



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

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FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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COMING EVENTS

5-6 May - Carderock, Md. Belay practice with "Oscar". The Pittsburgh Climbers will be here for the weekend.

13 May - Bull Run Mt., Va.

19-20 May - Seneca Rocks, W. Va. Leader: John Christian. Commissary will be by individual cars. For car-pooling or other info call John at South 5-7700, ext. 85261, between 0730 and 1600 hours. Seneca Rocks is at Mouth of Seneca, a hamlet at the junction of US 33 and State Routes 4 and 28, 190 miles west of Washington, D.C. Take State Route 55 from Washington to Moorefield, W. Va. Turn left on U.S. Route 220 to Petersburg, and turn right on Routes 4 and 28. About one mile before Mouth of Seneca there is a group of buildings consisting of first a motel, then a restaurant-gas station and a house, all on the left side of the road. Turn left immediately beyond the house on a dirt lane. Follow to end to the campground on the Armentrout's farm. Bring drinking water unless you are prepared to ford the river to the spring.

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REPORT ON OUR WESTERN KINFOLK

The Editor had an opportunity to meet a number of climbers on the West Coast while on a business trip to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Seattle last month. It was interesting to note the different techniques and the even more different views on equipment of the various groups. There is a hasty type of rappel where the person stands between the two ropes, and bringing the ends around behind him, grasps the ends with the opposite hands. Tension climbing is more common - thanks to places like Yosemite. Bowline-on-a-coil for the leader is more commonly practiced than here. There was shown a rather foolproof method of tying the bowline-on-a-coil which had best be demonstrated.

The Sierra Club Rock Climbing Section, San Francisco Bay Chapter, have had to institute a minimum amount of rules for rock climbing safety and qualification of leaders as a result of requests of the National Park Service (Yosemite) for help in judging the qualifications of climbers who sign out for climbs in the National Park.

They have a beginner's check-list which is passed out to each beginner. As the beginner demonstrates his ability to tie knots, rappel, belay, etc., to the satisfaction of members of the RCS his checklist is successively checked-off and signed by RCS members. On the back side of the check-list is a brief on the care of rope which probably answers a lot of the questions the novice has, such as why one shouldn't sit or stand on ropes or drag them along the ground.

The club owns the ropes and has the rope ends color coded to indicate age.

Another sheet is entitled, "Rules Concerning Climbing Safety and Duties of Trip Leaders." The duties of the trip leader are so ably spelled out that it is reproduced below and warrants everyone's attention. It also defines the obligations of a leader which we are not always too obvious of.

The Ski Hut in Berkeley and the Recreational Equipment Cooperative in Seattle were also visited and the Editor had a difficult time satisfying his curiosity in the short time available. Some items of particular interest will be mentioned: Both stores have an extremely light-weight 10 point crampon made by Grivel. One pair weighed in at 1 pound, including straps. This is not the "Everest" crampon. It is available with or without toe points. JANUS, or its equal - GRESVIG, all-wool Norwegian rag socks are available from R.E.C. The Ski Hut's "trailwise" sleeping bags are about the finest the Editor has seen on the market.

Many thanks to H.V.J. Kilness of SUMMIT Magazine, the Wilts, Mendenhalls, Wilsons, and Fred Martin of the Sierra Club Rock Climbing Section, Los Angeles, Floyd Burnette, Bob Means, John S. _____ and Dick Houston of Toad Hall, and of the Sierra Club R.C.S., San Francisco Bay Chapter, Irene Beardsley of the Stanford Alpine Club and Will Siri, for their generous hospitality which made my business trip so interesting.

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Duties of the Trip Leader

1. Leadership is a responsibility and an honor. Treat it as such.
2. The first and most important duty of the leader is enforcement of the Rules Concerning Climbing Safety. He must see that all climbs are properly belayed. He need not be a climber of great ability, but he must know these rules and be able tactfully to enforce them, especially among the inexperienced yet agile climbers. Safety precautions cannot be too strongly emphasized. The leader must accept full responsibility for the safety of the members of his party.
3. The Assistant Leader (named second in the schedule) has all the responsibilities and duties of the leader, and stands next to him in authority. The leaders and coordinators must arrange beforehand for competent replacements if they cannot attend the climbs for which they are scheduled.
4. Instruction in climbing and belaying is the next most important duty. Belaying technique is especially necessary for the safety factor. He should see that every beginner practices belaying.
5. Those needing instruction should be divided between the leader and his assistants for purposes of instruction -- a very few experts thus being able to handle all instructing of beginners for the entire day. This will leave the other experienced climbers free to enjoy climbing on their own. The leader should not attempt to guide or lead any of the climbs, nor climb for his own pleasure, but should devote his entire time to instruction and aid to those who need it. He should circulate among the climbers, never remaining too long with one group.
6. The trip leader should see that each party has a rope leader competent for the climb to be made. The trip leader's decision is absolute, subject only to the opinion of a quorum of the Rock-Climbing Committee.

7. The leader should keep spectators a safe distance from the edge of the rocks.
8. When advisable the group should be organized before the climb and addressed briefly by the leader.
9. The leader is responsible for arranging transportation on trips where necessary.
10. The leader is responsible for transportation of register, first-aid kit, and ropes to and from the climb. He should keep a careful check on the ropes, and make each person taking one responsible for returning it coiled.
11. The leader should try to meet all new members or visitors and introduce them to everyone. He should try to give them special attention in instruction and see that they receive printed information regarding the Section.
12. If at any time there are too many climbers present for the leader to handle them efficiently, he may appoint competent assistants, so that the above instructions may be carried out properly.

While the careful administration of the Rules Concerning Climbing Safety, and full accordance with the Duties of the Trip Leader are necessary, leaders should not overlook the fact that rock-climbing is a sport, and that participants should be allowed to enjoy it as such.

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INCIDENTAL INFO

A first ascent (on the first attempt) of 800 ft. high Spider Rock in Canyon de Chelley Nat'l. Monument was made by 3 Sierra Club climbers from Los Angeles. It is comparable with the Lost Arrow Chimney - but in sandstone. "About half of the 600 feet roped climbing was on direct aid" according to the report appearing in "The Mugelnoos", Issue No. 280, April 12.

BUY THAT SLEEPING BAG!

Andre' Jamet of Grenoble, France should be commended on the interesting presentation of sleeping bags in his catalog. We waded through the French captions far enough to know the lovely lass pictured in full color was not included.

MORE INCIDENTAL INFO

"Knapsacking with your Man" (SUMMIT Magazine, April issue) tells young wives how to be able to tag along on their husband's weekend trips with less than 20 lbs. on their backs. From a bachelor's point of view it provided a rather interesting insight.

TRAIL PACKER: Are you tired of back-packing? Is your wife beginning to resent being treated like a packhorse? Get a "Trail Packer", a self-propelled two-man duffle carrier manufactured by a firm in Bothell, Wash. This nifty back-saver will transport up to 500 pounds at $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 5 mph powered by a $2\frac{1}{2}$ HP gasoline engine with fingertip remote throttle control. It can be dismantled into 3 easily carried pieces when you run out of gas. Cost \$1.00 per pound. The same company also sells a "Trail grader" which is the solution for the trail-happy people. If there is a trail then this little monster will grade it. If there isn't a trail it will make one so you can come back again and grade it.

UNDERGROUND NOTES

"A Key to the Bats of the North Eastern United States" and "Notes on the Occurrence of Cave Pearls" (9 pages) in "The Netherworld News" (Vol. IV, No. 3) of the Pittsburgh Grotto of the N.S.S. makes interesting reading for even the non-caver. Congrats to the Pittsburgh Grotto on their anniversary issue of "The Netherworld News". The issue was lithoprinted and replete with photos.

SUMMER TRIP?

The March Sierra Club Bulletin has details on an extensive series of summer trips - from boating to an expedition to the St. Elias Range.

(In case you are new here, all publications referred to in UP ROPE are available on loan from the Library of the P.A.T.C.).

ENGAGED

Bill Kemper is engaged to Genevieve Haile, the lass who was on the Herzog Island trip last fall.

GRUNTS AND GROANS

1 April 1956, Carderock, Md.

Bob Adams	Ernest Downs	Bernie Jones	Chris & Jane Scored
Kate Adams	Ronald Deedrick	Petty Johnson	E.S. Spindler
Johnny Adams	Arty Firkins	Peg Keister	Dick Taylor
Bobby Adams	Lory Forst	Pim Karcher	Sally Taylor
Moe Brown	John Gloser	Leo Lemay	Susie Williams
The Buck Family	Adalyn Gloser	Tom Marshall	Chuck Wettling
Phil Cardon	Jim Hawkins	Todd Miles	Manfred Wasserman
Joan Cardon	Robb Heinemann	Leigh Ortenburger	Eddie Willmann
John Christian	Erich Heinemann	Pete Peterson	Blondie Worrell
Walter Downs	Huntly Ingalls	Howard Shapiro	Ed Worrell
Emma Downs	Shirley Jackson	Harriet Shapiro	

From a small nucleus at breakfast the crowd grew until it numbered 44 by mid-afternoon. Most of the climbs had ropes on them during the day. Betty made her first ascent of Jan's Face. Leigh climbed the left side of Elsie's Edge Face using an animal foothold at the bottom and a vegetable hand hold at the top. This reporter has been informed by a reliable authority that Tom Marshall broke off one the best holds on the lower part of Sterling's Crack. Erich completed the new base for Oscar's engine and several people received dynamic belaying training. The Buck Family was well represented, Alan (8 yrs.), Suzie (12), Peter (14), and Judy (10) all climbed the Beginner's Crack, Suzie and Judy the Barnacle Face, Peter and Judy the Jackknife, and Judy did Ronnie's Leap.

Eleven survivors of the days activities adjourned to Giovanni's Restaurant for food to restore the body and philosophical discussions to stimulate the mind. C.W.

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