

UP ROPE!

NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

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June 13, 1945

Next Sunday

Will be the scheduled Rock Climbing Event for the month of June, as usual at the

CARDEROCK CLIFFS
June 17, 1945

Early risers will leave the Wisconsin and Van Ness Hot Shoppe at 8:30 A.M., while others will congregate at Carderock at their leisure.

We regret that it was not possible to announce this date in our last issue. However, we trust that enthusiasts will not be discouraged by short notice, and that the weather will be fine and the turnout unprecedented.

Chris Scoredos will lead the Youth Hostellers to Carderock this same day.

West Virginia

Fitz Clark plans to take his station wagon to West Virginia for the June 30 - July 1 weekend, and again in late August. Objective of the trips will be rock climbing; whether under or above ground is yet to be determined.

Persons who are optimistic about the possibilities of getting away on either occasion and who are interested in a chance at Seneca, Champe, or Nelson Rocks, Schoolhouse Cave, Hell Hole, or what have you, should call Fitz, Hobart 1178, to make the necessary arrangements.

The Little Handhold That Isn't There (A-5)

At the eastern tip of Cleft Island, facing the Maryland shore of the Potomac across the estuary, is a large climbing face. The extreme southeastern section of this

face, however, is a 15-foot wall having but one handhold, which, as the name of the climb implies, isn't there at all.

The climb is one of delicate balance and judgment under fire. Quoting from the Rock Climbing Announcement of December 10, 1942: "A few pretences of holds enable the optimist to reach a horizontal seam which he had hoped would afford a handhold. It does not. It is thought that those who went up the rest of the way did so because of the difficulty in coming back down."

After an initial assault which baffled all who attempted the climb, Arthur Lembeck made the initial ascent in 1939. Later Don Hubbard, Sam Moore, and Charlie Daniels made the climb, but as far as we know no other ascents have been completed.

Those who would try to climb it now, however, should be warned that it is located in a restricted military area and will probably not be accessible to climbers until after the war.

Stony Man Chimney (B-4)

Up the main 80-foot cliffs west of the summit of Big Stony Man Mountain on the Blue Ridge is a conspicuous chimney, leading from the bottom to the top of the cliffs.

The climb is spectacular and impressive, with severe exposure, but does not require difficult climbing. The first 25 or 30 feet is climbed in the chimney, after which the climber moves out on the face with the expansive feeling that the whole state of Virginia is spread out beneath him. After a short pitch on the face, the angle of the rock recedes, and the climber scrambles without difficulty to the top.

To Marshall Wood goes the credit for the first ascent, for he,

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about 1930, climbed the chimney unroped. It was not climbed again until 1941, when Chris Scoredos made the second ascent, followed by many others. However the climb has never been led since the original ropeless ascent.

Last, while others scrambled unroped. To finish the day several climbers made their way in and out of Eleanor's Cave.

June 10, 1945

Rock climbers scattered to widely separated climbing grounds this Sunday, on three trips--to Buzzard Rock, Great Falls, and Carderock.

Ups and Downs

June 3, 1945

Chris Scoredos	Leland Sosman
Helen Scoredos	Mrs. Sosman
Betty Kauffman	Barbara Sosman
Andy Kauffman	L. B. Heilprin
Flora Lee Hass	

Don Hubbard	Marian Churchill
Fitz Clark	Dorothy Haggerman
Mary Judy	A.L. Robertson
Sam Moore	Steve Yurenka
Chuck Haworth	Dolores Alley

Most of the usual climbs at Carderock were ascended or at least attempted by this enthusiastic group. The Spider Walk and the Jackknife received special attention. Sterling's Key Climb was climbed by our chairman both with and without the key; he says there's nothing to it. The homeward trek began about 4 o'clock. Chris met his wife on the towpath, and the two Scoredoses finished the day on the Camp Lewis Rocks.

This Sunday's station wagon trip found itself at Buzzard Rock amidst a continuous roar of 17-year locusts. The scenery was especially beautiful to the taste, judging from the reported raspberry and huckleberry flavors. The climbing of the day was done in the best approved and scientific manner--both down and up. Don led the first team down a promising crack with piton support. Meanwhile Chuck, Sam, and others located the El Capitán Jr. Climb, a 60-foot vertical face with a few holes for holds and a layback crack, which only Steve got high enough to find wasn't big enough for fingers; the complete first ascent was kindly left for Jam Crack Joe. A few misadventures were met with: Dolores sprained her side coming down the first crack, in Don's team. Fitz, coming down as last man took a tumble on top of Marian, who was somewhat bruised. And later Marian finished the list of accidents by falling on a lead. Everyone came out able to walk away, however, and the day was considered a good one.

Don Hubbard	Sterling Hendricks
Arnold Wexler	Steve Yurenka
Eleanor Tatge	Honeylou Kundin
Peggy Beale	Chuck Haworth
Herb Conn	Jan Conn
David Pruddon	Dolores Alley
Bill House	John Case
Libbie Mason	

Herb Conn	Arnold Wexler
Jimmy Maxwell	Eleanor Tatge
Christine Behrenberg	Helen Scoredos
Jan Conn	

Don led off by throwing down a rope over the corkscrew climb for Honeylou. After she finished several folks tried the crack climb beside it. Don, Dave, and Steve worked out upon Juliet's Balcony and the high face above the George Washington Canal. Jan, saftied by her second and third men, Eleanor and Herb, made a primary lead of a slick rock slope of Sterling's, up which the climber uses a wicked fingers-in-crack technique, feet on wall, rump essentially unattached. Sterling, Arnold, and Steve walked downstream and traversed along the cliffs back toward their friends. One of the highlights of their teamwork came after lunch when Arnold climbed the first pitch and Steve completed the ascent of an overhanging crack. The difficulty of the climb is apparent from the fact that experts Sterling and Dolores fell into the rope.

Another Great Falls expedition got under way to the tune of 7 in a single seater coupe. The day was beautiful in spite of a threatening shower which never developed. One team--Herb, Jimmy, Christy, and Jan--started traversing upstream from the Corkscrew Climb; the second--Arnold, Eleanor, and Helen--started off downstream. The upstream rope ended their traverse high on a face under one overhang and above another, with no apparent

Jan, Herb and Chuck climbed the Sornice Climb at Laurence's



"You've gained weight, Myrtle!"

route in any direction except back. The downstream rope soon hit a snag when Eleanor, trying a hand traverse, landed in the damp Potomac, shortly followed by Helen. Whereupon the girls, joined by Christy, took a swim across the river and back while their clothes spread out on the rocks, dried (?) a little. After lunch Helen climbed a delicate traverse which the first team had located, and later in the day Jimmy and Jan made the hand traverse that had spilled the second team in the morning. Among other interesting events were a fancy chimney climb which Jan led for the first time, followed on the rope by Helen, and a spectacular boat rescue Arnold made with the advice and assistance of Jan and Eleanor, to keep Helen from a second ducking when she tried the hand traverse again.

Andy Kauffman Harriet Hulbert
Betty Kauffman Lee Sosman

Wet rocks and mud under foot made climbing at Carderock slippery and uninviting. The four spent the morning climbing on the main group of rocks, where Harriet pioneered a layback route just left of the Beginner's Crack, up which the others followed.

In the afternoon drier and more exciting climbing was found on the Outlook Rock group, where Harriet made a successful but unique crossing of Arthur's Traverse.

The climbers at Carderock received word of the climbing going on at Great Falls from canoeists on their way from the Falls to Washington.

In Town on Leave

Sam Moore came home on Thursday for a surprise visit. After a short leave he will return to his station at Walker Army Air Field, Victoria, Kansas.

Last month Sam found himself with time to explore a little of the Colorado Rockies. After a climb in the high country near Camp Hale, he visited Colorado Springs and the Pikes Peak neighborhood, with a trip through the Cave of the Winds and rock climbing in the Garden of the Gods.

Culinary Note

For the benefit of rattlesnake eating enthusiasts, Chris Scoredos informs us that steeping the meet in water to which a half teaspoonful of baking soda has been added, and leaving it over night, greatly improves the flavor.