

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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

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March 1963

COMING EVENTS

March 3 CARDEROCK, MD.

10 BULL RUN MTN., VA. Park at mill.

17 SPITZBERGEN, MD., and upstream

20 Deadline for April UP ROPE

24 SUGAR LOAF MTN., MD.

27 March meeting. See notice below.

31 POT HOLES, VA. Note: Potholes are downstream from Echo Cliff and are opposite Purple Horse area.

Sunday trips start from Howard Johnson's restaurant at Wisconsin and Western Ave., N.W., at 8:30 a.m. (Come early if you want breakfast.) Wear clothing suitable for the weather. Bring lunch and canteen. Sneakers are suitable for climbing. Latecomers look for note behind drain pipe on Western Ave. side of building. Clue: There are two drainpipes!

MARCH MEETING

If you missed Arnold Wexler's slides of his 1962 Wind River trip at the annual meeting, here is your chance to use that raincheck. He will show them at the home of Joan and Phil Cardon, 2209 Parker Ave., Wheaton, Md., Phone Whitehall 2-4325.

Time: 8:00 p.m. Date: Wed., March 27. DIRECTIONS: Through Wheaton on Georgia Ave. (ext.). Pass University Blvd. stop light, pass Arcola Ave. stop light, go two blocks to Parker Ave., turn right. 2209 is in second block (dead end street)--two-story white frame house on left side.

EDITORIAL

The P.A.T.C. Mountaineering Committee probably has as fine a background in the theory and practice of belaying as any group. The work of Arnold Wexler (read "belaying the Leader" by Richard M. Leonard and Arnold Wexler) clearly outlines the fundamental mechanics and the technique of static and dynamic belays. Dynamic belay practice with "Oscar" was once a monthly feature. By applied theory and practice belaying became so effective that it came to be taken for granted that anyone could give a safe belay. Three accidents in close succession due to failure of the belayer proved this false and shocked the group into establishing a check-out procedure to insure that new climbers knew how to and were able to set up and give a sound belay.

Once again we are neglecting to teach belaying. The Check-out system has been dropped. "Oscar's" tree is dead and we have had one near accident recently from belayer failure.

Questions

1. Do we need three accidents before we act again?
2. Is a check-out system desirable or necessary?
3. Is the voluntary individual instruction system able to insure that new climbers are sound belayers before they take on the responsibility for a climber's safety?
4. Is a single instructor enough to pass on the ability of a new belayer or should several instructors be required?
5. Do you have an opinion concerning this? Send it to UP ROPE and we will print the pro's and Con's.

February 3, 1963

Believe it or not, there were a few who did not go to Hell Hole. Among those who went to Carderock were Ed Worrell, Will Thresher, Joe Nolte, Al Klov Dahl, Judy Hock, Bob Gerhard, Kit Walther, Art Sands, John and Joan Oosterwyk, and Bob Berger. Some of these met at Ho Jo's as usual----- the others joined us at Carderock.

The climbing was quite different from the usual. The rocks (the majority) were covered with ice. In fact, there was so much ice on Jan's Face that we could have almost used ice screws and crampons. Just two had the honor to make it to the top---- Al Klov Dahl and Ed Worrell.

However, the most memorable part of the day didn't come until we were just leaving for Touhey's. Screams attracted our attention to the river. There to our surprise was a large slab of ice floating downstream---- on top of which were three young men. One was already wet to the skin. The chunk of ice on which they were cruising came to a sudden halt where the river had frozen all the way across. Here these gents disembarked from their vessel just as it broke into a thousand little boats. We saw the three gentlemen ashore and left for Touhey's.

BOOK REVIEW

THE STANDARD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF THE WORLD'S MOUNTAINS. Edited by Anthony Huxley. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1962. 383 pages; photographs and illustrations, 16 color plates, 12 maps. \$10.95.

This is a noble and almost successful effort to produce a single reference volume including history, geography, and geology of the world's mountains and facts about mountaineering. Thirty British mountain scholars and writers contributed under Huxley's editorship to produce the book. While the noticeable British slant on things is not really objectionable, it does seem a shame that the list of contributors to a "standard" work is not more international in nature.

The book opens with a brief general view of mountains and mountaineering, and passes quickly to a section entitled "Mountaineering Pioneers." Here we find all sorts of individuals, such as Douglas Hadow, who on his first major ascent slipped and precipitated the famous Mummery Party accident on the Matterhorn in 1865. James Ramsey Ullman is listed, who, though an important figure in mountain literature, would probably not call himself a pioneer. Where are some of the pioneers like William Jackson, the mountain photographer? What about Cassin, Rubuffet, or some of the other giants of recent years?

A glossary explains most mountain terms and illustrates equipment for the benefit of the uninitiated. They forgot to include the ice axe, and the only illustration of a belay is the pretty but almost useless shoulder method.

Outline maps are included which illustrate the general location of mountain ranges throughout the world. While these maps are useful for orientation it would be wonderful if additional larger scale maps of major mountain areas could be included.

The major portion of the book is headed with the title: "The World's Mountains." Here are about 300 descriptive articles about the major ranges and peaks. My dad, who gave me the book for Christmas, was delighted because the relatively insignificant Harz Mountains, where we have many relatives, are given a full page. Likewise, our own Blue Ridge comes in for a page of description. The Teton Range, one of our most truly alpine groups, rates just over a column. The Selkirks of British Columbia and many other sub-groups that didn't quite make "the big time" are relegated to a gazetteer near the end of the book along with 1500 other line items.

Excellent photographs in color and black and white are well distributed through the volume in generous number. The text itself is extremely readable and interesting, with many little known facts. After reading about and seeing the Drakensberg Mountains, Barbara and I were all set to head for South Africa to become "mountain pioneers" ourselves. Anyone for a climb on the Dragon's Tooth?

Karl Edler

UPS AND DOWNS

February 10--Great Falls, Va.

Bob, Kate, and Bobby Adams
Mary Turk
Kelly Kelliher
Chuck Wettling
Dick Crompton
Joe Nolte
Ed Goodman

Bill Faulhaber
Larry Buck
Bob Berger
Al Klovedahl
Mike and Joan Nicholson
John Edger

February 17--Great Falls, Md.

Bob Berger
Larry Buck
Chuck Wettling
Mary Turk
Al Barbour
Bill Faulhaber
Ed Worrell
Kelly Kelliher

Don Hubbard--breakfast only
Bob, Kate, Bobby, and Penny Adams
Dave Horowitz and son
Mike and Pat Banks
Joe Nolte
Al Klovedahl
Bob Mole

Ice Skaters and Rock Climbers Paradise

The previous Sunday at Great Falls, Va., a few of us enviously looked across the rapid flowing Potomac River at some frozen ponds on the Maryland side. No wonder then that after a week of sub-freezing temperatures we happily set out this morning for Great Falls, Md.

After we descended to the valley and before Bob could secure a rope for climbing, Seer W. had his skates on and was racing down the ice-coated ponds, scooping up stray beer cans as he flew along. The Mole was at his heels. So I caught up with them, waved the red flag, and the game of snatching tag began. Seer was adept at circling protruding rocks and demonstrated a new way to secure tight laced skates (before one inserts his feet) having cunningly hidden his boots to prevent retaliation. The Mole also applied folk dancing to ice skating.

Meanwhile on the cliffs bordering the ice ponds, the serious rock climbers excitedly fastened the ropes to test their strength on new climbs most of the year. Occasionally a few of them tried their skill on the ice, but not for long. In the afternoon they too paused to pose for an artistic photograph of a climber (guess who) being photographed by a second climber.

In mid-afternoon a third class of climbers arrived: those who sleep all morning, arrive late carrying a heavy pack and maybe a rope, stand around watching and commenting, and then agitate for a quick departure to Touhey's. Today they lured away the skaters, exhausted from their day on the ice, but the climbers, reluctant to leave their new found climbs, lingered for another hour.

After a "grab and stab" dinner blue jay fashion, we departed for the clubhouse to watch Mike Banks' excellent slides and movies of his many snow, rock and ice climbing adventures. --(S)kate

We wish to express our appreciation for the very interesting lecture by Mike Banks at the Feb. meeting. Our thanks also to Catherine (Skate) Adams and Blondie Worrell, who furnished the goodies.

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Up ROPE

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Ups and Downs

February 3, 1963

Hell Hole

A majority of adventure questing members journeyed to Mouth of Seneca, West Virginia, for an exploratory expedition into Hell Hole. Taking just over two hours for the eleven people in the party to descend onto the cavern floor, we were split into three groups by 11:00 A.M. After short side trips, Karl Edler and Marty Maricle joined us. The exodus was lead by Johnny Adams. The best times for the 110 foot prussik exercise were as follows :

| | | |
|--------------|------------|-------|
| Ed Goodman | 8 .25 Min. | WIN |
| Johnny Adams | 10. Min. | Place |
| Bob Adams | 11. Min. | Show |

ALSO*RANS (out of order)

Bobby Adams
Kate Adams
Chuck Wettling
Bob Mole

Mary Turk
Larry Buck
Norma Martin
Karl Edler

Marty Maricle
Bill Faulhaber

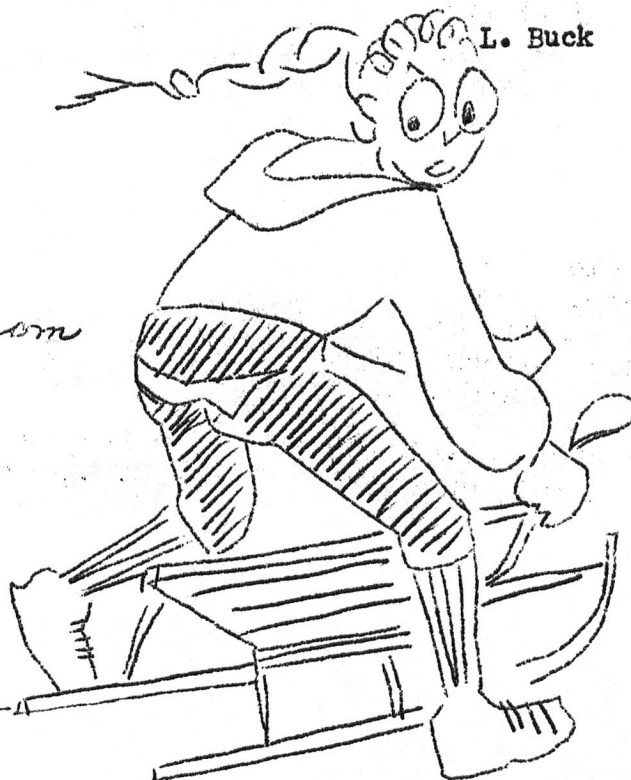
WINTER SPORTS

IN

GERMANY

exclusive report from
Up Rope's foreign
correspondent

Alice



PERSONALS: Best of luck to Lois Holtgren who is now Mrs. Peter Groblicki. Lois and Peter were married Dec. 8, 1962, in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

John and Carmen Malcolm 2503 Queens Chapel Rd. Phone: 927-2876
Mt. Ranier, Md.
Polly Kromer 2508 W. 95th St.
Bloomington 31, Minnesota

NEW SUBSCRIBERS:

David A. Warshawsky 2063 Park Rd. N.W. Phone: 347-4877
Washington 10, D.C.

WEATHER:

A weather forecast for marine use on the Chesapeake Bay may be obtained by dialing either NA 8-4100 or NA 8-4101. This gives more information than the usual forecast from the telephone company.

ICE SKATING:

National Park Service information at RE 7-1820 will advise as to condition of ice in the parks.

HELP WANTED:

Do you know of a good location for a new Oscar setup?

Requirements: not too far from the road
not too near picnic areas; Carderock probably will
not be satisfactory after the parking lot is
completed
one tall sturdy tree or overhanging rock suitable
for "Oscar's" rig

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