

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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COMING EVENTS

MEETING: Tuesday 28 May

Dr. and Mrs. Francis B. Sillsbee will show slides of last summers trip through Europe and Ethiopia at their home, 2620 Quebec St., N.W. WO. 6-3457.

10.8-5785

May 25 - 26 - Shawangunks, New York. Leader: Chuck Wettling. Camp out or stay at Inn. Call Chuck at WO.8-5785 for details. NO BEGINNERS. Directions: Standard New York route to Exit 10, New Jersey Tpke; Garden State Parkway to end; N.J. US 17 North to Harriman interchange; off Thruway and left (WEST) on NY 299; continue to end of road and US 44; right on US 44 past switchback and over pass in mountain; continue approx. two miles past the pass to white painted concrete culvert to campground immediately off road. (This is first large culvert you pass).

June 2, 9, 16, 23, are open and will be decided later.

June 30 - Seneca Rocks. Details later

* * * * *

Have you been "borrowing" hardware? Or, as a newish climber, are you experienced enough to begin using some of your own? PATC Headquarters has a new shipment of pitons in several sizes. Stock up for the summer season while they are still available.

horizontals	.35 to .50	stubby angles	.35
verticals	.35 to .50	Smithe angles	.45
Gerry carabiners	1.65	bolt hangers	.45
Rawl drives	.15		

Other pitons, Bedayn carabiners, Rawl drills are on the way.

Art Lembeck

(Chairman PATC Equipment Committee.)

SPLICES IN NYLON ROPE

Perhaps the readers of UP ROPE will be interested in the results of some strength tests performed on splices in nylon rope. At the time the tests were made (April 1949) I had heard some opinions voiced to the effect that nylon splices would have a tendency to slip due to the smoothness of nylon fiber and could not therefore be trusted in nylon loops used as running belay points for the leader or in any other place where failure would have serious consequences. The following tests were carried out at the Engineering Mechanics Laboratory at Yale University on splices in 5/16 nylon rope of 1650 lb. rated minimum breaking strength.

Splicing is considerably more of a nuisance for nylon than for manila rope and requires frequent use of string and glue. This is due to the uncanny ability of any loose strand of nylon to unravel into a hopeless flare of fine filaments. A new length of rope comes tied or taped at the end to prevent such catastrophe. A relatively convenient method of preparing the rope for splicing is to open the lay just before the tied or taped end and to tie and saturate with Duco cement each of the three strands separately (taking due care not to glue them together). While the glue is drying a string is tied tightly about the whole rope about 3 or 4 inches from the end. This is the point to which the rope is unlayed after the glue on the individual strands is sufficiently dry. Each of the two ends are treated as above and the splicing proper then begins. The number of times each strand is threaded through the lay of the opposite rope is the number of tucks taken in the splice.

In the first tests a single splice was used in a loop of rope encircling the iron U-bolts of the testing machine (Fig.1). Because of the stretching of the splice, less than half of the tension supplied by the machine appeared at the splice itself. An effort was made during the third test to equalize the stress on the two sides of the loop and as a result the loop held 3750 lbs. Comparing this with the rated breaking strength (1650) lbs. it seems that the two-tuck splice must have held a tension of at least 1500 lbs.

Number of tucks in splice	Place of failure	lbs tension at failure
3	rope at U-bolt	2800
1	splice slipped	1725
2	rope at U-bolt	3750

In order to know the tension actually applied to the splice, a single length of spliced rope was made, having eye-splices at each end and iron thimbles to eliminate any sharp bends at the U-bolts (Fig.2). A two-tuck splice was used. This time it was finished by trimming the ends of the strands and by saturating the ends of the splice with Duco cement to keep the ends from working loose over a period of time. I have a sling treated in this manner whose splice has not worked loose through the repeated flexings of almost eight years use.

Under test this two-tuck splice showed no signs of slipping. At 1950 lbs. the rope snapped. Examination showed the failure was due to the breaking of one strand near the end of the center splice. The splice then unravelled. It can be safely concluded that nylon splices are no more susceptible to slipping than are manila splices. Because of the smoothness of nylon, such splices are apt to work loose over a period of time unless suitable precautions are taken. A splice of five or more tucks with the ends of the strands carefully glued into the rope with a waterproof glue will, however, be quite safe and should give no trouble by unravelling.

Earl Mossburg

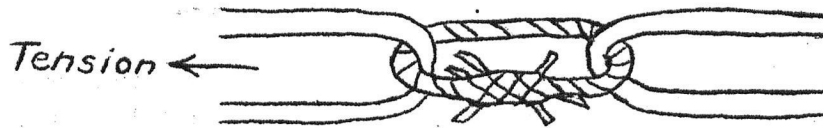


Fig. 1

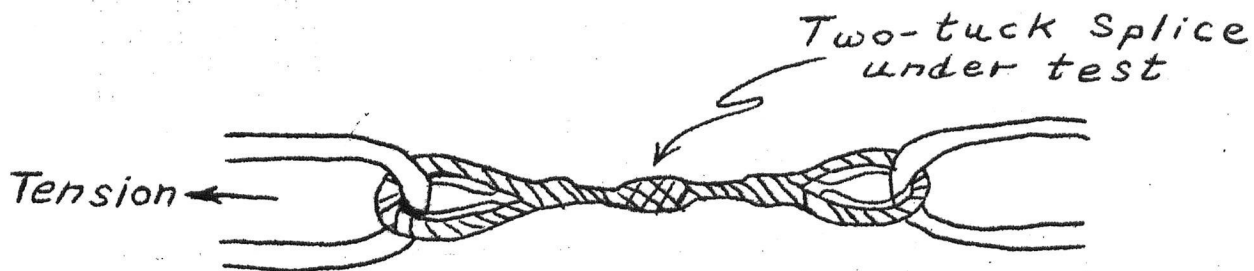


Fig. 2

A NEW CLIMB AT THE HERMITAGE (SHAFFER ROCKS) 3-31-57

It is somewhat surprising that no climb worthy of a name judging by absence of evidence in UP ROPE, has been made for five years or so.

There are plenty of apparent routes still untried, or at least not completed. Some of these routes are partially screened by trees which grow too close to the rocks but even a superficial examination will show the possibility of connecting probable piton cracks into a feasible route. Just as surprising is the infrequency of trips to these rocks. There are numerous climbs documented in the (1950-52) issues of UP ROPE, climbs of all orders of difficulty and several climbs with two or more pitches which are most useful for training new leaders. With the shelter only a hundred yards from the climbs there's a built-in base for even the laziest -- or at least next-to-the-laziest -- rock climber.

The Also (pronounced, since it's German, ahl'zo) Climb goes directly up the face of Monument Rock following a line which is an extension of the vertical crack at the start of the Swiss Guide Climb. At the extreme right side of the first shelf of the Swiss Guide a piton was inserted for protection. Seven feet higher and almost directly above this piton another was placed for protection while traversing on small sloping footholds to the main vertical crack. This piton is required because the obvious handholds along the traverse are

Four sandwichlike loose blocks held up by an optical illusion, or some such cement. With the second piton in place the belay rope runs in a safe place even if the loose rocks come out and fall. One piton was placed for protection in the main crack, then three with slings to surmount a bulging overhang. The top piton of these three was a special very thin vertical.

Above the overhang a sloping shelf containing large semi-detached boulders comes in from the right. Holds on the lower edge of the boulders allow one to reach the shelf. A stubby angle piton was placed here for psychological reasons before the last 15 feet of rounded holds was essayed.

Art Lembeck, Chuck Wettling and Ed Worrell took turns putting in the necessary hardware. After the initial climb was made as a lead, Arnold Wexler and Ed climbed the route with an upper belay and Chuck did the hard work taking out the pitons.

Art Lembeck

UPS AND DOWNS

March 24, Great Falls, Md.

Bob Adams and family	Betty Johnson	The Worrells
Joyce Ann Clyde	Peg Keister	Bob Schnauss
John Crowder	Shirley Krauthausen	Jane Showacre
Tim Bond	Art Lembeck	Alan Talbert
Bruce Herington	Earl Mossburg	
Betsy Holt	Dick Usen	
Ja y Holt	Chuck Wettling	

A perfect day for climbing! Dry rocks - warm weather - no mosquitoes! An interesting change in philosophy was voiced by the barefoot boys Mike and Dave. So much shoeless climbing leads to callouses that slip worse than shoes. Dr. Avcin's "Bootstrap" method of doing #6 climbs was set up by Arnold and Art for practice. The members of the Cornell Outing Club joined us during their "Easter" vacation. The sneakers won out over the lug soles on the "Little Hand Hold That Wasn't There." The day wound up on a note of confusion when two parties crossed paths on Pegs Progress. Not half as confusing as the check later at the "Old Europe".

B.S.

March 30 -31 - Hermitage, Pa.

For once the climber's favorite shelter wasn't bulging at the seams in spite of good weather and plenty of advance propaganda. Chuck Wettling, Betty Johnson and Alan Talbert held the fort on Friday night, and from the number of instruments lying around I judge they must have had quite a musicale. On Saturday morning they "assaulted" the Swiss Guide Climb (and I think in this case this worn-out term is justified). Art Lembeck, Arnold Wexler and Peg Keister arrived in time to heckle this team before lunch. Later, Art and Arnold climbed the Hoverhang, while Chuck and Alan did the Easy Exposure.

Ed, Blondie and Frank Worrell were the next arrivals and the latter, being the most sensible individual present, staked out a claim on a bunk and slept while his parents struggled on the Swiss Guide.

Saturday evening was pleasantly spent reading improbable mountaineering stories just sufficiently dry to require one of Arnold's concoctions as an antidote.

On Sunday the main activity was the establishment of a new sixth class route straight up the front of the Swiss Guide pinnacle. Chuck and Ed each drove one piton for the common cause, but most of the route was led by some old broken-down, out-of-practice has-been named Lembeck, who sprinkled a rather spectacular lead with comments such as "This would be a justifiable risk for a younger generation bachelor." Perhaps the success of the climb was due to Arnold's firm, steady push on the rope from below. For details of the new climb see Art's on-the-spot description in a separate article.

PK

April 14, Sugar Loaf, Md.

Bob Adams and family	Shirley Krauthausen	Tommy Tucker
Duncan Burchard	Earl Mossburg	Dick Usen
Claire Claxton	Bob Murray	Chuck Wettling
John Crowder	Jane Showacre	The Worrells
Gert Gazdik	Bob Stevens	The Willards
Hildegard Hassenfeffer	Alan Talbert	
Betty Johnson		

Despite the cold rock of the morning, the more warm-blooded of the climbers conquered the Butterfingers and the Little Pine Tree Overhang (for want of a better name) as well as several less difficult climbs. Jane instructed beginners in rapelling and belaying techniques. After lunch, when the climbers and rocks had warmed up, Activity increased and several climbs were led by Jane, Alen, and Earl. Later in the afternoon there was a rapell session which left its mark on at least one climber.

SK

April 21, Boucher and Eagle Rocks, Va.

Bob Adams & family	Pete Peterson	Alan Talbert
Jim Hall	Jean Rosenberg	Arnold Wexler
Shirley Jackson	Jane Showacre	
Peg Meister	Yay Sinclair	
Art Lembeck	Bob Schnauss	
Bob Murray	Bob Spindler	

We were glad to be on the shady side of the river. This was a real summer day. So warm in fact that three of us took to the water. It was bracing, let me tell you! Climbing started at Eagle Rocks. Jean and Yay attended the Showacre-Jackson school of rock climbing, while the rest of us worked on the west face and the Eagle's beak (I guess). After lunch we moved down to Boucher rocks, where the highlight of the afternoon was the climbing of a new 6th class lead by Art, Arnold and Jane. The route is in the first inside corner from the right, as you face Virginia, on the north side of the cliffs. Alan was generously allowed to try the climb, removing the hardware on his way up. Pete made a rare appearance at the local rocks and Bob Schnauss was there for his last Sunday with us.

AJT

DEPARTMENT OF MISSING PERSONS

Does anyone know of the whereabouts of the following people? Their UP ROPES were returned, so subscriptions were stopped until we recieve addressed. Ted Weiss, Arshad Munir, Paul Schuck, Mary Neilan, Henry Francis, Charles Davis, W. J. Coles, John Brehm.

LOST AND FOUND

Found at Carderock: a gold bracelet with the name "Lynne". Call Chris Scoredos, Wo. 6-2843. A heavy grey cotton shirt, call Betty Johnson at Oliver 2-4717. A small poncho and a ball peen hammer on a sling (found somewhere), call Worrels on Ci. 2 - 4765, Baltimore.

ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO UP ROPEAddress Changes

Dr. Helen Baker, 5040 - 22nd Ave. NE Seattle 5, Washington
 Mrs. Gertrude Gazdik, 460 Augusta St., Pittsburgh 11, Pa.
 Robert F. Mole, 28 Shady Nook Ave., Baltimore 28, Md.
 Ted Osgood, care of D. Higginbotham, Apt. 313, 4704 Conn. Ave. NW
 Alan Talbert, DOPL Project 6.2, PO Box J, Mercury Nevada (Until July 15)
 Charles Wetting, 4762 Homer Ave. Apt. C, Wash. 23 D. C., Wo 8-5785.
 10.8-

New Subscribers

Barry C. Bishop, 6521 - 8th Place, Hyattsville, Md., Ha. 2 - 9246
 David R. Wones, 2801 Upton St., N.W., Wash. 8 D. C.
 John F. Krasny, 10425 Hayes Ave., Silver Spring, Md., Lo. 4- 173

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OSCAR ROPE

If anyone has an old climbing rope he is willing to donate for use with Oscar please let Chuck Wetting know.

John and Moira Rowland and Victor Petruhkin have headed home for London and Moscow respectively.

The April meeting was held at the home of Ray and Suzy Moore with Bob Schnauss showing pictures of last summer's trip with the Sierra Club down the Green River and through Dinosaur National Monument. Thanks again to the Moores for their hospitality.

Alan will be out West about three months this summer leaving the editorial work to Betty. He is interested in joining a climbing party almost anywhere in the U.S. Rockies or Sierras around July 20 to Aug. 15.

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