8660
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/secure/joinnow/join_indiv.php or at <https://accessfund.org/join/indiv.php>.

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Newsletter

The Arizona Mountaineer is published monthly by the AMC. Members are encouraged to submit articles and photos about their climbing- or mountaineering-related activities. Submit items for publication (subject to approval) to: AMC Editor, 2267 W Periwinkle Way, Chandler, AZ 85248 or through email to robert_england2@yahoo.com. Digital photos should preferably be in JPG format and 300 dpi. Articles can be in any standard word processing format. For more info call or write the editor at (480)-688-5412, robert_england2@yahoo.com.

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.

Hot Stuff !!!

Save
Queen
Creek

Library

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

The circulation period is one 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.

FEB NL Deadline: 20 Jan

January Birthdays

Mark Bragg 2, Matt Cole 3, Marcela Niemczyk 4, Cathy Wise 5, Bill Fallon 6, Jodie Bostrom 7, Nicholas Davis 9, Jack Carlson 10, Rich Kocher 18, Giacomo Mendel 18, Nestor Garcia 19, Monica Miller 21, Nathen Medlock 23, Suzanne Cook 28, Haiwen Meng 28, Christopher Meyer 29, Dick Severson 29, Karen Stafford 29

Discount Directory

These merchants offer a discount to AMC members:

- **Arizona Hiking Shack** - 11645 N. Cave Creek Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85020, (602) 944-7723. Show your AMC membership card and get a 10% discount.
- **AZ on the Rocks Gym** - 16447 N. 91st St., Scottsdale, AZ 85260. 480-502-9777. Gym membership 10% off for AMC members.
- **Phoenix Rock Gym** - 1353 E. University, Tempe, AZ 85281. 480-921-8322. 10% off membership to AMC members.
- **AZ Cliffhanger** - at the Phoenix Rock Gym. 480-642-9507. 10% off membership to AMC members.
- **Solid Rock Gym** - 23620 N. 20th Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85027 (623) 587-7625 10% off membership.
- **Solid Rock Gym** - 407 S. 107th Ave, Suite A6, Tolleson, AZ 85353, (623) 643-9399 10% off membership.
- **Climbmax Gym** - 1330 W Auto Dr, Suite 112, Tempe, AZ 85284 - 480-626-7755. 10% off membership, Grand Opening 15% off through 4/30.
- **APE Index Rock Climbing Gym** - 9700 N. 91st Ave Suite 118 Peoria 85345 Phone 623-242-9164 10% discount for Day Pass and Membership. Show AMC Membership card.

Rental Equipment

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

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

Treasurer's Report

Arizona Mountaineering Club Income Statement Period Ended November 30, 2009

INCOME

Advertising.....	20.00
Dues 2009	4,662.00
Grants Received	1,400.00
Interest.....	306.37
T-Shirts	60.00
Mountaineering Schools	50.00
Rental Equipment.....	258.00
AARS Spring	1,575.00
Basic Fall	4,025.00
Basic Spring.....	4,900.00
Lead Fall	300.00
Lead Spring.....	975.00
<u>Other</u>	<u>0.56</u>
TOTAL INCOME	18,531.93

EXPENSES

Admin	846.41
T-Shirts	870.33
Capital Expenditures	1,067.69
Equipment Maintenance	35.00
Friends of Queen Creek-Expense	0.00
Grants Expended.....	1,110.00
Insurance.....	3,694.00
Land Advocacy Committee.....	905.59
Library.....	77.09
Newsletter	2,792.03
Outings.....	260.94
Programs Monthly Meeting	3,282.99
<u>Training.....</u>	<u>8,523.84</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	23,465.91
OVERALL TOTAL.....	(4,933.98)

ACCOUNT BALANCES

Checking	4,988.46
CD Account	15,000.00
TOTAL CASH ASSETS	19,998.46
<u>AMC Outing Gear.....</u>	<u>3,467.43</u>
OVERALL TOTAL	23,455.89

AMC Board Minutes - 2 November 2009

Call to Order – Grant called the Board to order at 7:05 p.m.

Board members present: Grant, Robert, Bill, Eric, Jodie, Kim.

Member present: Curtis Stone

Minutes of the November 2, 2009 meeting. The minutes were approved as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Approved.

Committee Reports:

Programs. Reviewed the list of upcoming programs. Grant requested a replacement as programs chair. Kim McClintic will take the position on a trial basis.

Outings: Written report on Adopt-a-Crag (elsewhere in this newsletter). Thanksgiving coordination discussed. Outing Leader Activity reports for past 4 years reviewed and compared.

Classifications: David McClintic is confirmed as our newest Outing Leader.

Newsletter: The January issue will be mailed to all members in good standing who have elected to receive the newsletter this way.

Old Business:

Storing club gear. Grant agreed to take gear for the time being.

Email Administrator: Curtis Stone is confirmed as email administrator

New Business:

Elections for 2010 were discussed. Candidates are needed for several positions

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Anchors School Participants

STUDENTS

Ashlee Beishline
Michael Faux
Cat Isfan
Lance Morris
Stephen Patterson
Brian Scharpf
Curtis Stone
Diane Taulborg
Ryan Zahn

INSTRUCTORS

Ronald Auerbach
Ronald Auerbach
Steven Crane
Eric Evans
Brandon Forrest
Jason Garvan
Daniel Gonzales
John Gray
Susan Harnage
Eve Hoffman
Nick Hoffman

Robert Kessenich
Colten Kollenborn
Michael Kreitz
John Kynyk
David McClintic
Kim McClintic
Rogil Schroeter
Jutta Ulrich
Keith Waldrup
Justin York

2010 Proposed Budget

The AMC board presents the 2010 proposed budget for member review. We will vote to accept or amend the budget at the December member meeting.

<u>INCOME</u>	
Advertising.....	200
Dues 2010	5000
Interest.....	350
Mountaineering Schools	200
Rental Equipment.....	75
T&S Schools Rental Income.....	100
TOTAL Rental Income	175
Spring.....	1575
Fall	1575
TOTAL AARS	3150
Spring.....	4000
Fall	4000
TOTAL Basic School.....	8000
Spring.....	600
Fall	600
TOTAL Lead School	1200
TOTAL Training Income	12350
FROM Checking.....	5,525.00
TOTAL INCOME	18275

<u>EXPENSES</u>	
Other	200
Postage.....	125
Printing.....	100
Supplies.....	25
Website.....	1250
TOTAL Admin.....	1700
Mountaineering	350
Rental Equipment.....	350
TOTAL Capital Expenditures.....	700
Insurance	5500

Organizational Contributions.....	150
Operations and Incentives.....	1000
TOTAL Land Advocacy.....	1150
Library.....	50
T-Shirts AMC.....	300
T-Shirts Grand Canyon.....	700
TOTAL Promotion Activities	1000
Labels.....	50
Other	50
Postage.....	600
Printing.....	1800
TOTAL Newsletter	2500
Certifications	500
First Aid Renewal	500
OL Incentives.....	100
TOTAL Outing Leaders	1100
Camping Fees.....	100
Entry Fees	50
Misc.....	100
TOTAL Outings.....	250
Rental Gear Equip. Maint.	50
Facility Rental.....	1100
Monthly Meeting	250
Other (Speakers)	2000
Food	100
TOTAL Programs	3450
Equipment	4000
Facilities.....	1000
Food	200
Other	150
Printing.....	800
T-Shirts & Incentives	200
TOTAL Training	6350
TOTAL EXPENSES	23800
OVERALL TOTAL.....	23800

Queen Creek Cleanup and Climb

It was another perfect climbing day of bright sunshine and cool shade at Oak Flats and the Pond area. The cleanup crew picked up 13 bags of roadside trash while Jodie Bostrom and her crew set up a slew of climbs. Everyone had lots rope time on plenty of climbs in a wide variety of difficulties.

Special thanks to Jodie for leading an outstanding outing and to Donna Forst, Mark Zimmerman & Steven Crane, for helping with the setup. Patti Waldrup, Valerie Lane, John Prouty, David Swanson, Colton Kollenborn, David Helzer, Ryan Zahn all pitched in to make our AMC highway mile more pristine. Tiina, Emily & John Perlman look forward to hosting the next cleanup & climb in the last weekend of March. Have a safe, fun and exciting holiday and new year!



The Queen Creek Cleanup Crew
and

Valerie Lane on 'Dead Pool'



Update on North Access Area Planning

Monday night the City of Scottsdale Preserve Commission met and the City staff and Planner hired by the City to plan the North Access Area presented the results of their preliminary site analysis. They stated that from this point forward, they will continue the site analysis, hold a climber focus group sometime after the first of the year, followed by a public open house where all can attend, followed by a 30% plan submittal to the Design Review Board (DRB). The Commission will be updated prior to the DRB review, and periodic updates will be provided throughout the process. Construction is expected to begin in the late summer 2010 and be complete in mid 2011. Staff pointed out that the early planning that occurred was years ago, and did not include any level of site analysis, thus did not consider the extreme slopes and drainage constraints of the site, and related costs both financial and environmental. That is what they are doing now.

(Note: this was the first time I had seen these plans and I didn't know ahead of time what was going to be presented. I am simply providing you with information and am not trying to argue for the City in any way. The City and Planner are not yet done with their recommendations, but my feeling is that the result of the meeting was that some decisions appear to be fairly well along. Please keep in mind that the major goal I think all of us has – keeping the historic rock climbing – has been achieved already and that this discussion is only about where we will be able to park and where the trails to the climbing areas will start. I might also note that Staff has repeatedly stated that this will be a long process and that this is just the starting point.)

The Planning team (architects, engineers, etc) presented their preliminary analysis of the opportunities and constraints of the site. The main constraints they took into account related to the topography, but also potential costs. They presented an analysis of how the site alternatives might affect the user groups - climbers, horse riding, mountain biking, and hiking. The main constraints to the site were the washes that run predominantly from southwest to northeast and drain the whole mountain facade. They included graphics that showed the various drainage paths. The biggest constraints were two major washes that show on a 100-year flood plain map. As climbers, we know where these are because they produce the largest wash-outs of the east-west dirt road (El Paraiso).

The City stated that they are planning for 100 parking spaces now, but allow for up to 200 in the future if the need warrants. The Planner presented 4 possible alternatives, and then presented a matrix rating the feasibility of each of the 4 sites, given their criteria. Site A was roughly where the new Temporary Tom's Thumb parking is. Site B was roughly the Sven Slab parking. Sites C and D overlapped El Paraiso closer to the intersection of 128th Street and El Paraiso (further west and north of where the temporary parking is).

The biggest constraints for the City and the Planner with both Sites A and B are the two 100-year floodplain washes that cross those sites. They stated, to the Commission, that it might cost an extra \$1.25 million to build either of those sites because all weather access is required per the Fire Department regulations.

These public hearings are a very formal process (I attended the whole meeting from 5:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. just to make sure that all climber issues were heard.) I filled out a Public Comment card and

Update on North Access Area Planning (cont)

was allowed to speak. Here are roughly the points I made (not having prepared ahead of time, I'm sure that ideally I might have been able to say something better). The process did not result in anyone asking me any follow-up questions.

1. The climbing community appreciates the good working relationship we have had with the City.
2. This area is a major rock climbing resource and climbers come here from all over the country (I had recently met climbers there from NYC, Wisconsin and Oregon).
3. Given the Pinnacle Peak experience, the climbers would prefer to have as large a parking allotment as possible. The 200 spots identified at PPP probably are in the ball park for what the North Access Area will demand.
4. I stated that in my opinion Climbers would prefer parking access as close as possible to the historic parking, which was much closer to the crags than seemed to be the rated higher Alternatives C and D. (In fairness to Staff, C and D were ranked highest based on the outcome of the detailed site analysis that took many aspects into account, like topography, wildlife habitat, viewshed impacts, user access, financial implications, etc.)
5. I asked them to consider splitting the parking into parking nodes, with maybe some of the nodes closer to the historic climbers' parking areas.
6. I suggested they look at a split of the facilities, maybe with the major buildings and infrastructure closer to 128th Street to minimize costs, but that with wet crossings of the washes the remote parking nodes could be considered. I also suggested that bridges might not be needed if they would consider culverts to pass the drainage under key road wash-outs.

After I was done the Staff and Planner responded and heard Commissioners' comments. Of note, the Staff stated that the Fire Department would not want wet crossings of major washes because of emergency requirements of the City - they don't want folks stranded on the other side of a wash where they can't get to them. Some commissioners liked the idea of the Parking Nodes, while others wanted to keep "all that stuff" in one place to minimize impact on the Preserve. Some commissioners also stated that they like the parking pulled back to minimize human impacts in general.

All in all I wasn't necessarily totally surprised, but I was disappointed at the problems identified in the detail site analysis with what were the conceptual plans for the North Access Area (the parking basically where the temporary parking is). It would have been nice to at least park where we can park now. I'm trying to keep in mind that we will still be able to climb and that the City has been very supportive of the rock climbing plans.

If you have any comments or concerns, feel free to express them to me at smorefil (at) aol (dot) com. I know that you can also direct questions and comments to the key City staff person, Scott Hamilton, at SHamilton (at) ScottsdaleAz (dot) gov.

Erik - AMC Land Advocacy Chair

Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue School ++

This AMC school is an introduction to winter mountaineering and the skills required for climbing on the glaciated peaks of North America. For full list of topics covered see below. Glacier travel School is a multi day course that will be held Wednesday 13 January 18:30 -21:30 at Papago Park (SW corner of College St. and Curry Rd. in Tempe) and all day Saturday 17 January and all day Sunday 18 January on Mt. Humphrey's near Flagstaff, AZ. All class participants must also be available to meet in Flagstaff the evening of Friday 16 December at 20:00, location TBA. The fee for the course is \$50 for first time students and \$25 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 a winter summit attempt of Humphrey's Peak (12,637 ft) integrated into the class and 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 a 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 boot, winter weight sleeping bag, suitable clothing for climbing and camping in the snow and potentially night time sub zero temperatures. All boots used in the class must be approved by the instructor.

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, time management, continual situational awareness
2. Brief comments on Altitude sickness awareness, AMS, signs and symptoms, CE and PE signs and symptoms, AMS -> Stay put, CE or PE ->go down
3. Brief comments on mountain weather: prevailing winds and likely storm track, costal vs continental climate and resulting snow packs, pressure systems, barometric pressure, identifying windward and lee slopes, importance of winds and snow deposition/wind loading, seasonal sun angle and effects on snow pack stability and travel options, relative humidity, atmospheric stability and thunderstorm cycles, a few natural clues to deteriorating and stabilizing weather.
4. Brief comments on Risk management and time management
5. Snow travel on snowshoes
6. Crampon use and technique
7. Ice Axe self arrest
8. Rope team travel, spacing and forgotten statistics, rope management, team arrest

Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue School ++

9. Snow anchors (Pickets, Flukes, Dead-men, Snow Bollards, nature of snow as an anchoring medium, matching your anchor to job it needs to perform
10. Methods of dynamic belay: quick belay and running belay, fixed lines
11. Glacier travel: anatomy of the glacier, characteristics of crevasses and snow bridges
12. Crevasse extraction: communicating with the victim, prepping the extraction site, building the C+Z haul system and the standard three member team rescue scenario, hauling weight and stressing anchors.
13. Brief comments on Avalanche Awareness: types of avalanche and seasonal profile, anatomy of an avalanche, importance of the critical angle, slope angle identification, clues to snow loading, womping, slab formation and slab avalanche ingredients, crack propagation, trigger events
14. 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, Risk level and MTF
15. 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, victim recovery protocol ABC
16. Winter camping: site selection, mostly experience life living on the snow and elements
17. Team resource and camp management: fuel planning, team management, securing winter camp for wind and snow fall
18. Snow shelters, trenches, wind breaks, block walls and snow caves,(time permitting)

Recommended reading:

Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue by Andrew Selters,

Snow Sense, Jill Fredston

Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills, 7th edition, Steven M. Cox et al. Chapters related to topics listed above

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

0F or warmer sleeping bag

Glacier Travel and Crevasse Rescue School ++

Insulated sleeping pad

Tent suitable for use on snow

Layering system suitable for temperatures ranging from 0F to 50F 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 prusiks

Sunglasses or glacier glasses

Pack large enough to carry equipment for the weekend

2010 Dues are Due

It is time to renew your membership for 2010. The membership year runs from January to December; \$30 for single or \$35 for family membership. Please make your check payable to AMC and bring to the next meeting or send to:

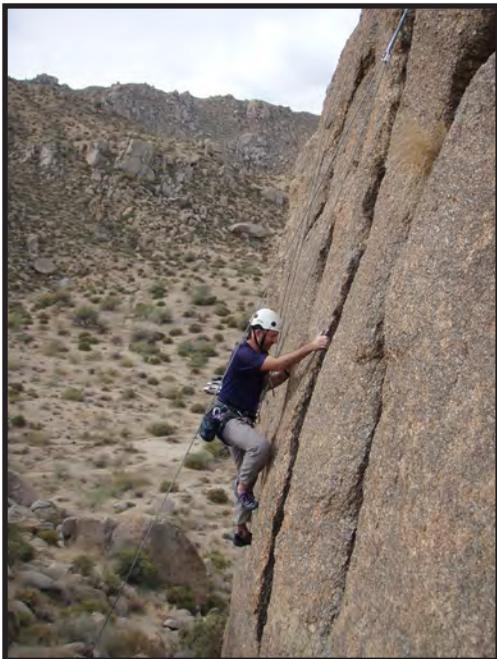
AMC Membership
6519 W. Aire Libre
Glendale, AZ 85306

If your name, address, phone or email have changed, please enclose corrections with your check. If you would like your cell phone listed on the monthly phone list instead of your home phone, please let me know.

Call 623-512-8465 or email rogil@cox.net if you have questions.

Morrell's Wall

On a cold Saturday, Team Sue (Susan and Suzanne), Karen, and I decided to enjoy some top rope fun at the Morrel's Wall – Parking Lot climbing area in the McDowell Sonoran Preserve.



Scott heading up Dinky

If you're interested in finding the Morrel's Wall – Parking Lot climbing area, you have to drive on Pima road North of HWY-101. Turn right onto Happy Valley Road. From Happy Valley road, turn right onto Alameda Road. Drive 0.5 miles and turn right onto 119th way. Drive 0.4 miles and turn left onto Casitas Del Rio. Take this road 0.4 miles and take a left turn on Paraiso Drive. After 0.1 miles on this road, it will turn to dirt (passenger cars OK). Drive another 0.5 miles. Turn right at the unsigned dirt road and head the final 0.4 miles to a parking area. You'll see some signs here that point towards the temporary parking for the Tom's Thumb trail. This is where you'll be heading too, so it helps in navigation. There is construction and development going on right now, so these directions may not be valid in the future... but they work for now. Please respect the private property signs so we can continue to enjoy access to this area.

It was easy to identify the location of the climbs, since AMC volunteers put up signs, improved trails, and blocked off closed roads. These volunteers did a fantastic

job and if you have the good fortune to meet one of them, please offer them your sincere thanks.

We used the latest edition 'Phoenix rock II' to find the climbs on the lower area. The nicest part of this area is the short approach to the climbs. The top of the climbs is easy accessed by a short, five minute scramble and we set up top ropes on Dinky (5.6) and Pinky (5.9).

It had been a while for us to climb on real rock as opposed to gym climbing, so we really enjoyed the rock of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Dinky was the warm up for all of us, which was an off width crack requiring a combination of crack and face



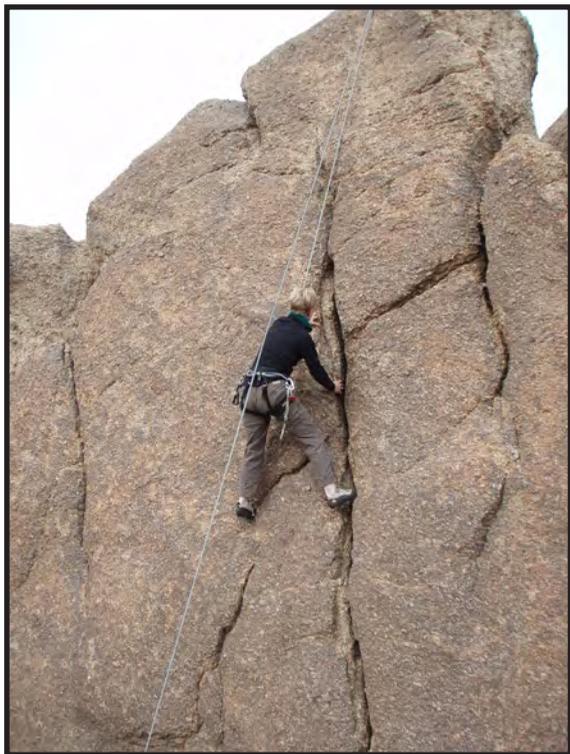
Suzanne and Karen bundled up on a cold day of climbing

Morrell's Wall (cont)

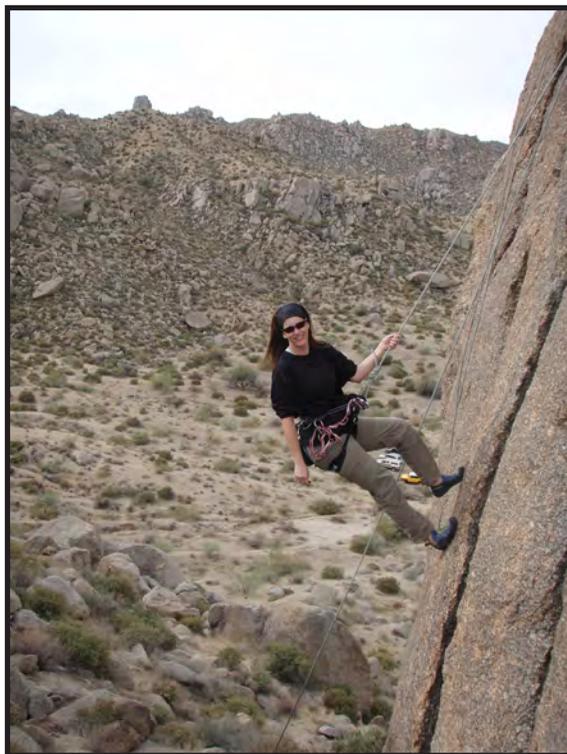
climbing. We then challenged ourselves on Pinky, which proved to have a tough face climbing start, with a satisfying crack climb finish. Pinky was an interesting study in technique, as all four of us took different routes to start the climb.

This is a great climbing area, made even better thanks to AMC volunteers. Try it!

Scott Frankel and Karen Stafford



Susan finishing strong on Pinky



Karen lowering off of Dinky

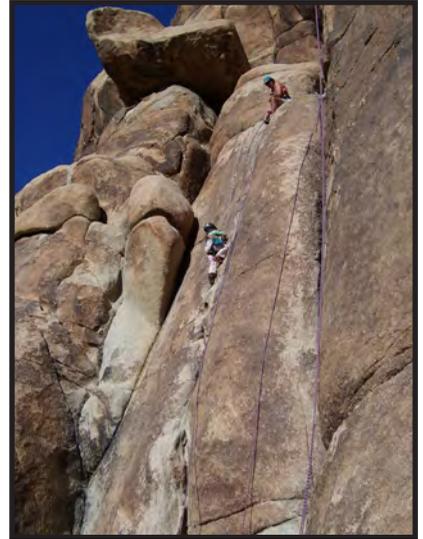
Joshua Tree Thanksgiving - November 2009

The next generation of AMC'ers and bold rope-guns is off to a great start, thanks in part to the wonderful opportunities afforded by outing leaders like Rogil Schroeter and Monica Miller.

Thanksgiving in Joshua Tree is always a special event and this year a group of about twenty-five were blessed with warm and unusually calm weather on Thursday and Friday. Everyone pitched in for a fantastic dinner followed by a wide variety of excellent desserts and the leftovers kept everyone fed the next day.

The climbing set up on Thursday at the Feudal Wall was led by the ever diligent Rogil. As always there were plenty of climbs for every ability and all of us climbed as much as we wanted to. We got Emily Perlman, age five, Joey Wise, age six, to rope up for the Duchess, 5.7, and both were amazed at the view from on top. This was Emily's second top-out on real rock and Joey's first. They were quite stoked at having gotten up the forty feet or so, which in their scale is probably more like twice that high! Neither knew what the next day would bring, however.

On Friday Monica led the pack to Afpa rock where numerous climbs were set up with a nice variety of difficulty ranges. Emily and Joey roped up again and shared the belay on Andromeda Strain, 5.7. This climb is almost an exact half rope length and properly set up, the ends of a sixty meter rope just barely touch the ground. If they thought the Duchess was long, they were astounded to find themselves grinding out the last few feet of the climb and then sitting on top, taking



Emily on Duchess



Joey on Duchess

in 'the eagle's view.' It was an excellent day for everyone and again everyone climbed themselves out. By late Friday evening, the weather, in classic J-Tree style, turned cold & windy.

Saturday was a mix of clouds, wind and light rain and the general consensus was that its better to drive in bad weather than to try to climb, so nearly everyone headed home. Except of course, Monica Miller and Brandon Forrest who braved the weather in a bold attack on Moose Dog Tower.

Special thanks to Rogil and Monica for leading the outings and to everyone else who assisted them in the set-ups. Of course,

Joshua Tree Thanksgiving - November 2009

thanks are in order for everyone who participated in making Thanksgiving in J-Tree a warm and memorable time for all! Hope we see you there next year!!



Emily lowering from top of Andromeda Strain 5.7



*Article and pictures
from
John and Tiina Perlman*

Kids worn out after climbing

The Mace - Sedona

As has become tradition in these parts, Frank Vers held his annual “Mace” outing on November 24th. It was a gorgeous, clear, sunny day with just a bit of nip in the air in the shadows of the massive sandstone pillars that form this classic route.

Frank led every pitch with a steady precision honed by years of practice. Recent AMC member Nestor Garcia took second, with double duties of belaying Frank on lead, and me following last.

The first pitch is a chimney that runs about eighty feet to the top of a spacious ledge in the shade. In fact, every pitch but the very top was in the shade. All went smoothly, except I felt awkward, having little experience with either chimney or off-width climbing.

Pitch two begins with an overhanging bulge about 10 feet off the deck. I watched Frank climb it. I watched Nestor climb it. I popped off it 3 times without success. Finally I grabbed the rope and struggled over it, but was exhausted EVEN using the rope. The top of pitch two is a somewhat smaller ledge with fabulous views of Sedona’s red rock spires and colorful mesas.



Frank Vers on a traverse on the Mace - Nestor Garcia belays

chimney. Maintaining balance to get into this system was very tricky. I saw Frank use a heel hook on this move (on lead!) and watched Nestor muscle his way into it. At the very top of this pitch is another bulge protected by a single bolt. This is the crux. Make it over the bulge and you are on top of the 2nd tallest pillar and just one big step from the Mace.

Getting a bit chilled now, winds picking up. Frank and Nestor are up top; Nestor has me on belay.

I climb up until the chimney widens, stretching my hands out across the deep chasm and find a purchase on the right spire, feet still planted on the left. I work my way higher, searching for something better for my hands and looking for a spot to place my feet. It seems to take forever. Finally I commit, both hands reasonably secure, thinking I see a good spot to plant my feet on the other side. I

Pitch Three begins with an exposed traverse about 150 ft above the desert floor. Once on the other side the climb resumes in a new chimney formed by the spire left of us. All went smoothly. I even had hopes of finishing without needing any more aid.

On Pitch four we continue up the chimney until it widens and we must commit to the right side, putting our feet on the left spire and our hands on the right. A committing move is required to enter an off-width crack system on the right

The Mace - Sedona (cont)

misjudged, and my feet are not very secure. Desperately I search for better hands and find something promising higher up. Again I need to get my feet on something, but the best I can do is put them on the wall and lie back.

The secure depths of the crack system are a tantalizing few feet higher. I just need one more hold to get there where I can rest a bit. Pulling with both hands and pushing hard on the wall with my feet I think I can reach another spot. Then SNAP! The entire shelf I'm holding breaks off the wall sending me hurdling down into the chasm below. I'm dazed and dangling. I look down at my left leg and see shreds of fabric fluttering around my knee. It burns and I can't really tell if it is serious. Nestor shouts something, but deep in the chasm the sound is garbled. I cannot reach either wall. It occurs to me that I was taught to always wear prusiks when climbing real rock. I didn't bring mine. No real choice, I pendulum until I reach rock again, but it is the wrong spire. Still it is something. My leg is ok, just a bit bruised. I'm able to see where the rock that broke left a small shelf, and from my new position, use that to grab, and then stand on. I'm finally in the crack system of the last pitch and can catch my breath. By the time I reached the crux move below the bolt I was exhausted but pumped with adrenaline, and Nestor was giving me a generously tight belay. Up top. In the sunlight. The huge column of the mace pokes out above the top of our spire separated by 5 feet of air. The only way across is to once again stand on the edge and using your full body fully extend both arms across to the wall. But there are neither hand holds nor secure places for feet. You still need to traverse to your right, carefully keeping tension with feet on the lower spire and hands on mace tower until about 15 feet to the right there is a good hand hold and about 10 feet of climbing to the very top. While not the most difficult part of the climb it is the ultimate and most memorable.

I belayed Frank over, noting that this one final committing move does at least have a bolt that once clipped will redirect the force of a fallen climber away from the belayer. Then Frank belayed Nestor. I went last, traversed to the hand hold, but once on the other side I popped off after finding I simply had no strength left in either my hands or feet, even for the last moves required for all of ten feet! Returning to the second pillar I was quite happy to be in one piece and take pictures as Frank and Nestor chose to leap back to me rather than rappel!

Two double rope rappels down and a scramble back to our gear.

Another successful lead climb and Mace outing for Frank (his 17th?). Thank you Frank for leading and allowing me to join. Thank you Nestor for keeping me alive. Thank you AMC for the adventures I've had, friends I've made, and all that I've learned (and sometimes forget).

Paul Norberg

In Joshua Tree Tonight

The stars are bright, in Joshua Tree tonight; I wish you were here so that I could hold you near, as friends gather round to partake in the bounty that surrounds. There is turkey, ham and yams, and hand made pies that delight our climber eyes. We circle hand in hand to give thanks for all we have in this great land. May the Lord bless the whole world with eternal peace and good will! Now our wine has chilled, as we line up for our Thanksgiving fill.

After dinner by the fireside we reside, taking the time to get to know each other and the climbs we have climbed. Adventures were discussed, some successful and some a bust. Oh how the rock calls and sometimes we take a fall, but at the end of the day all climbers will say, that this has been a truly great day!

Shanti, Shanti, Shanti

- Monica D. Miller



AMC ICE COURSE



Dates
February 13-14th
2010
Ouray, CO
\$ 295 per person



online registration at www.swaguides.com

970-259-0370

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

Jodie Bostrom	bostrom.jodie.amc@gmail.com	
Robert England	480-688-5412	robert_england2@yahoo.com
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Monica Miller	623-362-0456	
Jeff Nagel	602-312-9538	
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Frank Vers	480-947-9435	climbros@gmail.com
Clay Vollmer	602-595-7266	skatrash@cox.net
Justin York.....	480-229-8660	

Your Name Here!

Calendar of Events - Outings/Schools/Events

Dec 30 - Jan 3 - Ouray Ice Climbing. It's hot – let's start thinking about ICE CLIMBING! This is a 5 day event, 2 travel days, 3 days of climbing. We will climb 2 days in the Ice Park and one day in the back country. A condo will be rented and shared. Special requirements for participants. Limit 6. Contact Outing Leaders for details Richard Horst horstrichard@aol.com or Bruce McHenry bamchenry@att.net

Jan 13 - Glacier Travel and Snow Skills Class.

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. If you wish to participate you should be physically and mentally prepared 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.

Mondays **Solid Rock Gym at 6pm-8pm. Call Rogil (623)-512-8465 for info.**

Wednesdays **North Mountain hikes after work. Rogil Schroeter (623) 512-8465**

Commercial Event:

Feb 13-14, 2010 - AMC Intro to Ice Climbing – by Southwest Adventures Guides. Learn ice climbing in Ouray , CO. \$295. Contact Southwest Adventure Guides 970-259-0370. Or register online at www.swaguides.com

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>NOTE: Celestial events occur about 10 minutes earlier on Arizona's eastern border; 10 later on its western edge.</p>					1	2
3	4	5	6 Sunrise 7:33 Sunset 5:36 M-rise 12:00A	7	8	9
10	11 Board Meeting	12	13 Glacier Tvl Sunrise 7:33 Sunset 5:42 M-set 4:26P	14	15	16 Glacier Tvl
17 Glacier Tvl	18	19	20 Sunrise 7:31 Sunset 5:48 M-set 10:57P	21	22	23
24/31	25 Member Meeting	26	27 Sunrise 7:28 Sunset 5:55 M-rise 3:12P	28	29	30



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