



FOUNDED BY  
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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### COMING EVENTS

- January 10-12- BUSHWHACKERS - Sugar Knob. Here's a chance for some of you hardy types to see Sugar Knob, one of our more inaccessible cabins. We leave Friday night eating on the way and sleeping at Wolf Gap. Call Jeannette Fitzwilliams, HO 2-5491 or ST 3-9200 extension 2662 by January 8, 5: P.M., if you want to go.
- January 12 -- Great Falls, Maryland
- January 19 -- Prospect Rock, Virginia
- January 21 -- Annual meeting Tuesday 8 PM at the Marshall's, 4209 Everett St., Kensington, Md. There will be an election of officers and Pim and Ken Karcher will show their pictures of last summers trip to Europe. Drive out Wisconsin Avenue, turn right at first traffic light past Naval Hospital, 1 mi., right on Everett St.
- January 26 -- Echo Cliffs, Virginia
- February 2 -- Thurmont
- February 9 -- Crescent Rock, Virginia

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Chairman Chuck Wettling has appointed Jane Showacre and Art Lembeck as a nominating committee to select candidates for this years offices.

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In order to vote at business meetings of the Mountaineering Committee, PATC, each member must be (a) a member of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club: OR (b) Must have been a member of the Mountaineering Committee who met climbing requirements for voting prior to June 1, 1950.

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All single day trips leave from Howard Johnsons, Western & Wisconsin Ave., at 8:30 AM. PLEASE DO NOT CALL HOWARD JOHNSONS. A note will be left behind the south east corner drain pipe telling where we have gone.

CANADIAN ROCKIES AGAIN (1957)

by John Christian

Jean Swift and I entered Banff in the late afternoon and celebrated with supper at the Alpine Club of Canada's clubhouse on Sulphur Mountain overlooking Banff. The clubhouse became "base camp" and we quickly adapted to be back for tea.

We joined some friends, Jon and Jill Gardy from Texas and Jean Westcott from Colorado for an attempt on Mt. Assinboine. From Conmore we drove up a road to the second dam on Spray Lake. A sign warned that vehicular travel was not advised beyond this point but we drove on another mile through the worst mudholes I've ever seen, then backpacked the remaining 16 miles to the far end of Lake Magog right beneath Assinboine. The light rain in the valley turned to snow above 8000 feet and the usual route up the NE ridge was covered with snow and ice. Although no one had climbed it this year we wanted at least to set foot on the mountain after that arduous hike in.

The next morning we began working our way up the shale scree and cliffs. A dismal rain began and we knew that we should turn back. A crash of thunder ended any indecision and we happily trotted back to camp to read "King Lear" and play bridge.

The evening and night were clear and we made plans to go up the next day. The morning was perfect. Up the scree and cliffs, traversing high on ledges we went until we reached the snowfield and sunshine. We ate a second breakfast and vainly contemplated the route. Where there should have been bare rock there was fresh snow over ice. We explored the glacier, probing for crevasses and peeking down the larger ones until it was time to return to camp. After a night in the Alpine Club Cabin at the other end of Lake Magog and a hot toddy we ceased to feel sorry for this abortive try.

On the way out this time, the Porsche fell into a mudhole, but after hours of work with everyone pushing and Jill hanging on the rear deck, it finally gave a shudder and lurched out. The evening was spent recuperating and cleaning the car at the clubhouse. Lake Louise was next. The local guides didn't recommend going up the glacier to Abbot Hut so we picked a "walk-up" peak, Mt. Whyte, in the vicinity, and went up a short snow couloir which looked more interesting than all the scree and broken cliffs. From then on it remained an interesting route finding exercise.

As long as there was fresh snow on the higher peaks it wasn't advisable to climb so we packed up again and drove north to Mt. Athabaska on the southern boundary of Jasper Park. There we met three Sierra Club boys, compared equipment, and decided to set off in the morning together. At the summit there wasn't a cloud in the sky and thanks to the Karcher's indoctrination on the previous trip near here I was able to call out the names of most of the higher peaks visible.

The few remaining days we planned to stay at the Stanley Michell cabin high in the Little Yoho Valley. It was worth the walk up through the storm. It snowed there during the night and there was too much snow on the President and Vice President for a good climb so we did chores around the cabin and made a futile fishing excursion to Marpole Lake. The next morning it was snowing hard and the snow was five inches deep at the cabin. We gave up hopes of climbing and returned to Banff and the clubhouse.

On the return trip we picked up Tommy Marshall in Sandance and headed for Devils Tower. Two other parties were climbing the Durrance route with us and though we had some traffic problems on the descent we managed to get down before sunset. I took the precaution of keeping the rope out on the face on the final rappel so it wouldn't hang up in the crack. Instead the rope caught on a very obscure ledge on the face. The rest of the journey home was like so many others—just a long drive.

UPS AND DOWNSDecember 1, 1957, Carderock, Maryland

Bob Adams and Family	Nimrod Glascock	Chris Scoredos
Dave Arnold	Betty Johnson	Jane Showacre
Gene Atherton	Bob Mole	Alan Talbert
Clara Daniel	Patrick Read	Chuck Wettling

Jan and Herb Conn may add another event to the history of Herbies Horror. Bob Adams used a finger hold to push himself up - somewhere near the top, but his finger gave instead of the rock. All joking aside we hope it won't be too many weeks before he has the use of his hand again.

December 8, 1957, Great Falls, Maryland

Clara Daniel	Dick Osgood	Chuck Wettling
Doug Haigh	Jane Showacre	
Betty Johnson	Alan Talbert	

It was cold and wet, so after a few minutes on the rocks practising rescue techniques, we gave up and went walking along the canal. We did take time out to explore an Old Lock House.

December 15, Spitzbergen, Maryland

Nimrod Glascock	Doug Haigh	Jane Showacre
Betty Johnson	Bob Mole	Alan Talbert

Most of the climbs at Spitzbergen are in a small bowl on the sunny side of the river, and it makes the best use of weak winter sunshine. The day was so warm and pleasant that climbs were even made barefoot. Bob Adams was a picture of frustration trying to climb with one arm. There were a couple of short lead climbs going on, one of which, a tension climb, never got off the ground for want of piton cracks. The day was made more pleasant by Rod's coffee for the crowd, unusually gentle lunch piracy, and the rendition of choice Elizabethan folk songs, by two or three of the group. The day ended with a delicious dinner at Doug's place, where some of the long-hairs let down their hair and listened to Dixieland Jazz.

AJT

December 22, 1957, Great Falls, Virginia

Dave Arnold	Betty Johnson	Alan Talbert
Clara Daniel	Dick Osgood	Chuck Wettling
Bob French	Patrick Read	The Worrells
Doug Haigh	John Reed	

The area near the Corkscrew climb was a cold spot on a cool day. This Spartan crowd was undaunted, however, and climbed industriously at least until 3 PM when I left. The group ate supper at the New Bagdad, the event being a sort of farewell supper for Clara, who is on her way West.

AJT

December 29, Carderock, Maryland

Gene Atherton  
John Brehm  
Sandra Carlos  
Jim Finley  
Doug Haigh

Betty Johnson  
Peg Keister  
Alice Marshal  
Tommy Marshal  
Bob Mole

Earl Mosburg  
Bob Murray  
John Reed  
Bob Spindler  
Alan Talbert

Peeping through a piton at the varied activities at Carderock Sunday the 29th of December can only cause wonder at what gyrations supposedly rational human beings will force themselves through, motivated by whatever mysterious impulse that forces them to rise early from a warm bed and seek the company of others suffering from the same urge - going forth on a cold wintry day to seek the most difficult piece of rock available and trying, with more or less success, to climb it. Success is hardly the goal because a successful climb is quickly ignored and another more difficult is sought until the best coordination of mind and muscle is defeated. Here is where the rock climber finds his happiness - the angle of ascent, the half sufficient handhold, the sloping almost adequate foothold forcing muscle and endurance to the limit and forcing that limit back until the ultimate defeat is met. Then, not happiness and satisfaction but only the problem of how to overcome the impossible remains. The struggle - not the achievement - not the defeat - only the struggle is important. There was no trip scheduled for this day and what was climbed was important only to those who tried.

RM

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CONGRATULATIONS

Robb and Erich Heinemann are the proud parents of Kristina Robb born on November 18th, 1957.

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Bob French is our newly appointed foreign correspondent. He is located now in Germany and we hope to get some climbing news from time to time. This is now official, Bob.

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Bob Schnauss and Dagmar Krahforst were married in San Francisco, California, on the 28th of December. Our best wishes for the future.

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Betty Johnson is substituting for Win this issue. So be sure that the right person gets the complaints.

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