



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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Number 1

CALENDAR

June 5, Tuesday, at 8 P.M. Program Meeting at Ray and Susy Moore's, 301 W. Myrtle St., Alexandria, Va. Overlook 1437. Three movies from the Seattle Mountaineers (See UP ROPE, vol.7, no. 20). To get to the Moores': From the 14th St. bridge take Truck Route 1 south, continue along R.R. yards to traffic light where Rt. 1 turns left over R.R. bridge. Turn right at this point. Go to 2nd traffic light and turn left on Russell Rd. Continue south 5 or 6 blocks on Russell Rd. to Myrtle St. Turn right on Myrtle and find no. 301.

June 9-10. Devil's Gardens and/or Big Schloss. Wolf Gap Shelter has been reserved for Saturday night; capacity, 6; overflow can camp nearby. No central commissary has been planned; make your own individual or group arrangements. For help with transportation problems call Peg Keister, OLiver 2078 evenings; OLiver 1400 (gov. code 179) ext. 2011 daytimes. Driving directions: 108m. from Washington via Front Royal and Woodstock, Va. From U.S. 11 (Om.) at a point 1.1m. S of traffic light in Woodstock, go W on Va. 42. At 2.9m. take rt. fork. At 6.5m. turn rt. at bridge at Columbia Furnace. At 8.9m. take lt. fork. At 9.5m. cross Little Stony Creek. At 9.65m. take rt. fork. At 11.3m. continue ahead where road to lt. leads 1.5m. to Liberty Furnace. Reach Wolf Gap at 13m., and turn lt. into wood road. Shelter is about 250 yds. from highway.

June 30 - July 1. Schoolhouse Cave, W. Va. We plan to go into the cave about 10 A.M. Saturday. Use your own preference as to time for leaving Washington - at least one group plans to leave about 7 P.M. Friday and sleep in the ante-room after reaching the cave. Commissary individual, or make your own arrangements with others. Call Art Lembeck, OLiver 8322, if you plan to go, if you have space in your car, or if you need a ride.

UPS AND DOWNS

May 12-14. West Virginia, Inside Out and Upside Down.

Ray Moore

Tony Soler

Johnny Jackson

Susy Moore

Loraine Snyder

Marion Jackson

These six became earthbound for the weekend and followed up the previous week's aerial explorations. Saturday saw them climbing Seneca. Sunday they

explored a nice little cave in the vicinity. Having gone both up and down, they spent Monday oscillating along the canyon previously spotted from the air (see preceding issue). South of Petersburg, not far from the entrance to the Smoke Hole Caverns, a creek or small river enters a canyon. Our explorers followed it for 2 miles until the country opened up again. They report that this is some of the wildest and most beautiful territory they have seen in these parts. The walls of the gorge rise 150 to 200 feet on both sides, and are in spots quite formidable. In fact, there are sections which Ray and Tony think are unclimbable, and that from these two daredevils means something. Loose rock and upside down hand-holds add interest. No less than 4 waterfalls were encountered in the 2-mile traverse, at least one of which had to be circumnavigated by way of a "nice little climb." One vertical first ascent was made and found "interesting." In the 2-mile stretch, only one spot sufficiently large and level for a tent was found. At the end of the traverse, the party cooled off in a pool under a waterfall, although we hear that Loraine had already been cooled while following Tony and Ray from boulder to boulder. Ray and Tony, and presumably the rest of the party, give their highest recommendations to this spot for future exploration and climbing. When did you say you were leading a trip down there, Ray?

May 19-20. Old Rag

Johnny Reed
Peg Keister
Arnold Wexler
Betty Blair
Wayne Houston

Charlie Gallant
Jane Showacre
Dolores Alley
Billy Alley

Art Lembeck
Win Lembeck
Steve Lembeck

Skeet Rodger
Mickey Campbell
Jean Burnstad
Betty Muollo
Joel Gross

The first five on the list reached Old Rag Leanto about noon on Saturday, and as the weather was not good enough for climbing, we went on a hike with Johnny, our trip leader, who was making a geological survey. The hike started along the Old Rag Fire Road, then involved bushwhacking down to Nigger Run, and boulder-hopping down the latter to join the White Oak Canyon Trail at the lower falls. We returned to the leanto shortly before dark, very hungry and wet both from rain and from falling into the creek.

At the leanto we found the next 2 carloads plus a flock of boyscouts who were camping nearby. After supper, Johnny read us a story from Winnie-the-Pooh, leading up to a VERY IMPORTANT EVENT -- the celebration of Charlie's birthday. We had a beautiful cake adorned with plumber's candles, then a singsong in which we were all able to display our musical talents. Our fine music excited competition, for in the early hours of the morning a whip-poor-will serenaded us ad infinitum from the leanto roof.

On Sunday morning the rest of the group arrived, and due to uncertain weather we took considerable time deciding whether it was worth while going to the invisible top of Old Rag. Finally, we split into 2 groups, one to drive the cars down to Nethers, the other to climb. Of the first group, Johnny, Wayne and Jane went on another geological creekwading expedition, while the rest hiked part of the Ridge Trail. The second group took the Saddle Trail to the top. Miraculously the sun appeared while we were eating lunch, and we were able to get in about 2 hours' climbing on the unnamed climbs opposite the fire lookout.

On the return trip we all gathered as usual at the Warrenton Coffee Shoppe for steak dinners. Then at Charlie's suggestion, we rendezvoused in Rock Creek Park for a singsong and ghost story session around a hypothetical campfire, taking advantage of the full moon and that well known authority on folk songs and lore, Joel Gross.

B.B.

INSIDE CORNER

CONCURRENT events: Jo Bradt tells us she has a letter from Jan and Herb, dateline May 10. After working at a variety of jobs in Denver for a couple of month, during which time they visited the Holubars and Cunninghams, they are at home in the Black Hills again. The climbing looks as good as ever there, and they lay the fact that they haven't climbed every needle yet to the cool weather rather than to any rustiness on their part. Their cabin is still in the excavation stage, where they expect it will remain this summer. Meanwhile, they are erecting a simple stone structure, using an abandoned feldspar mine as a start. Address: Box 218, Custer, S.D.

HEARD via the grapevine: that Os and Frances have announced the arrival, on April 27, of one John, weight 3000 grams.

MEASLENOOS: Alan and Peter Bradt are over the measles, and after a breathless incubation period, it looks as though they had escaped the chicken pox, for the time being.

HOME HAZARDS: It seems that rock climbers are safe only when hanging by their eyelashes from exposed cliffs. Recently Eric Scoredos took a tumble in his grandmother's nice level backyard, and came up with a broken clavicle. Let's stick to the rocks, Eric.

IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE? There will be soon. Helen Baker hopes to join us for some weekend climbing in June, at which time she is to be addressed as Dr. Helen Baker, M. D.

Sic KEMPER, etc. Again by the grapevine, which we hope is not twisted: Bill is contemplating about 6 weeks in Europe this summer. He expects to go over on a Youth Argosy trip, and has ambitious plans for climbing in the Alps. We shall expect some first hand information on your climbing adventures, Bill.

Weather Forecast: Fair and warm, no rain in the East this summer, considerable cloudiness and rain in the south and west. Dorothy and Stan Thomas left Washington on May 25 for an extended tour of the U.S. Their big circle includes New Orleans, Dallas, the Grand Canyon, L.A., San Francisco, Seattle, British Columbia, Yellowstone, Wyoming and Salt Lake City. Although they are on a close schedule of business appointments, they have tucked a rope and sleeping bags in the car -- just in case. They plan to at least look at some mountains. They will pause here briefly again before going to Ottawa. We'll miss you both but wish you a delightful trip.

Award of the Week: to the young man who called the editor and said, "I would like to work on UP ROPE." A gold medal to you, Frank Sauber.

Yeah, isn't this awful?

CULINARY CULLS FROM THE COZY CORNER

A VERY SERIOUS MATTER has recently come to our attention. It seems that there are among us some barbarians who make "tea" in a cup with tea bags (Egad!) and subboiling water (Zounds, man!). For the edification of such ignorami, we herewith present authoritative instructions for the proper brewing of a proper

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drink. Tea must be made in a POT with loose tea. Use 1 teaspoonful for each person plus one for the pot. Preheat the pot with boiling water. Then, bringing the pot very close to the kettle, so that not a second is lost, pour in water which is boiling so vigorously that it doesn't stop on pouring. Now, a very important point. Immediately cover the pot with a TEA COZY, and allow to steep for several minutes. There are a variety of models of tea cozies, but we recommend a quilted flannel number as superior to the others. Next time you find yourself seated on a ledge belaying a piton-pounding leader, pull out your work box and quilt a couple of cozies. Or knit them if you prefer.

1951 Summer Outings with Other Clubs

If any of the trips sound interesting and you'd like to join one of them, write to the address given below for details.

Iowa Mountaineers - Mt. McKinley National Park, Alaska. 21-28 August.
John Ebert, P.O. Box 163, Iowa City, Iowa.

Seattle Mountaineers - Selkirks near Glacier, B.C. 11-19 August.
B.B. Bickford, 5055 Pullman Ave., Seattle, Washington.

Alpine Club of Canada - Lake O'Hara 16-29 July.
L.C. Wilson, Sec.-Treas., 1408 Gladstone Rd., Calgary, Alberta.

Chicago Mountaineering Club - Rocky Mountain Nat'l Park 4-19 August.
Lothar Kolbig, Outing Chairman, 309 W. Marquette Rd., Chicago 21, Ill.

Not too long ago we reported the ascent by the 1950 French expedition of Annapurna, the first peak over 26,000 feet (8,000 meters) to be climbed. The climb has been described in pictures in a book, Regards vers l'Annapurna, published by B. Arthaud of Paris and Grenoble. It is understood that a complete book by the leader, Maurice Herzog, Annapurna, Premier 8,000, is in preparation. "The only higher or comparable climbs to date have been those on Mt. Everest (to about 28,200 feet) and that of Wiessner on K² in 1939 (to about 27,400 feet); Houston and Petzoldt reached 26,000 on K² in 1938 and the Bavarian party in 1931 reached 25,256 on Kanchenjunga; also the ascents of Kamet (25,447 feet) in 1931, and Nanda Devi (25,645 feet) in 1936." We are indebted to the "American Alpine Club News" of 16 May 1951 for this interesting note.