

# The Newsletter

W W W . S O C A L C L I M B . C O M

## LAS VEGAS PHOTOS:

Top Right: New York New York Hotel and Casino.

Below: The view from our hotel room window at Excalibur, 23rd Floor, Tower I.

Bottom Left: Excalibur Hotel and Casino



in, had late breakfasts, and so on. After all that's what vacation is all about. No set schedule, play it by ear, and do what we feel like. We'll climb at Red Rocks some other time.

Short as it was, this little spur of the moment vacation of ours was very enjoyable and relaxing. Yes, it is possible to relax in the city that never sleeps. Just be prepared for a lot of walking and tired feet.

HILDE FONDA  
Joshua Tree, California  
April 2008

## SIN CITY

Sometimes the timing of certain events are less than optimal. This can turn out to be a blessing in disguise.

Robert and I have not really had a vacation in 6 years. For the last 2 years we have been talking about getting away for a couple of days. Maybe a couple of days in Las Vegas.

It so happened that Robert's longtime friend Rick, who lives in Ohio, was flying to Las Vegas for a weeklong business trip at the end of April. Robert had not seen Rick in 6 years, and I had never met him. Financially the timing was, to put it mildly, not the best. It seems like this was the incentive we needed to go ahead with our little vacation plan. We managed to find a relatively good room rate at

Excalibur Hotel & Casino right on the Strip, and right across the street from MGM Grand where Rick was staying. The gas prices are skyrocketing at the moment, but we made it happen. Thanks to my fantastic co-workers and manager at Nomad Ventures I got two days off work at a week's notice.

Robert and I were both excited about the trip and of course looking forward to seeing Rick. He is a wonderful person, - I liked him from the moment I met him. It's easy to understand why Robert and he are such great friends.

We brought climbing gear and a couple of guide books for Red Rocks, with the intention of getting some easy sport climbing routes done. Instead we wandered around the city and the casinos, slept



## KELSO TRAIN STATION REMODELED

The Kelso Depot, as it is officially known, was built in 1924 to serve as a train stop and quarters for crew. The last scheduled passenger train passed through Kelso in 1997.

Kelso was where the Salt Lake Line met the Los Angeles Railroad, and where extra engines were parked. The extra engines were needed

to help getting the trains up the steep grade of the Cima Hills. The location was also perfect as a stop for refreshments for both passengers and then steam engines. Hungry passengers could enjoy a meal at the restaurant, while the steam engines would get a fresh drink of water.



For more information go to: <http://www.nps.gov/moja/historyculture/kelso-depot.htm>