



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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COMING EVENTS

- January 10 GREAT FALLS Maryland
- January 17 SPITZBERGEN Maryland (Across River from Echo Cliffs, Virginia)
- January 24 CARDEROCK Maryland. Special climbs in this area to be emphasized. Let us gather down by the river at the Easter Egg climbs for a change.
- January 31 PURPLE HORSE Maryland (Down river from Spitzbergen)
- February 7 CARDEROCK Maryland. Belay practice with Oscar if the weather permits.
- February 20-22 WARM WATER CAVE Virginia. This is our Washington's Birthday trip and will be led by Ted Schad. Details will be given in the February issue of UP ROPE.

February 2 Tuesday ANNUAL MEETING

The Rock Climber's Annual Meeting will be held at the home of Sterling Hendricks, 1118 Dale Drive, Silver Spring, Md. Phone -- JU 9 -4603. Officers for the coming year will be elected, and Art Andraitis will show slides of Ski Touring in Japan. Tuesday, February 2 at 8 p.m.

CORRECTION

Bob Mole is not on the nominating committee as stated in last months UP ROPE. The committee consists of Jane Showacre and Chuck Wettling.

The Rock Climbers meet every Sunday at Howard Johnsons Restaurant, Western and Wisconsin, at 8 a.m. Instruction is offered to beginners. Bring lunch and shoes such as sneakers for climbing. Call our Chairman Bob Adams at Cherry 8 4523 or the Editor Emerson 2 4789 for information.

December 20 the climbers had another Sunday meeting. This is proving very successful. Florence Meigs and Sharan Fairley showed slides and then Karl Edler took over with some Folk Dance instruction. We might just try this again.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Recently I made up a very fine portrait of Alan from a negative taken on top of Eastpost in the Bugaboos. It appears to me an excellent likeness and, to an extent, does capture the true spirit of the subject. Somewhat to my surprise Alan definitely does not want it but has given me permission to do with it anything I want. (The word is anything).

There must be thousands, - well, - quite a few at least, - of young women who would love to have this portrait for their very own. A raffle of such a raffish subject ought to have boundless possibilities. Now all we need is a worthy charity to give the proceeds to. Any ideas?*

Respectfully
Pete Peterson

* The Editor would like to suggest Tuoheys as the place best fitted for the dignity of such an occasion. Please send suggestions to the Editor.

George Kamm says hello to the rock climbers. His family now includes Maria Eveline, who joined them on the 25th of October, 1959.

Helen (née Baker) and Stacy St. John are now the parents of a daughter, Susan Janice, born on the 29th of October.

Arnold Mason writes that we were climbing on Vaso Island, not Herzog, the other Sunday. Some of us have been aware that the last Geological Survey map has named the islands this way, -but why? Can any one give us a little background here?

TELEPHONE CORRECTIONS

John Thayer JU. 5 1398
Chuck Wettling JO 8 5785

Please change these on your address list.

CLOUD WATCHING

There comes a time when the most dedicated rock climber realizes the futility of pitting himself against every vertical piece of rock he can find. He learns that a prone position on a horizontal rock is as satisfying a conquest and requires much less effort. With more energy to be expended on other interests and being in a prone position it is only logical to direct this excess vigor to cloud watching. (See November UP ROPE Carderock report by Bob Adams. Ed.)

Characteristically, rock climbers are not narrow in their interests, hence it is shocking to hear the rude witticisms about cloud watchers. Some refuse to consider it an activity and go so far as implying that the cloud watcher is asleep. This disrespectful attitude may stem from contact with a discredited group of cloud watchers who debase the art by seeking portents in the clouds from which to make notoriously inaccurate weather forecasts. Enough of them, they deserve only our silence.

Cloud watching is an esoteric experience not a group activity, an aesthetic appreciation of drama enacted against a back drop of infinity;

"Where dreams shall bloom and fade and blow
And thoughts shall flow like wine,
Where time shall be forgotten
And eternity is now -"

The extreme range of colors and the subtle shadings, the soft gentleness, and the violent turbulence are such that a cloud watcher feels an emotional exhaustion. Slowly his eyelids drift shut and in the exaltation of the great experience he achieves nirvana. With scorn we look upon those who says he is asleep.

Bob Mole

Claiming the rights of a minority group, the author insisted that we publish the above. Any complaints - please send them to the author.

UPS AND DOWNS

December 13 GREAT FALLS, Virginia

Stanley K. Jones
Samuel Butler
Carmen Torrey
Bob Adams
Bob Mole
John Ackerman
Kay Blinn

Hal Blinn
Ron Perla
James Shipley
Fred Barker
Larry Lepley
Ed Worrell
Betty Johnson

Art Lembeck
Pete Peterson

All right! Who's turn was it this time?

December 20 Herzog Island

Bevin Hewitt
Kay & Hal Blinn
Arnold Mason
Sharan Fairley
Fred Barker

Joe Faint
Alan Talbert
Mike Rosenheimer
Ken Smith
Jake Haun

Bob Mole
The Worrells
The Adams Family
John Reed
Sam Goldin

After we decided to just go to Carderock and forget the island, Ed showed up "canoe" and all. Poor Ed spent most of the day paddling back and forth. It takes seven minutes round trip for those who are interested. The Finger Tip Balance climb was worked on and many others we couldn't name. It was agreed that Don Hubbard should have been on this trip.

After supper at Tuohys we adjourned to the Cabin John Field House and had our meeting. Bob Mole furnished refreshments --(for all you who didn't know). This Sunday night meeting is a good idea. It starts early and we leave early. Perhaps Karl Edler can be persuaded to teach us some more folk dancing another time. This was fun too.

December 26 Echo Cliffs, Virginia

John Ackerman
Pete Peterson
Betty Johnson
Alan Talbert

The Worrells
Jim Shipley
The Blinns
Gil Blinn

Ted Schad
Karl & Barbara Edler
Stan Jones
Sam Butler

Gil Blinn, who has been one of the guides at Mt. Rainier for several seasons, brought with him some special rescue equipment, so we practiced rescuing Hal. Two pulleys are used along with a prusik as part of a device to pull a climber out of a crevasse. The climber is actually pulled out by his climbing rope. It can be done, but we all learned how difficult it would be to pull some one out hand over hand. We finally left Hal, whose increasingly faint cries for whisky left no pity in our hearts, rightly deciding that the survivors needed it more than he.

Prusiking was tried next. Gil tried to rescue Kay who was tied to his back, but only succeeded in getting red in the face. So much time was spent on rescuing that the only real climb of the day was made by Jim who had no problem in getting up SOCRATES DOWNFALL.

December 31 - January 3 1960 THE HERMITAGE, Pennsylvania

NEW YEARS EVE CELEBRANTS

4 Adamses
4 Edlers

Dave Varmette

Jim Shirley
Walt Kuckes

FRIDAY NIGHT

Alan Talbert

Betty Johnson

There must have been a celebration if one can judge by the decorations hanging around. Anyway, a peaceful scene greeted the Folk Dancers who arrived in time for Friday night supper. Jim at his sketch book (this to be known in the future as his realistic period) and Barbara eating soup - both before the fire. Kate made a wonderful steamed pudding for supper, the sauce of which forced some teetotalers to go off the wagon. "There's a difference between eating and drinking the stuff," says Barbara. The Morals Committee* (newly appointed by Kate Blinn) promises to look into this.

Saturday, the temperature was in the forties so nearly everyone climbed. While Johnnie and Betty practiced getting off the ground on the Swiss Guide, Bob Adams and that artist fellow climbed the ALSO. It was fun watching the different methods for getting off the ground. We had plenty of opportunity for both climbs start the same way.

Saturday night -- Johnnie's Birthday -- 14 years old! Then the intellectuals got together for a game of scrabble while the "Beatniks" solved the worlds problems in their own way. Saturday itself was remarkable for two reasons; Bob climbed THE WELKIN without a stirrup and Bobbie did a beautiful job climbing the overhang just across from the Welkin. Oh yes -- Jim climbed the Unfinished Symphony proper. We thank the Adamses for a fine weekend.

*Who but Alan Talbert!

* * * * *

We are sorry to hear that Arnold Wexler had a skiing accident in Canada over the holidays. We wish him a speedy recovery.

VOTING QUALIFICATIONS

The following recommendations were incorporated in the by-laws of the Mountaineering Committee and went into effect in January, 1952.

In order to vote at business meetings of the Mountaineering Committee of the PATC each member must meet the following requirements:

- 1) a) Be a member of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club OR
b) Must have been a member of the Mountaineering Committee (formerly and colloquially known as the Washington Rock Climbers) who met the climbing requirements for voting prior to June 1, 1950.

2) In addition, each person who desires to cast a ballot must have participated during the preceding twelve months, in the climbing activities of the Mountaineering Committee, as outlined in paragraph a) below, or, alternatively and electively, in Paragraphs b,c,d,e, or f, and must be a dues paying member in good standing:

- a) Completion of two Class A, or one Class A and two Class B Climbs.
OR b) Participation on ten trips and completion of ten climbs of a classified nature. Only three of these trips must be official Committee trips. The remaining seven need merely be reported.
OR c) The ascent of a rock peak, requiring mountaineering techniques, which extends more than 2000 feet above timberline, and participation on three official trips of the Mountaineering Committee and completion of three classified climbs;
OR d) The ascent of a glacier-hung peak, requiring mountaineering techniques, and participation in three official trips of the Mountaineering Committee and completion of three classified climbs;
OR e) Participation in an expedition which requires back-packing into remote country for the purpose of mountaineering, and participation in three official trips of the Mountaineering Committee and completion of three classified climbs;
OR f) Exploration of a cave requiring mountaineering techniques, and participation in five official trips of the Mountaineering Committee and completion of five classified climbs.

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BUSINESS MANAGER: Jake Haun, Jr., Woodstock, Virginia