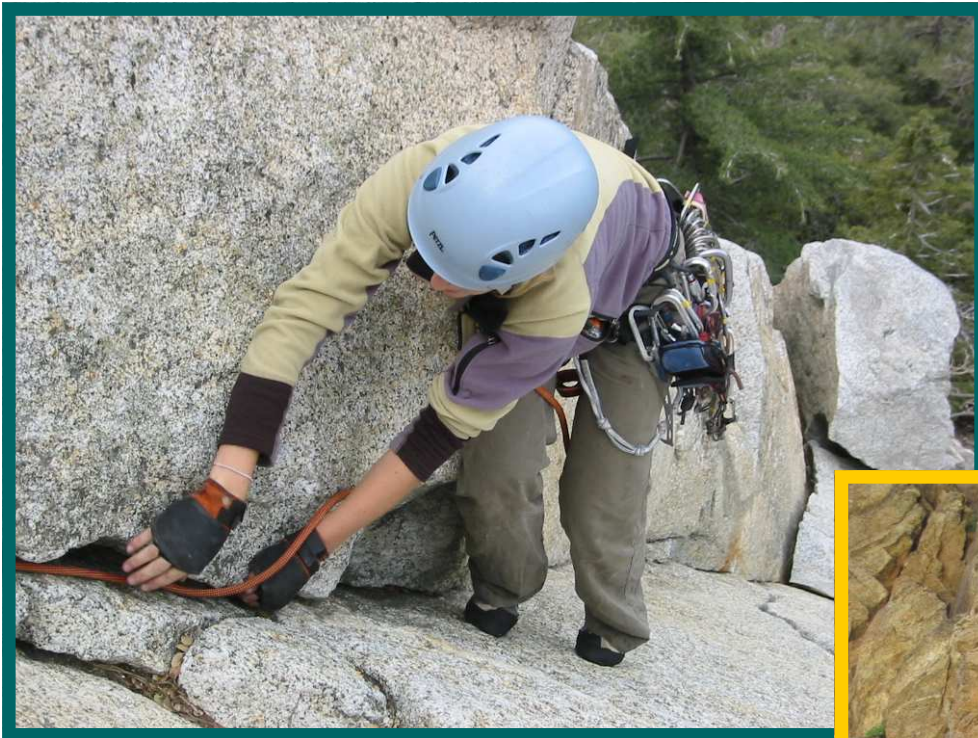
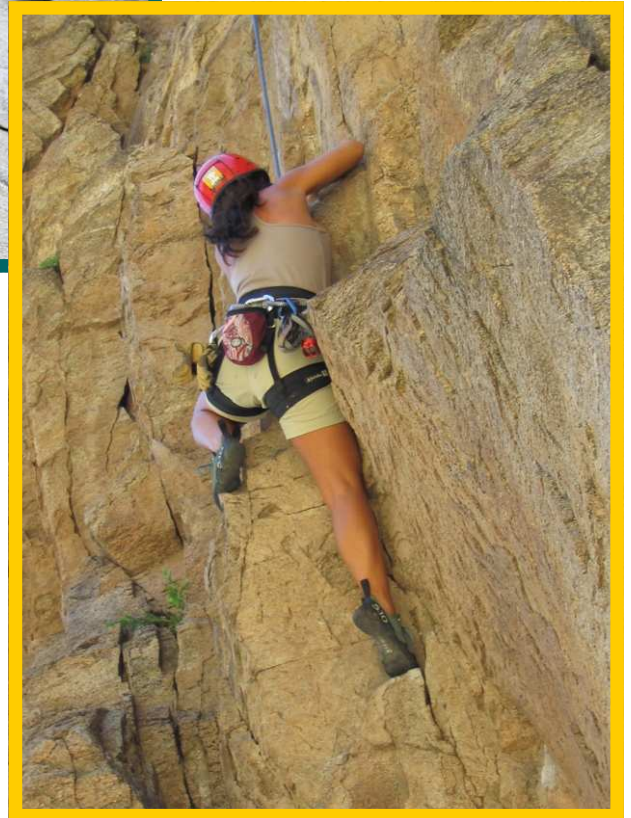


# ARIZONA MOUNTAINEER

August 2006



*Val Bednar climbing the 5.8 variation  
of Fingertrip at Tahquitz.*



*Michele Bobik on  
Mt Lemmon*

# The Arizona Mountaineering Club

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**Meetings:** Member meeting at the Phoenix Rock Gym, 1353 E. University Dr., Tempe at 7:00 p.m. See 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:

Call: (623) 878-2485

Email:

president@azmountaineeringclub.org  
board@azmountaineeringclub.org

Websites:

www.amcaz.org - or -  
www.azmountaineeringclub.org

Mail:

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

## Board of Directors:

President..... John Keedy ..... 623-412-1452  
Vice-President ..... Robert England... 480-688-5412  
Secretary ..... Erik Filsinger ..... 480-314-1089  
Treasurer ..... Clay Vollmer ..... 602-595-7266  
Director 2-year ..... Dave McClintic .. 480-607-0890  
Director 2-year ..... Justin Iske..... 480-225-7739  
Director 1-year ..... Dave Van Hook .. 602-790-6283  
Director 1-year ..... Bill Fallon..... 602-996-9790  
Past President ..... Jutta Ulrich ..... 602-234-3579

## Committees:

Archivist..... Jef Sloat..... 602-316-1899  
Classification..... Nancy Birdwell... 480-821-1932  
Elections..... Dave Van Hook .. 602-790-6283  
Equipment Rental .... Erik Filsinger ..... 480-314-1089  
Email..... Tricia Rudloff ..... 623-580-7740  
Land Advocacy..... Erik Filsinger ..... 480-314-1089  
Librarian..... Richard Kocher... 480-966-5568  
Membership ..... Rogil Schroeter ... 623-512-8465  
Mountaineering ..... Erik Filsinger ..... 480-314-1089  
Newsletter ..... Robert England... 480-688-5412  
Outings..... Frank Vers ..... 480-947-9435  
Programs ..... Sheri Kenly..... 602-242-0504  
Training & Schools.. Bill Fallon..... 602-996-9790  
    Co-Chair ..... Clay Vollmer ..... 602-595-7266  
    Basic Class ..... Sally Larimer ..... 480-425-9689  
    Anchors Class..... Robert England... 480-821-4243  
    Lead Class ..... Mike Knarzer..... 602-751-1701  
T-shirts ..... Sally Larimer ..... 480-425-9689  
WebSite..... Kirra .... webadmin@amcaz.org

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**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](https://www.accessfund.org/secure/joinnow/join_indiv.php) or at <https://accessfund.org/join/indiv.php>.

## This Month in the AMC

Who does what, Addresses and Phone Numbers .....	2
Hot Stuff, Library, Birthdays, News Letter Info .....	3
Board Meeting Minutes .....	4
Treasurer's Report, Discounts, Rentals .....	5
Grand Canyon Cleanup .....	6, 11
Climbing in the Black Hills .....	7, 11
Sahara Terror - Tahquitz.....	8, 9
New Members.....	9
Memorial Day Outing - Snowdon Peak, CO .....	10, 7
Mt Elden, Mt Lemmon Outings .....	12
Calendar of events, Billboard .....	13
Outings, Outing Leaders .....	14
August Calendar.....	15
Lead School Information .....	Insert

## 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, 6151 N. 8th Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85013 or through email to [azmountaineer@azmountaineeringclub.org](mailto:azmountaineer@azmountaineeringclub.org). Prints are preferred over slides. 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](mailto: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 !!!

**Wilderness  
First Aid  
Class!**

**Sign up by Aug 11**

**Call Rogil For  
More Information  
623-512-8465**

## 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.

## September Newsletter Deadline August 14

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Jerry Rashal 1, Barton Santello 1, Alexis Moniello 5, Chris Foster 7, Mark Tallan 7, Jessica Perey 8, James Perey 9, Tom Kreuser 11, Justin Hall 12, Kit Strole 15, Keith Waldrup 15, Tammy Weaver 16, Kathy Sharp 17, Shelby Medlock 18, Debby Brown 21, Chris Query 21, John Ainlay 22, Twana Fox 24, Jim Waugh 24, Duane Willard 24, Jeffrey Novacek 27, Barry Boyd 30, Tim Lange 31

## Board Meeting Minutes: July 10, 2006

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The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by John Keedy at Clay Vollmer's house.

Board members present: Jutta Ulrich, Bill Fallon, Clay Vollmer, John Keedy, Robert England, and Erik Filsinger

Minutes of the June 5, 2006 Board meeting were approved.

Treasurer's Report through June was presented, discussed and approved.

### President's Report:

John Keedy pointed out that the Annual Swap Meet Member's Meeting at PRG was poorly attended. There was a discussion about the issue of location of member meetings and the day of week timing of member meetings. The consensus was that the current location and timing on Sunday nights were not optimal, although PRG had at the time been the only location to offer an inexpensive meeting site where the library could be stored. Board members presented a variety of views about types of meetings and suggested that the Programs Chair be asked to review alternatives and make recommendations for a more optimal mix. Several ideas were offered as starting points. We need to identify about 4 big name speakers months ahead of time (maybe 1 such meeting a quarter) and book them so that members can make plans to attend. The PRG climbing nights are okay, but probably should be limited to 2 or 3 a year. Social meetings could be discussed, for example the Christmas party is historically well attended and there might be opportunities for other such social gatherings as well on member meeting nights. Also, it is conceivable that members might be interested in several member meetings a year that were devoted to either climbing skills reviews or special presentations on selected climbing skills.

### Committee Reports:

**Classifications:** New outing leaders are meeting their CPR and First Aid requirements and should soon be listed in club publications and be eligible for OL t-shirts. Nancy Birdwell, Classifications Chair, will make the appropriate notifications. The Board will take another look at the draft for an Active Outing Leaders Policy and focus on positives of being active. Some discussion concerned lists of Outings Leaders and how to help identify the Active OL's in the club.

**Membership** for July was 332, as reported in writing by Rogil Schroeter, Membership Chair.

**Land Advocacy:** John Keedy read the minutes of the Executive Session Board Meeting on June 28, 2006 concerning Queen Creek issues. The Board had previously decided to find an Adopt-A-Crag project in the Scottsdale Preserve this year and Erik Filsinger, Land Advocacy Chair, will follow-up with City and Preserve officials.

### Old Business:

Clay Vollmer will work with Scott Hoffman to advertise the Annual Over-the-Rim clean-up and climb at the Grand Canyon. It is scheduled for September 23 and 24, 2006. T-shirts will also be discussed and finalized.

The Board had a corollary discussion on the need for the AMC to focus on the positive and well received activities it has historically offered like the Grand Canyon Clean-Up, the Joshua Tree Thanksgiving Outing, and the annual Christmas Party. It was suggested that the Board help identify other activities that would also develop into positive annual events.

AMC Business Cards and Brochures were discussed. Robert England is working with Jeff Nagel to update them. Clay Vollmer will help as needed.

The Survival Seminar will be advertised again.

John Keedy will check with Rogil Schroeter on attendance levels for the Wilderness First Aid advertised. CAMRA Wilderness First Aid seemed well attended.

### New Business:

Chris Query may not be able to offer the Orienteering Class this summer as typical in years past. It was noted that it is a popular event and well attended.

The Board expressed the feeling, backed by T&S Co-Chairs Bill Fallon and Clay Vollmer, that a really significant effort needs to be made and much energy focused on making the Fall's Basic Rock School a huge success. If it does well, AARS and Lead Schools follow suit. The T&S Committee will pursue it vigorously. Several individuals have done or offered to help with advertising in the past and will be contacted. Brochures, flyers and posters will be developed as needed. Robert England reported on further follow-ups with the State Land Department to confirm its current policies. Robert and friends will check out anchor status at various historic and possible school locations.

The Board discussed the monthly newsletter" format and frequency of publication. Further action was tabled until future discussion.

The Board discussed the possibility that the Arizona Sport Climbers Association may be formed with a mission primarily to train young people in sport climbing and to hold sport climbing activities. It is conceivable that the AMC may be able to interface with it and provide a transitional experience to more traditional and outdoor climbing interests. The goal would be to work together as much as possible to provide a complete array of opportunities for young Arizona climbers.

John Keedy made arrangements for Board members to chair meeting during some periods of his absence due to summer vacations.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

## Discount Directory

The following merchants currently 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 15% discount.

**AZ on the Rocks Gym** — 16447 N. 91st St., Scottsdale, AZ 85260. 480-502-9777. Gym membership 10% off for AMC members.

**OvertheCrux** Inside Phoenix Rock Gym at 1353 E. University Dr., Tempe.. 480-890-0997. 15% off to AMC members.

**Solid Rock Gym** — 23620 N. 20th Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85027 (623) 587-7625 Gym membership 10% off for AMC members.

## 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
PortaLedge .....	1	100	30	50
Climbing shoes .....	Various sizes Call			

Equipment Rental Policy: All equipment rentals shall be only to current AMC members. AMC members renting equipment shall contact the Rental Committee Chair and arrange a time for pick-up and drop-off of rentals. Rental rates shall be as published in the AMC Newsletter. Two checks shall be collected from the renter. The first being for the rental amount. It will be placed into AMC accounts. The second check shall be a deposit held against the return of the item. It will be held and given back to the renter upon return of the equipment. If the return is not timely, is damaged, or is lost, the second check shall be held against the late amounts due or against any replacement or repair required. The AMC Member renting the equipment shall be expected to replace any lost or damaged equipment.

An AMC rental form (found under the Forms section of the website) will be used and will identify the name and contact information of the renter, the items rented, the rent due, as well as the replacement cost, along with statements indicating the renter's responsibilities for returning or replacing the items.

Call Linda Locke at (602) 997-4235 for shoes.

For everything else, call Erik Filsinger at 480-314-1089.

## Treasurer's Report

Arizona Mountaineering Club  
Income Statement  
Month Ended May 31, 2006

### INCOME

Dues 2006.....	4,613.00
Interest.....	129.09
T-Shirts (Grand Canyon).....	120.00
Mountaineering Schools.....	650.00
Rental Equipment .....	135.00
AARS Spring .....	825.00
Basic Spring .....	3,200.00
Lead Spring .....	975.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME .....</b>	<b>10,647.09</b>

### EXPENSES

Admin.....	631.63
T-Shirts (Grand Canyon).....	319.50
Bank Charges.....	4.00
Land Advocacy Committee....	250.00
Mountaineering.....	313.78
Newsletter.....	1,139.85
Outings .....	120.00
Outing Leaders .....	454.15
Programs Monthly Meeting....	1,451.95
Training .....	4,965.29
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES.....</b>	<b>9,650.15</b>

**OVERALL TOTAL.....** 996.94

### ACCOUNT BALANCES

CD Account (matures 7-21-06)	10,250.82
Checking (as of 5-31-06) .....	12,817.12
<b>TOTAL CASH ASSETS.....</b>	<b>23,067.94</b>
Other Assets (gear) .....	2,251.71
<b>OVERALL TOTAL.....</b>	<b>25,319.65</b>

## Zen-Lizard Systems Presents

### X-Chalk

The world's first rock climbing chalk that soothes hot and ripped up fingers –as you climb! Also helps heal cuts and scratches. All natural –no chemicals. Available at the Phoenix Rock Gym, Climbmax, the Arizona Hiking Shack, and online at:

<http://www.zen-lizard.com>



## Mt Elden Outing Report

Mt Elden, just north of Flagstaff in the wonderful pine covered forest, was the site of a very enjoyable AMC climbing day on Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup>. The weather was perfect for the 20 AMC participants climbing routes from 5.4 to 5.10. Everyone was pretty well climbed out by about 4 PM and a number of us stopped at the Beaver Street Brewing Company before returning to the Phoenix. The climb was lead by John Keedy with assistance from Clay Vollmer and Ron Auerbach, Jutta Ulrich and Peter Neubauer.

## Mt Lemmon Outing Report

The climbing originally scheduled for the Overlook near Sedona on July 9, 2006 could not be held at the Overlook because the Coconino National Forest was closed due to extreme fire danger. Instead, Outing Leader John Keedy took the 12 participants to Mt Lemmon near Tucson with climbing at Windy Point on North Fin. Climbs set up were 5.7 Karati Variastion, and Hai Katati, 5.8 Agatha Christie to 5.10 Skin Bracer and Close Shave, all on North Fin. Clay Vollmer lead Second Sight 5.8 on Blazing Fin and then set it up for top roping. Several people had their fun on that one. Pictured is Bruce Mc Henry, one of our newest Outing Leaders, pushing the envelope.

Everyone had a good day climbing the beautiful routes and most want to return to Mt Lemmon again.

The Outing Leader was John Keedy and his able assistants were Clay Vollmer, Bruce McHenry, Dan Gonzales and Peter Neubauer



Clay Vollmer



Peter Neubauer



John Keedy



Bruce McHenry

Mt Lemmon Climbers  
Brian Crawford, Clay Vollmer, Peter Neubauer,  
Stephen Wolpert, John Keedy, Dan Gonzales,  
Ron Auerbach, Dan Beatty, Dave Crawford,  
Stormy Rose, Dominic Mancini,  
Michele Bobik and Bruce McHenry.



## AMC Memorial Day 2006 - Snowdon Peak (13,077 feet)

A solid group of AMC'rs tackled Snowdon Peak, located just east of Molas Pass on Highway 585 north of Durango, CO.

Rope Team Leaders: Bruce McHenry, Robert England, Bill Fallon, Kelly Trainor and Matt Percy

Team members: Paul Pacheco, Jim Kistler, Cathy Wise, Valerie Bednar, Paul Sylvia, Peter Niemczyk, and James Perey

Base Camp Manager: John Keedy

Outing Leader: Erik Filsinger

We met ready to go at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 27 and hiked about 1.5 miles into a meadow area. After setting up camp participants went about their own afternoon activities, hiking, reading, sleeping, and generally trying to acclimatize. Bill Fallon lead a small team to scope out the approach to the peak. It was a good thing because the trail was covered by snow and it would have been hard for the climbers to find the way in the predawn light of summit day.

A decision was made to tackle the peak by various routes on Sunday.

Leaving our base camp at the designated departure of 5:00 a.m. Sunday the 28th, we ascended through meadows and woods, frequently encountering snow, to reach the main gully beneath the peak. After ascending to a common point for all the routes, the teams broke off. Here is a brief account of their ascents, with additional comments by rope team leaders inserted into the text.



Erik Filsinger, Valerie Bednar and James Perey headed for the prominent snow gully and simul-climbed it, with many occasional rests demanded by the senior member of the party. It was steep, but the snow in excellent conditions for cramponing. A short rock pitch at the top of the couloir lead to a well deserved rest before the final direct ascent to the summit. The party arrived in bitter cold and winds at 9:45 a.m. They departed at 10:15 a.m. due to word from John Keedy of the relative progress of the other parties and Erik's fighting some altitude symptoms.

Kelly Trainor, Paul Sylvia, and Jim Kistler headed for the Z-shaped couloir under the north saddle and reached it by 9:00 a.m., but based on team leader judgment of group safety and altitude issues made the judgment to descend. As AMC President John Keedy told the groups upon departure, "Summits are optional: returning safely is not."

Matt Percy, Paul Pacheco and Peter Niemczyk made good progress on the West Rib and summited about 12:30 p.m.

Matt writes: The climbing ranged from class four scrambling to low 5th class moves. The exposure was great and we couldn't have asked for a better backdrop in which to climb. Although the climbing was not technically difficult climbing in plastic boots was a new experience. They edge well, but don't smear worth a damn! Having to find the descent route during a snowstorm added an alpine feel to the climb. Thanks to everyone on my team for having a fun and safe climb.

Bill Fallon and Cathy Wise climbed the combination of snow and rock in the couloir to the right of the West Rib and arrived at the summit about 12:45 p.m.

Bill writes: The route was a mix of fairly easy Class 4 or low Class 5 rock and solid snow. Cathy Wise and I simul-climbed with myself in the lead. The rock sections were fairly slow and awkward in crampons with major rock fall hazard as we connected the snow sections. Once we hit the snow fields, however, the climbing moved much faster using pickets and a running belay. After the final long snow section we ditched the crampons and Cathy lead the scramble to the summit.

Both parties on the summit were faced with an incoming snow storm, and accomplished an excellent descent that challenged their route finding skills. We were in radio contact from base camp and a fair amount of route description beta was shared. All felt better when they reached the north saddle and the end of technical difficulties.

Kelly Trainor did yeoman duty by hiking back up to meet the parties on the descent trail from the saddle with some extra water.

Snow squalls continued and most outing members opted for a quick packing up base camp and heading home. The others packed out Monday morning. All reached the parking lot safely.

Another successful AMC mountaineering adventure!

Guide book: Robert Rosebrough: [The San Juan Mountains](#). Can you find the 2 citations to Erik's father John Filsinger of early 1950's climbing history?

Submitted by Erik Filsinger, with assistance by Bill Fallon and Matt Percy

## Climbing in the Black Hills

In the Spring 2006 edition of *Alpinist* magazine, there is a nice write-up on the history of climbing in the Needles of the Black Hills of South Dakota. There have been other articles in other magazines in the past, but never have they gone to the detail this one does. The accompanying map is made out to look like one of Middle Earth you might see in Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*, and evokes feelings of a long-lost land, full of mystery and danger. The feelings are relevant. This area has a long climbing history full of colorful characters. The sheer number of granite spires spread throughout the area lends to its mysterious character as visitors try to find their way around through the hundreds, if not thousands, of formations. And there certainly is an element of danger. The Needles is a staunch traditional area, where routes are put up from the ground, and consequently protection is often scant, and run outs are long. Not the kind of climbing that gives much hope to mere mortals.

Susan and I had heard much of this prior to our first trip to the area in 2003. The stories of the long runouts and stiff climbing conspired to put me on edge every time I tied in. We had a couple of 80-foot climbs on that trip where the bolts ended halfway up the route, and we would have to run it out the rest of the way. Overall we had a good time and got in some good climbs, but it was on this trip, that in a sudden absence of testicles, I backed off the classic Tricouni Nail in a fit of bitter disappointment when I couldn't see my next gear placement. I knew we'd be back, and I hoped that the next time I'd be climbing so well I could blast up any climb of my choosing.

Well, life has had a funny way of changing my plans. Two years ago we had Justin, and our climbing has changed somewhat. We still climb, but less than we did. And because we climb less, we haven't improved much in the past couple of years. So when we pulled into the Black Hills area on our yearlong road trip, I wasn't sure what to expect. Sure, there were all the tourist things we could do—Rushmore, Wind Cave, Badlands—but what about the climbing? Could we find something that Susan and I could handle with Justin along, that wouldn't get us in over our heads? (Oh, and by the way, Susan is now four months pregnant, which was definitely unplanned and hasn't helped our climbing any).

The answer turned out to be yes; there is climbing for mortals, even pregnant ones, in the Black Hills. We knew from our last trip that on the back side of the Sylvan Lake dam, there is a sub-5.6 bolted route that gives access to other, harder routes. We spent half a day there, enjoying the knobby granite, no crowds, and shade until the early afternoon. (As another example of Black Hills run outs, we top-roped a 100-foot 5.9 that had only two bolts on it: one at 15-feet off the ground, and another 40-feet above that). So that took care of one of our climbing days, but after that we didn't know where to go.

One day in Hill City, the closest town to Custer State Park, the heart of the Black Hills, I ran into a woman at the climbing shop who overheard me asking the clerk about local climbing. She asked what we were looking for. I told her we were very particular. The area we sought had to have a short and level enough approach that Justin could hike it, it needed to be in the shade, it needed to have an easy enough route that I could confidently lead it without worrying about Susan needing to catch a lead fall in her condition, and it had to have access to other climbs from the top. I half expected her to bust out laughing, but it turned out she and a group of friends had been at an area near Mount Rushmore that very day that fit my description perfectly. The next day, Susan, Justin and I drove over to North Park, made the short 5-minute hike, and enjoyed more fun climbing, complete with no one else around. This area has 18 climbs from 5.6 to 5.10c, all of which are bolted, all of which have anchors at the top, and all are accessible from trails up the backs of the formations. We climbed what we could prior to being chased out by the rain, and we even got Justin into his harness and several feet off the ground so he could continue to get accustomed to climbing and being lowered. This area, plus others we learned about in the area, would have kept us busy for much longer than the time we had to spend here.

These were the only two days we climbed in the week we were here, but it was enough. We were very happy to visit the Black Hills again, and happy to be able to climb, even with all of the conditions we now have to place on our climbing. For strong climbers and bold leaders, the Needles and surrounding areas can satisfy you for weeks on end. For those of us whose climbing tends to stay firmly planted in the moderate range, there is hope.

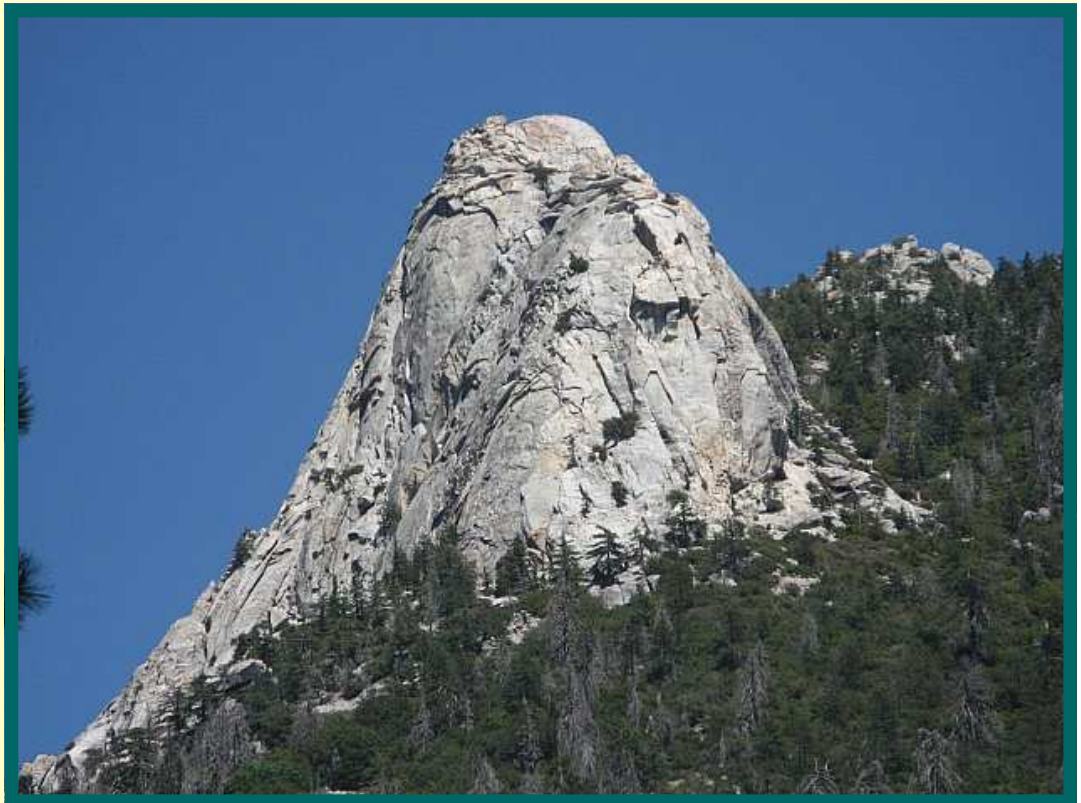
*Jeff Hatfield*

## Sahara Terror - Tahquitz Rock

### THIS AIN'T JUST SPORT CLIMBING – THE SEQUEL

We woke up early on the morning of July 2nd hoping to get on a climb before any other climbers. At the last minute, we decided to climb Sahara Terror (5.8, 5-7 pitches). I had climbed Sahara Terror with Val Bednar three weeks earlier, and after much route finding we summited. It was Matt Percy's turn to lead a party of four up the rock to include Val Bednar, Scott Parsons and myself. We ascended the mountain as a party of four and descended as two parties of two.

In July, the skies over Tahquitz will oftentimes bring thunder, lightning, rain and hail. It didn't disappoint us. Matt was bringing me up to the top of the third pitch when a few drops of rain fell. By the time I had him on lead belay, there was thunder and lightening in the distance.



*Tahquitz Rock seen peaking out from the San Bernardino National Forest*



Matt Percy leading the first pitch of Sahara Terror. A good look at the route.

As he pulled the crux move on the fourth pitch, the heavens opened up and it started to rain steadily; the thunder and lightening were getting closer. With Matt already nearing the top of the fourth pitch, me belaying him from the top of the third pitch, and Val and Scott waiting at the top of the second pitch, it was decided that the safest thing to do was for Matt and I to finish the climb and Val and Scott to rap down from the climb. I released the rope I was trailing.

*Side Note: I was injured early on the climb. My hand slipped off the face and my fingers jammed into the top of a rock edge. My pinkie finger was bent sideways at the knuckle – a dislocation. I continued up the climb to Matt where he proceeded to pull my finger. I know what you are thinking, and NO I did not. We taped two of my fingers together.*

Typically, after summiting Tahquitz, climbers descend in one of two gullies. Due to an abundance of trees and crack systems, rappelling is not suggested. However, under these circumstances, rappelling was the fastest and safest option for Val and Scott.

There were a lot of climbers on various routes below the third pitch. As Val and Scott set up a rappel off a sturdy tree, a massive amount of rock fall could be seen and/or heard on the Whodunit route.

*(Continued on page 10)*

## Sahara Terror - Tahquitz Rock (Continued)

*(Continued from page 9)*

*Side Note: Originally, we had planned on climbing Whodunit (5.9, 5-7 pitches) that morning, but changed our minds. Glad we did!*

*Val and Scott rappelled down to two climbers who only had one rope (not enough to rap to the base of the climb) Their rope was stuck in a tree about 30' above them, so Scott unstuck their rope as he came down. Unfortunately, when Val and Scott pulled their ropes one got stuck in the same tree. One of the other two climbers climbed up the face to the tree and unstuck the rope. Val, Scott and the two climbers proceeded to work as a team to safely rap down the remaining pitch. Val described the conditions they rappelled under as sheets of water coming down the rock forming waterfalls at the overhangs. She said water was flying out of the rappel device as she descended.*

In the meantime, Matt and I were ascending the last three pitches of Sahara Terror. Regardless of our sense of urgency to get to the top of the climb, we remained calm. Safety was our utmost concern, and Matt protected the remainder of the climb as though weather was not an issue. Chimneys and chutes funneled the rainwater forming several waterfalls. It was challenging; after all, every one of Matt's finger/hand/fist jams and pro placements would be in cracks that he couldn't see. He had to feel for the crack, judge the size of the pro to be placed, and place it. As he brought me up the fourth pitch, there were spots where I was completely immersed in water; the pressure of the water cascading down the rock was added weight to my already cold, wet and tired body. It took pure adrenaline to hold a fist jam, remove pro and continue climbing.

*Side Note: As Matt brought me up the final pitch, he had a grin from ear to ear. He was pumped. The only words he could utter were to effect of "what a \*insert expletive here\*, great adventure we just had."*

At the top of the climb, the weather cleared. We quickly made our way down the north gully and ran into Val and Scott on the trail that runs along Lily Creek and leads to parking. We were all relieved to see each other – safe and sound. It was all we could talk about for the next few days and will continue to talk about....that is, until the next great adventure!

*Side Note: The weather forecast for the day was partly cloudy with a 10% chance of afternoon thunderstorms. Always prepare for the unexpected!*

By Jodie Bostrom (analyzed, revised and scrutinized by my climbing partners.

# Lead Climbing School

Arizona Mountaineering Club  
Fall 2006

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 26 Tuesday 6:30 pm–9:30 pm \*North Mountain Park, Ramada TBD  
Sept 27 Wednesday 6:30 pm–9:30 pm North Mountain Park, Ramada TBD  
Sept 28 Thursday 6:30 pm–9:30 pm North Mountain Park, Ramada TBD  
Sept 30 Saturday 9:00 am–5:00 pm Prescott (directions will be in syllabus)  
Oct 1 Sunday 9:00 am–5:00 pm Prescott or Scottsdale (directions will be in syllabus)

**\*North Mountain Park is located at Peoria and 7<sup>th</sup> St, 5 miles north of Camelback on 7<sup>th</sup> St. Turn west into the park. The Ramada location is TBD.**

**Experience required:** 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:** \$75 plus membership if not already a member (\$15 for an individual and \$18 for a family). Membership is good through Dec., 2006. Register by sending a check payable to AMC Lead School to 1654 W. Boston St, Chandler, AZ, 85224. No credit cards accepted. (Please note: the registration fee is fully refundable if you cancel.) Call Nancy Birdwell at 480-821-1932 or email [lead.school@AzMountaineeringClub.org](mailto:lead.school@AzMountaineeringClub.org) 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.

- All climbing gear (harness, prusiks, biners, etc.)
- Helmet—mandatory for all on-rock sessions
- 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
- Hiking boots or shoes with stiff soles for Saturday, climbing shoes for Sunday

**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 <http://www.amcaz.org/>

# Grand Canyon Cleanup

Time again for the annual Grand Canyon Over-The-Rim Cleanup! For those new to this event, we have been rappelling over the side of the South Rim's steep limestone cliffs for 16 straight years, searching for trash deposited by tourists and wind. We have scoured the slopes below Mather Point and spruced up the view from the ice cream store at Bright Angel Lodge. We have appeared in numerous home movies we have never seen and entertained scores of innocents who ask, "Did you climb all the way from the bottom?" (We always answer, "Yes!") Along the way, we have maintained a perfect safety record, partied at pristine Shoshone Point, and climbed the next day in the Kaibab limestone amphitheaters below the Rim. Come out and join us again this year.

**The Cleanup is scheduled for Saturday September 16th.** You must be an AMC Club member trained in the proper rappel technique and in prusiking to go over the side; non-members can help at the top.

## **Technique seminar and planning meeting:**

We will be holding a technique seminar at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, September 21st at Dreamy Draw Park.

**This is mandatory for anyone who has not participated in the cleanup before.** Old-timers are welcome to come for a refresher. We won't be teaching any of these techniques on-site at the Canyon. Please bring all the technical equipment listed below to the seminar.

## **Technical - Personal equipment needed for the Cleanup:**

- Helmet—mandatory
- 3 prusiks (4',6',10')
- 1 climbing harness
- 1 rappel device
- 3 locking carabiners (harness biners)
- 1 5-foot or 6-foot tied sling (depending on arm length)
- 2 20' slings and 2 lockers (for anchors)
- 6 extra regular biners for fire hose
- Hiking boots (no sandals or open-toed shoes)—mandatory
- Gloves—mandatory
- Long pants, long-sleeved shirt
- Sunscreen, lip balm
- Water & lunch
- Whistle—optional (just in case)

## **Club equipment provided the day of the Cleanup:**

- 2 pieces of fire hose
- 2 short prusiks
- 1 rope bag

## **Schedule:**

**Friday, September 22:** Camp at the group site

**Saturday, Sept 23:**

8:00 am—**Mandatory meeting** at Mather Point (we will sign waivers)

9:00 am—disperse to cleanup areas

4:00 pm—wrap up, shower, and get ready for barbecue

5:00 pm—meet at Shoshone Point, or caravan from campsite

**Sunday, Sept 24:**

9:00 am—meet at parking lot by railroad station for climbing outing (helmets required)

3:00 pm—head back to Phoenix

## **Entrance to the Park:**

If you arrive at the entrance station when it is open, tell the Ranger on duty that you are with the AMC and are here for the "**Over-the-Rim Cleanup**" (these are the magic words). They should let you in without paying the normal \$20.00 entrance fee (feel free to pay if you want, since the money collected at the entrance station does go directly to the park's upkeep).

## Grand Canyon Cleanup (Continued)

### Camping:

The Park Service will provide two group campsites (40 per site) and only four cars on Sept 16-17. The group sites are to be determined (TBD) at this time. They are usually at the Mather Campground area. The vehicles bringing the club equipment will be the two vehicles to park at the site, so that we can monitor the ropes and other Club gear. All other vehicles must park at Babbitt's General Store, about 1/4 mile from the campsite. While inconvenient, this is the Park Service group campsite policy and they do monitor the campsites. The main concern is that they need the fire trucks to be able to get through the campground. If you camp in your vehicle, you will need to camp outside the park or get a private campsite.

**Private Camp site Reservations for Mather Campground call 1-800-365-2267** Costs: \$15.00 per night – 6 person max, with 3 vehicles allowed at each private campsite, so you may want to pool with others.

Other campsite rules are: no ground fires (use the grills) and quiet hours between 10 pm and 6 am.

Facilities at the campground include bathrooms with pay showers (bring quarters). Hot breakfasts Saturday morning are available at Yavapai Lodge at the Babbitt's parking lot.

*Your option to cook and or grill your own meal is also welcomed.* There are two huge grills. And several picnic tables in the area. Bring your own meat selection and grilling tools. We will have a campfire too. The last people around the fire must have enough water to put the fire dead out. Also, someone in the last car out should lock the gate.

### Car-pooling:

Since many participants will be at the Tuesday September 13th seminar, this is the best place to arrange car-pooling to the Grand Canyon, as parking is always tight.

### Directions:

Drive north on State 64 into Grand Canyon National Park. Stay on the main road until you see the sign for Mather Campground directing you to the left (south). Follow the signs to the campground kiosk. On your right will be the showers. Look on the campground kiosk for a list of assigned sites. Follow the map on the kiosk. Park at the assigned campsite and unload, set up your tent, etc. Then drive back out to the kiosk and back to the parking lot at Babbitt's General Store. Hike back to the campsite the same way, on the asphalt.

**Contact:** Scott Hoffman at: [shoffman228@yahoo.com](mailto:shoffman228@yahoo.com) or call (623) 580-8909

To verify your attendance to these planned events.

Scott Hoffman – Outing Leader- Event Director




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## Become an AMC Outing Leader

General requirements for becoming an AMC outing leader:

- Be a member for at least one year
- Take the Basic, Anchors and Lead classes (or equivalents)
- Complete a basic first aid and CPR class (8 hours or more)
- Submit an application to the Classification Chairperson
- Apprentice on at least three outings with approved outing leaders
- Get recommendation from at least five current outing leaders (including those from apprentice outings)
- Be approved by the Board of Directors.

For more information, contact the Classification Chairperson, Nancy Birdwell at (480) 821-1932.

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## Current AMC Outing Leaders



Robert England .....480-688-5412  
 Bill Fallon .....602-996-9790  
 Erik Filsinger .....602-906-1186  
 Scott Hoffman.....623-580-8909  
 Richard Horst.....623-434-4769  
 David Johnson.....623-486-7387  
 John Keedy .....623-412-1452  
 Mike Knarzer .....602-751-1701

Tim Lange .....480-598-9124  
 David Larimer .....480-425-9689  
 Sally Borg Larimer480-425-9689  
 Bruce McHenry ....602-952-1379  
 Tim Medlock .....480-963-3496  
 Monica Miller .....623-362-0456  
 Matt Pearcy.....480-329-2551  
 Chris Query .....602-323-5927

Tim Schneider ..... 480-497-8377  
 Rogil Schroeter..... 623-512-8465  
 Jef Sloat..... 602-316-1899  
 Mick Strole..... 520-856-3335  
 Paul Valenzuela.... 602-705-3106  
 Frank Vers..... 480-947-9435  
***Your Name Here!***

## Calendar of Events

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### AMC Outings

**Please note:** It is suggested that Outing participants donate gas money to the Outing Leader, and that carpoolers share the cost of gas for the driver. See footnotes below for other info about outings.

*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.*

**Aug 12 The Overlook** Single-pitch top-rope climbs on fine basalt, 5.6 – 5.10. Five minute approach to climbs. Limit 15. 6:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Contact John Keedy for additional details: [jwkeedy@cox.net](mailto:jwkeedy@cox.net).

**Aug 20 Sedona sport climbing** – 5.8-5.12. Limit 12. Contact Richard Horst for details: [horstrichard@aol.com](mailto:horstrichard@aol.com) or 623-434-4769.

**Sept 23 Grand Canyon Cleanup** - Details in next month's newsletter

**Sept 24 Grand Canyon Climbing** - In cirque along the canyon rim.

*Group outings are intended to be social climbing experiences with no supervision. They may or may not be organized by an AMC Outing Leader. If they are organized by an AMC Outing Leader, the Leader will only be responsible for organizing the time, date, meeting places, and any necessary camping. The AMC Outing Leader may also set anchors, but will not be responsible for supervising any climbing activity or for monitoring the anchors they set. Participants are responsible for their own climbing activities, their own climbing partners, and for monitoring anchors, whether set by an AMC Outing Leader or not. Participants are also responsible for their own conduct and safety at the campsite and during any approaches to and from the climbing areas. If any AMC equipment is used for the outing, the participants using that equipment are responsible for checking the equipment before use and for using the equipment properly and in the safest manner possible. The campsite, where possible, may be reserved and paid for by the AMC. Parking may be first-come, first-served.*

### 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

## Calendar of Events (continued)

### Commercially Provided Training and Events

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

**Aug 26-27 - Survival Skills Course** by Cody Lundin, Director of the Aboriginal Living Skills

School (<http://www.alssadventures.com/>). The course location will be in the Prescott area or north of Prescott. The final location will be determined by Cody about 1 month before the course based on wildfire restrictions and forest closures. The class will be limited to 20 and will cost \$155.00 per person. Additional detail, not available in time for printing in the July newsletter, is forthcoming.



**Sept 8-10 - Backcountry Emergency Care**, \$125.00. Twenty hour class in Wilderness First Aid. Class is Friday evening, all day Saturday and all day Sunday. If interested, contact Rogil at [rogil@cox.com](mailto:rogil@cox.com) or 623-512-8465. Limit 20 students. First 20 to pay are in. AMC membership is required. Membership is \$30 for single, \$35 for family.

**SIGNUP BY AUGUST 11**



# August 2006

## AMC Outing Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>NOTE: Celestial events occur about 10 minutes earlier on Arizona's eastern border; 10 later on its western edge.</div>		1	2 Sunrise 5:42 Sunset 7:27 M-set 11:49P  <i>1st Qtr</i>	3	4	5
6	7 Board Meeting	8	9 Sunrise 5:46 Sunset 7:21 M-rise 7:56P  <i>Full Moon</i>	10	11	12 <b>Overlook</b>
13	14	15  <i>Last Qtr</i>	16 Sunrise 5:51 Sunset 7:13 M-rise 11:56P	17	18	19
20 <b>Sedona Sport Climbing</b>  Member Meeting	21	22	23 Sunrise 5:56 Sunset 7:05 M-set 7:17P  <i>New Moon</i>	24	25	26 <b>Survival Skills Class</b>
27 <b>Survival Skills Class</b>	28	29	30 Sunrise 6:01 Sunset 6:56 M-set 11:23P  <i>1st Qtr</i>	31		