



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

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The Mountaineering Committee meets at Howard Johnson's restaurant, Western and Wisconsin Avenues at 8 a.m. for breakfast every Sunday morning, and leaves for the climbing areas at 8:30. Instruction is offered for beginners. Due to poor weather conditions during the next few months, it may be necessary to change our trip schedules, so be sure to meet us at the restaurant or look behind the southeast drainpipe for a note telling you where we have gone.

COMING EVENTS

January	22	CUPIDS BOWER, Maryland	FIRST AID
	29	GREAT FALLS, Maryland	FIRST AID
		ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS, 8 p.m. at the Club House. (See below for details.)	
February	5	GARDEN ROCK. No belay practice with Oscar. FIRST AID.	

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following candidates:

For Chairman: Harold Kramer
For Vice-Chairman: Alan J. Talbert

Other nominees may be proposed from the floor at the annual meeting.

The following voting qualifications 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) Be a member of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club OR Must have been a member of the Mountaineering Committee (formerly the Washington Rock Climbers) who met the climb-

ing 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 c) below, or, alternately and electively, in paragraphs b), 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 must be merely reported. OR

c) The ascent of a north peak requiring mountaineering techniques, which extends more than 2000 feet above the timberline, and participation on three official trips of the Mountaineering Committee and completion of three classified climbs. OR

d) The ascent of a glacier lung 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.

We were saddened to note the death of Devin Hewitt on November 26 at NIH following a long fight against cancer. Devin was active in rock climbing several years ago, but his first love was speleology. He took part in a large number of cave trips, many of which were original explorations.

J.S. Reports - New Hermitage Climbs

Let no rock go unattacked! This is a good motto to go by in our practice areas because, even though we cannot climb everything, we can still make the attempt. Something is usually named unclimbable when, in truth, it should only be noted as unclimbed. "So Far?" Everyone of us can remember many times when an "unclimbable" face was proven not so "unclimbable", although it may have taken many unsuccessful attempts to prepare the way for the final victory. Furthermore, such practice attempts at climbing the "unclimbable" create a good foundation for evaluating the difficulty of a climb—a great benefit and necessity for lead climbing.

In the past year I have been lucky enough to find three new climbs at the Hermitage. The first of these is a variation of the Mezzanine which involves going over an overhang at the outside corner. The climb starts at the point where one usually begins to chimney, and goes from there via a hand traverse to the overhanging outside corner. Here is located a small, eroded looking vertical crack. By using smaller horizontal ledges on the sides of this, one can pull himself up to where he can stand on the ledge where his hands originally were for the traverse. From this position one can jam his hands into the now enlarged crack and gain an additional four feet over the normal route.

Another climb is one I call the Minute Waltz. It lies about eight feet to the left of the Unfinished Symphony. The first ten feet of this climb are, in fact, the same as the Unfinished, but after the

the first ledge is reached, the climb goes straight up—instead of to the right. From the ledge it is easy to climb up and reach some semi-detached flakes. With these one can walk up on small footholds until two horizontal ledges about one-half an inch wide and three feet above the flakes can be reached. With the aid of these ledges it is possible to straddle the flakes and reach up for the same ledge which, on the Unfinished, has that miserable tree which gets in everyone's way. Here is the crux of the climb—to be able to stand on this ledge. It involves walking up the small footholds below it with very little for one's hands. However, once the ledge is reached, it is fairly simple to go on over the top.

The third climb is the most interesting to me because it has a personality that sets it apart from the others. It lies on the right side of a face between the Mezzanine and the Overhang. Starting from a ledge at about the same level as the beginning of the chimney on the Mezzanine, it follows a small inside and outside corner. This section is made up of small hand and footholds and after about twelve feet one can reach the first of two horizontal ledges that traverse the face. It is necessary to retable up to this ledge and as it bulges out it is not possible to stand up without more handholds. These are provided by a small hole about four feet above the ledge. Although this hole is only big enough for the tips of two fingers it provides adequate balance and support to enable one to walk his feet up onto the ledge. Here, about shoulder height, is a rather large outcropping of white quartz. By holding onto an outside corner of this quartz and leaning to the right, it is possible to walk up on some very small footholds until one can reach his hands over the edge of the second horizontal ledge. This ledge is much more rounded than the first but upon close scrutiny it is possible to find enough edges amid the roundness to be able to surmount the ledge. Here one is confronted with a final overhang that seems to be quite impossible from below as it appears to be made up of a succession of smooth bulges. However, what one does not readily realize is that it is a smaller overhang than it appears and it is possible to just about reach over the top. A one-quarter inch diagonal crack near the top of the overhang enables the climber to surmount this final obstacle and complete the climb.

Here then are three new climbs, two of which depend mostly on balance and not arm strength. These were previously either overlooked or not attacked persistently enough. I believe that this shows that there are always new climbs to be discovered, no matter how often or extensively we have climbed in an area.

—Jim Shipley

Don't forget the Annual Business Meeting and Election of Officers at 8 p.m., Sunday, January 29.

EDITOR: Betty Johnson

BUSINESS MANAGER: Hardy Hargreaves. Send Check to him at the clubhouse, 1916 Sunderland Place, Washington 6, D.C. for twelve issues of UP ROPE.