



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

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COMING EVENTS

The Spring schedule has been completely rearranged. A new schedule will be published in the next issue.

There will be a joint trip to Seneca Rocks with the Pittsburgh climbers on 10, 11, and 12 April. We will camp at the Armentrouts as usual. Arrange transportation and chow by individual cars.

For details of the Range View trip on 28 and 29 March, see the last page of this issue.

***** Grunts and Groans

8 February - Great Falls, Va.

John Brehm
Jim Ballard
John Christian
Phil Conover
Ray DeHaven
Andy Griscom

Shirley Jackson
Andy Kauffman
Betty Kauffman
Peg Keister
Gerry Morgan
Felix Peckham

Earl Reed
Johnnie Reed
Frank Sauber
Chris Scoredos
Arnold Wexler

Following breakfast at the Hot Shoppe, it was decided to tackle Great Falls, Va. As usual, on arrival the group gathered at the Corkscrew, which was climbed by both Andys, Shirley, Phil and Ray. Johnnie gave the crack around the corner from the Corkscrew a going over, and Andy Griscom took the face next to this crack rather neatly. The group then moved on down to the Romeo's Ladder area, and this climb bowed to Jim, although several others worked it over. A few other folks, Shirley included, went over the Juliet's Balcony traverse.

Some dynamic belay practice for the newer climbers on the Ladder face was followed by some very nice climbing on the Bird's Nest by Jim and John Brehm.

After lunch, a slew of folks climbed the Inside Corner of the Flat Iron, Johnnie, Felix, John Brehm, Earl, John Christian, Frank and Peg. On the way back to the cars, Earl, John Brehm, Frank, John Christian, and Johnnie stopped off to climb the Inclined Slab.

Climbing was followed by dinner and music at Arnold's, and a delightful time was had by all.

SCHOOLHOUSE CAVE TRIP - FEB. 21-23

by Felix Peckham

The trip to Schoolhouse Cave, scheduled for the long weekend including George Washington's birthday, and led by Paul Bradt and Chris Scoredos, contemplated a somewhat restricted group of experienced rock climbers, who could be expected to do the entire cave without too much difficulty. As happened, however, some persons lacking in experience were invited, with the result that much less of the cave was seen than was contemplated. The writer drove up early Saturday morning with Chris Scoredos and Dolores Alley. Just before reaching Schoolhouse we ran into Peg Keister's Chevrolet, heading away from the cave for Seneca Rocks, and shortly thereafter we passed Henry Douglas and Paul Bradt heading in the same direction. Apparently the nice warm sunny afternoon had lured them away from the cave to the open rocks, and inasmuch as there would be no one at the cave, we decided to turn around and follow suit. A little later at the river we were joined by another car with Bill Youden and Bill Wright, and eventually everyone proceeded to the base of the Cockscomb and roped up in three climbing teams, following one another up the Old Ladies route to the South Peak. Johnnie led the first rope, with Peg Keister, Shirley Jackson and Bernie Nebel. Chris led the second rope with the undersigned, Dolores Alley, and Bill Wright, and Paul Bradt led the third rope with Henry Douglas, Bill Youden and Bill Clark. All groups arrived safely at the top, signed the register at the cairn and returned down after contributing a few coins to the emergency fund which someone had started and left at the cairn. Johnnie's team roped down the east face, then climbed up through the Gunsight and roped down the west face from that point. The other two teams returned via the Old Ladies route to the starting point. Shortly thereafter everyone returned to the cave where they set up camp for the night.

The next morning a party of 13, which included Bill Kemper and Bill Bowers, but excluded Bernie Nebel, who decided to stay behind, proceeded to the Jumping-Off-Place and slowly progressed down to the Nick-Of-Time. At this point Paul announced that there was to be a side trip down into the Cascade Pit, and that everyone should go. He had set up the previous day the makings and servings for hot chocolate beyond the waterfall and Pancakes, so with this inducement, all rappelled down into the pit and climbed up through the waterfall. Johnnie had gone on ahead and made the chocolate on a G.I. gas stove and was ready for the crowd when they reached that point. After noting the many fossils on the walls at this point, the party proceeded back through the Sand Room and Dome Room to the blocked end of the passage below the Entrance Room. Quite a few bats were found in this part of the cave, most of which the writer believes were *Pipistrellus subflavus* and *Myotis lucifugus*. (Ed. Query: Any common name for these?) Chris became interested to the extent of transferring a number of bats to his chest, where they hung in apparent comfort like medals until forcibly removed later. A few acorns were picked up in the vicinity of the Dome Room, the presence of which seems difficult to explain.

The climb out of the Cascade Pit was rather drawn out due to difficulties experienced in climbing the rope loop type of ladder provided, but eventually the party convened at the foot of the mud slope leading to the Judgment Seat 90 feet above. At this point Paul inquired as to who would climb up to the Judgment Seat via the mud slope and hanging ladder, and who would like to rope up for the Angel's Roost climb to that point, and was disappointed at the lack of enthusiasm which was displayed. Apparently the wetting in the Cascade Pit, the eating and drinking, and the general lassitude which was creeping in from so much sitting around, all had combined to render further climbing on the part of the majority distasteful at least. Some of those in the party had never been in the cave before, and had

further not had too much climbing experience, and were undecided as to their abilities. The net result was that Paul decided to conduct the party back out of the cave, and perhaps return later with a few hardy souls. In the meantime Johnnie had climbed up the mud slope to the belay point above the base of the ladder in anticipation of safetying those who would follow by that route, and was forced to return down without accomplishing his mission. On the way back out of the Big Room the party stopped again for more hot chocolate and solid food of various sorts, after which they proceeded back to the Nick-Of-Time.

Although the trip back up from the Nick-Of-Time was slow and time-consuming, everyone in the party climbed out of the cave under his or her own power, including the climb out of the Grotto, which the author had previously considered impossible for an amateur, but which is apparently not difficult once you discover the key handhold. Under Paul's and Chris's advice and encouragement all made the entire climb out without any aid other than a climbing rope on the steep muddy slope below the Grotto. The party emerged back into the Entrance Room about 12 hours after starting, and proceeded to get some supper and sleep. The writer and others took some pictures in the cave during the trip, and hope for something worth projecting later.

The following day, Monday, the party split up into groups with different interests. Paul planned to do some digging in the high lead to the right at the back of the Entrance Room, and perhaps open up more cave previously unseen. The writer, with Chris and Dolores, decided to drive over to Franklin for breakfast, and join Bill Youden and Bill Wright, who had gone over the previous evening, in looking for new caves in that area. At Dahmer's Restaurant, we ran into a number of cavers, including Bill Stephenson, Nancy Rogers, Ken Perry, Alden Snell, Bill Youden, Bill Wright and others. After breakfast, four cars drove up Thorn Creek and Dry Run looking for new holes, and with the aid of Steve, located the recently rediscovered Sites Cave with its 260 foot vertical entrance. It was believed too late in the day to rig and enter this cave, however it is the intention of returning with an exploring party in the near future. We heard at this point that a party including Tony Soler, Ray Moore, Tom Culverwell, Bob Lutz and others had rigged and entered this cave on Saturday. Shortly thereafter the writer and party departed for home, leaving Bill Youden and Bill Wright still eagerly searching for caves to conquer.

Carderock - 1 March 1953

Betty Alley
Billy Alley
Dolores Alley
Paul Blackstop
John Brehm
Jim Bullard
John Christian

Ray DeHaven
Bill Floyd
Larry Griffett
Shirley Jackson
Peg Keister
Ray Moore
Earl Reed

Johnnie Reed
Frank Sauber
Hans Schelteme
Ted Shad
Jane Showacre
Bill Weiss
Arnold Wexler

With the intention of setting up Oscar for a dress rehearsal for his debut in the films the crowd gathered at Carderock. Vandals had apparently rolled Oscar into the Potomac, so a successor was improvised from an old 3 foot thick log. Someone misestimated the density of this particular board of wood, and Oscar II outweighs his predecessor by about 50% - some 250 pounds. While Oscar II was being rigged the Beginner's Crack was given a going over for warm-up. The Swayback-Layback was done beautifully by Jim Bullard, and Jane mastered it after a couple of tries. Ronnie's Leap bowed to Ted Weiss, Ray DeHaven, Larry Griffett, Bill Floyd, and Dolores Alley. Johnnie, who is bound and determined that Shirley will do the corner on the ChrisWexDon until she knows it by heart, took her and Bill Floyd around the corner and as far as the Cedar Tree. Meantime John Brehm and Jim Bullard had done the Spiderwalk and were working on Meenahan's Staircase, which was also made by John Christian.

Continued...

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Crew:

By this time Oscar had been rigged and a belay lesson was in store for all to see with Ray Moore, Johnnie, Jim Bullard, and Frank Sauber all catching him from the platform. Hans, who decided to do it from the ground, proceeded to show us how to do a sitting broadjump while attempting to catch Oscar. A fine Italian dinner afterwards ended the day for some very tired rock climbers.

S.J.

Carderock - 8 March 1953

Shirley Jackson
Peg Keister
Bernie Nebel
Earl Reed

Johnnie Reed
Chris Scoredos
Jane Showacre
Bill Youden

The weatherman is just agin' us! Everytime we try to do something towards the filming of our safety movie he hits us with something. This time it was SNOW!

Nevertheless the crowd trudged on out to Carderock through the nasty stuff and proceeded to show him who's boss. Knocking the snow off the Beginner's Crack, Shirley, Bill, Bernie, Peg and Johnnie fought their way up with frozen fingers, which when thawing out feel like someone is sticking pins into them. Ronnie's Leap seemed to have fewer icicles by then, so Johnnie and Bill scampered up.

The Barnacle Face looked like it might go today so Jane, Peg, Bill, Johnnie, Chris and Earl climbed up at various speeds. Earl Reed decided to try the Sway-back-Layback, and managed it quite nicely. Not to be outdone, the other Reed did Wexler's Worst and the Stretch and Unstretch. This stretching business so intrigued Jane and Earl that they decided they might just try it.

Rumblings of hunger sent the crowd back to the cars for lunch, after which a movie was taken in. Inasmuch as the movie had some unique rock climbing techniques in it, many remarks were made about same later at the dinner table.

S.J.

Your Editor has been rather out of touch with things for the past few weeks, having been out to Aspen for some real skiing - none of this ersatz Eastern stuff. Anyone having some nice news tidbits that we've missed out on, send them in.

Ran into some Los Alamos folks while out there, including Walt Kane and George Bell. When first seen, Walt was limping down the mountain on about 1-2/3 skis. Seems that snow can be rather unyielding at times. No sprains or broken bones, though.

As you no doubt have heard, Jerry Jankowitz is back around town - on weekends, at least. He's apparently going to be stationed down near Newport News indefinitely.

March 28 and 29 - Range View Shelter - Leaders Shirley Jackson and Peg Keister (TA-9-9334 - LI-5-6700 X-54861 and OL-4-2078 - OL-4-1400 X-2378) Please make reservations by Thursday Night 26 March if you wish to be in central commissary.