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# The BOLFA newsletter

## A publication of the Climbing Club of South Australia

### A French roadtrip by Luke Adams

After the usual 25 hours of travelling I arrived in Zurich on Saturday morning and caught a train to Chamonix. I got there in the afternoon and was walking around looking for a campground when I heard my name being called from a big red van. It turned out to be Roger Du Bouis who was living over there for a couple of months.

I went for a wander around the pubs of Chamonix that night. I was due to meet up with Paul B on Sunday. Paul had actually arrived on Saturday night and looked in the pubs for me - am I that predictable?

I ended up meeting Paul on Sunday morning and we got the food and climbing gear ready. We then took the cable car to the top of the Aiguille du Midi and wandered down to the Cosmiques Hut in the afternoon. The objective was Mt Blanc (4810m).

Leaving the hut at 2am, we climbed the west face of Mt Blanc du Tacul, the rimaye on Mt Maudit (a 60m gully of steep ice with fixed line), and finally the dome of Mt Blanc itself. It must of been the slowest ascent of Mt Blanc in history, mainly due to our lack of acclimatisation. The last 400m took about 3 hours and we arrived on the summit at 12 noon. On the way down, after abseiling the rimaye, it started to snow quite heavily and we were hit by strong gusts of wind. Near the back of Tacul, we heard a large avalanche. Starting down the west face, we could see that a large chunk of the face had let go. We crossed as low as we could and then headed straight down through the debris to the col and up to the hut.

We later found out from Roger that a guy was killed in the avalanche which explained the helicopter circling us on the way down. We arrived back at the hut at about 8:30pm very tired but happy. Back to Chamonix in a blizzard the next day for hotel, showers, coffee, clothes washing, beers, pizza, more beers and sleep - in that order.

The next day we headed for Switzerland in the Citroen and set up base in the town of Visp. A day's rockclimbing was had in the Arolla Valley at a crag called Pra Grassette. Interesting gneiss rock, bolted and fun, doing routes in the 12 to 18 range. The pick of them was probably Lotier (6a) with a bouldery start and Benoite (6a) with a bouldery finish.

We then headed for Zermatt to have a look at the Matterhorn.

Unfortunately, the storm on Mt Blanc had dumped a fair bit of snow on all the peaks in that part of the Alps. The Matterhorn was a bit too snow-covered for us, so we took the cable car up to the ski fields of the Kleine Matterhorn and followed the other 100-odd people climbing a very windy but clear Breithorn. After reaching the west summit (4167m), we climbed down into the col and then up to the central summit (4159m).

As the five summits along the Breithorn ridge are listed individually in the count of the 82 alpine 4,000ers, we were happy to tick the two in a day. The snow on the descent had turned to slop and we waded down for about 3 hours back to the cable car. Another hotel and more beer and hamburgers in Zermatt.

We then hit the autoroute for the south of France. After a brief stop in Aix-en-Provence, we ended up in the town of Apt at 9pm looking for the campground. We headed for nearby Buoux the next day. I was last there in 1990 but the rock hadn't changed and



I still fell off the first climb I tried. Spent a lovely day clipping bolts. Highlights were Dièdre Rouge (6a) and Le Rut (6a) which led up to a ledge known as La Plage.

Paul showed a little-known fondness for offwidths on Le Goître (5c) and Imitation Granit (6a). We had plans to drive about 100km to Chateauvert that evening but by the time we had dinner and a few beers it was back to Apt for another night.



Luke seconding Arnaque Blues (F6a)

We duly moved on to Châteauvert Monday morning and spent the day cragging and relaxing by the beautiful cool river. Paul finished the day with a lead of Nuage (6a+), a quite pumpy, slightly overhanging route with a big reach off a bomber undercling. We left late and started driving towards Orpierre, but only making it as far as the town of Volx (more climbing here as well), arriving at the campground after 9pm, the warden must have gone home so we made camp and went to sleep. Still no warden in the morning so we got a free night.

We arrived at Orpierre after an hour's driving, got a guidebook and headed to the 4 Heures area. Found the rock a little harder here and spent all day working across a bunch of 5b to 6b routes. The next day (my last for climbing), we spent the morning cragging at Orpierre's Cascade area and then headed northeast to have a look at Ceüse.

We arrived at the carpark in the col below Ceüse at 4pm, and 600m and 1.5 hours later we made the crag. I wasn't that impressed until we walked about a kilometre along the crag and could then see what all the fuss was about. Steep blue-grey pocketed limestone with about 100 really strong people cranking hard. We found the famous Biographie/Realization (9a+?/36), reputed to be the world's hardest climb and it certainly looks it (getting started looked horrendous enough). We ran back to the car by 7:30pm and stayed in Gap that night. The Citroen, by this stage, had an interesting odour reminiscent of unwashed clothes and sweaty rock shoes left in the summer heat. We referred to it as "the smell of victory."

Paul dropped me in Grenoble the next morning and I took the train back to Zurich via Geneva and Bern. On the plane Friday morning, and then home via Bangkok, Sydney and Melbourne.

One of the best climbing trips I have done!

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Boulderfest... submit your photo's to: [glasslip@tne.net.au](mailto:glasslip@tne.net.au)



**Bouldering at Castle Hill, NZ – photo by Seth**



**Bouldering near Port Lincoln, South Australia – photo by Steffen Schultz**



**Deep water soloing in Thailand – photo by Stefan Schiller**



**Crux sloper on 'El Possiah' a Font7a+ (V7) at Fontainebleau, France**

**Photo by Stefan Schiller**



**Do you like fridge hugging?**  
**The perfect V6 boulder problem – Happy Boulders, USA**  
**Photo by Stefan Schiller**

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## The BOLFA newsletter

Contributors for this issue: Many thanks go to Luke Adams, Greg Rolton, and everyone that contributed photo's.

Due date for next BOLFA submissions: Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2005.

All photo's, letters, stories or trip reports to [glasslip@tne.net.au](mailto:glasslip@tne.net.au)

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## The Half Brick Award

### This issues thumbs down goes to...

Full time jobs. Who needs 'em!

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## Club Calendar

### Upcoming meetings/events

**Next Club Meet:** Monday 5 December 2005

**Venue:** All bi-monthly meetings take place at 7.30pm in The Brecknock Hotel, King William Street, Adelaide on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of every 2<sup>nd</sup> month.

Voluntary slide presentations welcome at any of these meets.

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## Hot Fun Closing

### Latest (and some not so latest) news & views from around the world...

#### Overseas news

Josune Bereziartu has onsighted *Fuente de Energia* (31) at the Spanish crag Vadiello. *Fuente* is her first onsight of the grade in Europe (having previously onsighted one in Japan). She is one of three women to onsight the 8b grade, joining American Katie Brown and French teenager Charlotte Durif.

Bernd Zangerl has climbed a boulder problem high in the Austrian mountains that he says is his hardest yet. Zangerl is a 27-year-old Austrian who made the first ascents of the V15 problems *New Base Line* and *Viva la Evolution* and the second ascent of *Dreamtime*, before it was chipped down from V15.

The new problem is 7 moves long and is called *Memento*. "For me *Memento* is maybe Ft8c+ (V16). It's by far harder than anything I have tried or climbed yet..." he said.

Chris Sharma has redpointed a new sport route among the giant granite boulders below The Chief in Squamish, B.C, and says it's "probably 14c or 14d" (34 or 35). The line is called *Dreamcatcher*, and starts with a 5.12 slab, followed by a double-handed dyno to a large sloper in a 40 degree overhanging wall. Check out the footage on [www.bigupproductions.com](http://www.bigupproductions.com)

Leo Houlding came close of a complete onsight of El Cap, Yosemite, taking just one fall whilst onsighting Free Rider (34 pitches – crux of 27).

Tomás Mrázek has onsighted the route Patra Negra (33) at Rodellar in northern Spain.

Markus Bock climbed a new 34 named Demonstrating My Style in his home area of the Frankenjura. The route description goes something like this: first part is a 32 route, then a V10 boulder problem through a 60 degree overhang at the end.

Not content with that – he then climbed an old Werner Thon project which shares the same finish. This one goes at 9a (35) – as depending on your maths – it adds up like this...

1x 33, + 1x V10, + 1 x V10.

Yep – 35 sounds about right!

#### Australian news

Vincent Day has made the third ascent of one of Australia's hardest routes Mechanical Animals at Boronia Point (Blue Mts) on 18/9. After trying the route earlier in the year, he came back and ticked the route and found it pretty easy! This route now gets the grade of 33.

Jarmila Tyrril has continued a strong few months of climbing redpointing her first (29) Don't Believe the Tripe at Boronia Point.

Monique Forestier redpointed Theda Bara (originally graded 33, after 8 ascents it is now considered from 30-32)...Garth Miller has tidied up a much tried project dubbed Dog Bite (due to a vicious 2 finger undercling), it is now graded 31.

Lee Cossey did the second ascent of Tucker Time (33) following a great trip to Ceuse where he onsighted his first 30.

Ben Cossey followed in his brother's footsteps and later did the 3<sup>rd</sup> ascent of this 33 not long afterwards.

Meanwhile over in Europe (this time in the Frankenjura) resident Victorian Nathan Hoette has climbed eleven 31's and twenty one 30's (including two of them onsight) ...

Sam Berry redpointed Pigs in Space (29/30) at Aliens Domain, Blue Mts.

Rob Lebreton has made a comeback and onsighted Levitation (29) at Centennial Glenn, Freak on a Leash (27) and Lloyd of the Rings (27) both at Bowens Creek.

*As usual, please send any Local News/Trip Reports or other BOLFA material to Greg Rolton at the following address:*

[glasslip@tne.net.au](mailto:glasslip@tne.net.au)

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## Advertiser's Board

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### **MOUNTAIN DESIGNS**

10% discount is available to all CCSA members at Mountain Designs Adelaide store

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## **The Last Word**

**“It is true that climbing one-finger pockets puts a horrendous strain on that finger – however, in the meantime, all the other fingers are spared the stress!”**

*The late Wolfgang Gullich, quoted from the Tilman Hepp book 'A Life in the Vertical – Wolfgang Gullich – A Biography'*