



NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

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Founders

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FIVE CENTS A COPY

Notice of Meeting

A meeting of the Rock Climbers will be held at the home of the Fitzhugh Clarkes on Chestnut Street in Gaithersburg, Maryland, on Saturday, December 18, at 8:00 P.M., at which time Pim and Ken Karcher will show their slides taken on their trip to the Columbia Ice Field and glacier, British Columbia, last summer.

Ups and Downs

Sunday, October 31

Great Falls, Maryland

Art Lembeck
Win Lembeck
Dave Waddington
Bernard Weitz

Don Hubbard
Dave Appel
Helen Scoredos
Eric Scoredos

Andy Kaufmann
Betty Kaufmann
Chris Scoredos
Dick Goldman

Climbing started a short distance downstream from the Falls on a crack which had been unsuccessfully attempted as a Grade 4 (no pitons) for a number of years. It was successfully completed as a tension climb. Late in the afternoon the group working on this feat was joined by other climbers working nearby and by Helen and Eric. Helen had not been watching previous attempts to make the climb with a belay from above which had followed the tension work. She attacked the climb with a great deal of vigor, and although she fell about six inches from the top, she had found the key to the problem and both Chris and Art made the ascent by her well-pioneered route. The day was rounded out on a nearby face.

Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 30 & 31

Monroe County, West Virginia

John Meenahan
Nancy Rogers

Abbie Hammack
Helen Cimbawisty

Harold Drewes
Howard Watkins
Ted Schad

Meeting at Gap Mills, West Virginia, on Saturday morning, a large cave on the Patton farm was investigated. Passing up the obvious entrance at the head of the valley, from whence issues the Middle Fork of Second Creek, the cave was entered thru a dry entrance at the bottom of a sink hole just over the hill from the water exit. In a trip of about 7 hours thru the cave a distance of well over a mile was penetrated, involving scrambling over, under, and around rock falls, as well as long stretches of easy passageways. Numerous side passages were explored, while a great many promising ones were saved for the next visit. Lateness of the hour forced the party to withdraw without having penetrated the farthest reaches of the cave. The cave has many formations and is worthy of further exploration and mapping.

After camping overnight on the Patton farm, on Sunday the party went north thru Union and Sinks Grove to Fort Spring, where a dirt road along the bank of the Greenbrier River led to the workings of the Acme Stone quarry. The cars were left here, and a short walk down the main line of the C. & O. brought the group to the entrance to Jewell Cave in the cliff above the train tracks. A large passageway led back into the hill. The highlight of the trip was a forty-foot glissade down slippery mud. After pursuing the main passageway to its end, the party retraced its steps, and several side passages were explored. The most promising of these involved a 100-yard crawl by Harold and Ted, and was abandoned before the end was reached because the main party had already left the cave.

Sunday, November 7, 1948

Carderock, Md.

Arnold Wexler
Dolores Alley
Betty Alley

Chris Scoredos
Don Hubbard
Dick Goldman

Harold Drewes
Anna Tibbet
Eleanor Tatge

With only one car available, Dick's 2-seater British M.G. roadster the group visited Carderock, where many of the favorite climbs were patronized. Dolores and Arnold found Arnold's Arduous Ascent agreeable, and others climbed on the Spiderwalk, Ronnie's Leap, and in the vicinity of the Beginners' Crack.

Thursday to Sunday, Nov. 11 to 14

Hell Hole & Schoolhouse Cave;
Baker Rock

Alfred Owyang
Bill Kemper
Leo Scott

Bernard Weitz
Roger Williams
Art Lembeck
Wyn Lembeck

Dave Waddington
Tom Culverwell
Stell Culverwell
Chuck Bardswell

Lowell Bennett
Arnold Wexler
Harold Drewes

On Thursday a party of eight descended into Hell Hole thru the small opening in the center of the rock bridge spanning the cave

entrance. Arnold preferred to make the descent as a 165-foot free rappel through one of the larger openings. Leo Scott and Tom Culver-ell each led a group thru the cave, and penetrated the Little Hell Hole. During the afternoon a new connecting passageway and an 80-ft. well were found. The group emerged at 2:00 a.m. the following morning. Early that morning John Meenahan and Jack Wilson visited the group, and, finding the entire party asleep, decided they preferred a more strenuous life, and headed for Pennsylvania.

When the group finally awakened, Arnold led Dave Jaddington, Leo Scott, and Harold Dreyes into Schoolhouse Cave and a few hours were spent climbing in the wells and around the big room. On Saturday a larger party of seven, again led by Arnold, were forced to re-enter Schoolhouse Cave because of the bad weather. During this more extensive visit the Sand room was penetrated and the End room, then back to the Hodag and Thunderbolt rooms by way of the Judgment Seat ladder. A new passageway leading off from the bottom of the Hodag room was discovered, but a shortage of carbide and a yearning for rest after more than 12 hours of strenuous activity made it inadvisable to explore further, and reluctantly the party turned back. Harold reported the rappel from the Judgment Seat quite thrilling. Bones found by the cavers were identified by the Smithsonian Institution as belonging to a woodchuck, a rabbit, and a deer. Their presence in the cave is unexplained.

On Sunday the promise of better weather led some of the group to Baker Rock, where they arrived at 2 p.m., just as the group who had come up from Washington on Saturday were leaving. Art led Arnold and Harold up the long chimney that ends well up on the ridge of the southern pinnacle. The climb was completed along the ridge, and the climbers were rewarded by a glorious sunset.

Saturday & Sunday, Nov. 13 & 14

Baker Rock

Andy Kaufmann
Betty Kaufmann

Donald Hubbard
Dick Goldman

Ted Schad

Leaving Washington early Saturday morning in a torrential down-pour, the party was rewarded by clearing weather by the time Front Royal was reached. Arriving at Baker Rock at about 11 a.m., the northern set of pinnacles was inspected, and Don led Dick to the top of the one just above the north gap, then proceeded to make a traverse of the ridge (note: this is not the main Baker Rock, but its continuation north of the gap at its northern extremity). As it was quite windy, Betty, Andy, and Ted scrambled around on the lee side of the rock, and then hiked to the top of South Fork Mountain, or Elkhorn Mountain, as it is known here.

After more than 12 hours sleep in a huge pile of leaves, the party awakened to a fine sunny day. While Don led Dick up a climb on the face just below the highest point of Baker Rock, by the use of numerous pitons for safety, the others, still preferring warm sunshine, climbed to the summit of the rock and enjoyed the view. All

too soon it was time to leave, and the party returned to the car for lunch.

Sunday, November 14

Carderock, Maryland

Chris Scoredos
Eric Scoredos
Helen Scoredos

Jane Showacre
John Reed

Eleanor Tatge
Doug Price

Principle assault of the day was Elsie's Edge Face, with the Friction Layback following. While Eleanor and John took turns at belaying, the Edge Face was successfully climbed by Doug, Chris, John, Helen, and Jane. The Friction Layback was made first by Chris, then in modified form by Doug and Jane. Other climbs were played around with in the usual haphazard manner of well-known, friendly old Carderock.

Sunday, Nov. 21, 1948

Bull Run Mountains

Donald Hubbard
Richard Goldman
Francis Bittinger

Harold Drewes
Eleanor Tatge
Pim Karcher
Ken Karcher

Andy Kaufmann
Betty Kaufmann
Arthur Lembeck
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Dolores Alley
Ted Schad
Chris Scoredos

After breakfast at the A & W, we were off for the Bull Run mountains leaving two empty cars behind us, transportation was that lush. The weather was perfect. Almost before the stragglers had arrived at the cliffs, Harold, Arnold, Art, and Dick had completed the ascent of the Bull Run Overhang (A-1). The others prudently decided to wait until the afternoon sun had warmed the rocks before attempting it. Several ropes of climbers swarmed up, thru, over, and around Zeus' Throne. Because of our late start, lunch hour soon arrived.

After lunch, several attempts were made on Sterling's Corner (A-2) with Arnold and Chris successfully completing the climb. Just to the south, in the meantime, Art led a team across a traverse close under an overhang, using two pitons for protection. After Chris removed the pitons, Dick tried the climb with a belay from above. The group then moved to Sterling's Little Quartz Slab (B-1). Then Arnold, Harold, Art, and Dick arranged an aerial traverse over to Peak Gambs.

The outstanding feat of the day was engineered by Don Hubbard at Charlie's Crack. Climbing with double rope tension, Pim and Ken belaying, he put in pitons up half the Crack. Then Eleanor and Ken belayed as Pim climbed up and put in a high piton. After Dolores, Ken, and Chris each made an unsuccessful effort to finish the climb, Don finally made the top himself amidst a breathless and awed silence below him.

November 28

Carderock, Md.

Chris Scoredos
Eleanor Tatge
Harold Drewes

Don Hubbard
June Mosburg
Earl Mosburg

Arnold Wexler
Andy Kaufmann
Betty Kaufmann

In the morning while Andy and Betty went for a walk Chris, Arnold, and Harold struggled with the Friction Layback and Chris' Goat, and Earl, Eleanor, June, and Don roped up for the Wex-Don traverse. A gentle rain set in about noon and all parties made for the Buckets of Blood Chimney for lunch. The end of the lunch hour was enlivened by handfuls of hailstones and sleet thrown into the chimney from above as a boyish prank, to slither gently down the necks of those lunchers still within.

Sunday, December 4

Sugar Loaf Mountain

Don Hubbard
Dolores Alley
Betty Alley

Chris Scoredos
Jane Showacre
Harold Drewes

Arthur Lembeck
Helen Townsend
Eleanor Tatge

Andy Kaufmann
Betty Kaufmann

On a rather misty morning the group rode up to Sugar Loaf Mt. in Chris' and Arthur's cars. They climbed to the lookout tower by the trail, then on to the rocks overlooking the trail on the north. Here a girls' team made a piton traverse led by Jane and cheered on while beginners and advanced groups practiced nearby. In the afternoon some spectacular grade 5 climbing near and on the Cave Climb on the cliffs south of the trail was accomplished to the tune of much piton hammering, punctuated by no little excitement when, as we understand it, one of the climbers pried an essential part of the cliff off with his piton, which necessitated rescuing a marooned party with a rope ladder.

Notes

Steve Yurenka reports his new address as 55 Shore Drive, Winthrop, Massachusetts. He is to be married on December 9.

How is your nylon climbing rope holding out? These gorgeous, pure white, silken threads of life are to be secured from Chris Scoredos.