



NEWS OF THE P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE
1916 Sunderland Place N. W. Washington 6, D. C.

FOUNDED BY
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COMING EVENTS

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| December 12 | Prospect and Boucher Rocks |
| December 19 | Great Falls, Maryland |
| December 26 | No scheduled trip |
| December 31-
January 2 | Shelter trip to either the
Hermitage or Focosin, probably
with the Pittsburgh Climbers
Details later. |

Ted Schad has appointed a committee composed of Arnold Wexler, Paul Bradt, and Johnnie Reed to nominate candidates for the offices of chairman and vice chairman of the Mountaineering Committee for the coming year. For personal reasons Ted has asked not to be considered for reelection. The committee has nominated Jane Showacre and Ken Karcher to fill these offices.

EDITORIAL

A Plea for Mountaineering

Leafing through the file of the back issues of Up Rope, we find that past editors, too, have occasionally planted an editorial foot in the editorial mouth. Since there seems to be no danger of setting a dangerous precedent, then, we venture to bring up a question that has troubled us for some time:

The Mountaineering Committee of the Trail Club was organized a few years ago for a number of reasons, among them, to promote closer relations

EDITORIAL (Con't)

between members of the climbing group and the Trail Club, and, at the same time, to promote a wider range of interests among the climbers themselves. In the first of these objectives the Committee has been successful---more successful than many had hoped at the time. It is the second point that concerns us. In short, are we a Mountaineering Committee?

In the last several years, it seems to us, a great deal of outstanding climbing has been done and a whole group of new climbers has been developed who, technically speaking, rank with or even above the best of the old "die-hards". But this, unfortunately, seems to have been accompanied by a subtle change of attitude. We have become so enthralled with demonstrating our prowess on the most technically difficult rock climbs and with pushing back the limits of the possible that we seem to have lost, as a group, a little something out of our hearts. We don't have time anymore to give newcomers quite the welcome they used to get. Instead of the feeling of mutual trust and understanding, we seem to be inflicted with a subtle feeling of competition, as if we have forgotten that in climbing, as in no other sport, competition is not among ourselves, but between each individual and the ultimate limit of his ability. We have placed a premium on technical skill in rock climbing acrobatics at the expense of good judgement and leadership. Will we come to realize that the enjoyment and appreciation of the mountains calls for things far deeper and more important than the ability to hang on elegantly from two fingers and an eyelash while inserting the next piton with the teeth?

We fondly hope so.

UPS AND DOWNS

October 24, 1954

Spitzbergen

Moira Armstrong	John Christian	Joan Crosby	Marion Harvey
Huntley Ingalls	Martha Jennison	Mabel Job	Bill Kemper
Peg Keister	George Magee	June Maienthal	Millard
Tommie Marshall	John Meenahan	James Music	Maienthal
Blondie Neuhaus	Ike Nicholson	Mike Nicholson	Dave Nicholson
Louis Post	Kay Schad	Ted Schad	Jane Showacre
Julie Slemp	Johnnie Reed	Dick Spier	Nancy Tarkinson
Ray Tarkinson	Bill Welch	Thea Welsh	Arnold Weiler
Chuck Wettling	Jim Willard	Donna Willard	
	Al Winslow	Ed Worrell	

Sunny Sundays in May and October have always brought forth the greatest number of climbers and would-be climbers. This Sunday proved to be no exception. Four booths at the Hot Shoppe were unable to hold the breakfast crowd. A few stragglers and back-sliders left the Hot Shoppe for a tourist trip to the Skyline Drive, but a total of thirty seven made it to Spitzbergen. Most of the crowd parked at Anglers Inn and walked up the newly reconstructed towpath past Widewater, then across Bear Island to the river cliffs. Peg, Johnnie, and Bill Welch came down the river from below Great Falls in a canoe.

A continuing series of attempts on the Spitzbergen itself occupied the entire day, without interruption even for lunch. Concurrently, instruction of beginners in rappelling and a climb or two just upstream from the Spitzbergen went on at a great rate. Arnold, Ed, and Tommie were ferried across the river and made the Donald's Ducks Traverse at Echo Cliffs. Late in the afternoon John Christian, Johnnie Reed, and Jane Showacre started the traverse upstream from Spitzbergen. John C., who was leading, only got wet up to his knees.

The day's activities led to two as yet unanswered questions:

1. Has anyone ever successfully climbed the Spitzbergen?
2. Has anyone ever successfully completed the traverse just upstream (without swimming or wading) ?

Someone who has a complete file of Up Rope or a good memory should be able to find the answer. (Editor's note: in answer to the second question, yes. Huntley Ingalls completed it---using Prusik knots on a rope lowered from above---sometime last year. At least he didn't swim or wade, like some!)

October 31

SUGAR LOAF MOUNTAIN

J. Fitzwilliams	Huntley Ingalls	Millard Maienthal
Lory Forst:	Peg Keister	Dave Nicholson
Suzanne Green	George Magee	Ike Nicholson
Marion Harvey	June Maienthal	Ted Schad
Bill Shockley	Thea Welsh	Arnold Wekler
	John Williams	

It was a brisk autumn morning as the group set off for Sugar Loaf. There were 4 who were climbing for the first time, so Ted roped them up and took them through the inside chimney to show them what it was like and to get them used to the rope.

Meanwhile Bill led Arnold, Thea and George over the Easy Traverse and then with Arnold coaching from the sidelines Bill and Thea went up the rocks just to the right. The Nicholsons turned up and led John Williams on a scramble and after Huntley joined them they too, did the Easy Traverse. Ted led Peg and Lory up a route that involved getting 'round a nasty protruding boulder; Jeanette, attempting to follow, got to the top by the simple expedient of falling off and recovering on the right side of the obstacle.

After lunch Bill squeezed himself through a narrow crack to the right of the afore-mentioned obstacle and was followed by Arnold and Marion. All went both up and down. They then shifted operations somewhat to the left and ascended again. George Magee joined then, but peeled off with such wild abandon that his swing carried him to the latter half of Ted's route, and he finished the climb that way.

Huntley gave a demonstration of how to climb the Butterfinger and was followed by John Williams who got over all the really difficult bits before taking an unintended ride down.

J.F.

We have just received Gerry's new 1955 Catalogue (Gerry Mountaineering, Ward, Colorado). In addition to the regular line of climbing equipment and light weight camping gear, we note a new line of pint sized sleeping bags, ice axes, packs, etc. for the kidd. Also used Kodak Bantams with case, sunshade, and filters for \$25.

November 6-7

ROCKS, MARYLAND

Reni Albrecht
Lory Forst
Johnnie Reed
Ed Worrell
Volker DeGroot
Ted and Kay Schad

Moira Armstrong
Peg Keister
Chuck Wettling
Betty Adams
Carter Lawrence
Steve and Win Lembeck

Bill Calary
Blondie
Neuhaus
John Christian
John Meenehan
Jane Showacre

Late Saturday afternoon one new blue Ford station wagon arrived at the Rocks, its occupants searching for evidence of kindred creatures. Finding none, they retired to a nearby picnic ground for supper. Having given the first arrivals time to build a fire and boil coffee water (and, incidentally, eat) a second new station appeared, this one a green Dodge, closely followed by a third vehicle. Eventually the remaining empty stomachs were filled, and as tongues grew tired and seats and toes cold, all retired to their sacks.

Sunday, numbers swelled by one day-only climbers, the Rocks experienced what was probably their busiest climbing day in history. Ted, Chuck, and John M., plus a group of newer climbers, climbed, belayed and rappelled from a small outcrop near the R.R. depot. Three other parties occupied the front of the main buttress on the railroad side, while John C. and Jane went from the highway to the Pinnacle. After lunch Johnnie, with Chuck, Bill, and Lory, climbed the Pinnacle, while Ed, Moira, and Blondie investigated some shorter climbs above the railroad. (While stride a belay spot, Ed remarked, "now I know why they found Jam Crack Joe a-snoozing in the sun---He must have had Moira on belay, too!")

For those who left early for Washington, not only is Bill a fine spaghetti sauce cook, but his ski movies were quite enjoyable.

MLN.

Rocks, Maryland, was the old stamping ground of the "Harford County Mountaineering Club", which consisted of Bill Kemper, John and Elisabeth Busk, and one or two others who did a good deal of climbing there before the war. It has recently been rediscovered by the present Baltimore group and certainly is worthy of more visits.

November 14

GREAT FALLS, VA.

no write-up recieved

November 21

CABIN JOHN CREEK

Bill Welch

Tommy Marshall

Ted Schad

Scheduled belay practice at Carderock was called off. Oscar was there, but where were the belayers? Well, it was a little damp, the rocks were saturated after three days of drizzle, and the top path was muddy, so the rather inviting looking valley upstream from the Cabin John aqueduct bridge was explored. There is a pretty good trail on the lower portion, although it did entail several crossings of the creek on rather precarious logs and wet rocks.

November 21 (also)

CARDEROCK

Your editor arrived at Carderock about the middle of the afternoon to find that, like Joe's Barroom, a goodly crowd was there. A great many climbs were clumb, and a great many more were not, but headline of the week was DAVE NICHOLSON CLIMBS HERBIES HORREN! Dave, cheered on by Ike, Mike, Huntley, Johnnie and Arnold, some of whom had been making feeble attempts all afternoon, joined the ranks of the immortals on his first try, without so much as a false step.