



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1916 Sunderland Place N. W. Washington 6, D. C.

Volume XVIII Number 2

Page 1

February 1963

COMING EVENTS

February

3 CARDEROCK

10 BIRD'S NEST AREA, Great Falls, Va.

17 GREAT FALLS, MD.

17 FEBRUARY MEETING--see notice below

20 Deadline for March Up Rope

22-23-24 Long weekend at SENECA, WEST VA. Contact Ed Worrell for information.

Sunday trips start from Howard Johnson's restaurant at Wisconsin and Western Avenues, N.W., at 8:30 a.m. (Come early if you plan to have breakfast.) Wear clothing suitable for the weather, bring lunch and canteen. Sneakers are suitable for climbing.

"WORLD OF SNOW"

The February meeting of the Mountaineering Committee will feature a lecture by Lt. Col. M. Banks, R.N., titled "THE WORLD OF SNOW." He will cover climbing in Britain, Norway, the Alps and Alaska, two Himalaya expeditions and a polar expedition. The lecture is illustrated by slides and motion pictures.

Meeting to be held at Trail Club Headquarters, 1916 Sunderland Place, N.W., at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, February 17.

EDITORIAL

Most of us are well aware that Alice Lane has resigned as editor and will be traveling in Europe with Christl Scherer.

Up Rope will be a more solemn publication without her talent and humor. We cannot duplicate Alice's unique ability to keep Up Rope sparkling and lively. We are entirely dependent on the

material contributed by people with something to say. If you have anything to say, say it for Up Rope. Send in your articles, technical or humorous, personal or what have you. Help keep our publication worth reading.

For those of us lucky enough to know Alice and Christl, not only Up Rope but life itself will lose some of its sparkle. So to both of you--"Haste ye back!"

January 23 Meeting at the Edlers'

High winds and blizzard conditions prevailed on Wednesday evening. Those who made it to Landover Hills--about a dozen--were glad to get into the Edlers' warm house and to "test" the down parkas which Karl had on loan from various manufacturers. Other items of equipment were also on display, including a case for carrying crampons which appealed to several members.

The chief feature of the business meeting was the election of officers for next year. The climbers accepted the report of the nominating committee in silent unanimity, re-electing Ed Worrell Chairman and choosing Ed Goodman for Vice. Congratulations, gentlemen!

Because Arnold Wexler was down with the flu, a program was hastily improvised by several ubiquitous 35 mm operators. Chuck Wettling ran quickly through a fair-weather Canadian Alpine Club camp in British Columbia and ended with the foul-weather local trip to Annapolis Rocks in early December. Someone in the back of the room sounded particularly appreciative of Chuck's fineeye for unusual cloud formations. The second feature was dominated by the Grand Teton; narration by Bob Adams.

At the end of the show, a special presentation was made to the Chairman. Chuck handed Ed a Triton-horn trumpet "for signaling lunchtime and other emergencies."

The evening ended with the traditional sampling of food. Climbers agree that macaroons and date bars made by Barbara Edler are the finest this side of 15,000 feet. Thanks for your hospitality!

FIRST COMMUNIQUÉ FROM OUR EUROPEAN CORRESPONDENTS:

Please correct the spelling of the street address of Alice and Christl. It should be:

Perzheimstr. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$

A.L.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

The Mountaineering Committee has had a busy year with trips scheduled every weekend. Surprisingly, the trips were sometimes better attended on days of rain and snow. Attendance varied from 6 to 70 plus on regular trips with the Peace Corps training session reaching approximately 90.

Our monthly trips to Carderock are normally the best attended. This area provides a variety of climbing ranging from ridiculously easy to ridiculously hard. In spite of the constant activity of Carderock new climbs can still be discovered. A notable one is an overhanging face to the left of Sterling's crack where one uses tiny holds normally reserved for non-overhanging balance climbs. The Vogarian Wedge, the center flake of the Three Chimney Climb, was done by Joe Faint without the assistance of the walls on either side. Another climb has been established on the face to the left of Leonard's Lunacy.

The dynamic belaying activity at Carderock has been suspended since our Oscar tree is suffering a terminal illness and had become unsafe. The rigging has therefore been removed. There has been negligible progress toward finding a new site for the dynamic belaying practice. The formalized belaying training of the previous year has been supplanted by a policy of informal training and individual responsibility.

There have been thirteen official weekend trips to various climbing areas. The majority have naturally been to the Seneca Rocks, W. Va., neighborhood with its outstanding opportunities for lead climbing. The Hermitage with the adjacent Schaeffer Rocks was visited twice. The last trip to the Hermitage the end of December was notable for the total of three successful ascents and not too many more attempts due to the snow cover on the rocks. On an excellent trip to Devil's Garden and Big Schloss the group was quartered at Wolf Gap Cabin, where some of us learned English poker from Major Tom Hardman of the British Army. English poker is a real sportsman's game, not to be confused with watered-down American forms. A party of six stayed at Range View and explored Little Devil's Stairs and Big Devil's Stairs. Falling rock provides a severe hazard at these areas; otherwise they would receive more frequent visits. Other Blue Ridge activity centered at Old Rag and White Oak Canyon.

The group has investigated a new climbing area this year, namely Annapolis Rocks, which are located by the Appalachian Trail near Route 40. This area has some fine climbing including a spectacular overhang. A second trip to the area was ended early by a snowstorm, and a vivid demonstration to us of the possible danger of being caught by storm in the mountains.

We have encouraged small groups to make their own weekend trips where they can climb more freely than when tied down by the responsibilities arising in a large party. These small trips have proved extremely successful and enjoyable.

As usual the Committee has had a few caving trips. Most notable was a trip to Lowmoor Cave, Va. led by Ted Schad. Schoolhouse Cave was visited twice, once by plan and again when rain prevented climbing on Seneca. A group experimented with a rope and pulley scheme for entering and leaving at Harper's Cave. Part of the group used conventional techniques (rappel and prusik knots) for visiting Hell Hole because the rope and pulley scheme was found to be inapplicable. Several minor caves were also visited.

In theory, our year round climbing provides training for mountain trips in the summer. Four of these mountain trips were made this summer. The annual Hendricks, Hubbard, Peterson trip to British Columbia was rained out. Arnold Wexler and Marty Maricle visited the Wind River Range with the Rodmans of Pittsburgh. Several parties visited the Grand Tetons, the Adams family returning for the nth time, Bill Allnut for his second, and Betty Johnson, Ron Bell, and Karl Edler for their first visit. Joe Faint and Mike Nicholson also put in appearances there. The Worrell family was limited to hiking in the Tetons and the Black Hills by snow, rain, and the expected September arrival of Chris W. Notable was a seven mile hike up Harney Peak, South Dakota by Eric, $3\frac{1}{2}$, and Frank, $5\frac{1}{2}$.

The Mountaineering Committee made a significant contribution to U.S. foreign policy by providing several training sessions for the Peace Corps. The most extensive of these was conducted August 18 for 73 Peace Corps volunteers led by Dr. Tyrance and Tom Johnson of the Howard University Physical Education Department. Almost all had a chance to participate in climbing, rappelling, belaying, and a Tyrolean traverse. This event rated a quarter page in the next day's Washington Post. We have had reports from Togoland that some of the Corps men entertain themselves by rock climbing and biking.

A demonstration of mountaineering techniques was given on October 28 to nine members of the U.S. Army 395th Convalescent Center from Rockville, Maryland at the request of 1st Lt. Anthony Harp. The purpose of this group is to restore the physical condition of hospitalized men before they are reassigned to combat units.

The Committee's publication, Up Rope, has had a good year under its successive editors, Hardy Hargreaves and Alice Lane. The humor instilled by Alice has been greatly appreciated. The new year will see Bob Mole wielding the editor's blue pencil.

We regret to report that two of our more active members, Betty and Ron Bell, (a fall Mountaineering Committee Wedding) have been transferred to Connecticut. Also, there are rumors that two others may leave for a spring and summer of full-time climbing.

Finally, I wish to express appreciation for the help of Al Klovdahl, our Vice Chairman for the previous year.

Ed Worrell, Chairman
Mountaineering Committee

NOTES FROM OTHER JOURNALS

The 1962 British Alpine Journal had a number of items of interest to our members. I noted particularly a brief paragraph about Dr. Karl Prusik who died in May, 1961, at age 65. The inventor of the Prusik Knot had served twice as president of the Osterreichischer Alpenklub and is said to have pioneered some seventy new ascents or routes. Many individuals, not knowing the source of the name, spell the well known knot the Prussic Knot. Even several standard references make this error.

The December, 1962, issue of Appalachia carries a full account of the AMC Grand Teton tragedy of last July. Those of us particularly who were there late last summer and heard versions of this story from Park officials and Exum guides will be interested in the official (?) account.

Last August when I was on Teton Glacier with Bill Allnut, Jake Breitenbach, and several others, Jake's one day old Charlet-Moser ice axe broke in normal use as he was probing with the point. The break occurred in the ash wood at the juncture between point and shaft where a rivet passes through wood and metal. The large point of this axe design leaves only a small cross section of wood, further weakened by the rivet, to create a concealed trouble spot. I would appreciate hearing reports of other failures of equipment where design or manufacture appears to be at fault.

UPS AND DOWNS

January 20--Great Falls, Va.

Rosemarie Erlenmaier	Betty and Ron Bell
Bill Paulhaber	Don Hubbard
Mary "Kelly" Kelliher	Bob Berger
Mary Turk	Bob Mole
Judy Hock	Bob, Kate, and Bobby Adams
Larry Buck	Pat and Mike Banks
Ed Goodman	Karl Edler
Chuck Wettling	

A gray and unhappy-looking morning didn't keep a large group, including several newcomers, from meeting at Howard Johnson's. We left about 9:00 for the corkscrew area at Great Falls, Va.

Chuck spent most of the day belaying for and otherwise helping the four new girls, Rosemarie, Judy, Kelly, and Mary. Bobby Adams was the first one up Blood and Guts, and he was successfully followed by several others. Bill claims to have started three climbs and completed them all, which accomplishment impressed him so much that he is considering, at Larry's suggestion, giving up belaying and concentrating strictly on climbing from now on.

The sun that came out around lunchtime sent Larry, Bill, Mike, Ed, Bobby Adams, Bob Adams, and Bob Berger flying for Bird's Nest, where they also reportedly did some climbing. The girls stayed behind with Bob Mole, Kate, and Chuck for some practice at rappelling and prusiking. We had dinner at Tuohy's.

--M. Turk

NOTE: Betty and Ron Bell spent the morning with us. They are all enthused about the hiking and climbing possibilities near their new home in Connecticut.

January 27--Great Falls, Md.

Bob, Kate, and Bobby Adams
 Chuck Wettling
 Dick Crompton
 Don Hubbard
 Bill Faulhaber
 Ed Goodman

Larry Buck
 Alice Lane
 Christl Scherer
 Al Barbour
 Mary Turk

Rosemarie Erlenmaier
 Kelly Kelliher
 Alan Talbert
 Bob Mole
 Bob Berger (breakfast only)

Among those who arrived early at Ho-Jo's were Don Hubbard, Dick Crompton, Chuck Wettling, Mary Turk, and Kelly Kelliher. Although the day promised to be a cold one, others of the group soon arrived to "discuss" the destination. After extensive deliberation the group, minus Bob "Necktie" Berger, headed upstream along Old Mac Trail to Great Falls.

A number of interesting climbs were soon being warmed to the freezing point by friction from falling icicles, otherwise known as climbers. In spite of the temperature, however, it was a sunny and pleasant day, with several groups climbing independently of each other. A majority of the climbs attempted, such as the "Red Overhand," were free of snow because they were overhung.

We were joined in the afternoon by Alice Lane, Christl Scherer, Al Barbour, Bob Mole, and Alan Talbert at an impromptu skating session on one of the ponds.

The day ended with an unusually well-behaved session at Touhey's. Although there seemed to be an excessive number of empty beer mugs in the vicinity of C. Wettling and R. Mole, these members claimed they were merely conducting a research experiment. It should be interesting to hear of any results.

--L. Buck

NOTE: The lure of ice climbing overcame Don Hubbard's usual breakfast table procrastinations and he appeared at the base of the lone miniature ice cliff to direct traffic.

The available vertical ice was soon riddled by the axes of enthusiastic students and Don invoked his horizontal self arrest training.

The action takes place on a frozen pond. A climbing rope is attached to the victim and he is pulled rapidly across the ice, vainly trying to slow down the system with an ice axe self arrest.

It was a convincing demonstration of the difficulties in regaining control after a fall on steep hard ice slopes.

It's also a good way to introduce powdered ice under one's parka.

Change of address:

Alan Mole

Alice Lane

Christl Scherer

2001 So. York, Denver 10, Colo.

Augsburg, Perzheimstr. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$,

West Germany

Note: 15¢ air-mail letter
 11¢ postcard

New subscribers:

Mary E. Kelliher

Mary Turk

Judy Hock

Lcdr. A. D. Haigh, Jr., USN

St. Agnes Hosp. Nurses' Residence, Balto., Md.

2209 Observatory Pl., NW Phone: 333-5908

2718 Devonshire Pl., NW Phone: 332-6595

USS Topeka (Clg8) F.P.O.
 San Francisco, California