



## Harvard Mountaineering Club

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### Notes from Cambridge, Fall '00

*I grew up exuberant in body but with a nervy, craving mind. It as wanting something more, something tangible. It sought for reality intensely, always as if it were not there . . .*

*But you see at once what I do. I climb.*

-John Menlove Edwards  
"Letters from a Man"

Harvard Mountaineering has burst into the new millenium with enthusiam and vigor. Over the past summer we had some very widely traveled members, from the slopes of Denali to the sandstone of Eldorado Canyon to the cliffs of Bulgaria, all of whom have returned strong and enthusiastic for the next year. Enjoy the enclosed summer adventures.

Some notes: For those of you who have sent questions regarding the journal, yes, it is late but will be out soon. In the changeover in secretaries some information was lost, but it will all soon be back together.

Also, some of the mailing list also disappeared with the journal stuff, so if you know someone who didn't receive a copy of this newsletter but should have, please let us know.

That's all for now - happy climbing!

## Fall Banquets

Yes, banquets plural. We didn't have a banquet last spring, but now, thanks to Luca Marinelli, we are able to hold 2 banquets this fall:

### Banquet 1: Craig Luebben

**Monday, October 30th**

Craig Luebben is one of the most accomplished climbing photographers today. His travels have taken him around the world; you may have seen his recent piece in *Rock & Ice* on exploring the granite monoliths of Madagascar. From Cuban limestone to adventure climbing in China, Mr. Luebben's photos are eagerly anticipated.

**5 pm:** Drinks at the club  
(Claverly Hall)

**6 pm:** Dinner (location TBA)

**8 pm:** Slideshow (Emerson 105)

### Banquet 2: Ken Henderson

**Videos**

**Thursday, November 30**

Ken Henderson is a prominent name, both in the HMC and elsewhere; he is well-known for his climbs in the Tetons (FA East Ridge and Direct Exum) and the Alps. The HMC, along with the AAC and the AMC, is sponsoring an informal showing of his videos of climbing in the 1930s in New England. See the Whitney-Gilman done in 1938, Pinnacle Gully ice in the winter of 1940, and more. Donations to help fund the restoration and preservation the films will be gladly accepted at the door.

**5 pm:** Drinks at the club  
(Claverly Hall)

**6 pm:** Dinner (location TBA)

**8 pm:** Slideshow (Maxwell-Dworkin G-115)

# Beginners vs. Rumney

By Winthrop Ruml '04

On Saturday, October 7th, 2000, some two dozen members of the Harvard Mountaineering Club ventured two hours northwest to Rumney, New Hampshire. Crisp temperatures, brilliant foliage, and a bright sun met the climbers, reminding all the members that waking up at 6:30 was worth it. The well-organized Beginners' Trip included a handful of novices, a few climbers with marginal experience, and several of the Club's finer climbers.

By 10:30 in the morning a group had hiked from the parking lot and taken position near the 5.8 Crag. Coz Teplitz '03 and Jen Liu both enjoyed easy romps of side-by-side 5.8s to set up topropes, savoring the crisp temps and gorgeous view. With the ropes in position the climbing began in earnest.

Soon the second caravan of vehicles pulled up and Mike Weller, John Higgins, and Jessica Yin arrived at the 5.8 Crag, while Glenn Sanders set ropes at the Parking Lot Wall. The new cabin liaison led a group of climbers on a 5.7, a 5.8, and a more challenging 5.10 - a full complement of wonderful climbs.

For the beginners, the crags posed a good challenge. Freshmen Win Ruml and Eric Wang started things rolling and eagerly hopped on the rock. Shouts of encouragement and tactical advice from Michelle Aitken '02, Mike, and others helped the two new members reach the top. Soon everyone was loving the Rumney schist, despite numb fingers from the cool fall temps. Michelle later staged a long, but ultimately successful, scaling of the 5.9 on the left side of the area.

This was not just a day for beginners, though. John Higgins displayed to the crew his full trad rack of cams and carabiners acquired over the summer, and put it to good use on a beautiful 5.8 hand crack. Coz and Jen led Milksnake, a 5.10c with an impressive-looking roof half-way up. Petar Maymounkov '01 decided he wanted a piece of the action; a personal battle developed as the Bulgarian and Rumney squared off with plenty of chalk and vitriolic language being thrown at the cliff. To his right, Mike "warmed up" on Romancing the Stone (5.10d), which was so enjoyable that he couldn't climb much else for the rest of the day.

By afternoon most of the climbers, beginners and experienced folk alike, were pumped and happy. Slowly the numbers dwindled as folks headed back to Cambridge. A small number of hardcore climbers, though, decided that they wanted still more. As the sunlight dwindled Jen, Petar, Jess, John, Coz, and Eric dashed over to the Parking Lot Wall (having spent the entire day at the 5.8 crag) and started running up some more fun climbs. All was

# A Summer in Colorado

by Luca Marinelli

During one of the worst cold spells last winter I spotted a new colorful flyer on the bulletin board of the Physics Department. It was about a month long summer school in Boulder, Colorado and the subject even matched my research interests! I did not loose any time in applying and generating a good hit list for the summer.

The ice slowly melted, the spring rains faded, and at last it was summer. Jen Liu and I left for Boulder on July, 2<sup>nd</sup> and as soon as we got there we knew that it was going to be a great summer. On the drive between Denver and Boulder we caught glimpses of the Flatirons and the Rocky Mountains to the North - what beautiful rock. We were staying with some friends in Golden, ten minutes away from Clear Creek Canyon, a relatively recently developed sport climbing area. We climbed there on several evenings, when I could sneak out of the school early enough.

We had our first encounter with real Colorado at Lumpy Ridge in Rocky Mountain National Park. We climbed a classic 4 pitch 5.9 called Loose Ends. The route follows corner systems, perfect finger and hand cracks to the top of the Book, one of the many granite domes there. The setting was spectacular; at 8000ft you could see Mt. Meeker and the East face of Longs Peak, the Diamond, in the distance.

Eldorado Canyon is where I had the most fun. There we climbed several routes on different walls. The classic Bastille Crack (5.7) was a great introduction to

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going well until Jess took a scary fall on a 5.10a slab and backed off. Not eager to leave draws behind, Coz grabbed a headlamp and headed up for the onsite by moonlight. Meanwhile, Eric Wang '04, the true hero of the day, was cleaning a long and thin 5.6 without the help of the light. Eric got a taste of everything: cleaning trad and sport gear, rappelling, and even climbing blind. Way to go, Eric!

Finally no more climbing could be squeezed in, and the last car pulled out of the parking lot under a shining, near full moon. The New Hampshire weather had energized the crew while outstanding climbing had kept everyone entertained. For the beginners, it was an ideal first trip with their new Club.

the climbing and then the fantastic Green Spur (5.9), Darkness Until Dawn (5.10a), Blind Faith (5.10a), Outer Space (5.10c) and many others got us hooked on this climbing paradise. Probably our best adventure there was an ascent of the Yellow Spur, a six pitch 5.10b climb on the west face of the Redgarden Wall. 500ft off the deck on the tiny belay ledge at the start of the fifth pitch, the exposure is intense. I definitely felt it when I was getting ready to lead the very delicate crux pitch. Fantastic moves and rock made me forget where I was, concentrating on the great climbing, until at the top of the pitch I yelled to Jen “The air under my feet here kicks High E’s butt any day!”.

When the school ended Jen and I went on a road trip for a couple of weeks, visiting some of the best climbing areas in western and southern Colorado. We stayed at Rifle for three days, getting our forearms pumped silly on great sport climbs. Jen flashed Eighty Feet of Meat, a 5.11b endurance contest, her best sport climbing feat, while I onsighted Community Service, a scary old Kurt Smith 5.11c, and redpointed Defenseless Betty (5.11d) at the Project Wall. This last climb had some of the best rock I climbed at Rifle: beautiful grey limestone streaks

and perfect, powerful moves festooned this 90ft pitch.

On this trip, Jen discovered her new love for offwidths. On our only foray outside of Colorado, Jen placed her first Big Bros on Middle Parallel Space, a 5.9 offwidth to chimney climb in Vedauwoo, Wyoming. The magic of this place cannot be overstated, the colors of the lichens on the rock, the jumbles of huge boulders shaped by water and wind (the guidebook states that the wind season at Vedauwoo starts in early January and ends in late December, and they are not kidding). The rock here is exceedingly coarse, which makes for sinker jams, but any exposed flesh will be pierced mercilessly by the fat crystals. Taping is a must.

Turkey Rocks in South Platte offered up more fantastic cracks. Again I was looking for thin stuff while Jen was always attracted by wide horror shows that went under names like Gobble Up. All in all, our six weeks in Colorado were absolutely fantastic. We climbed hard, had a great time, visited wonderful places and made new good friends. I am already scoping out the bulletin board in the Physics Department, looking forward for opportunities to spend another summer like this.

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## Zimbabwe Rock

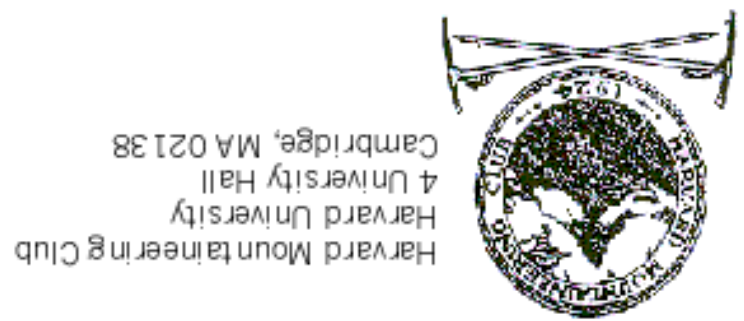
By Mike Weller '01

This summer I had the good fortune to spend two months living and working in Zimbabwe. I was a guest of Renee Richer, of the Harvard Department of Organismic and Evolutionary Biology, and most of my time was spent working with her on her research project, which is focused on better understanding the timing mechanism of when trees’ leaves come out. Luckily, though, I didn’t have to spend all of my time climbing only trees. I had several opportunities to get a close look at the local rock, and all of them were very enjoyable. Zimbabwe’s two main cities, Harare and Bulawayo, both offer areas with bouldering and short sport routes very close to the city center. In Harare I had the chance to climb with Mike Dewey, a former HMC president, at Balancing Rocks/ Epworth for a day, and in Bulawayo I spent some time exploring the Matopos National Park, an area that I could only scratch the surface of in my day there. For more committed climbing the Eastern Highlands, about 3 hours east of Harare, offered several options. The most stunning was a series of granite domes overlooking the Honde valley, the tallest of which was at least 300m. I could only gawk, as I was there with

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paragliders, not climbers, but locals told me that the Harare Mountaineering Club often climbed in the area, so they could provide more information if you are interested. Further south, just east of Masvingo, I also had a chance explore some beautiful bouldering in a boulder field that extended for about 25 km. The rock overall was very nice—at times crumbly, many formations have heavy pocking good for holds on their most weathered face, and the granite, although very rough, was surprisingly friendly. The weather in Zim is amazing throughout their dry season, which coincides with summer up here. I would heartily recommend a trip, perhaps not with Zimbabwe as your primary rock destination, but if you are planning on going to Southern Africa to visit some of South Africa’s newly famous rock areas a trip up to the quieter, less polished atmosphere of Zimbabwe is certainly worth the time.



*Summit Ridge of Denali, Alaska. Photo by Tripp Baird '02, who successfully summited in July.*