



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

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FOUNDED BY
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SPECIAL EVENTS

- Nov. 4. Paul's PATC hike along the Billy Goat Trail between Cabin John and Great Falls. The hikers have been promised glimpses of rock climbers in action, so let's save this date for local climbing along their route.
- Nov. 16. Program meeting, 7:45 P.M. at the home of Sterling Hendricks, 1118 Dale Dr., Silver Spring, Md. (SH 4603). Two (2) big attractions! Main feature: Arnold Wexler's Kodachromes of this summer's Canadian Rockies trip. Prelude: Charlie Gallant's tape recordings of Jan Conn's songs (so be on time!). Directions: Drive out Colesville Rd. from Silver Spring to Mrs. K's Toll House. Turn left on Dale Dr. Proceed about a block.

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KEMPER IN SWITZERLAND

The heavy snows in Switzerland last winter and a late spring resulted in unusually fine spring skiing but delayed the start of the climbing season. As late as the end of June when we arrived in Zermatt with hopes of making a guided climb of the Matterhorn, there was still too much snow and ice on the mountain for climbing, and the southerly wind which brings precipitation and generally unfavorable climbing conditions was still prevailing.

While Mac and I were inquiring for a guide, our two non-climbing companions came back with the report that they had located a pension whose owner was a retired guide who held records both for the greatest number of ascents, some 250, and the fastest time from Matterhorn Hut to summit and return. He promised to have a guide for us when we returned.

This was his brother, Carl Schaller, who told us that none of the guides would attempt a climb until there was black rock showing and the weather changed. He proposed instead a climb of the Riffelhorn. The Riffelhorn I thought I recalled as the climb Mark Twain made and described in "A Tramp Abroad," and Mac and I were not too enthusiastic. Schaller suggested it as good practice and conditioning for the Matterhorn. But he admitted that there was little likelihood of climbing the Matterhorn in the next few days. But he claimed they had even less snow here than in other parts of Switzerland and we would not find any good climbing elsewhere. We later found out that he was correct about other climbs not yet being attempted, but guides elsewhere claimed they too had the least snow, and all brought out meteorological reasons to prove their contention.

Schaller proposed after climbing the Riffelhorn we start the following day, Sunday, after mass, a two-day climb such as Monte Rosa on skis. This would have

Switzerland (cont.)

been superb. Spring skiing in July, which is not often possible, means skiing long warm days. Monte Rosa just east of the Matterhorn is even higher, and a beautiful ski run down into Italy is possible. However, not having that much time, we wanted to know if he would start sooner. He told us that none of the guides would miss mass. Mac asked if there were any Protestant guides in Zermatt and was told no. We reluctantly agreed to climb on the Riffelhorn.

We later had all Schaller and his brother told us confirmed. The other guides said none of them would try the Matterhorn yet even though they were hard pressed by the lack of climbing. Also we saw in the Alpine Museum in Zermatt a picture of our pension keeper and a young American named Goodrich who were credited with the record time, $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours, for the 4000 ft. climb from hut to summit and return.

The Riffelhorn (9617 ft.) is a small wedge-shaped serpentine pinnacle on the Riffelberg. It is about 500 ft. high on one side. On the other, it is about 1200 ft. above the Gornerglacier, across which is the Matterhorn and Monte Rosa. We followed a pleasant path from Zermatt to the Riffellake. It is evidently the route of the Mark Twain expedition up the Riffelberg. We then climbed up and down four of the standard routes on the Riffelhorn. These climbs seemed to me (qualification made in consideration of Paul Bratt's excellent discussion of how to evaluate a climb) to be about the same difficulty as the Beginner's Climb at Carderock. The rock was dry and an excellent texture for climbing, rough grain for friction and lots of holds. Schaller, who was 55 and moderately heavy, climbed very well, quickly, confidently and with good balance. He knew every hold on all the climbs from memory. As I was the last up and first down, I had no occasion to belay. But Mac, who was second, was not given a chance to belay me. Schaller belayed us both. He probably did this for speed and in assuming complete responsibility. Speed is considered highly desirable on the Matterhorn, and the guides try to get back before the afternoon thaw makes footing slippery, stones loose, and before the weather changes. The routes we took on the Riffelhorn were well polished from many climbs, and the chimneys were free of loose rock. We met a few other guides and climbers at the top and had lunch there in the sun with a fine view of all of Monte Rosa and the waist of the Matterhorn. Only a few times did we have a view of the summit of that magnificent mountain.

Schaller spoke excellent English and was a very good companion. He had guided Halliburton on his climb described in the "Royal Road to Romance" and said that Halliburton's story was accurate including his account of falling in the rope near the spot where the accident occurred to the Whymper party. He told us many interesting stories of his experiences during the war on ski patrols and instructing army officers in mountaineering. He was truly fond of the mountains and would have climbed that day even without clients.

A few suggestions for anyone who would like to take a similar trip. The Matterhorn, or Monte Cervino as it is known in Italy, should be a very interesting climb from this side. In Italy the cost of employing a guide is probably considerably less. In Switzerland the guide costs the same as the railroad up the Jungfrau, about thirty dollars for two. As in Italy, prices are very low in Austria, and we can enjoy the finest skiing at very little expense. We flew across on a Youth Argosy chartered plane at considerable saving and with very good company. - Bill Kemper -

On a recent postcard from Italy, Os Heard tells with enthusiasm of climbing Monte Cervino (the Matterhorn, to you) and being thrilled at finding the names Whymper and Carrel chipped in the rock at an old bivouac.

UPS AND DOWNS

Oct. 14. The Pot Holes and Echo Cliffs, Virginia.

Jim Bullard
Dick and Sally Goldman
Don Hubbard
George Kamm

Alice, Louise, Tommy +
Wade Marshall
Lloyd Richards
Ted Schad

Chris, Eric, Helen +
Johnny Scoredos
Bob and Mrs. Stevens
Ray Wilcox

At 8:30, the 3 climbers then present at the Hot Shoppe decided on the Pot Holes. With the late arrivals finally assembled, the decision still held (rule by majority - but with justice), and the party started off.

Don, Ray and George stopped off at Difficult Run (which was at a particularly low level) to hike downstream, scramble over some rocks and down to the Potomac opposite Cupid's Bower. Upriver, about 50 yds. below the Pot Holes, Don spotted a vertical crack leading up from the water's edge, and offered it to Ray and George as a piton lead. Completed by George on a second attempt, the other two followed, then practiced rappelling down. Further climbs were made near the Pot Holes.

In due time the larger group arrived at the Pot Holes. Jim, belayed by Chris, made the inclined slab climb without much difficulty. The Marshalls started a short but difficult pitch near the Four-Year-Old Climb. It seemed like old times, with the ladies all having a try - Sally made a nice climb, and Louise had an initial try at the sport which has been occupying her active and energetic family.

After lunch, the group was joined by Bob and Mrs. Stevens. Socrates' Downfall was successfully climbed by Chris, Helen and Jim. The Marshalls, by far the most energetic of the climbers, worked on a climb near the Cow's Hoof and later on the Cow's Hoof itself. The largest pothole, now dry, was inspected and found to be an almost ideal spot for practicing dynamic belays, for the faller could jump off with a rather long free fall, with no dangerous projecting rocks to interfere. Each in turn practiced the belay until the afternoon wore on and home beckoned. Ray, on his first trip, had had his baptism by fire under Don's direction. Instruction in knots was followed by a piton climb, rappeling, balance climbing, and a demonstration of his proficiency by neatly catching a man jumping into the pothole on a slack rope. Late in the afternoon, the group separated, Ted hiking back to Washington, the

Late in the afternoon, the group separated, Ted hiking back to Washington, the rest taking the short walk to the cars. G.K. and C.S.

Oct. 13-14. The King Cabin near Baker, W. Va.

John Brehm
Susie Broome
Jean Burnstad
Marion Harvey

Sioux Hughes
Jerry Jankowitz
Walt Kane
Peg Keister

David King
Dot King
Jack King
Kenneth King

Sterling King
Mary Nielan
Frank Sauber
Mrs. Sauber

The long-awaited weekend arrived, bringing perfect weather and splendid autumn scenery. Jerry, Sioux, Walt and Susie went down Friday night, Mary found her way in sometime in the small hours, and Peg, John, Jean and Marion followed Saturday morning. We were all delighted with the clear and profuse PATO signs strewn by Sterling for our guidance.

As soon as lunches and equipment could be assembled, we took off to look for some rumored caves in the vicinity. The first remained a rumor, so far as Saturday was concerned (see below). The second proved to be interesting enough to keep some of us occupied for the rest of the afternoon. It was mainly a long narrow passage with no big rooms and few formations, but it had the advantage of being dry and easy. Our simple supper of stew and salad was much enriched by the fine ham which Dot

Our simple supper of stew and salad was much enriched by the fine ham which Dot had baked and by the timely arrival of Mrs. Sauber, bearing a cake which was a masterpiece of flavor, texture and beauty. Square and Latin-American dances occupied us for the evening.

Sunday, all of us except the Kings and their non-climbing guests got a fairly early start for Seneca Rock, some 70 miles away. Arrived there, we split into two

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parties, the more timid and less ambitious members, led by Marion, taking an easy route up the north peak and coming down by the trail east of the rock, the others, led by Walt, climbing the south peak, arriving on top around 5 P.M. and descending by the light of the moon. We later heard that Sterling had gone back on Sunday in search of the cave we missed, and the following is his account:

"After an unsuccessful Saturday morning search for the cave near Breakneck Ridge and after a partial exploration of Darr's Cave on Pine Ridge, we (David Walter, Jack, David King, and I) returned on Sunday afternoon to find the entrance we had been hunting. It was found with the able assistance of Mr. Houter Oats and Mr. Russ Smith, both of the town of Arkansaw, W. Va. The entrance to this cave is via a 20 ft. rap-pel into a small room. From there several leads are possible, one of which descends through a small passageway and will require a belay. As no other rock climbers were present at the time, the descent was not attempted. Another lead that was tried tra-versed through a crevice and into a 50' well, and thence to a series of rooms each larger than the preceding ones. This cave shows good promise for future investiga-tion, and the abundance of formations will make exploration very interesting.

"I should like to take this opportunity to invite the members and friends of PATC to return with me to my cabin the weekend of Nov. 24 and 25, for further ex-ploration. J. Sterling King, Jr."

Oct. 21, 1951. Carderock and Herzog Island

Jean Ascher	John Brehm	Marion Harvey	John Reed
Tweet, Little Ben, and	Jim Bullard	Don Hubbard	Hans Scheltema
Helia May Benedict	Jean Burnstad	Jerry Jankowitz	C. Gary Scoredos
Alan Bradt	Mrs. Dowling	Peg Keister	Jane Showacre
Jo Bradt	Charles Gallant	Kenneth King	Arnold Wexler
Paul Bradt	Ann Greene	Sterling King	Marion Wormald
Peter Bradt	Phyllis and Joel Gross	Douglas Kruse	Lloyd Wright

Taking advantage of the lowest Potomac we had seen in a long time, some of us waded over to Herzog Island. Those averse to wading or just in love with Carderock stopped off there. The Herzog group worked on several round-the-corner traverses, the balance face, and the Upside Down Climb, and had thrills and spills enough on these modest endeavors. After picking up a couple of paper bags, a fish can, apple peels and bag of pretzels left at the lunch spot by someone, the Herzoggers rewaded the river and joined some of the homeward bound Carderockers. The latter were all agog over the great things that had been done that day. It turned out to be J.B. Day. Jim Bullard climbed the Spiderwalk, Herbie's Horror, the Crossover, and led the ChrisWexDon; John Brehm did the Spiderwalk; and Jean Burnstad led the CWD, also. If anyone else climbed a qualifying climb that day, whether you are a J.B. or not, please report it for future note in these pages.

Now available at PATC H.Q.: a few Bedayn aluminum carabiners, an assortment of pitons, $\frac{1}{4}$ " nylon alpine cord, dehydrated vegetables, and waterproof cloth and vinylite food bags. Drop in some evening and see our equipment cache.