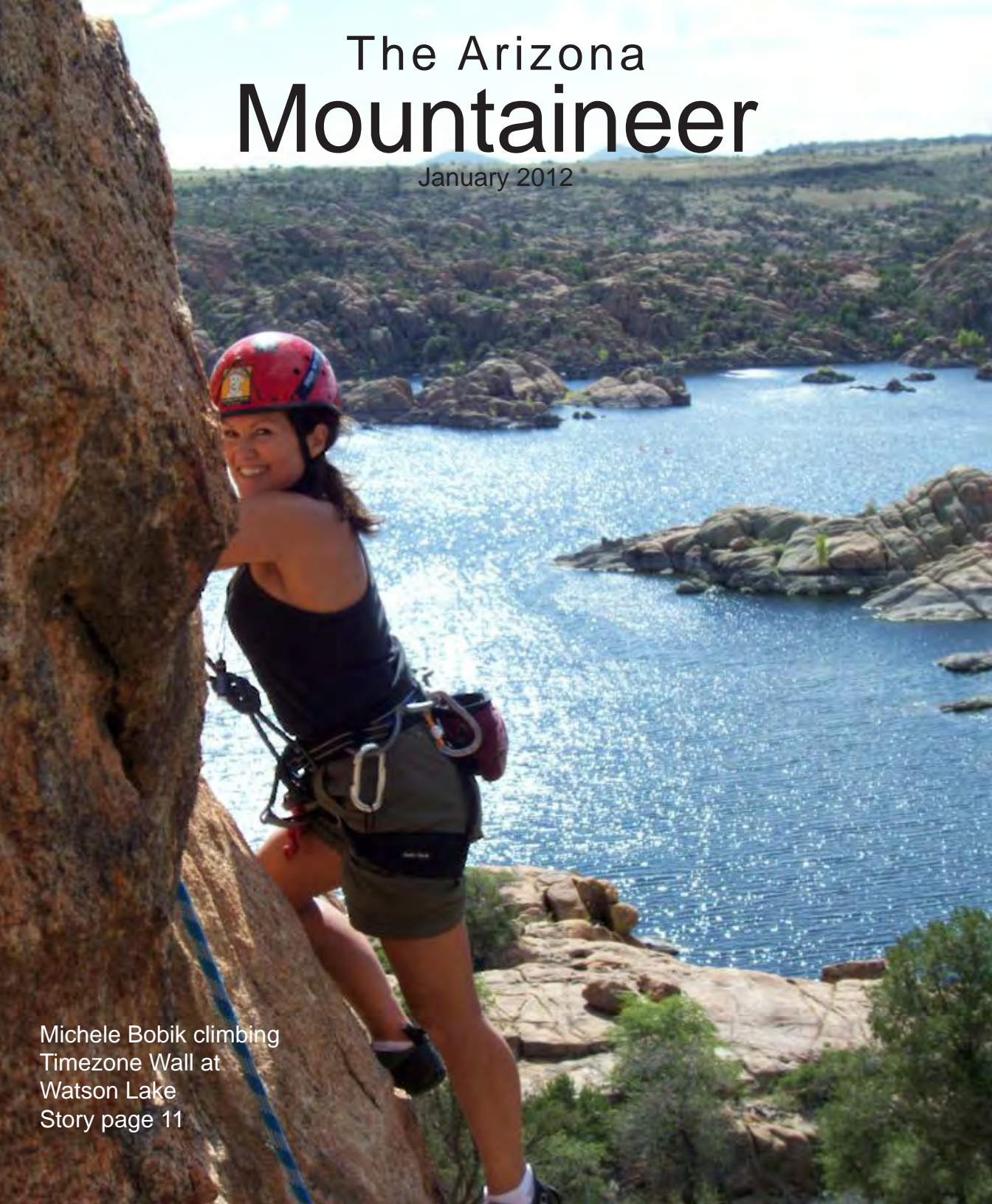


The Arizona Mountaineer

January 2012

Michele Bobik climbing
Timezone Wall at
Watson Lake
Story page 11



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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Hot Stuff !!!

It's time to renew your membership with the AMC

Send checks (\$30 individual/\$35 family) to:
AMC Membership
6519 W. Aire Libre
Glendale, AZ 85306
Or pay on-line at:
<http://www.amcaz.org/membership.asp>

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.

February NL Submission Deadline: January 1st

January Birthdays

Marcela Niemczyk 4, Cynthia Arellano 5, Cathy Wise 5, Bill Fallon 6, Jack Carlson 10,
Elizabeth Parmer 12, Catie Joyce 15, Alex Rega 15, Rich Kocher 18, Nestor Garcia 19,
Jeff Diesing 27, Barbara Dupaul 27, Suzanne Cook 28, Haiwen Meng 28, Christopher Meyer 29,
Dick Severson 29, Karen Stafford 29, Adam Saieed 30

Welcome New Members

George Grothusen, Chelsea Bickler

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 10% 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

AMC Ice Climbing Seminar

Learn to Ice Climb!

AMC Mountaineering presents Beginning Ice Climbing Seminar at the world famous Ouray Ice Park in Ouray, Colorado, March 9-12, 2012. Learn to ice climb in the "little Switzerland" of the Rocky Mountains.

Instruction will focus on standard ice climbing equipment and its use, proper technique (body positioning, footwork, tool placement), and belaying and rappelling for ice climbers.

Cost: \$80. Includes group climbing equipment (ropes, etc.), use of AMC ice tools and crampons.

Participants must provide helmet, harness, belay/rappel device, personal anchors, cold weather clothing/gear, and crampon compatible mountaineering boots. (Boots are available for rent at Ouray Mountain Sports, limited supplies). A complete gear list will be provided to participants.

Participants will share transportation (car pooling) and lodging costs (approx \$40/night) in Ouray. Participants are responsible for all meals and incidentals.

Participants must have taken AMC Outdoor Rock School or equivalent.

Itinerary

Friday, March 9

Drive Phoenix to Ouray (10 hours)

Saturday, March 10

Ice climbing instruction, Ouray Ice Park

Sunday, March 11

Ice climbing outing, Ouray Ice Park

Monday, March 12

Returns to Phoenix, or optional ski day at Telluride (not part of the outing)

Telluride is an hour from Ouray – lets ski!

Deadline – sign-up by February 3, 2012. Limit is 4.
Contact Bruce McHenry at bamchenry@att.net to register or for questions.

AMC Board Minutes - December 5, 2011

1. **Call to Order:** 7:12 PM. Board members in attendance: Bill Fallon, Curtis Stone, Bruce McHenry, Jutta Ulrich, Gretchen Hawkins, Steven Crane, and Kim McClintic.
Committee Chairs: Erik Filsinger and John Keedy
2. Minutes of the November board meeting as published in the November newsletter were approved.
3. Treasurer's report was postponed, but will be published in the December newsletter.
4. **Committee Reports:**
 - a. **Membership:** There are currently 303 members
 - b. **Programs:**
 - i. Attendance for the November Activities Expo was 75. Special thanks to members and outside participants, including CAMRA, Triple Sports, AZ Hiking Shack, Todd Martin, Central Arizona Grotto, Fit City Crossfit, Sunrise Ski Patrol, and Alpine Ski Club and Adventure Tours.
 - 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. These will be promoted in the Newsletter, as well as electronically.
 - c. **Outings/Activities:**
 - i. Upcoming:
 1. Alpine Rock Seminar, Dec 10-Bruce McHenry.
 2. Alpine Snow Skills Class-Jan. 11, 13, 14, 15- Bruce McHenry.
 3. Outing leaders: Don't forget to schedule outings and submit signed waivers to the Secretary after the outings. In order to be eligible for a dues waiver outing leaders must have had 4 outings this year.
 - ii. Past:
 1. The Mace- November 19-Frank Vers.
 2. Rock Knob- November 20-Erik Filsinger.
 3. Spiderwalk-Chris Meyer
 - d. **Land Advocacy:**
 - i. QCC: No changes to report.
 - ii. McDowells: The City of Scottsdale has acquired State Trust land North of Dynamite. The City will be taking input from members of the various use groups with interests in the area: hikers, climbers, mountain bikers, and equestrians. Both Erik Filsinger and Bruce McHenry will be participating in the process.

AMC Board Minutes - December 5, 2011 (cont)

e. **Training and Schools:**

- i. Lead School-February 14-16, 18-19, Mike Knarzer
- ii. Ice Climbing Seminar (Ouray, CO): March 9-12, Bruce McHenry.
- iii. First Week of April CPR and First Aid will be offered for outing leaders and interested members.
- f. **Newsletter Committee:** Submissions are due the 1st of each month and can be submitted to Jutta, Tracy, Susan, or Cheryl. Postage costs are up. Members are encouraged to sign up for electronic newsletter distribution. Jutta presented for the boards consideration static content that might be moved from the newsletter to the website.
- g. **Technology Committee:** Steven Crane has updated the Calendar in the club website and will continue to increase promotion of the club and club activities.

5. **New Business:**

- a. John Keedy discussed the upcoming elections. He will continue to take submission from interested persons until the day of the election. Mail in Ballots can be requested from John. In person voting will take place at the January Club meeting. Dues must be paid in order to vote.

6. **Old Business:**

- a. 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. There has been minimal response to date. If there are insufficient entries in January the vote will be postponed.
- b. Membership renewal drive. There will be an effort made to contact lapsed members and invite them back.
- c. Bruce McHenry will be reviewing the by-laws addressing the Outing Leader Approval Process.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 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.

Annual Photo Contest • T-Shirt Design Contest Officer and Board Elections

**Monday, January 23rd
Join in the fun!!!**

Come vote for your friends, enjoy some snacks,
and check out the Photos and T-shirt designs



Photo Contest

Calling all photographers!!!

If you are a club member (dues are paid) and have a camera, you're welcome to enter in the annual photo contest. Prizes will be awarded to winners in the various categories, with a grand prize going to the overall winner. **The overall winning photo will be on the cover of the March newsletter.**

Please have your pictures in print form (not just on your smart phone or lap top).

You can enter as many categories and as many times as you choose.

Categories:

Scenic • Rock Climbing • Alpine/ Ice • Canyoneering • Humor

T-Shirt Design

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

Guidelines: 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.

We will continue to accept entries for the photo & T-shirt design contest
up until the day of the event. Please e-mail entries to:

canyonkim@gmail.com or jutta.ulrich@thunderbird.edu.

Annual Club Elections

Vote for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and
three Director positions for one and two year terms. If you prefer to vote by mail,
please contact **John Keedy at *jwkeedy@cox.net***.

You must be a current club member (dues for 2012 are paid) to participate
in the contests and elections.

Guests are welcome!

Located at Granite Reef Senior Center
Granite Reef Senior Center
1700 N. Granite Reef Rd., Scottsdale
Time: 7:00 PM- 9:00PM

AMC Lead Climbing School: Spring 2012

This is an advanced climbing class. Even if you don't plan on leading, you will learn much about the dynamics of climbing, and it will make you a safer climber. Protecting a climb is a different skill from climbing itself. We will talk about the dynamics of lead falls, how to prepare for a climb, the differences between single-pitch and multi-pitch, and the differences between clipping bolts and placing natural pro. There will be no "true" lead climbs during the class, but we will provide simulated leading exercises.

Class curriculum:

Tue	Lecture, slide show: introduction, the lead fall, equipment
Wed	Lecture, slide show: equipment (continued); the process and techniques of leading
Thu	Lecture, slide show: multi-pitch techniques, the descent, leader rescue, aid climbing
Sat	Hands-on practice: natural pro placement (Prescott)
Sun	Hands-on practice: leading on bolts (Prescott or Scottsdale)

Class schedule:

Feb 14	Tuesday	6:30 pm–9:30 pm	*Chateau de Vie 5 Clubhouse, Scottsdale, AZ
Feb 15	Wednesday	6:30 pm–9:30 pm	Chateau de Vie 5 Clubhouse, Scottsdale, AZ
Feb 16	Thursday	6:30 pm–9:30 pm	Chateau de Vie 5 Clubhouse, Scottsdale, AZ
Feb 18	Saturday	9:00 am–5:00 pm	Prescott (directions will be in syllabus)
Feb 19	Sunday	9:00 am–5:00 pm	Prescott or Scottsdale (directions will be in syllabus)

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

Experience required: Preferably, AMC Basic School and AMC Anchors School or equivalent experience. This includes knowing how to tie a variety of knots, belay, rappel, prusik and set anchors.

Cost: \$95 plus membership if not already a member (\$30 for an individual and \$35 for a family). Membership is good through Dec., 2012. Register by the Paypal link on the website (<http://www.amcaz.org/leadRegistration.asp>) or if you need to send a check you can contact Nancy Birdwell amcleadschool@gmail.com for the address. No credit cards accepted. (Please note: the registration fee is fully refundable if you cancel.) Email amcleadschool@gmail.com for more information. The number of students will be limited to 30.

Equipment required for the class:

The following will not be needed the first night. You may want to listen to the gear lectures before making purchases.

1. All climbing gear (harness, prusiks, biners, etc.)
2. Helmet—mandatory for all on-rock sessions
3. Specifically needed:
 - 2 20' slings (untied length), preferably different colors
 - 2 10' slings (untied length), preferably different colors
 - Nut pick
 - Quickdraws with biners—at least 5 per person
 - All pro that you own, which may include cams, hexes, wired nuts, Tri-cams, etc.
 - Consider combining with another person to have enough gear
4. Hiking boots or shoes with stiff soles for Saturday, climbing shoes for Sunday
5. Optional: kneepads for Saturday (\$3–6 at Home Depot, \$5 volleyball pads at sporting goods stores)

For more information: Visit the Arizona Mountaineering Club website at www.amcaz.org.

Congratulations Anchors Students! November 2011

It's been said that the trouble with weather forecasting is that it's right too often for us to ignore it and wrong too often for us to rely on it. A 7-day forecast threatening rain and possible snow showers in Chino Valley for the weekend can easily be viewed with skepticism, but for the 21 students and the equal number of instructors that shivered through the chilly Tuesday night class in Scottsdale, the possibility of a ruined weekend was looming in the back of many minds. Thursday night's class was a bit warmer, but the forecast up North for the weekend outing was not vastly improving. The students, eager to apply their new skills, were graciously willing to be flexible and allow for a last minute change in plans. By Friday afternoon a new plan had been formulated, an alternative climbing area had been established, and a post party had been offered. Saturday, under cloudy but dry skies, the students and a skeleton crew of instructors headed out to Pinnacle Peak Park to the Cactus Flower East area and applied their newly learned skills as they worked their way through 10 hands-on stations; being a new area for this outing, it was a learning event for all. Five climbs were set up and those who were able to get in a little climbing before the day's end; all managed to make it out just before the park closed and the sun set. A huge thanks to Randi and Tom Folwell who generously allowed all into their beautiful home for a fantastic post-outing party complete with hot dogs, burgers, beer, wine, soda, and more, a perfect end to what I think was a successful substitute finish for the anchors class. Many thanks to all of the students for being so flexible; and to the instructors who came out to help, we couldn't have done it without you!

~ Tracy Fleming



Bill Fallon watches as Matt and Melissa Line prepare to break down an anchor.



Kaleo Mattern anxious to climb, with or without both shoes.

Students:

Anthony Angus, Breanna Buerckholtz, Robert Franco, Emerson Hammerslag, Vinay Hanumaiah, Roger Heyen Russell Kemp, Katherine Kincaid, Daniel Kraus, Jason Krug, Matthew Line, Melissa Line, Gary Martinez, Kaleo Mattern, Kristin Murray, Adam Saieed, David Stoflet, Gavin Storey, James Teasley, Daniel Warren, Kara Woolgar

Instructors:

Eric Evans

Ronald Auerbach, Cheryl Beaver, Nancy Birdwell, Thad Colgrove, Malia Euler, Bill Fallon, John Farrell, Tracy Fleming, Randi Folwell, Tom Folwell, Daniel Gonzales, John Gray, Willy Leung, Kelly Lofgreen, Michael Lust, Douglas Matson, Erin Matson, Silvy Nasser, Christopher Novick, Rogil Schroeter, Kathy Sharp, Diane Taulborg

Getting in the “Zone!”

As a beginner climber I was excited to get out of the gym and go with a great group on an AMC outing to Prescott's Granite Dells/Watson Lake Dells in September 2011. We climbed at Time Zone wall and it's not only a fun area to climb, but also provided an amazing view of the lake!

Climbing outside of the gym is a very different experience and it can be daunting to get out on real rock – my goal was to “just get off the ground” and that I did! This area is perfect to set up several top ropes for easy to intermediate climbs, ranging from 5.6 – 5.8. The approach to the West Shore area is very doable and you get a mix of sun and shade throughout the day.

This area is no doubt an outdoor playground and our group of 6 ladies (and Eric our fearless outing leader) had a great day setting up ropes, working on our technique and having a good time together. We had a wide range of climbing ability in the group, which helped newer climbers, like me, expand our skills.

We had perfect weather until late in the day when a light rain shower rolled in to cool us off before our hike out. We were joined by fellow climber, John Farrell, who had just come back from hiking the Boucher Trail in the Grand Canyon! The group decided to end a perfect day of climbing with a stop at Rock Springs café for a bite to eat and, of course, some pie – sweet!

For any climber - who is just starting out or just wanting to get out on real rock - Time Zone is the perfect outing. I think Tracy summed up the day by saying, “We learned about so much more than just climbing...it was a really fun day!”

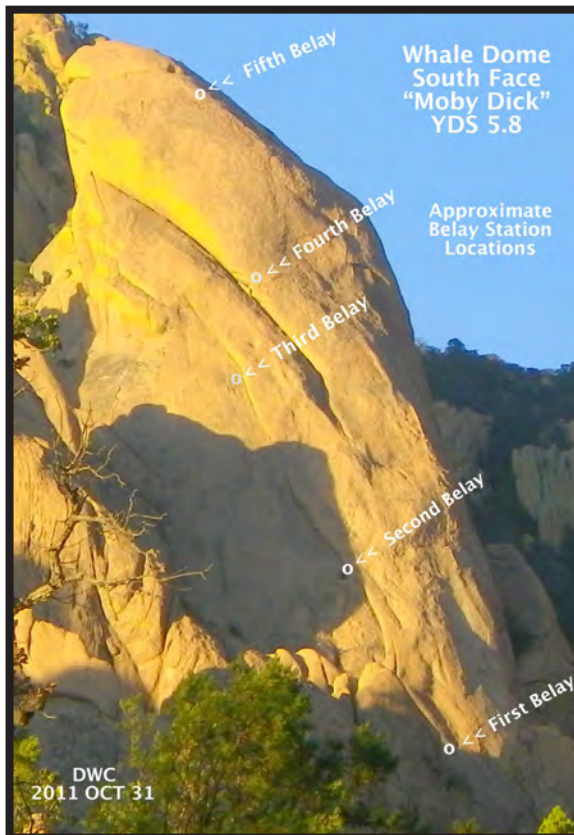
November 1, 2011

Christie Munson



A Cochise Stronghold Classic

Moby Dick Route on the Whale Dome



Approximate location of belay stations on the climb.

gully, with the final approach being a scramble up to the start.

John led the first pitch of about 110 feet – his first multipitch lead since shoulder surgery. Getting through the unwieldy start, he seemed to hesitate a few times and struggled some to regain his feel for the task at hand, but showed increased confidence as he ascended. A happy guy was seen above us after he was anchored at the first belay stance. Rogil followed, cleaning most of the route with the exception of a couple directionals and I was third. According to the beta, this pitch may be the hardest: having succeeded at it, I was somewhat more comfortable with the rest of the day's prospects.

Also, while on this belay station we noticed that a couple other climbers had approached the rock. They were working a neighboring route to our right simply called the "South Face". Turned out to be Geir Hundal and ex-AMC'er Marcy Makarewicz: we'd see them again on the climb.

This two-bolt anchor is a bit crowded with three on the spot, but Rogil took the

Rogil has been suggesting for some time that we go south to take on this challenge. Other than timing we'd only been lacking a third party to make the event take place. John Farrell expressed an interest and was also willing to lead the first pitch – so a deal was struck and off we went to the crag on October 29th.

This classic climb in the Stronghold is rated YDS 5.8 and we did it in six pitches – YMMV depending on rope length and belay stance selection. In addition to information from various climbing books, a detailed topo of this "three paws" rated climb can be found at www.geir.com.

After reading about the climb I admit to some trepidations, but did agree to give it a try. Turns out I was overly concerned as, other than the occasional minor issue, it was a straightforward and direct climb and felt pretty close to the ratings to me.

Friday Rogil and I arrived at the campsite very near the trailhead just before dark. We got a first look at the general area and the Whale Dome in particular. Simply spectacular locale! John arrived at about 22h30.

Saturday we were up at dawn. Weather looked great and stayed that way all day. The approach is interesting and it would take longer if you had not been to the base of this climb before. There are several trails/tracks of varying clarity around streambed obstacles that lead to the final



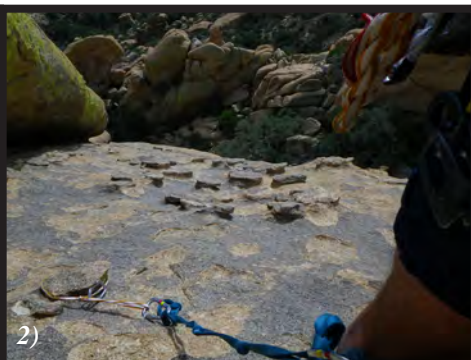
First pitch. Rogil follows with John at the first set of anchors
amcaz.org 11

A Cochise Stronghold Classic (cont)

1) With Rogil belaying from above John steps up at the start of the fourth pitch.



2) Lead belay for the fourth pitch was supported by a slung chickenhead below the primary anchor.



3) John comfortably ensconced at the top of the 5th pitch.



4) Dave's happy to be on top. GREAT DAY!



lead right away on the second pitch with John on belay.

From the belay point there's a non-obvious rock ledge immediately over the edge on rock left to ascend. A piece or two can be placed from that vantage and the leader can return to the face for the remainder of the third pitch's 110 feet. It runs past some linear features I called "Caterpillar tracks", goes around a bulge on the right with varying degrees of texture on the face, and then gets a bit easier toward the next stop.

The top of the second pitch is a conspicuous small ledge with a tree. We used the base of the tree as part of the anchor, but also slung some chicken heads above to complete the system. From this location you really get the feeling of being "up there" while also realizing the climb has just begun.

For the third and successive pitches I was the lead belayer. That worked out great; with most of the preparation work done before I arrived at a belay stance, final gear transfer and rope swapping could be completed and Rogil could move out soon after I arrived.

The third pitch starts out with a cluster of chicken heads, hits a short smoother section and finishes with more chicken heads. From below it looks like the crack at the base of the book we are climbing next to should take pro well, but it's just a seam and not all that protection-friendly – you have to find alternative placements. After about 140 feet, you reach the belay stance at the top of pitch 3: a set of readily identified chicken heads that can be easily slung to provide a bomber anchor.

Pitch 4 is pretty easy and short (<100 feet). The hardest moves are associated with surmounting the edge of the formation we've been climbing next to on rock right and the last move around a rock just in front of the two-bolt anchor. The second of these moves could be tricky on lead and Rogil said it was an awkward, balance control

A Cochise Stronghold Classic (cont)

problem to get up onto the small, edgy shelf and reach the bolts. There are two bolts along the climbing part of the route – the first at the bulge to make the transition to the face above and the second on that face about halfway to the next anchor.

Looking up-route from the top of pitch 4 you see the fifth pitch's field of chicken heads / plates on a fairly vertical wall. There is a lot of texture for most of this pitch, but it does get a bit thinner in the middle. Beta had it that there were at least a couple bolts on this pitch and there were, but spacing sometimes was about 30 feet. Despite all the texture very few of the plates allowed for good supplementary pro placements. Rogil made this pitch look reasonably easy, placing a few additional pieces along the way for assurance, eventually slinging a trio of projections about 110 feet above for a great belay stance.

When I reached the top of the fifth pitch John had already taken his climbing shoes off and had another BIG smile on his face. From here we could hear Geir and Marcy discussing their climb (a YDS 5.8 R/X, 'see the warnings' effort) above us - they'd already topped out. We looked forward to chatting with them.

At this point I was pretty anxious, partly due to not eating enough when on the lower portion: this had made the fifth pitch kind of sketchy for me. I munched a power bagel with peanut butter while getting set up for the next belay and that really helped.

The sixth pitch was easy, a moderate slope and over a small ledge to the top where the leader can hunker down in the bottom of a deep notch to reliably belay the followers. It's only 80 feet or so, but the rope adds that additional margin of comfort and safety that is so important.

I was very happy to reach the top. Climbing time for the approximate 650 feet was around 5-3/4 hours. We chatted with Geir and Marcy for a while before descending.

Having completed the climb, however, is not the end of the fun. There's an interesting rap off the back to a saddle and sinuous descent back down the blocky gulley to the base.

The existing anchors provide a near-the-edge, awkward start for the rappel. Rope issues due to wind, trees, etc. during both dropping and pulling have been reported. Geir placed three pieces to test an alternate rappel line and plans to move the rap anchors to this spot: a few meters rock right from the current location. Marcy, Geir and I rappelled the test route, while John and Rogil used the existing anchors. This new position should mitigate rope problems, but it's a narrow-gapped saddle regardless, and all the hazards remain.

We descended the gulley with Geir and Marcy. Toofast, Geir's dog and reknowned topo author, was still waiting patiently at the base. Upon returning to the trailhead at just about dark Geir and Marcy gathered their gear and joined us at our camp spot for the evening and breakfast the following day. What a great outing!!!

Big thanks to John and Rogil. Good fun with Geir, Marcy and Toofast too.

Participants: Rogil Schroeter, John Farrell & Dave Cameron. Fortuitously encountered on the rocks: Geir Hundal and Marcy Makarewicz.

Climb on!

Dave Cameron

Classic Canadian Rock Climbs



Mother's Day Buttress

As you drive toward Banff from Canmore on Highway 1, the Trans Continental Highway, your eyes cannot help but be attracted to the complex and lengthy east face of Cascade Mountain in front of you. A very prominent rock band sweeps across the bottom of this face. This 1,000 foot high rock band contains several great climbs. In general they are arranged by the buttresses separated by water falls (or ice climbs in the appropriate season).

Mothers Day Buttress is near the middle of the face and is easily identified via a photo located nearby.

Approach

At the Banff exit (eastern most one) head away from Banff on the Lake Minnewanka road. Shortly after an animal grid (less than half a mile), there is a small pull off for cars on the right. Park here. You have a great view of the climb, so get your bearings and make mental notes of land marks you wish to use as you climb uphill to the base of the climb.

Walk a short distance further along Lake Minnewanka road to the first gravel wash-out on the left/north side of the road. This is fairly obvious be-

cause it is right underneath Mothers Day Buttress. Start uphill on the right side, and then switch to the left side for a short distance, and then back to the right. The trail is not all that clear, so keep moving uphill, generally staying on the right side of the stream bed.

Eventually you will come to a rock band. Do your best to follow broken trails uphill. I've seen written statements about cairns, and maybe there were some, but mostly you will do best by following the obvious use paths. It seemed that the alternatives pretty much all arrived at common points. Once close to cliffs of the Buttress, look for an opportunity to move climber's left to the start of the slab in the accompanying photo.

I'd allot maybe a half hour to make this approach, but it could take a little longer if you are unsure or have to look around.

Route Description

I believe that the route goes pretty much where your eye leads you to believe it goes. Between the obvious line, the route photo, and this description you should be able to get up it without too much fuss. Also remember two things – pitons are commonly used for protection in the Canadian Limestone and generally they can be considered route indicators. However, just because there is a piton doesn't mean that it indicates the proper route (you decide which way is the way to go – the pin may have been used for bailing off). I led the even pitches with Sean and amcaz.org 14

Classic Canadian Rock Climbs (cont)

Susan last summer.

Pitch 1. Easy 5.4. 40 meters. Climb up the slab moving right or left to select the easiest or the preferred line and work your way to the base of the steep stuff. Here there is a two-bolt chained anchor that is obvious.

Pitch 2. 5.7. 25 meters. Climb a steep corner immediately above you. About 25 meters up there are bolts. Lots of pro opportunities through this steep and perhaps crux section. (Some folks combined what I've described as Pitch 2 and 3).

(The alternative and easier way Pitch two moves left and then back right around this steep section and also arrives at the bottom of Pitch 4 as described herein.)

Pitch 3. 5.6. 25 meters. Continue up the corner, step left a little and then traverse back right. This section may feel a little awkward. Continue up to a two-bolt anchor. You are pretty much on the broad ridge crest at this point.

Pitch 4. Easy 5.4. 50 meters. Continue almost anywhere up the broad ridge crest. Two bolts anchor.

Pitch 5. 5.5. 40 meters. Move a little left and climb what feels like around a block and then move right and up diagonally through a number of blocky corners. As I recall you move past a tree and shortly after come on the two-bolt anchor below a steeper wall.

Pitch 6. 5.5. 40 meters. The easiest line is to move a little left and climb a corner. After that you follow the ridge pretty much upwards. Keep an eye for the anchors, which are on the left side of the ridge crest, so keep looking around when you are out the appropriate distance and where the climbing would begin to become more difficult again. The two bolt anchor is somewhat hidden.

Pitch 7. Easy 5.4. 40 meters. Climb back right onto the ridge and follow groves and blocks to a big ledge and large tree anchor.

Pitch 8. 5.5 (I found maybe more like 5.6 personally on lead but could have been tired by then.) 50 to 60 meters depending on where you top out and stop. Climb up and left to a groove. Follow it fairly steeply up until you climb out of the top of it. Angle more uphill to the left to finish on easier ground. Choose your tree for the top anchor. (Note: bolting issues seem to exist everywhere. At the top of the steeper stuff on this pitch there was a two-bolt anchor but the hanger had been removed from one of the bolts – someone making a statement I guess...)

Descent

While theoretically you could rap the route, it would be difficult due to the traversing pitches and the horrendous number of places a rope could get snagged. Most of the information I gathered suggested that the best way off the crag is to make the long walk over to the top of Rogan's Gully and make the Lion's Layback descent. This is what ice climbers use in winter and shows many crampon scrapes on the rock.

After topping out of Mother's Day, take a moment to appreciate the view. You look out over the whole Bow Valley down toward Canmore, as well as over to Banff. Hike a bit more (depending on where you stopped) to easy walking terrain and begin looking for a trail that heads at an angle down and right away from you (pretty much straight actually as the ridge sort of curves right-ish.).

You will contour down and through the major gully that forms the left side of Mother's Day Buttress. This is the Cascade Waterfall drainage. Hike over up and out the other side where you have to scramble a bit uphill to find the trail. Keep in mind that a good trail in Canada can be somewhat overgrown by Arizona standards. Cross above another section of cliff bands. The hike may take about an hour. Your end point (again scoped out from the parking lot) is to reach Rogan's Gully which is the next major drainage climber's left of the Cascade gully.

Classic Canadian Rock Climbs (cont)

Before Rogan's Gully is actually reached, look for a trail that descends the broad ridge forming the climber's right side of Rogan's (you will be looking skier's left, right? – ha, ha). Scramble down through the trees and small cliff-ish elements. It zig zags a bit and it would be hard to describe exactly how it goes so just keep working down, sometimes going straight and sometimes bearing right. At no time should you feel that you are down climbing a cliff. Fairly far down, perhaps near where your downward progression is barred by cliffs, you need to look skier's left along a ledge for a chained anchor. When I was there someone left some red webbing on a tree nearby, probably to make finding the spot easier. You are actually not more than 20 yards above the ground and easier hiking terrain.

Rap here, coil your ropes and follow any number of use paths downhill until you are out of the cliff bands totally (this section should require very little use of hands). After you descend through the last cliff band (a total distance of maybe 100 yards), you will be in an open area that was recently avalanched. Your goal is to meet the Canadian Parks trail on your left which goes back to Lake Minnewanka Road. Tourists hiking to the water falls will gawk at you and your climbing gear. Enjoy.

Once at that trail head on Lake Minnewanka road, you can see your car a short hike to your left.

Gear

Depending on your party size, this climb can be done easily with one rope, although if descending the route is an option you may want double ropes. Layer your clothing because although not at a high elevation the weather can change easily and the elevation gain on the climb will decrease temps and increase wind issues.

A standard lead rack is all you need. I don't recall anything big being needed, but it might be prudent to stick in pro up to 3". All of the anchors except Pitches 7 and 8 have two bolts.

Because the route is lengthy and the descent fairly complex, please feel free to email me if you would like more information, including a photo of the descent area – smorefil@aol.com.

Enjoy!

Erik Filsinger

Calendar of Events - Outings/Schools/Events

JANUARY 2012

- 9 AMC Board Meeting, **Deadline for submitting nominations for the board**
- 11 Alpine Seminar, Glacier Travel, Snow Skills, & Crevasse Rescue Seminar 11, 13-15
- 16 Martin Luther King Day (Monday)
- 23 AMC Member Meeting – Elections and Photo Contest, Member dues are due, Vote on t-shirt designs.

FEBRUARY 2012

- 3 **Deadline for Ice Climbing Seminar Sign-up**
- 13 AMC Board Meeting - Installation of new officers –change statutory agent
- 14 Lead School 14, 15, 16, 18, 19
- 20 Presidents Day (Monday)
- 27 AMC Member Meeting

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MARCH 2012

- 7 Outdoor Rock Climbing Instructors Meeting
- 9 Ice Climbing Seminar 9-12
- 12 AMC Board Meeting
- 13 Outdoor Rock Climbing Mar 13, 15, 17, 18, 20, 22, 24
- 26 AMC Member Meeting
- 31 AMC Anniversary

APRIL 2012

- 4 Anchors Instructor Meeting
- 7 Queen Creek Cleanup and Climb
- 9 AMC Board Meeting
- 10 Anchors Apr 10, 12, 14, 15
- 23 AMC Member Meeting

MAY 2012

- 7 AMC Board Meeting – reminder: Tax filing and Annual Report to ACC due
- 21 AMC Member Meeting
- 26 Memorial Day Weekend - Alpine Climb 26-28
- 28 Memorial Day (Monday)

JUNE 2012

- 11 AMC Board Meeting
- 25 AMC Member Meeting - Swap Meet

JULY 2012

- 4 Independence Day (Wednesday)
- 9 AMC Board Meeting
- 23 (no member meeting)

AUGUST 2012

- 13 AMC Board Meeting
- 27 AMC Member Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2012

- 3 Labor Day (Monday)
- 10 AMC Board Meeting
- 12 Lead School Sep 11, 12, 13, 15, 16
- 24 AMC Member Meeting
- 29 Grand Canyon Clean up

OCTOBER 2012

- 3 Outdoor Rock Climbing School Instructors Meeting
- 8 Columbus Day AMC Board Meeting – Remnder: D&O Insurance Policy due
- 9 Outdoor Rock Climbing School Oct 9, 11, 13, 14, 16, 18, 20
- 22 AMC Member Meeting
- 27 Queen Creek Cleanup and Climb

NOVEMBER 2012

- 7 Anchors School Instructor Meeting
- 11 Veterans Day (Sunday)
- 12 AMC Board Meeting
- 13 Anchors School Nov 13, 15, 17, 18
- 22 Thanksgiving at Joshua Tree
- 26 AMC Member Meeting –Activities Expo

DECEMBER 2012

- 3 AMC Board Meeting – Reminder: General Liability Insurance due
- 8 Alpine Rock Seminar
- 14 Holiday Party
- 25 Christmas (Tuesday)

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
- Saturday Jan 28, 2012 - **Annual Superstition Ridgeline hike** - Strenuous 12 mile hike.
Experienced hikers only. Contact Rogil@cox.net or 623-512-8465 before 1/20/2012.
- Jan 13, 14, 15 **ACA Intro to Canyoneering Course**, for more information contact
Mike Knarzer at Mike@hikingshack.com or call 602-751-1701.

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
Jason Garvin.....	480-734-6801.....	beach_bum43@hotmail.com
John Keedy.....	623-412-1452.....	jwkeedy@cox.net
Mike Knarzer	602-751-1701.....	thrashndangle@gmail.com
David McClintic.....	602-885-5194.....	david.mcclintic@cox.net
Bruce McHenry.....	602-952-1379.....	bamchenry@att.net
Chris Meyer		Sun2stone@cox.net
Monica Miller	623-362-0456	
Jeff Nagel.....	602-318-9538.....	azfreedheart@yahoo.com
Rogil Schroeter	623-512-8465.....	rogil@cox.net
Curtis Stone.....	602-370-0786.....	curtis_j_stone@yahoo.com
Frank Vers	480-947-9435.....	climbbox@gmail.com
Justin York.....	480-229-8660	

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**