

# The Arizona Mountaineer

July 2012



Frank Fischer on Blue Springs Trail  
Cover photo and story: Julie Dehlin  
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# 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](http://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-2	Cheryl Beaver	cherylbeaver@cox.net
Director-2	Douglas Matson	
Director-1	Daniel Gonzales	602 550-08371

## COMMITTEES

Archivist	Jef Sloat	602-316-1899
Classification	Nancy Birdwell	602-770-8326
Climbing Shoe		
Rental	Linda Locke	602-371-9300
Elections	John Keedy	623-412-1452
Equip. Rental	Bruce McHenry	602-952-1379
Email	Curtis Stone	602-370-0786
Land Advocacy	Erik Filsinger	smorefil@aol.com.
Co-Chair	John Keedy	623-412-1452
Librarian	David McClintic	602-885-5194
Membership	Rogil Schroeter	623-512-8465
Mountaineering	Bruce McHenry	602-717-8956
Newsletter	Cheryl Beaver	cherylbeaver@cox.net
Outings	Dave McClintic	602-885-5194
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 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 at [smorefil@aol.com](mailto:smorefil@aol.com).

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

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

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. Contact Dave McClintic at 602-885-5194 about billing. All ads are to be submitted to the newsletter committee by the 1st of the month prior to the month to be published.

Submit items for publication and direct any questions through email to Susan at [SHarnage@aol.com](mailto:SHarnage@aol.com). All submissions are subject to approval by the AMC newsletter committee: *Cheryl Beaver, Tracy Fleming, Susan Harnage, and Jutta Ulrich.*

# 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.

<u>Outing Leader</u>	<u>Contact Info</u>
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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Frank Vers .....	480-947-9435 climbrox@gmail.com
Justin York.....	480-229-8660

# Treasurer's Report

## Arizona Mountaineering Club Income Statement Period Ended May 2012

<b>INCOME</b>	
Advertising	0.00
Dues	3,255.04
Grants Received	0.00
Interest	0.00
Mountaineering Schools	600.00
Rental Equipment	20.00
AARS Fall	0.00
AARS Spring	945.00
Basic Fall	0.00
Basic Spring	3,380.00
Lead Fall	0.00
Lead Spring	570.00
Training Other	0.00
Other	90.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>8,860.04</b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>	
Admin	795.23
Promotional	0.00
Bank chgs	233.34
Capital Expenditures	0.00
Equipment Maintenance	0.00
Grants Expended	0.00
Insurance	0.00
Land Advocacy Committee	0.00
Library	0.00
Newsletter	416.20
Outings	432.36
Outing Leaders	265.00
Programs Monthly Meeting	286.86
Training	5,223.59
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>7,652.58</b>

**OVERALL TOTAL 1,207.46**

<b>ACCOUNT BALANCES</b>	
Checking & PayPal	14,036.69
Accounts Receivable	0.00
CD Account	15,000.00
<b>TOTAL CASH ASSETS</b>	<b>29,036.69</b>
AMC Outing Gear	0.00
<b>OVERALL TOTAL</b>	<b>29,036.69</b>

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## 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](http://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.
- **Climbmax Gym** - 1330 W Auto Dr, Suite 112, Tempe, AZ 85284 - 480-626-7755. 10% off membership.
- **Phoenix Rock Gym** - 1353 E. University, Tempe, AZ 85281. 480-921-8322. 10% off membership.
- **TUFA Gear Shop** - Located at these gyms: AZ on the Rocks, PRG, Climbmax, & Ape Index. 10% discount.

## August Newsletter Submission Deadline: July 1st

### Rental Equipment

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

Climbing shoes are also available to rent. Contact Linda Locke (602)-371-9300

### Library

The AMC has a library available to members. Dave McClintic, our librarian, has been working on a way to share the list of books online.

To check out the work in progress, go to:

<http://www.myhomelibrary.net/share.php?un=AMC&pc=1242>

The passcode to access the library is : 2421

For inquiries, email Dave at [david.mcclintic@cox.net](mailto:david.mcclintic@cox.net).

[amcaz.org](http://amcaz.org) 4

### July Birthdays

John Scott 2,  
Tom Folwell 3,  
Terry Nelson 6,  
David Sampson 8,  
Kaleo Mattern 14,  
Jerry Smit 16,  
Loy Hibbs 20,  
Dan Williams 21,  
Jordan Williams 22,  
Valerie Paulus 24,  
Daniel VanHerpen 29

# AMC Board Minutes - June 11, 2012

The June AMC Board Meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm. Board members in attendance were Bill Fallon, Curtis Stone, Cheryl Beaver, Douglas Matson, John Gray (telephone), and Danny Gonzalez. Land Advocacy Chair, Erik Filsinger, was also in attendance.

Minutes of the May Board Meeting were approved.

Curtis Stone reported that he submitted the annual filing with the AZ Corp. Commission when the taxes were done in May. Camping fees for J-Tree reservations for Thanksgiving will put us slightly over budget on the Outings line item. Board approved the overage (unanimous). Curtis also reported an issue with PayPal related to Tax ID information. He is in process of resolving the issue. The monthly Treasurer's report was reviewed and approved.

Membership committee reports membership at 226.

Programs chair, Kim McClintic was absent. The annual Gear Swap and Climb is to occur at PRG June 25. Curtis took the action to remind Michelle at PRG; also took the action to remind Jeff Crosby to send an email member notification.

## Outings/Activities:

### A. Upcoming

1. The Overlook – June 16 – Curtis Stone
2. Fall Lead School – Sept. 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 – Mike Knarzer
3. J-Tree Thanksgiving Holiday – Nov. 21 – 25 – Curtis Stone, Tiina Perlman
  1. Grand Canyon Cleanup – John had a conversation with Dorothy Utech today. September 28 and 29. Currently have 2 campsites, to hold approximately 60 people (not 80). Dorothy is attempting to move a smaller group into a different campsite to allow us to get up to 80. There is another option – large non-upgraded campsite available without showers, but with chemical toilets. Another option is to allow additional tents per campsite. John is actively working the arrangements and anticipates resolution soon. It was noted that the timeline of events needs to be laid out, including training for Clean-Up volunteers. This needs to be organized very soon.
4. Sven Tower III Trail Project, coordinated with City of Scottsdale – Dec. 1 – Paul Paonessa

# AMC Board Minutes - June 11, 2012 (cont)

## B. Recent Past

1. Alpine Snow Skills Class was delayed from January due to lack of snow and eventually cancelled.

Land Advocacy chair, Erik Filsinger, reported that QCC and RCM have revised the Recreation Use License for Atlantis and the Pond. The summary of the license agreement also makes provisions for both QCC and RCM. The document is publicly available on the QCC website, Facebook, Mountain Project and Rockclimbing.com.

Training and Schools chair, Bill Fallon, reported that Lead School is on for September. He and Nancy Birdwell will work to get the word out to prospective students. Bill met with Scottsdale Sports Chalet GM Don Paulus. Sports Chalet has offered their training room to AMC for training; capacity is limited to about 20 people. Also, they expressed an interest in advertising space in the AMC newsletter.

Curtis Stone provided the Board with a draft Email process document for review. The process was generally accepted, but Curtis was asked to update based on some "wordsmithing" recommendations and re-distribute. Anticipate final review and approval by the next board meeting.

Douglas brought forward a proposal for a mid-year ½ membership fee offer for 2012 only. The proposal was voted on by the board, and passed unanimously. Douglas & Bill will finalize the postcard mailer, and will setup to send by July. Bill will get the list from Rogil. Douglas & Bill will send the postcards.

Cheryl provided an update on her research into T-Shirt printing options and costs. She checked various vendors, prices are comparable. It was agreed that we want to go forward with shirts that include the 5-color AMC logo on the front and the two winning designs from the T-Shirt design contest. Cheryl agreed to taking ownership of the overall process. Curtis will manage the Paypal site. Curtis and Cheryl will work together on pricing, and present "something" at the June Gear Swap.

Bill reported that he is currently working on the review and updating of club documents. This is a significant project that will take the summer to complete.

The board meeting was adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Board meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Bill Fallon, with assistance from Douglas Matson.



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 Lead Climbing School: Fall 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:

Sept 11	Tuesday	6:30 pm–9:30 pm	*Chateau de Vie 5 Clubhouse, Scottsdale, AZ
Sept 12	Wednesday	6:30 pm–9:30 pm	Chateau de Vie 5 Clubhouse, Scottsdale, AZ
Sept 13	Thursday	6:30 pm–9:30 pm	Chateau de Vie 5 Clubhouse, Scottsdale, AZ
Sept 15	Saturday	9:00 am–5:00 pm	Prescott (directions will be in syllabus)
Sept 16	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 83<sup>rd</sup> St.

Directions: From McDonald Rd East of Hayden Rd and West of Granite Reef, turn south on 83<sup>rd</sup> St. Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 (Prorated for half year -\$15 for an individual and \$18 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](mailto:amcleadschool@gmail.com) for the address. No credit cards accepted. The registration fee is fully refundable if you cancel. Contact Nancy Birdwell by email: [amcleadschool@gmail.com](mailto:amcleadschool@gmail.com) for more info. 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](http://www.amcaz.org).

# Classic McDowell Crag

## Sven Slab Routes

Immensely popular because of close proximity to the former parking lot (new parking was built), Sven Slab has been a favorite of local climbers. It has easy to moderate slab climbs and solid anchors. Increasingly guide services have used it so get out there early or you may lose a route to paying clients!

From the new Marcus Land Slide trail follow the climber path up to the crag (it is likely that in the not too distant future signage may help you). All the routes are no more than 30 meters high so can be top roped. A walk off exists to climber's left that can also be used for set-up. The routes are from left to right:



- 1. Student Cracks** – 5.3. Parallel wide cracks lead diagonally up across the face. If top roping beware of pendulum.
- 2. Criss Cross** – 5.10. Several bolts lead up and across the Student Cracks. Pro to 4" may be useful. Tough start and up through second bolt to crack.
- 3. Black Death** – 5.8. That pointed rock at the bottom gets the attention of any leader. Clip a bolt and natural pro. Straight above are two large boulders that can be slung for an anchor.
- 4. Cakewalk** – 5.8. A great slab climb on crimpers leads to large eye-bolt on ledge just right of bushy tree.
- 5. Ego Trip** – 5.7. Face climb on slab up past bolts to shared eye bolt.
- 6. I Sinkso** – 5.8. Another neat slab face climb up past bolts. Pretty long run out after last bolt to shared eye bolt anchor.
- 7. Quaker Oats** – 5.5. A classic first lead. Good holds and pretty good protection, although somewhat run-out past last bolt. A source of controversy, there may or may not be a two-bolt anchor. If someone has stolen the hangers, move a little left and use shared eye bolt. There is a seldom done second pitch to Quaker Oats. I've only done it once, and I think I rapped back down off a slung boulder, but you can also walk off climber's right. That being said, I'd still recommend putting it on your tick list.

Great stuff. Easy approach with ability to do laps on solid granite. Enjoy.

## C'est la vie (such is life)



*Carole enjoying 'Drum (5.10a)'*

The conversation revolved around potential activities of the day. We could make the wise decision. Rocamadour, a complex of chapels built high above the Alzou valley and one of the most famous Catholic pilgrimage centers was a short 45 minute drive away. Alternatively, we could make the dumb decision. In spite of the poor weather forecast and the sinister

looking clouds outside we could choose to try to climb one of the thousands of bolted limestone climbing routes in this area ...in the cold ...in the rain. Likely we would be frustrated by the wet rock and the mud and most importantly the rain. This would be the dumb decision.



*Scott leads up 'Drummette (5.6)'*



*Karen belays while Chuck looks on*

That day I learned it is not so difficult to justify dumb decisions in the name of climbing.

With some trepidation, we packed up our climbing gear and headed off to a sport climbing area, high above the town of Autoire and the Dordogne river valley. Climbing ethics are different in this part of France. Not only are the routes generously bolted, the names and ratings of the climbs are painted at their base. There were nearly 20 bolted sport routes on this wall, teasing us with the potential for a very enjoyable climbing day. The weather was just barely holding as we set up our gear at the base of Drummette (5.6). I lead up the easy 40 foot route quickly, with Suzanne following after to set up a top rope on the more interesting route Drum (5.10a) just next to it. There was urgency to our climbing, as once in a while, we could feel droplets of rain start and stop again, clearly taunting

*Continued on page 17*

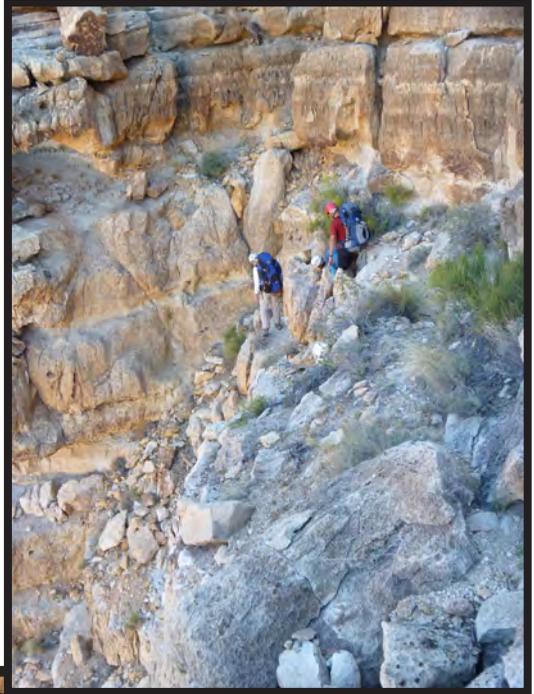
# Blue Springs/Little Colorado River/Beamer/Tanner Hike

April 21-27, 2012

As experienced as I am in hiking the Grand Canyon, it wasn't until a few years ago that I realized that the Little Colorado was powder blue, like Havasupai. I also thought the only way to access it was down the Tanner and Beamer, a 40 mile out and back, leaving basically enough time to touch the river and return to the trailhead on a 3 day weekend. Reaching the elusive Sipapu 5 miles upstream, the purported birthplace of the Hopi nation? Just a dream.

Enter Frank Fischer and Xavier Breurec with a dream of a one way float/swim/walk down the LCR starting at Blue Springs. They were looking for takers. I was in. We gathered Bill Fallon and Dave and Kim McClintic, lost Xavier and off we went into planning for an area that none of us had ever explored. Amongst other things, we discussed that at >400 cfs, the trip would be impossible, that we needed to convince 2 drivers to shuttle us (Terry Nelson and John Hathaway), and that our packs could float us with dry bags inside.

We also decided a pre-trip was in order since we weren't sure that the Blue Springs trail was doable with a full pack.



*Bill and Frank leading the first part of the steep downclimb of the Bluesprings Trail. Photo: Dave McClintic*

Frank and I hit the pre-trip with Rogil Schroeter and Dave Cameron. Starting near Cameron, it's a 2 hour 4WD ride to the trailhead. We made waypoints on the map maze. Frank had emailed me 2 pictures of the Blue Springs trail, one of a man spread eagle making his way across a tiny ledge and the other of

*Julie Dehlin on Blue Springs trail. Photo: Frank Fischer*

## Blue Springs/Little Colorado River/Beamer/Tanner Hike (cont)



*Julie taking a swim in the deep blue waters of the Blue Spring  
Photo: Bill Fallon*

pleased to discover a sandy beach large enough to accommodate our full party 3 weeks hence. That night we played “Highlights” and “Learned”. Highlight for that day? Knowing we could maneuver the trail with a full pack. Learned? That when it rains hard in the Mogollon rim a week prior, the LCR at 350-400 cfs was a muddy inferno.

Fortunately for us, we chose THE most perfect timing imaginable for the real trip. It was 0 cfs so the water was only spring fed and powder blue! It was in the high 90’s when we floated the LCR and was overcast and in the mid 70’s when we hiked dry land. Can you say perfect?

So, on to the Blue Springs trip!

Day 0: Seven of us headed up to meet at Lipan Point. 2 4WD’s took us all out to the trailhead.

Day 1: In the morning, the 5 hikers took off down the trail. Due to the rumor of young hooligans wreaking havoc on vehicles left at the trailhead, it’s best to not leave any cars behind. Terry and John waited to make sure no one changed their minds or came back up with broken parts. (A huge thank you to them!) We downclimbed the harder stuff in 1:45 and were entirely down in 3 hours. First thing on the agenda was playing in Blue Springs. It is absolutely gorgeous!!!!

a man doing a downclimb that looked like a 5.10 face with extreme exposure. Luckily enough, I found out that the pictures were taken by quite the photographer. Both areas were exposed, but not death defying. We made it down in 4 ½ hrs with setting up handlines. At the Blue Springs area, we found all the springs under water, but Rogil enjoyed a muddy bath near shore and the rest of us got our feet wet. On their way out that afternoon, they were blessed to find a handsome rattlesnake just above an upclimb...

After they left, Frank and I explored. We pushed through the thick frak (reeds/rushes) with a sort of two steps forward, one step back approach made famous in other Grand Canyon bushwhacks. Thinking we’d find ourselves on a sandy eroding cliff with nothing to claim for our efforts, we were



*Quite possibly the second most beautiful place on earth  
Photo: Frank Fisher*

## Blue Springs/Little Colorado River/Beamer/Tanner Hike (cont)



*Typical travertine falls on second day. Photo: Bill Fallon*

It's a beautiful darkish blue. It's fun to just tread water and watch it boil up or go under water and listen to the alka-seltzer bubbles. Some swam to the wall to climb up and jump in. Then we spent the afternoon lazing and hiking upstream. There were frequent slippery mud areas and good quicksand. We also discovered some "chocolate smoothie" quicksand to play in. There were several small springs along the way that were like faucets coming out of the wall. Frank, Kim, Dave, Bill, and I camped on our hideaway beach that night.

Some learned's from Day 1: "We can do Blue Springs trail with a pack and without handlines!" "I like Julie's dehydrated food better than Mountain House." "I like Grand Marnier!"

Highlights? "Blue Springs!" "Chocolate smoothie quicksand" "Nautilus fossils imbedded in the wall" "Just making it down here in one piece!"

Day 2: Oh, My Gosh!!!! For me, Day 2 tied for the most continuously beautiful place on earth!

We were in the water from the first step. The quicksand was entertaining, from shoe suckers, to ankles, to mid calf. They were easier to deal with as beach property, much harder while under water. Early on that day we started floating with our packs when we had to, but discovered it was blissful! just paddling on our backs, floating with the current. We started seeing travertine dams right after the noon break. They started small, about 6" high and got progressively higher as the water got deeper and faster. The current was wild in some places. During one crossing, I wasn't sure if I could pick up a pole or a leg and still remain upright. Bill to the rescue! He grabbed my wrist and stabilized me. Wish I had a video of that one. Kim came across without help, but she gave a big relieved grin when she got across. I do have a video of that one!

Then came the 4' waterfalls with rushing water above and carnivorous travertine below. Of course we couldn't see them at water level. Bill went high, but we went adventuring. Frank was ahead of us and swam to a rock where he could definitely see that this was a no-go. I was paddling toward him but able



*Kim braving the rapids on our final Day on the LCR*

*Photo: Julie Dehlin*

## Blue Springs/Little Colorado River/Beamer/Tanner Hike (cont)

to change direction toward shore with moderate challenge. Since he was farther out in the current, he close to pegged his adventure meter by diving in with a full pack, head dunking under, and swimming to the safer current area at the side. We caught up with Bill by bushwhacking on “the path” through the cat’s claw and mesquite. Frank and I were glad to be wearing pants.

By the time we arrived at “Travertine Dam camp” we had overdosed on beauty as well as on physical activity. With such a totally drop dead gorgeous camp, I can’t believe that none of us went swimming. We were too brain dead and waterlogged. It took me a whole hour to change and hang up my wet clothes.

Learned’s: “Unbuckle the belt of your backpack when crossing wild waters.” “I’m glad I brought 2 walking sticks.” “Don’t fear serious quicksand.” “Quicksand really can hold you tight.” “The stuff in double dry bags stayed dry or damp; single dry bags, not quite.” “You can’t swim against the river with a full pack.”

Highlights: “ALL DAY!” “Travertine dams!” “Floating!” “My food was dry when we got to camp!” “Tied for BEST DAY OF MY LIFE!!!”

Day 3: That morning Frank decided he’d like to go back and see if he could find out how far the trail went back. We 4 went forward. We found 3 guys from AZ Game and Fish at their Taj Mahal camp at Salt Canyon. They gave us non-Alkaseltzer water and beta on Big Canyon/Emerald Pool that we had just passed. We decided it was worth turning around. Frank caught up with us there. We went up a steep and crumbly trail, then it led back to creek level for fun rock hopping and bouldering. I swam at Emerald Pool. Others were still water logged? We fought mesquite and cat’s claw there and back. All day it was pretty much those skin rippers or slice and dice frak with smelly black mud. And I’d finally put on shorts since we were on a trail from there down to the Colorado!

After passing the Taj again, we found the river crossing just past ”House Rock” and then a diagonal travertine dam. We soon came to camp II of AZ G&F. Within the hour, we made ourselves at home on a beach across from a large orange/tan flan looking hill. Was it Sipapu? One thought it was supposed to look like a woman; nope, just a vagina where the first little Hopis spewed out. Two of our group took the prohibited trail to the top and saw the yellow bubbling water deep in the crater. They’re now sentenced to Hopi hell. I did a short-hot-dry-stupid climb up high on the hill behind it to try to get a peek down there, but to no avail.

Learned’s: “Humpback chubs can live to 40 years old and pre-date the dam.” “There is a trail from the major travertine dam to the confluence.” “There are almost no mice or ringtail problems on the LCR.” “I could do without any more black primordial ooze and reed bashing.”

Highlights: “Running into AZ G&F with new volunteer opportunities plus fascinating info.” “Shampoo with a bucket” “We’ve had great star viewing without the moon!”



*Dave McClintic floating with his pack in front of travertine dams on the Little Colorado. Photo: Julie Dehlin*

## Blue Springs/Little Colorado River/Beamer/Tanner Hike (cont)

Day 4: We hiked for 2 hours and met the 3rd and last group of AZ G&F. They directed us to our next camp. We made it to that beach by 10:30!?! It was just up river from the Beamer cabin. We all explored the area at our own pace, checking out the cabin and the confluence. Later, “Playground Rapids” was a total hit! Initially we rode sleeping pads. My \$6.99 boy scout foam pad worked ok; the \$100+ Big Agnes worked better. I decided to go without either. It was very fun!!! although I had to hold my breath for buoyancy, not let my buns drag, and keep my feet forward. It was tough to keep it all together, but very exhilarating. Unfortunately when Kim did her 1st try without the mat, we were all were going toward the starting line and no one was on shore at the end to spot. She spent almost as much time under the water as above it. I went to catch up with her as soon as she bobbed to the surface at the end. She was a little shaken, but recovered fairly quickly and “got right back on the horse” – took a mat and went down again. The video of Frank and Bill riding Big Agnes together; priceless. Bill’s solo video without a float fortunately shows him bobbing up a couple of times. At the end, he surfaced rather ashen, but unfortunately I turned the filming off before the last sodden look which I’ll never forget. All enjoyed it immensely in spite of brushes with death.

Learned: “Cinnamon tea bag helps the flavor of LCR water a lot.”

Highlight: “Playground Rapids!”

Day 5: This day was memorable in that it was cloudy and boasted ~40 mph winds on the narrow exposed Beamer trail. I had to stop at times and do the kokopelli, leaning into the wind so as not to get blown off the cliff. Kim wanted a 5 point harness.

When we hit the beach it suddenly got more gusty with grey clouds and sheets of rain closing in on us fast. All got out raincoats -- except this tatorhead author. With the forecast of 100 degrees for the first part of the week and 85 degrees later, why bring a raincoat? It was not 85 degrees at that moment and I was blessed by Bill’s prudence of bringing a garbage bag that quickly got tailored to fit. There is a lovely Marilyn Monroe type shot of me with my skirt flying.

We got to Tanner Beach fairly early that day too, and watched the sky fluctuate from dark to light all afternoon. We took a short hike, skipped rocks, and made up rules to play a modified game of bocce ball/rock.

Learned: “The Upper Tapeats trail is slightly higher, more narrow, more slanted, and more exposed than the Beamer”.

Highlights: “The views and the weather.” “The Colorado was a beautiful green.” “The last drink of LCR water!”

Day 6: The last day was a 5 to 5:23 hour slog up Tanner to the rim. It felt like 90 degrees even though it was thankfully only 74.

Learned: “Gin and sauerkraut are both made out of juniper berries.”

Highlight: “Best weeklong backpack trip of my life!”

~ Julie Dehlin



*Certainly the smile muscles were the most sore, finish at Lipan Point after 36+ miles and 5 awesome days in the canyon. Photo: Julie Dehlin*

# My Love / Hate of Joshua Tree



*Leading Dappled Mare, my first multi-pitch lead at J-Tree*



*Lost Horse Wall in the setting sun.*

A few years ago, I went climbing at Joshua Tree for the first time, and I hated it. It was pretty clear that crack climbing wasn't my thing so I avoided it. I didn't understand why anyone would want to climb there when they could go climbing at Red Rock Canyon in Nevada and have fun. As I started getting better and doing harder trad climbs, I started struggling because the routes were getting more crack dependent. It was obvious that crack climbing was my big weakness. I set out trying to find people to climb Joshua Tree Cracks. This actually turned out more challenging than expected:

"It's too hard out there."

"I am not a crack climber."

"Can't we go to Red Rock, it's more fun."

Excuse after excuse led me to start considering the dreaded "Internet Partner." I then remembered Elaina Arnez-Smith, whom I took a trad class from in 2010. Every year she winters in Joshua tree and had invited me to go out there climbing. When she first invited me, I thought it was more of a courtesy, why would a spectacular climber like her want to climb with a chump of a climber like me? So I contacted her and indeed, she was serious, so off to Joshua Tree in January of 2011. I had a fairly good time following her up on routes and felt a little more comfortable climbing there.

I didn't go back until Thanksgiving of 2011, due to a severe shoulder injury in February. This was it, my time to shine at Joshua Tree, taking a group of people for their first time, and my first time on lead. Yeah, it's going to be a great trip! Well, I was terrified on the easiest climbs there. Not just scared, but absolutely terrified. How can this be? I do traditional 5.10 multi-pitch in Red Rock, and here I am getting spanked by single pitch 5.4 routes?

I called Elaina again and scheduled a trip out there for January of 2012, and told her, I really need to learn how to crack climb. She came up with a plan; we chased real cracks of a stiffer grade, if I struggled in a section, I would get lowered, and work it again with guidance. She was very patient and worked with me. Since I didn't have the

# My Love / Hate of Joshua Tree (cont)

pressure of leading, I could focus on just climbing. This was the best time I ever had in Joshua Tree. Now I really couldn't wait to go back. With Elaina's help, something had clicked about how to work a crack.

In March, I wrangled up a crew: Curtis Stone, Chris Novik, and another friend, Janelle, and headed out there. This time, I was eager to lead the routes that I followed on the previous trip with Elaina. I still remember the feeling placing my first piece of gear while hanging off a hand jam, it was awesome. I was flying up routes without any effort. The best part of the trip was watching, my friends having a great time experiencing new parts of Joshua Tree. That trip couldn't get any better. It was hard to imagine that over Thanksgiving I was really terrified on easier routes.

In early April, I went out again with my friend Kara. My goals were pretty simple; get my hardest Red Point in and get a new On-Sight. These goals were accomplished on the first day of climbing! I couldn't have been more happy. In fact, the second day, I Red Pointed my first multi-pitch climb at Joshua Tree. This was the trip where I knew I was addicted to Joshua Tree.

Two weeks later I went back with another friend, Jonah. The heat slowed us down, but I got in a few new on-sights. It was a great trip, we knocked out several of the Joshua Tree classics. However, it was time to say goodbye to Joshua Tree until the end of the summer. By the end of this year, 5.9's will be mine at that park.

Joshua Tree taught me some things:

1. "It's nothing but a number." For a long time, I was a rating chaser. The most important thing was how hard I could climb. After getting humbled at Joshua Tree and not being able to climb for a year, I can really care less about the rating. The important thing is having fun while climbing.
2. As a climber, I really get a lot of satisfaction taking out other climbers to new areas and watching them have fun. It's just not about me climbing, but rather the whole group dynamics.
3. Even great climbers, like Elaina, just enjoy climbing. It's not about being able to climb the same hard grades as them, it's not a competition, it's just about climbing.
4. Crack climbing is nothing to fear, it's just like face climbing, once you learn the technique, it's no big deal.



*Elaina setting up a climb for me to practice crack skills.*



*Kara and me finishing up at Shorter Wall.*



*Loving J-Tree, no matter how much I bleed.*

## My Love / Hate of Joshua Tree (cont)



*Curtis belaying me up Lazy Day at Hall of Horrors. Jonah jamming up White Lightning. Rapping off Playhouse Rock after an amazing day of climbing..*

I can't wait until this fall when it cools off for some more plugging gear at Joshua Tree and to see more of this majestic National Park. I bought the new guide book that has 2,600 of the best climbs in the park which will definitely keep me busy for a "few" years. If anyone ever has a desire to hit up Joshua Tree, definitely give me a call, my trad rack is always itching to get out on the awesome monzogranite in the park.

~ John Farrell

## C'est la vie (such is life) (cont)

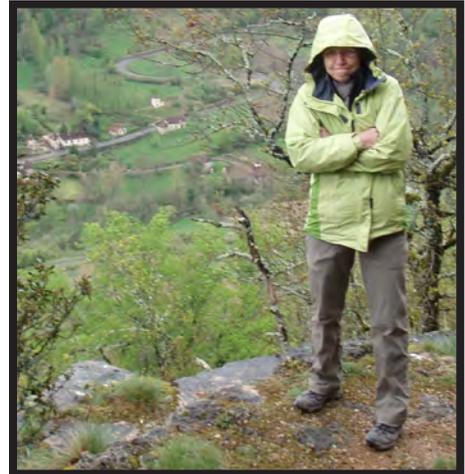
us. We were all aware of the coming storm as Karen climbed up Drummette while Suzanne climbed the now top roped Drum.

Our fears were soon realized as the rain came down. Carole managed to get up 'Drum' in the increasing rain and clean it while Suzanne scampered back up 'Drummette' to clean that too. Susan was left in frustration as the rain stole her chance at climbing for the day.

The increasingly heavy rain chased us back to the cars as we staged an inglorious retreat back to shelter. As we drove towards the plan B activity of the day, we reflected on our choice. Clearly we failed in our gamble. While driving along the narrow, windy farm roads, we discussed the hypothetical. If the forecast was the same tomorrow, would we take the same risk again? Against all logic and good sense, would we roll the dice in another attempt to rock climb in some of the most spectacular scenery in France?

Damn right we would.

~Scott Frankel



*A grumpy Susan above the down of Autoire*

# Calendar of Events - Outings/Schools/Events

## 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 – Reminder: 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)

## Billboard- Other Scheduled Events

*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



**We've got room!**



**We can even put our tents on the floor now!**



**We've MOVED!**  
**To 3244 E. Thomas Rd.**

ARIZONA MOUNTAINEERING CLUB'S

# OVER THE RIM

GRAND CANYON CLEAN-UP

SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2012

SAVE THE WEEKEND

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON