



FOUNDED BY  
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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### COMING EVENTS

13 February - Great Falls, Va. (Opposite the Fishladder). Chuck Wettling, Ldr.

17 February, 8 P.M. Meeting at the home of Mr. & Mrs. W. D. Appel, 3365 Runnymede Pl., NW (WO 6-1768). John Meenehan will show color slides of caving activities.

19 thru 22, February - Skiing and ice climbing on Mt. Washington, N. H. Erich Heinemann, Leader.

20 February - Open, no scheduled trip.

27 February - Great Falls, Maryland. Dr. Welsh, Leader.

6 March - Carderock and belay practice with Oscar.

12-13 March - Hermitage Shelter. Peg Keister, Leader. Call OL 4-2078 for details.

20 March - Great Falls, Virginia (Juliet's Balcony area).

27 March - Sugarloaf Mtn.

3 April - Little Stony Men, Blue Ridge Mtns. Details later.

10 April - Spitzbergen area.

17 April - Thurmont Va.

24 April - Old Rag Mountain. Paul Bradt, Leader. Details later.

\*1 May - Devil's Garden or Carderock and Oscar belay practice. Details later.

\*8 May - Devil's Garden or Carderock and Oscar belay practice. Details later.

\*To remain flexible to coincide with the best rhododendron time.

15 May - Cupid's Bower.

21-22 May - Shawangunk Mts, Gardiner, N. Y. Arnold Wexler, Leader. Reservations must be made with Arnold Wexler at least one week in advance.  
NO BEGINNERS. Additional details later.

29 May - Open.

4-5 June - Seneca Rocks. Details later.

12 June - Hertzog Island.

19 June - Bull Run Mtn, Virginia.

26 June - Cowhoof (Echo) Cliffs.

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ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 1955 meeting at the Silsbee's.

A preliminary report of the 26 December 1954 accident at Carderock was given by Arnold Wexler. The final report will be prepared by the members of the special investigative committee: Paul Bratt, A. J. Kauffman, and Arnold Wexler and submitted to the Chairman with its findings and recommendations.

The Treasurer reported a balance in the treasury of \$76.42. It was agreed that this sum would be held pending the purchase of a mechanical device to be used in hoisting Oscar for belay practice.

Miss Showacre, Chairman of the Film Committee, announced that the script for the movies is in preparation and will soon be ready.

Announcement was made that Peg Keister had resigned as Business Manager. John Christian is the new editor of UP ROPE.

Report of the Chairman. To be turned over to John Christian, Editor, for publication in UP ROPE. This report is to be used at the Annual Meeting of the PATC at the District Building, 26 January 1955.

Report of the Nominating Committee. John Reed announced as candidates:

Jane Showacre  
Ken Karcher

A motion was made and seconded and carried that Jane Showacre be unanimously elected as chairman. Unsuccessful candidate Karcher to become Vice Chairman.

New Business: It was announced that a climber is needed on the Equipment Committee of the PATC.

Announcements:

Help Wanted! Ed Worrell would like help in locating a diamond studded carabiner. He thought it would be more appropriate than a ring when he and Blondie Neuhaus are married in April.

Sleeping bags . The Baltimore group reported that H&H Surplus in Baltimore has more sleeping bags for \$8.00.

Ted Schad turned the meeting over to Chairman Showac re who announced that she would call a planning meeting for 1955 programming purposes. Pim Karcher was retained as Secretary under the Showac re administration.

Pim Karcher

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Report of the Chairman of the Mountaineering Committee - 1954

From New Years Day 1954 to New Years Day 1955, the members of the Mountaineering Committee continued their weekly climbing trips, to nearby rocks on Sundays, and to more distant climbing areas on longer weekends. Attendance of 761 participants was recorded on one day trips and 273 on two and three day trips a grand total of 1,034. In addition, there was a large number of participants on trips which were unrecorded, including 3 well attended trips to Seneca Rocks. A detailed breakdown of climbing areas visited and recorded attendance follows.

At least 25 of our climbers were reported to be participants in mountaineering expeditions in various areas in the western United States and Canada during 1954. An innovation in our regular Sunday schedule this year was a scheduled hike along the Virginia side of the Potomac River from Great Falls to Chain Bridge. Four cave trips were scheduled.

Instruction in techniques required for climbing safety has continued and a large number of beginners have been taught the elementary principles of climbing. In addition some effort has been made toward the development of new rope leaders. On one occasion during the year we were visited by the Pittsburgh Climbers, who made use of our facilities at Carderock for practicing dynamic belaying. On another occasion a climber from Philadelphia visited for the purpose of practicing with us. The chairman has given some consideration to proposals for rigging a mechanical hoist for the dummy used for belay practice, but has been unable to formulate any practical scheme.

The publication of Up Rope as the official record of the activities of the Mountaineering Committee continued during the year with Johnny Reed as editor and Peg Keister as business manager.

Work on our movie on dynamic belaying progressed at a very slow rate during the year, with writing of script to accompany the film. Titling and final editing of the film and script remain to be accomplished. Our previous climbing film has been made available on several occasions during the year for showing to other climbing organizations.

Our safety record was marred this year by a fall from the cliffs at Carderock, in which a beginner suffered a rather serious foot injury requiring his hospitalization for over two weeks. Arnold Wexler has been appointed chairman of a committee of three which will submit a detailed report on the accident.

/s/ Theodore M. Schad  
Chairman, Mountaineering Committee

Mountaineering Committee Activities, 1954

<u>Sundays</u>	<u>Area or Activity</u>	<u>Times Visited</u>	<u>Participants</u>
	Carderock	13	368
	Great Falls, Va. side	5	106
	Great Falls, Md. side	2	66
	Echo Cliffs	2	39
	Bull Run	2	34
	Wolf Rocks, Thurmont	2	25
	Herzog Island	1	29
	Cupid's Bower	1	23
	Prospect Rock	1	22
	Sugarloaf	1	16
	Hikes	2	16
	Loudon Cliffs, Harper's Fy.	1	8
	Belmont (Rodger's) Cave	1	9
	<u>Total</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>761</u>
<u>Weekends</u>	Old Rag	2	80 (participant
	Schoolhouse Cave	1	42 days)
	Rocks, Md.	1	38
	Breathing and Marshall Caves	1	26
	Seneca Rocks	1	24
	Little Devil's Stairs		
	(Range View Shelter Trip)	1	24
	Beach Party	1	24
	Mt. Washington	1	15
	<u>Total</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>273</u>

In addition, there were three scheduled trips to Seneca Rocks, a December cave trip, a New Year's trip to Pocosin shelter with climbing at Old Rag and Stony Man, and one trip each to Sugarloaf, Echo Cliffs, and Great Falls, Md. which were not reported in UP ROPE. And four lost weekends.\* The total of 55 trips is accounted for by the fact that that on three weekends there were two activities underway.

(\*Weekends on which no trips were scheduled, and no report was made to either the Chairman or to the Editor of UP ROPE on the days' activities.)

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PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Present at PATC HQ, February 3, 1955: Jane Showacre (Chm.), Paul Bradt, Joan and Phil Cardon, John Christian, Ken and Pim Karcher, Peg Kiester, and Arnold Wexler.

Chairman Showacre stated the purpose of the meeting as: to plan for weekend trips and schedule Sunday climbing through the end of June, and to discuss programs for monthly meetings.

Suggestions and Discussions: Joan Cardon, speaking for Andy Kauffman, recommended that we schedule more overnight weekend trips and that when trips for one day of great distance are scheduled, it would be advisable to meet at the destination and have someone (i.e. the leader) arrange for transportation, etc. (See later) This would eliminate the meeting at the



## Hot Shoppe.

Paul Bradt came up with the suggestion that for long one day trips and for week-end trips an assistant leader be appointed. This would allow for either the leader or assistant to go to the Hot Shoppe and meet with any people who did not know the destination and make arrangements for their getting to the climbing area. Suggestion adopted. John Christian recommended that we utilize "new blood" as assistant leaders so that they can gain experience in handling arrangements and also assume some responsibility; also acquaint them with climbing areas which are not frequently visited on organized trips.

Arnold Wexler requested that from time to time we publish in UP Rope that telephone calls must not be made to the Hot Shoppe. Also that people who come into the Hot Shoppe either sit down or wait outside. Keep out of the aisle.

Jane Showacre will ask Frank Sauber to serve as representative of the Mountaineering Committee with the PATC Equipment Committee.

Jane Showacre announced that Dr. Welsh is going to work up a First Aid course in conjunction with Dr. Cardon for instruction of the rock climbers. At the present time, Andy Kauffman is taking a comprehensive course in First Aid and is interested in this phase.

Peg Keister will assume responsibility to reserve shelters IF she is going on the trips; otherwise she will contact the leader to have him reserve the shelter so that the shelter is reserved in the name of someone who will be going.

Arnold Wexler recommended that at future meetings we get into round table type discussions concerning the technical aspects of rock climbing and mountaineering. These discussions to cover belaying and rope work in mountaineering and the preparation for trips, snow and ice work. He recommended High Altitude Physiology as an interesting subject for a future meeting. Dr. Phil Cardon volunteered to discuss that subject before the group some time in late 55. Arnold Wexler will present a discussion as a continuation and discussion of Siri's article. It was suggested that Andy Kauffman would be interested in discussing the snow and ice techniques.

Jane Showacre announced that Dr. Bill Welsh had volunteered to serve as Business Manager of UP ROPE.

Report of Special Investigating Committee. Arnold Wexler turned over the report to the Chairman with the collection of statements he received from the climbers and the witnesses as well as exhibits (1) the bolt which failed and (2) experimental specimen bolts and (3) pictures of the accident taken by Dr. Welsh. The pictures are to be returned when they have served their purpose. Arnold stated that a short version of the report (situation, cause, etc.) would be submitted to the American Alpine Club for publication.

Chairman Jane Showacre will determine disposition of Report and work with Arnold on report to be submitted to AAC.

-Pim Karcher, sec'y-

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An article by Johnnie Reed (illustrated by John Christian) describing the major climbs on Seneca Rocks will appear in the forthcoming April-June issue of the P.A.T.C. Bulletin. Johnnie Reed is now a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army Corps of Engineers, and will be assigned to a Terrain Intelligence Team. His present address is: 115th EOBC, Engineer School, Fort Belvoir, Va.

UPS AND DOWNSDec. 31, 54 - Jan. 2, 55 - Pocosin Shelter and Old Rag Mountain

John Christian	Bill Kemper and	Blondie Neuhaus	Frank Sauber
B.B. Felton and	friend Martha	John Reed	Chuck Wettling
two friends	Wir Lembeck	Hansel Ritter and	Eddie Willmann
Peg Keister	Earl Mosberg	two friends	Earl Ree d
Jane Showacre	Pete Peterson	B	

Friday evening was occupied with group singing. Saturday, a fair number of climbers worked out on the Hollywood, Beginners' and Finesse Climbs on Old Rag.

Sunday's activity was confined to a hike from Rock Spring Shelter parking area to Skyland.

Jan. 2, 1955 - Carderock

John Hart	Tommy Marshall	Ike Nicholson	Chris Scoredos
Robb Heinemann	Ray Moore	Mike Nicholson	Bill Welsh
Erich Heinemann	Susy Moore	Ted Schad	Alice Wilson
Don Hubbard	Dave Nicholson	Jimmy Shipley	Jack Wilson

The first Sunday of the New Year found also a local group of climbers at the familiar Carderock Cliffs. Chris, Don, and Ted looked over the scene of the previous week's unfortunate mishap. The rocks were quite wet from the preceding night's rain, so climbing activities in the morning were restricted to the Beginner's Crack, Ronnie's Leap and vicinity. As the sun and wind dried the rocks, and late-comers arrived, activities expanded to Leonard's Lunacy and Sterling's Crack, the latter of which was successfully ascended by Erich and Mike.

In the mid-afternoon, Jack and Ray arrived, via rubber boat (one right side up and one upside down) from Great Falls. After a brief stop, they were joined by Tommy, Bill and Ted for a fast trip down to the Georgetown Feeder Canal Intake at Brookmont.

Jan. 9, 1955 - Carderock

Moir Armstrong	Robb Heinemann	John Meenehan	Bill Welsh
John Christian	Peg Keister	Blondie Neuhaus	Chuck Wettling
Don Feder	June Maienthal	Dave Nicholson	Arnold Wexler
June Feder	Millard Maienthal	Mike Nicholson	Ed Worrell
Erich Heinemann	Tommy Marshall	Johnnie Reed	

Rain, snow and sleet did not prevent the invasion of Carderock by the climbers. In spite of slippery conditions, Erich climbed the Spider Walk. The Swayback Layback was climbed by John Christian and Chuck Wettling, and the Beginners' Crack by Don Feder and Moira Armstrong. Bill Welsh, John Meenehan, and Tommy Marshall went for a canoe ride which ended with three men and two cameras being thoroughly soaked in the river. With three blazing fires, they were dry in no time with no ill effects.

UP ROPE, published by the Mountaineering Committee of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club, 1916 Sunderland Pl., N.W., Washington 6, D.C.  
 NEW EDITOR - John Christian - all contributions gratefully received.  
 NEW BUSINESS MANAGER: Dr. William Welsh, Rockville, Md. Please send new subscriptions and renewals to him. Subscription: \$1.00 for twenty issues.