



## NEWS OF THE WASHINGTON ROCK CLIMBERS

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### THE BIG QUESTION

In order to promote a clear understanding of the governmental change now under discussion with reference to the Washington rock climbing group UP ROPE is publishing the following three articles, two by Potomac Appalachian Trail Club members Jo and Paul Bradt, who advocate that the rock climbers continue their association with the Trail Club as a Committee of that organization, one by a non-Trail Club member, Herb Conn, advocating complete separation from that organization.

### BACKGROUND

By Josephine Bradt, Secretary Washington Rock Climbers

Years ago Paul Bradt asked the Trail Club to form a rock climbing committee. Tho the then President of the Trail Club opposed the idea, the council (consisting of the other officers and committee chairmen) voted unanimously in favor of such an action. The President set up no such committee; so after a few months waiting Paul got together a dozen Trail Club members interested in mountaineering and asked them what to do. Since the same man had been Trail Club President for something like thirteen years and still looked quite healthy, the group advised forming a separate organization.

This was done in May 1941, the group later becoming known as the Washington Rock Climbers. A few months later the perennial Trail Club President went into the armed services. One of the first acts of the new incumbent was to ask Paul to form a Rock Climbing Committee. Paul explained that a separate group already existed in which the rock climbing head was elected, and that such an arrangement was preferable to one in which he was appointed. After a brief discussion it was decided that the custom could be followed of appointing the elected head of the Washington Rock Climbers to the office of Trail Club Rock Climbing Chairman. Paul was accordingly also given the office of Chairman of the Trail Club Rock Climbing Committee. In order to have a Trail Club Committee over which to be chairman, he asked a half dozen Trail Club climbers if he might put their names under his on the official list of committees. This was done, and the custom has been adhered to also by the next two Trail Club presidents and the next three rock climbing heads.

Voting. The Washington Rock Climbers had been organized less than a year when they adopted as a qualification for voting the requirement that the voter must have made at least two of a list of difficult (A) qualifying climbs in the year, excepting that two climbs from an easier list (B climbs) might be substituted for one of the difficult ones. On following years voting qualifications might be maintained by climbing as little as one climb from either list. This limitation on the ballot was to prevent the group ultimately becoming dominated by inactive "old grads" who might prefer congenial teas to cliffs. A further limitation was placed on the ballot July 1, 1945, limiting the vote of members admitted after that date to members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club. This was an expression of the desire to later become affiliated with that Club.

An Issue Arises. No formal limitations were placed on the qualifications of the head man. It was generally recognized that he couldn't expect to sit on the Trail Club governing council unless he belonged to that club. However, when Jan and Herb Conn came back to town last fall, their admirers felt that this defect was insignificant compared with their other qualifications; and accordingly elected Herb head man despite the fact that he didn't belong to the Trail Club. After the election he showed no inclination to join. This thwarted the desire of the Trail Club President to head the Trail Club Committee with a person of our choosing. It brought the Trail Club officers face to face with the fact that the rock climbing group had outgrown the time when they could be treated on paper as tho they were just another committee. Victor Howard, Trail Club President, discussed the situation with the Rock Climbers at an open meeting Jan. 19. Two solutions seemed possible: one, a complete separation of the Washington Rock Climbers from the Trail Club; the other, the discovery of a workable relationship between them that both groups would accept.

Hunt for a Relationship. To explore the latter possibility, Jan and Herb Conn, Sterling Hendricks, Arnold Wexler, and Paul Bradt met with Art and Winn Lembeck. It was there decided that the best workable relationship between the groups would be that of a semi-autonomous self-governing rock climbing section of the Trail Club. At Vic Howard's request, Arnold, Sterling, Art and Paul met at his home to discuss this proposal with some of the Trail Club officers. The results of this discussion were sufficiently encouraging to warrant presenting a motion to the Trail Club Council March 14, establishing such a semi-autonomous relationship. There was considerable discussion in which the motion was supported by Art Lembeck, Leo Scott, and other officers in the council, and by Arnold Wexler, Sterling Hendricks, and Paul Bradt, present by invitation. The motion was carried 25 to 1, and was presented for your information in the last UP ROPE.

The Motion. This Motion discontinues the Trail Club Rock Climbing Committee (which last year consisted of Arnold Wexler, Paul Bradt, Sterling Hendricks, Don Hubbard, Art Lembeck, John Reed, Chris Scoredos, and Helen Scoredos). In place of this Committee it provides for the establishment of a semi-autonomous group called a Mountaineering Committee, having the privilege, like the Sierra Club, Los Angeles Rock Climbing Section, of electing its own head. This is a full official acceptance by the Trail Club of the basic organizational features the rock climbers had been working toward. The motion also limits the vote to Trail Club members. As pointed out above, this

is the limitation which the Washington Rock Climbers voluntarily imposed upon themselves since 1945, excepting that we had not imposed the limitation on the few non-Trail Club climbers belonging to the group before July 1945.

Do We Want It? It is now our turn to vote on whether such a semi-autonomous relationship with the Trail Club is what we want. While the qualifications for voting described above have not been changed, it is desired to know the feelings of everyone on this question. If the general vote indicates that the qualified voters are of an opinion differing from the rest of the group, they will be asked to reconsider. So send in your ballot. If you don't, you can't complain if you are surprised by the result!

#### STATEMENT FAVORING TRAIL CLUB AFFILIATION By Paul Bradt

The Trail Club motion, by being brief, may have sounded high-handed to some. Those who have read the Secretary's statement of background will realize that the opposite is the case. The motion was an outcome of the work of a half dozen rock climbers who wanted to preserve the advantages of Trail Club affiliation and yet retain the maximum amount of self-government possible. If the Trail Club had wanted to be high-handed they would certainly not have considered such a motion until we had voted that it would be acceptable to us. Their willingness to "stock their necks out" with such an offer is a result of a belief that they are offering what we want. Nothing in the proposed arrangement will change the informality of our trips, either as to transportation arrangements or freedom of movement. Not will it hamper the hospitality felt by rock climbers for newcomers of any kind. Indeed, the proposed arrangement with the PATC is almost that which we have voluntarily followed informally for years. If you don't like the group that developed under that arrangement, you should vote opposing Trail Club affiliation.

The Changes. It is noted in the Trail Club motion that vote within the Committee would be limited to Trail Club members. This is not a significant change. The rock climbers have voluntarily imposed this same limitation on their voting privilege since 1945, exempting only those who had joined before that date. Really, the only significant change brought about by the adoption of the Trail Club motion would be the limitation of the rock climbing chairmanship to P.A.T.C. members. This certainly is logical if the group is to be a Trail Club Committee.

The fact that Herb Conn is not a Trail Club member need not in itself influence anyone's decision. He could join the Trail Club if he wished. Nor do I think he would want anyone to vote against Trail Club affiliation as a courtesy to him. If you think that the future of the Rock Climbing group is better assured by Trail Club affiliation, he wants you to tell him so by your vote for affiliation. If you think it is better assured by independence from the Trail Club, I want you to so vote.

The Trail Club. However, independence from the Trail Club is independence from the largest mountaineering group in the East south of New York and Chicago--a group that has shown that it is sympathetic



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to rock climbing whenever the issue has come to a vote or whenever the rock climbers presented a program to them. The Trail Club includes 36 of our rock climbing members (out of 74--Ed.) and to these climbers they have been so gracious that no rock climber has dropped his Trail Club membership while he still paid rock climbing dues and otherwise showed that he hadn't dropped rock climbing to the same extent. This grace on the part of Trail Club members isn't put on, but originates in the fact that many who wouldn't allow themselves to be tied in a rope still feel an inner kinship for climbers of rocks. Many of our climbers first heard of us from the Trail Club; and we can properly hope to meet good climbers in the future through the Trail Club membership.

Affiliates. The proposed arrangement also provides for non-Trail Club affiliates. These are simply the non-Trail Club climbers that we are so glad to have coming out with us now. The word "affiliate" connotes only closeness (meaning literally "to adopt as a son") and no one should feel displeased to find himself regarded as such. Any rock climber that would prefer to be a voting member can join the Trail Club. (I will volunteer to handle the tough cases. Terms now effective: Success or double your money back). Those that don't want to join the Trail Club cannot complain of the title. They have the best of company. John Meenehan feels too wrapped up in the Speleological Society to join. Jan and Herb Conn are cut of town most of the time and wouldn't get their money's worth. Andy and Betty Kauffman have sold their hearts to the Harvard Mountaineering Club, compared to which the local group is away down the social scale. Others doubtless have other reasons just as good. We do not enquire what the reasons are. We are just glad to have them with us.

Advantages. Affiliation would end the unnatural existence of two organizations (The Washington Rock Climbers and the Trail Club Rock Climbing Committee) functioning as one. With the status clarified, fuller use can be made of the Trail Club facilities.

Specifically promised is a permanent mailing address at the Trail Club office and a telephone number. Also to be gained would be a place to keep group records. These things have been sadly lacking during the period we have just passed through. Out of town friends and sporting goods dealers have not found it easy to keep up with the names and addresses of all our chairmen and editors. When we ourselves shall have been out of town a few years, we too will be glad to know an address to send friends to, or to come back to ourselves in case of a visit to Washington. It seems highly doubtful if the rock climbers could independently provide such conveniences themselves; and if they tried you may be sure they would have to charge dues much higher than the \$4.00 a year that the Trail Club costs.

Other advantages doubtless will develop through use of the Trail Club owned office. One will be a place where a store of pitons, karabiners and edge nails can be kept available for anyone wishing to examine hardware before he buys. Also one can dream at least of a stock of new nylon climbing rope on the shelf available for purchase at cost.

Do We Need a New Chairman? To be sure, we will need a new chairman upon affiliation with the Trail Club (unless Herb changes his mind and joins the PATC). But I guess we'd have to do it any way



unless Herb and Jan give up their plans to return to their property in the Black Hills this summer. I doubt if Herb would expect to function very well from such a distance. I accordingly suggest that you eliminate one step from all of this business by nominating a new Chairman on your ballot too. If it turns out no vacancy occurs, such a nomination will have done no harm. Be sure to send it in whether you are a qualified voter or not. Herb might decide that your opinion is as important as mine.

# IN SUPPORT OF AN INDEPENDENT CLIMBING GROUP

By Herb Conn

While our minds are turned to history, let's consider a few historical facts. The founders of the Rock Climbing Group were with one exception Trail Club members. When they voted in May 1941 in favor of becoming a Trail Club Committee, it seemed natural that they would fit easily into the Trail Club structure.

In the years that followed the percentage of non-Trail Club members among the rock climbers increased markedly. At that time there was no voting restriction except the familiar qualifying climbs, and those with legal minds began to worry because non-Trail Club voters were casting votes for the Rock Climbing Chairman--a PATC officer.

In 1944 Don Hubbard decided to settle the matter in his own way. After being reelected as Rock Climbing Chairman he instructed the Trail Club President to appoint Chris Scoredos as Chairman of the PATC Rock Climbing Committee. This, in effect, might have demonstrated that there were actually two officers and two groups; but instead, it was put down as a Hubbardism and allowed to ride for the remainder of the year.

To our legally minded friends, however, clarification seemed more necessary than ever. There resulted the ballot cast May 1945, by which it was decided by a vote of 10 to 8 to limit the voting privileges to Trail Club members except for those non-members who belonged to the group already (who presumably would die off, move out of town, or join the Trail Club sooner or later).

Thus to Trail Club enthusiasts the way seemed again clear to an eventual complete union with the Trail Club, but again the active group did not cooperate. PATC membership among the active group has dropped to one-third, as shown by counting names of those participating on rock climbing trips reported in UP ROPE during the past year. Only 6 out of 18 who attended 15 or more trips, only 10 of 29 with 10 or more trips to their credit, are Trail Club members. Moreover, for the first time in their history the rock climbers have elected a non-Trail Club member for their Chairman. (Author's note: Although I appreciate Jo's kind words implying that the group desired to honor me with the position so much that all rules were set aside in my behalf, I cannot agree that this was the case. I distinctly recall that several non-Trail Club members were nominated for the post. The rules were set aside rather because of a shortage of Trail Club candidates and a prevailing attitude of "What's the difference, anyway")

Organizations develop naturally through the mutual interests and activity of their members. It is significant that the Rock Climbers have grown inevitably away from the Trail Club, and the trend will not likely change no matter what official action is taken.

Editor's Note: We are not neutral in this discussion. To us it seems grossly unfair that the principles of Liberty, Equality, and Fraternity should continue to be abridged by those of us who belong to a sister club with entirely different aims from our own: Liberty--more than one-half of our membership cut off from the opportunity of government participation unless they subsidize the sister club with \$4.00 a year apiece; Equality--two thirds of our most active climbers assigned to a second-rate classification--because they don't belong to a hiking club; Fraternity--all our efforts to treat newcomers as one of us directly and without distinction (which is certainly one of the real charms of our group) minimized by the fact that we can't offer them real membership without the approval of the Trail Club Council.

Ballots are now being prepared for distribution in the near future. Your own honest opinion is what the leaders of the group are looking for now. Give 'em your best!

#### UPS AND DOWNS

Art Lembeck	Dick Goldman	Joe Walsh	Tave Dalati
Arnold Wexler	Marion Harvey	Margaret Dilmit	George Riley
Peg Keister	Becky Clarke	Flora Cathell	Jeanette Currier
Jan Conn	Mrs. Harvey	Fred Merchant	Larry Currier
Herb Conn	Dave Cable	Mary Merchant	Liz Powell
Dolores Alley	Charlie Gallant	Bobby Merchant	Frank Patson
Tony Soler	Norman Goldstein	Pat Merchant	

March 25 to 26. Philadelphia Trip. For these two days the cliffs along the Tohickan Creek rang out with the pounding of pitons from the several different leads usually in progress. It was somewhat disconcerting, however, to have footholds break to pieces, handholds disintegrate, and piton cracks slab off. The weatherman was on our side, fortunately; it rained going up, it started to rain just as we returned, but there was no rain at all during our stay, and the sun even broke through for most of Sunday morning.

We received a rousing welcome from Liz, and after a quick lunch joined Joe, Tave, George, and Frank who were already climbing high above the creek. On Saturday evening we had a big songfest and toasted marshmallows before a large fireplace. Jan led the singing, and when we ran out of songs carried on alone.

Starting a piton lead with insufficient equipment, Norman, Tony, and Dick soon learned the difficulties involved, as the former led the other two over a tricky pitch with only two carabiners and an insufficient selection of hardware on Sunday morning. Arnold and Art were forced to scamper off an interesting climb when a shower came up Sunday afternoon, but it was time to leave anyway. The spaghetti dinner on the way back doesn't bear mentioning, except that Tony was fortunate he didn't order any.

Andy Kauffman	Mary Sturgeon	Duncan Burchard
Betty Kauffman	Sue Hughes	Paul Gilbert
Warren Coonrad	Susie Moore	Lowell Bennett
	Ray Moore	Eleanor Tatge

March 26. An intensive day at Carderock was started off by vigorous instruction of beginners by Andy and Ray on Beginner's Corner and the Beginners' Climb respectively. A light sprinkle of rain



groomed up the handholds and footholds in such an interesting fashion that part of the group set off for a sightseeing trip to Great Falls leaving only the die-hards--Ray, Susie, Duncan, Paul, and Eleanor-- on the rocks. After some more warming up, these (except Susie) teamed up for the first part of the Chris-Wex-Don. After lunch climbing was continued in the same area. Lowell Bennett turned up about the time Ray and Susie left, and after working on the face to the right of the Golden Stairs, the group moved to the area of the Stretch and Meanehan's Staircase.

Joe Wilkerson	Lowell Bennett	Marion Harvey	Johnny Reed
George Kamm	Jan Conn	Don Hubbard	Paul Gilbert
Jane Showacre	Herb Conn	Boy Scouts	Mary Sturgeon
Eleanor Tatge	Susie Moore	Ken Karcher	Charlie Gallant
Setembrino Petri	Conrad Grenfelder	Bud Warner	Duncan Burchard
		Ray Moore	

April 2. Probably the main feature of the day was Marion's lead of the entire Chris-Wex-Don traverse with a capable and willing team. Apparently a good time was had by all judging from the lateness of their return for lunch. The day was especially beautiful, resulting in such intense activity that just about all the climbs on the



rain cliffs were attempted at one time or another. Herbie proved himself still master of Herbie's Horror; everyone else who tried it produced more grunts than upward movement. Jannie walked neatly up the Spider Walk without batting an eye-lash. And one venturesome team your reporter knows of thoroly enjoyed Margie's Chimney--just to mention a few highlights.

Roger Foster	Norman Goldstein	Herb Conn	George Kamm
Roger Foster Jr.	Marion Warmold	Setembrino Petri	Jane Showacre
Charlie Gallant	Marion Harvey	Eleanor Tatge	Sam Brown
	F.N. McNamara		

April 8 and 9. Arriving at the Old Rag leanto in the rain, it took considerable fortitude to shoulder sleeping bags and provisions and start up the mountain, but we did, Saturday afternoon. The rain stopped, and we met Norman and the two Marions on top for dinner, cooked over individual alcohol stoves built of rocks with tin can fuel containers filled from the gallon can of alcohol toted up for the occasion. The Fosters, Herb Setembrino, Marion Harvey and Eleanor slept on top, presumably to see the Easter sunrise. Most of us were fairly chilly. Norman's group had, at dinner, introduced us to a recruit from England and Nigeria, McNamara, encountered on the mountain anxious to climb. They had arrived early Saturday and explored White Oak Canyon before climbing Old Rag.

Sunday was spent in the Reflecting Oven where several climbs were worked on and much scrambling done, and where the group was joined for lunch by Charlie and Sam. Probably the most difficult and most interesting of the climbs was a ticklish traverse culminating in a jam-crack chimney affair tackled by Herb, Marion H., and Norm, and I believe made by all, after an assortment of false starts, groans, stops for shifting of belays, more groans, and various complaints referring to anatomical stresses and strains.

A mishap had good Knight Norm spending a considerable portion of Sunday hunting a maiden in distress; Marion Warmold never found the Reflecting Oven because one of the signs left for her was molested.

Don Hubbard	Cherling King	Lowell Bennett
Peg Keister	Arnold Wexler	Chris Scoredos

April 9. The Hot Shoppe group went out to Anglers' Inn, stopping at an outcrop across from Cupid's Bower on the Canal, where Don rigged up a traverse led by Peg. Then they worked on down to Wide Water where the Conning Tower (a man-made climb; i.e., artificially constructed) was ascended by Chris in the style of a rope-climber, by Arnold with a lay-back. Next climbs were made on rock faces opposite Cupid's Bower, where Stimmy and his family were met, and an aerial traverse was set up to accommodate a man and his son who wanted to go to the Bower. Later Don set up a terrific piton lead above the Purple Horse stepping on his own pitons for direct aid, and causing Arnold to break into ecstatic eulogies in reporting the event. Arnold found that to follow Don's lead required a pendulum technique on the rope!

Joe Wilkerson	Bud Warner	Suzie Moore
Sparky Wilkerson	Ruby Warner	Duncan Purchard
	Lance Warner	Ray Moore

April 9. A third climbing group carried on at Carderock as Sparky, Ruby and Lance (age 1 yr.) were introduced to its delights for the first time. Ray skinned up his knees good re-climbing Leonard's Lunacy just to prove that the first time he did it was no accident. Duncan displayed his talent by negotiating Arthur's Traverse (you need two more classified climbs, Duncan; to be voted into the Rock Climbing Club; and then, it is urged in some quarters, to be approved of by the Trail Club Council and pay your Trail Club initiation and dues. After that you are really in! In the meantime you had best not let on if you don't like to hike or to clear trails; the Council might not approve.) The girls worked mainly on the Beginners' Climb and Jan's Face, which Suzie climbed after Joe had gotten a cramp half way up. Duncan finished the day with an attempt on the Spider Walk.

Before going further we'd best catch up on an omission here. Unfortunately the last issue of UP ROPE missed out on receiving notice of an intended trip to Wolf Gap made the week end of April 2, so that the party may have been smaller than expected. Included were:

Art Lembeck	Peg Keister	Irene Posner
Win Lembeck	Harald Drewes	Arnold Wexler

Harald and Irene were Easter vacationing from school. They were met at Strasbourg Friday night, March 31. Saturday Big Schloss was visited, and Sunday the climbing took place at Devil's Gardens.

Marion Harvey	Ken Karcher	Petty Kauffman	Duncan Burchard
Eleanor Tatge	Pim Karcher	Andy Kauffman	Lowell Bennett
Sam Brown	Leo Scott	Jan Conn	Maxine Haleff
Charlie Gallant	Sterline King	Herb Conn	Don Hubbard
			Mary Mitchell

April 16. The Hot Shoppe group parked their cars at Anglers' Inn and set out for Cupid's Bower. At the first good outcrop along the Canal beyond the Widewater Break, part of the group made a halt to assist Don and his amateurs in a lead, while the remainder moved on to cross over to Cupid's Bower Island. On the Island they stopped at the first likely-looking cliff, facing the River, and spent the morning testing every possible foothold on the face, including some impossible ones leading to at least one really hair-raising route pioneered by Herb. Here Sam Brown and Eleanor Tatge initiated the swimming season in the cool clear green waters of the Potomac (yes, we mean this literally). Meanwhile Don's party moved upstream beyond the Island to a jutting rock headland with a big crack through it over which was set up an aerial traverse. Great excitement was caused when Don, swinging out on the ropes to test them pulled out the biton at his end and found himself--no, not crushed to bits on the bottom of the crack--but hanging between his belayers fore and aft. Cameras clicked happily as some of the more brightly dressed members of the group followed him, after the piton was more satisfactorily anchored. Various climbing near by completed one of the loveliest days of the season.

### Inside Corner

Monday, April 3, after supper a select group gathered at the home of Irene Posner to see kodachromes of Harald Drewes' Alaska voyage last summer with the Geological Survey, and those who hadn't been able to attend Arnold Wexler's PATC lecture were given the pleasure of seeing also his Cariboo slides. Ice cream was plentiful and delicious.

"The Big Hike" of PATC the week-end of April 15-16 was attended by the following members of the rock climbing group: Peg Keister, Arnold Wexler, Norman Goldstein, Art Lembeck, Win Lembeck, Bill Kemper, Ben Gurnley, Ray Moore, Susie Moore, Pat Moore, and Mike Moore. Art and Bill hiked from Swift Run Gap to Compton Gap, 56 miles, in two days. Peg Keister did 45 miles, Norman 43 miles, Arnold about 23. Art has written an article about it which will appear in our next issue.

Jan Conn's stage career is perking right along. Saturday night April 23, she is emceeing at the Hill Billy Jamboree down in the Armory. Sounds like fun.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Sierra Club High Trips (California) Schedule is out. There are, as usual, five types of trips:

High Trips: Mule packtrains move dunnage between campsites while you hike. Several sites each of three two-week periods.

Burro Trips: Drive your own burro between the three campsites each of four two-week periods.

Knapsack Trips: Backpacking. One trip in the Sierra, one in Glacier Nat'l Park.

Saddle Trips: Ride horses. Packers drive stock. One nine-day trip.

Pase Camp: Two two-week periods on the Middle Fork of Bishop Creek in the Sierra.

If you are interested in further details, the Lembecks have the complete schedule.

Mrs. Holubar writes that the Holubar catalog is now in the mail and has been sent to the following rock climbers: Arnold Wexler, Gaby Rosenberger, Ted Schad, Chris Scoredos, Don Hubbard, Eva Russell, Sam Moore, John Meenehan, and Richard Goldman. If you are interested in mountaineering equipment, or in having your boots resoled, write for a catalog to:

HOLUBAR  
1215 Grandview Ave.  
Boulder, Colorado

Schedule:	April 23	Bull Run Mountains	
	April 29-30	Exploratory trip to escarpment near Appomattox, Virginia. Leader, Jack Wilson.	
	May 14	Sugarloaf Mountain	
	May 27-30	Shawangunk Mountains, New York.	Paul Bradt, Leader.