



NEWS OF THE P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

1916 Sunderland Place N. W. Washington 6, D. C.

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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Nov. 29, 1950

UP ROPE

We owe a word of explanation to subscribers about the time lapse between issues. A blank was sent the local subscribers on which they might volunteer to help with the publication and requesting an expression of whether they preferred to put it out every two weeks or once a month. The sparse returns showed clearly that the only ones favoring a monthly issue were those willing to do a considerable part of the work. This explained the increased interval between issues. However, the bi-weekly forces have rallied to the extent that they claim new volunteers sufficient to try a return to the two week schedule. The fact is that everyone prefers to receive it every two weeks. If you are willing to help, tell Art Lembeck.

The staff organization worked out very well on the last issue. Lowell and Ellen Bennett printed the headings. Ray Moore and Paul Bract provided the Ups and Downs news, Mary Sturgeon typed the stencils, and it was put out at Trail Club Hq. in jig time by Paul Bract, Win Lembeck, George Kemm and Peg Keister. If you want to have a good time and get your copy early stop in at one of these Wed. evening sessions at 1916 Sunderland Pl.

SCHEDULED TRIP: Carderock Dec. 10 to finish and practice on OPERATION CRASH. See Ups and Downs for Nov. 25, 26 for explanation.

AT PATC Hq.: A new lot of dural carabiners just received from Reffi Bedayn. A goodly stock of Smithe's double-eye angle pitons and a few of Holubar's pitons. More of Holubar's are expected later. Army surplus ski-mitts with leather palms; also surplus outer-jackets of 7 Oz. seteen.

A NOTE FROM AN OLD MEMBER

Jimmy Maxwell, now president of the Harvard Mountaineering Club, and David Harrah last summer made the first ascent of Yemupaje (21,760 ft.) the highest unclimbed peak in the western hemisphere. They were benighted and suffered frostbite. Jimmy says:

"I'm sorry I wasn't able to stop off in Washington on my way home from last summer's expedition. I had hoped to do some climbing with you as I did at the end of the 1948 summer, but the accident this summer put an end to those hopes, temporarily at least.

"During the past couple of years I've gradually lost contact with all my friends and acquaintances among the Washington Rock-Climbers; this is a regrettable situation. I'd like to renew these friendships, and as soon as opportunity permits again climb with you on some of the climbs around Washington that were once so familiar to me.

"My present climbing is nil. The doctors have forbidden any winter climbing, skiing, etc., and my toes haven't yet healed sufficiently to allow some tentative attempts at rock-climbing. But I hope that by late this winter or early next spring I'll be ready and rarin' to start over again learning to climb. Greetings to the gang, Jim Maxwell"

Leverett A-12, Cambridge 38, Mass.

U P S A N D D O W N S

Art Lembeck
Arnold Wexler
Peg Keister
Ray Moore
Tony Solar
Merien Jackson
Jim Bullard

Chas. Gallant
Jane Showacre
Betty Muelo
Andy Kauffman
Betty Kauffman

Hans Scheltens
Hannes Benzinger
Rolf Benzinger
Angella Benzinger
Monice Benzinger
Charlotte Kitzinger
Bob Grill
5 Senior Scouts

CARDEROCK? Nov. 5.

Instruction was the order of the day with Art belaying on the Beginner's climb, Peg on the BernacleFace and Arnold instructing in catching falls on the nose to the left of the Spider Walk.

The rock was moist, so the Spider Walk and the Friction Layback were deemed impossible and satisfactory for demonstrating the value of belays. The joker: Arnold made the Spider Walk and Tony, Arnold and Art got up the Friction Layback.

A delightful evening was spent at the Kauffman's where dinner was served and Andy's St Elias pictures were shown.

Tony Soler
Lorraine Snyder
Jim Bullard
Arnold Wexler
Jack Wilson

Ray Moore
Peg Keister
Walter S. Downs
Art Lembeck
Bunky Smith

John Meenehan
Ted Schad
Richard W. Houston
(of Iowa Mountaineers)
Howard Watkins
Tom Culverwell

FOUR W. Va. CAVES, Nov. 11-12.

Ray Moore was kept busy thumbing through Bill Davies' treatise on the caves of W. Va. to keep a step ahead of the fifteen who met near Franklin, W. Va. at 1 A.M. Sat. morning, Nov. 11. In all four caves were entered. Spencer's was a quickie which pinched down in a short distance. Tubb's was reputed to have the largest room in West Virginia. It was a single, oval room with a relatively low ceiling and a mud slope entrance. Ray ignited handfuls of magnesium turnings to illuminate the entire cave for Johnny and Tony, who were taking color pictures. This method is a simple one for enabling one to see an entire large room at a single glance.

In the early evening we drove over rough roads, which tested the emergency clamp placed on the broken spring Tony had discovered on his car, to Snedeger's Cave. While Johnny and his crew cooked their suppers, the rest of us went into the cave. The passages were long and narrow, but high, with one large, high-ceilinged room and a variety of upper and lower minor passages for exploratory jaunts. Late at night we came out and camped for the night.

The Speleological pride of Greengrier County is Suicide Cave. Ray Moore, who engineered the 180 foot wire ladder used to reach the floor should justly be proud of his achievement. The exploratory trip he made, dressed in a leaky immersion suit, down a rope ladder suspended in the waterfall at the main entrance passageway to the big room is a story in itself. Locating the off-set entrance passageway, constructing and suspending the wire ladder, is another story.

All except the last five listed spent Sunday in this interesting cave. The time required to go in and come out precluded the 5th and 6th class climbing toward the shadowy upper walls, where possible openings could be seen. At the end of the cave the ceiling necked down to a passageway nearly filled with live formations, and became too low for crawling further toward the tantalizing heavy draft of air blowing into our faces.

We speeded egress from the cave by hauling up the last climbers. Jack had the unusual experience of making half the ascent in the dark, when the safety rope knocked off his hard-hat and lamp. Lorraine made a special trip, riding a bowline-on-a-bight, down the drop to recover the helmet which had come to rest under the falls.

Johnny reports that he found two routes to the water entrance in Snedeger's cave on Sunday.

SCAFFER ROCKS (Hermitage Shelter) PA. November 18-19

Art Lembeck
Win Lembeck
Steve Lembeck
Arnold Wexler
Peg Keister
Ed Scotcher
Skeet Rodger
Mickey Campbell
Charlie Gallant

Tony Soler
Lorraine Snyder
John Ruck
Elizabeth Ruck
Peter Ruck
Susie Ruck
Judy Ruck
Alan Ruck
Betty Muolo

Dick Goldman
Sally Goldman
Ray Moore
Suzy Moore
Pat Moore
Jim Bullard
Bill Thomas
Joe Bloom
Mrs Bloom

The overnight group, the first 17 listed above, arrived at the Hermitage Shelter too late on Saturday for any climbing on the rocks. They were put to work sawing wood, bringing in the water, putting up tents (in which the small fry were to bed down) and other sundry tasks to keep them busy and out of each other's hair. After feeding the little Rucks and master Steve, and putting all five to bed, the remaining twelve set down to a pre-Thanksgiving turkey dinner. An evening song fest and a hike to Snowy Mountain fire tower filled the remaining hours before everyone hit the hay.

Sunday dawned clear and bright, and due to the five little alarm clocks, everyone was up and fed before nine o'clock. Wonders never cease. Art warmed up one rope with Ed, Lorraine and Peg on the Swiss Guide Climb while Tony, Arnold and Charlie were putting pitons in the Hoverhang. Tony introduced a new wrinkle at the top, going directly up the bulging wall to the left of the usual crack route. Three more cars of climbers arrived about that time, and beginners and piton pounders went to work with a will. John and Elizabeth and Bill and his party worked in the Lowell's Lead area. Dick and Sally climbed to the north of the Hoverhang. Ray completed the Hoverhang with Lorraine and Jim following. Lorraine gave a classical demonstration of vertical a'cheval technique on the final pitch, Arnold verbally spurring her on. (A new Sierra Club Little Gem Item: verbal spurs for a'cheval climbs)

After lunch, Win tested her new ankle (first trip after the Labor Day hiking fracture) on a four mile hike up the fire road with Skeet and Mickey, while the climbers scampered back to more vertical stuff. Ray joined the ledge section of the Mezzanine Climb with Don's Traverse on the lower part of Monument Rock. Arnold led Charlie, Betty and Peg up the Easy Exposure, which starts in the inside corner to the right of the Unfinished Symphony Climb, and merges with that climb on the upper quarter. Later, Arnold, John, Tony and Charlie essayed the Swiss Guide Climb.

The sun had set before the last loads were relayed back to the road and the drive homeward begun. Without need of belays, two cars of climbers tested Suzy's prowess with a late spaghetti dinner at the Moon's.

CARDEROCK * Nov. 25-26

Arnold Wexler
Ray Moore
Peg Keister
Mary Sturgeon

Jim Bullard
Art Lembeck
Don Hubbard
Chris Scoredos

Eric Scoredos
Charlie Gallant
Roger Foster &
Daughter & Friend

Saturday evening Arnold and Ray stopped by the Lembecks' to indicate that they had started Operation Crash. They had spent a cold afternoon putting pole steps up Oscar's tree at Carderock. Suitably revived from their frigid endeavors, they outlined the work program for Sunday. This project involves constructing a belay platform about 30 ft. above the ground, and installing a hoist-point 25 ft. higher to which Oscar can be raised. The set-up, when completed, will permit free falls of that dummy passed the belayer, simulating for him the most severe type of fall which can be met in actual climbing.

Next morning the first snow of the year and ice on the roads didn't prevent continuation of the project. With one group continuing the steps and measurements for the platform, and the other on the ground boring holes for lag bolts, the day passed quickly, except possibly for Peg who congealed into an icicle while tending the fishing line for several hours for the step putter-inners; and for Don, who has established with scientific (?) accuracy that the temperature really was 10° lower 50 ft. above the ground.

THE POT-HOLES BELOW ECHO CLIFFS VIRGINIA * Nov. 19

Don Hubbard
Bob Stephens
Jane Showacre
George Kamm

Dolores Alley
Betty Alley
Billy Alley
"Smoky" Alley

John Hubbell
Ken Karcher
Pim Karcher

Although the size was cut down by the mass exodus of climbers to Pennsylvania the group above met as usual at the Hot Shoppe for a day of local climbing. Ray, Suzy, and Pat Moore and two friends met there before going on to the Hermitage. During the morning Don was giving instructions, while Bob led a party up and down through the pot-holes and the Karchers, Jane and George climbed on a face nearby. After lunch the party, using two ropes, made the traverse from the pot-holes over to the "ducks". Although we pioneered no new routes and didn't make any classified climbs, there were several firsts among us. The Karchers were out together for the first time since their summer trip. Don who had not met with his boys from the District Health Dept. on Saturday, broke his long record by coming with us. John Hubbell, a physicist recently come to the Bureau of Standards and working with Eleanor came climbing for his first time. Smoky, the Alley cat, made a first, being undoubtedly the first cat to complete the traverse which

included a rapell down a 60' drop. Dolores reports that Smoky has turned now from coal black to gray. It is hoped to have this climb repeated with a movie camera at hand.

The only mishaps were when Janie lost, but recovered, her watch and when John lost, but did not recover, his wallet.

The group retired that evening to the Karchers for supper and slides showing their trip to the Badshots in British Columbia where they had made two primary ascents.

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Dolores reports that Betty Alley is now doing fine. She had been in the hospital Nov. 21-25 for an appendectomy.

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The red headings are supposed to initiate the holiday spirit or maybe suggest that you might be remiss in your dues. Possibly, Lowell just got his finger in the press and decided to use up the blood before putting in some ink.

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The editor of the next issue will be Win Lembeck, phone OLiver 8322.

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Inasmuch as we now have a Business Manager, please send your \$1.00's for renewal subscriptions of UP ROPE to:

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