



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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May 1963

COMING EVENTS

- May 5 Carderock, Md.
- 11-12 Harpers Ferry, West Va.
Weekend work trip--contact Ed Worrell RI 4-5114 (Baltimore) or Ed Goodman JE 4-3856 for details. Bring hard hats, Prusik slings, and comfortable rappel slings or seats. This is your chance to participate in secret mission 66.
- 19 Annapolis Rocks, Md. 2½ miles north of Route 40 (South Mountain) on the Appalachian Trail.
- 20 Dead line for UP ROPE
- 26 Great Falls, Md.
- June 1-2 Seneca Rocks, West Va.
Contact Ed Worrell or Ed Goodman. No beginners.
- 9 Carderock, Md.

Sunday trips start from Howard Johnson's at Wisconsin and Western Avenues, 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 drainpipe at Western Ave. side of building.

SENECA

We are informed that the state of West Virginia has acquired a few acres of land between the highway and Seneca Rocks for use as a camping and picnic area. Work has been started on ground clearing and developing a water supply.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON MEMORIAL PARKWAY

This is the first of a series of articles which the P.A.T.C. Conservation Committee has been invited to contribute to UP ROPE. These articles will deal with developments affecting outdoor recreation and conservation of natural resources, particularly in the Potomac Valley.

In 1930 Congress passed the Capper-Cramton Act, landmark legislation which has guided the development of the park system of the Washington Metropolitan Area. It provided for acquisition for park purposes of both shores of the Potomac (and its islands) from Washington up to Great Falls, and down to Fort Washington on the Maryland side and Mount Vernon in Virginia. It also provided for acquisition of park land in the valleys of tributary streams, such as Sligo Creek and Cabin John Creek, on a Federal-local fund-matching basis. A strip of land along the River, varying in width, has now been acquired for most of the authorized distance on both sides and placed under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service. In Maryland the counties have taken advantage of the Federal aid to acquire extensive acreage in a number of stream valleys; in Virginia not so much has been accomplished.

The first provision of the Capper-Cramton Act also authorized construction of a road in the parkway to be established along the Potomac, although no exact route was specified. Aside from the Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, previously begun, little attention was paid to the idea of a road for a number of years. As originally used in the enabling law, the term "George Washington Memorial Parkway" signified the entire project--an elongated river-side park. Later, as the word "parkway" came to be applied to a landscaped, limited-access highway, regional planners began using the name "George Washington Memorial Parkway" to designate new highways to be built through the newly acquired park land and these routes appeared on the planners' maps.

When Interior Department legal officials interpreted the road authorization as mandatory rather than permissive, the National Park Service began pushing plans for construction. No further authorization for the project was deemed necessary, and no specific appropriation was required, since the Park Service could draw on general appropriations made annually for national park roads throughout the country.

By the early 1950's conservationists realized the impact the up-river portion of the Parkway in Maryland would have on the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. They tried to persuade administrative officials to utilize an improved MacArthur Boulevard for the Parkway between the District Line and Great Falls, or at least to agree to locate the new road 300 feet from the Canal. The first alternative bogged down because the Park Service and the Army Corps of Engineers (who control MacArthur Boulevard) were not interested in getting together and was complicated because of the water supply conduits under MacArthur Boulevard. The second alternative proved impracticable because the right-of-way available for the Parkway was simply too narrow in most places. Appeals to Congressional committees were to no avail, as the latter accepted the Park Service's bland assurances that the Parkway would not harm the Canal.

Construction of the Parkway on the Virginia side of the Potomac began first. It was completed to Spout Run, with a spur up to Lorcom Lane; then to the Central Intelligence Agency building at Langley; and recently to the Capital Beltway at the new Cabin John Bridge. Beyond this point its future is in doubt, as considerable private land remains to be acquired for the right-of-way and there is strong opposition from property holders to a riverside route. The project may utilize Route 193, further inland, instead.

On the Maryland side grading has been completed from near Chain Bridge to just above Carderock but no paving has been done. A bridge is under construction over Cabin John Creek. At Carderock a tunnel has been built under the C & O Canal and a spur road will run through this to two large parking and picnicking areas between the Canal and the River. Beyond Carderock the Parkway route is expected to follow pretty close to the Canal past the Anglers' Club and Widewater to Great Falls, but no grading has been done in this section. A proposed bridge across the Potomac just above Great Falls, connecting the Maryland and Virginia portions of the Parkway, does not appear on present planners' maps.

Below Washington, on the Maryland side, land acquisition has been slow and has met local opposition, but it now appears that a right-of-way for the route will be acquired and the Parkway will eventually go through to Fort Washington.

In summary, the laudable object of the Capper-Cramton Act to acquire and preserve the shores of the Potomac in park land has largely been attained. But construction of highways through these elongated parks, while contributing to the enjoyment of motorists, is also seriously damaging the scenic, natural and recreational values of the lands so "preserved."

Philip J. Stone

Chairman, P.A.T.C. Conservation Committee

Ups and Downs

17 March 1963

Spitzbergen, Maryland

Ed Worrell
Joe Faint
Al Klov Dahl
Mary Turk
Larry Buck
Eileen Daily
Stewart Williams

Adams family
Chuck Wettling
Hal Kramer
Kelley Kelliher
John Howell
Pat Fitzgerald
Edna Wratten

Joe Nolte
Mike & Joan Nicholson
Marty Maricle
Ed Goodman
Al Barbour
Richard Curtin

This fine spring day really brought out the climbers and a number of sun-worshippers as myself. The morning was spent at the Spitzbergen area. Many of the climbers did several of the climbs here, warming up their muscles for the more challenging climbs in the afternoon. If there had been any doubt about this one particular climb, R.A. saw to it that the route was colorfully marked in red. Was that type AB or O?

There were a number of new faces in the group being introduced to the rocks by the experienced members of the group. At times I'm sure they thought it was going to be quite a wet adventure as they happened to glance at the swirling Potomac below.

Aye, there was a wee bit of the Irish in the air this Sunday since it was St. Patrick's day. Our culinary genius, Kate Adams, came through again with her chocolate cake only this time it was iced in a brilliant green! Irish or not, it didn't take our hungry bunch long to consume this delicacy!

Following the suggestion of Mike Nicholson and Joe Faint, the afternoon was spent at a new area located further up stream. One of the most popular of the climbs was labeled the George Washington finger-hole climb. It seems that G.W. had been drilling some holes in preparation of a canal system. Many thanks to old G.W. since he very conveniently placed these holes not realizing they would be useful to climbers.

The end of this enjoyable day came about when we heard cries from our thirsty bunch indicating that it was time to head in the direction of Touhey's.

J. Nicholson

PRELIMINARY ACCIDENT REPORT *

On Sunday, April 28, 1963, eight of the local members of the climbing club undertook an unscheduled, informal trip to Annapolis Rocks, Md. Participants were Mary Turk, Joe Nolte, Bill Allnutt, Larry Griffin, Larry Pease, Bill Faulhaber, Steve Barber, and Al Klov Dahl, and most of the day was spent in uneventful climbing.

Toward the end of the day, we decided to rig as a practice climb an overhanging face at the extreme north end of the climbing area. The climb was rigged from above so that it could be belayed from below and the rigging was as follows: a sling of one-inch nylon around a large rock, three karabiners attached to the sling, and a 3/8 inch nylon climbing rope threaded through the karabiners with both ends of the rope extending to the ground approximately fifty feet below. The rigging was tested from below, while being observed from the top, and it appeared to be satisfactory. Following this the face was ascended by four climbers in succession; each climber tested (the rope and the respective belayers simultaneously) before attempting the climb, and each climber completed the climb to the summit without falling into the rope.

The fifth climber, Bill Faulhaber, tested and then started up the climb. Part way up the climb he decided that he would not be able to complete the climb. Bill informed his belayer of this, let go of the rock, and swung across the face. The rope broke as Bill (175 lbs.) was being lowered. He fell free about 10 or 15 feet, landed in a sitting position on a rock below at the level of his belayer, and pitched forward down a slope an additional fifteen feet before coming to a halt.

Faulhaber was conscious at all times, and upon examination complained of sharp pains in the area of his right hip. Lacerations of both wrists and a sore thumb were the only other apparent injuries. Within a relatively short time the pain in his hip had diminished to the extent that Bill wanted to try to make the trip back to the car under his own power. After resting a while and gathering up equipment, we hiked to the parking area without incident. (The trail from Annapolis Rocks to the parking area on route 40 is fairly easy: it is 3 miles long and drops less than 600 feet.) From the parking area Bill was driven to a hospital in Bethesda, Md., for further examination.

The rope that broke, as previously stated, was a 3/8 inch nylon climbing rope which had been purchased in Wyoming in August of 1961. The reason the rope broke has not yet been determined. It is hoped that the investigation which is to follow will be able to ascertain the cause or causes of this rope failure.

NOTE: Two broken bones in the right wrist and a bruised hip were the extent of Bill's injuries.

MARCH MEETING

The March 27 meeting began with a critical discussion of teaching of beginners and belaying.

Arnold Wexler's enjoyable 1962 Wind River slides followed; Joan and Phil Cardon were hosts to the meeting.

*It was felt by a number of people that due to the nature of the accident a preliminary report should be made available as soon as possible.

PATC EQUIPMENT NOTES

Cutter Compact Snake Bite Kits are now available at Club Headquarters for \$2.00 (49 cents below list). The Forester Folding saw recently illustrated by Ed Garvey at the PATC Annual Meeting will be in stock in April. This saw has a folding hardened steel handle and a 24" Swedish steel blade with buck teeth that can be stored in the handle. Total weight, 36 oz. Cost about \$6.95 (\$3.50 below list price). The saw may be ordered from Karl Edler, phone 773-1693.

The Club sales stock of locally hard to find items is maintained at Club headquarters. Where possible, the reduced price from Club bulk purchase are passed on to PATC members. A partial list of items includes dried meats, vegetables and fruit, tropical chocolate bars, orange juice crystals, waterproof food bags, stearine candles, trail club drinking cups, water purifier, salt tablets, glacier cream sunburn preventive, and a variety of climbing pitons, karabiners, and bolts.

H & H Surplus Center, 1104 W. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, has several army mountain tents, double and single entrance in stock in slightly used condition at \$29.95. These must be selected personally, as some are good buys at the price.

Karl Edler

MAY EQUIPMENT NOTES

Since the Equipment Bulletin is partially completed and about 2/3 of the copy is in the printer's hands, it may not be too long before the Equipment Committee Chairman can spend Sundays on the rocks. In the meantime, Karl Edler has a number of sample items that have been sent for examination and that will be returned about the first week in May. Items include a Finnish 2-man tent with articulated outside aluminum poles, and several Holubar down-filled items. These items may be purchased at the manufacturer's regular prices, but postage will be saved since it has already been paid. Call Karl Edler at 773-1693 if you are interested in possible purchase of equipment samples.

Petus folding saws are now in stock and cost \$6.75. These saws are particularly useful for trail overseers.

NATIONAL CLIMBING CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

In the interest of defining a workable system of climb classification applicable to all American climbing (rock, snow and ice, East and West), a system has been proposed by Leigh Ortenberger with Royal Robbins which incorporates the following:

1. Difficulty of the hardest individual pitch of a climb--free climbing (Classes 1-10)
2. Ditto--artificial climbing (Classes A1-A5)
3. Overall route difficulty (Classes 1-VI)

The system is intended as an adjunct to area guidebooks as well as to assist climbers traveling in unfamiliar areas to gauge the difficulties which they can anticipate. Support from climbers is now being solicited and an article detailing the system is to be printed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Muenchen
8 April 1963

The last issue of UPROFE that came my way was a big disappointment. It seems to be becoming a heavy-handed highbrow publication.

I would suggest the following:

1. No article of serious local political content (even if it is written by the chairman or his spouse) should be over 500 words. Cut ruthlessly.
2. Every page of propaganda should be balanced by a page of nonsense.

Yours very truly,

Ludwig Lautwici
Staatscommandant

Dear Ludwig,

We are sorry to state that humor has fled from this place where she was ever welcome. Now only a blunt blue pencil stabs at pompous verbosity. Be assured we would appreciate a bit of humor.

Ed.

Dear Editor:

As I sit here admiring my very first borken arm, I can say with feeling that we need a safety committee and that we should select this committee before the end of our next business meeting at the latest.

Bill Faulhaber

A LETTER TO EVERYBODY

There is an obvious and discouraging tendency exhibited by most of the active climbers to refrain from expressing opinions regarding matters which are the proper concern of all who associate with the Mountaineering Committee.

Irregardless of your formal membership status in the committee, you who participate in at least half of the scheduled activities constitute the major support of the Mountaineering Committee and local rock climbing.

You may not be able to climb Herbie's Horror with one hand in your pocket or overhangs with a 90-pound pack, but you do have a right and an obligation to speak up with your questions, comments, and suggestions.

Of course you will meet the natural reluctance of "old timers" to accept the ideas of "newcomers." And it must be admitted that many "new ideas" were considered some time ago. Even though you don't come up with a winner every time, you will be showing more interest and initiative than those who remain silent.

Vigorous and serious discussions by all concerned of all matters of general interest is necessary for a healthy organization.

Chuck Wettling.

Ups and Downs

24 March 1963

Sugarloaf Mountain

After their usual "early" morning breakfast at "Mrs. Johnson's Kitchen," a caravan led by the Adamses' bus as guide and Al Klov Dahl as trail blazer headed for the day's goals.

A minor setback occurred when a gas station enticed the Adamses' bus to "drink its fill." Hal Kramer immediately took the lead on the second pitch.

As we arrived, the usual climbs were set up and many began the hardy task of warming up the routes with hands and feet. Bobby Adams dispelled the cold-natured by climbing Butterfinger barefooted. "Cold rock, warm feet make good friction on smooth rock." As the morning progressed, efforts were made to remove Chuck Wettling and Dick Crompton from their overhead belays onto some climbs. Chuck quieted most by warming up on the Butterfingers and seemingly effortlessly did the (overhang) Dick attempted the overhanging start of Pine Tree. This writer thinks either the only way he will make it is to climb from the waist up and then pull the larger portion up after him.

Lunch was served at the fashionable hour of 1:00 which Bob Adams declared is not only fashionable but starving. Kate's brownies were worth waiting till 3:00 for as all who sampled will attest.

The climbing resumed with Ed Worrell accomplishing the most noteworthy feat of the day by bringing his four little climbers out minus Blondie. Hip Hip Hurrah!

Many were still on the rocks as this writer left, except Kate who unknowingly posed for Chuck's candid camera.

One observation might be noted: Perhaps the P.A.T.C. could charge a nominal entertainment fee from the Park Service for services rendered to those visitors to the area.

D. Crompton

7 April 1963

Carderock

For those of us who chose to walk to Carderock by the longer route along the towpath, the sight was rather depressing. The once beautiful scenery along this portion of the C & O Canal has been replaced by massive excavations and monstrous cranes, by stagnant water, and dead carp. This desecration is only temporary, and the Canal will eventually be restored to its former splendor--that's what they tell us anyway.

Enthusiasm and drive seemed to be lacking in all but a few on this warm preview of summer, and many of the normally active drifted away from the rocks under various pretenses, or just sat around watching the improvised dynamic belay practice.

". . . manual hoisting (of Oscar) encourages group spirit. . ." is the way it was phrased in last month's UP ROPE. Several of us, however, felt no overall increase in our own spirit--either quantitatively or qualitatively--as Oscar was being manually hoisted. This may have been due to our extreme proximity to the rope which was being used to manually raise Oscar. No doubt, this proximity seriously affected our perspective. On the other hand, we might possibly concede that the increased number of climbers observed standing discreetly behind large trees as it came time to manually hoist Oscar is indicative of an increase in some sort of spirit. In any event, it was extremely pleasant to be able to have dynamic belay practice without the horrendous racket of that reverberating Briggs & Stratton.

The highlight of this Sunday was unquestionably the lecture and slide show given at the Clubhouse in the evening. The subject was the ascent of the previously unclimbed southeast spur of Mt. McKinley; the narrator was Sam Silverstein, a member of the 6-man expedition. The slides were remarkable and the narration excellent. It was a first-rate presentation. (See LOOK Magazine, 9 Oct 62, for more on expedition)

Al Klov Dahl

Old Rag Weekend--April 20-21, 1963

Eileen Daly	Mary Turk	Joe Nolte
Dick ?	Bill Faulhaber	Pat FitzGerald
Al Klov Dahl	Larry Griffin	
Dave Warshawsky	Judy Hock	

Eileen and Dick arrived at the lower shelter sometime Friday night, and were asleep when Al, Dave and I joined them at 2:30 Sat. morning. They started to the top ahead of us, and we met them there about 10. We climbed and soaked up sun and looked for forest fires.

Eileen and Dick left in the afternoon to camp at the lower shelter because they had to leave early Sunday. Al, Dave, and I ate dinner at the Byrd's Nest, during which time we were joined by Judy, Bill and Larry. They decided to brave the 27 Boy Scouts and camp at the shelter, and this was the last we saw of them. We went up to the cave near the top to camp; on the way we located a few lost Boy Scouts and Al led them to safety.

Sunday morning Al, Dave, and I arrived at the top about 7:45; we climbed for a while and talked about going to Little Stony Man cliffs. We started down about 11:30, evidently just missing Joe and Pat, who came down Sunday and did the circuit hike of Old Rag. No one else came. /MT

SENECA

The use of the pavillion and surrounding area for camping may be jeopardized by the abuse of some campers. This is private land and permission to camp there should be asked of Mr. Harper at the general store at Mouth of Seneca. The customary payment of 25¢ per person should not be overlooked.

Cooking is not allowed at the pavillion but is permitted at the shed across from it. The pavillion is used for many purposes and may not always be available for camping.

Congratulations

Thomas Marshall and Hannah Louise Mears were married March 21. Their address is: Apt. 111, 5728 Blacstone Ave., Chicago, Ill.

New subscribers:

Peter Tourin	401 Greene, E Quad., Univ. of Mich. Ann Arbor, Mich., or 6211 E. Halbert Rd., Bethesda 14, Md.	
Pat FitzGerald	8109 Tahona Dr. Silver Spring, Md.	
Richard Curtin	1575 Spring Pl. NW, Wash. 10, DC	
Bret Blosser	3930 Military Rd. NW, Wash. 15, DC	362-7327

Change of Address

Jim Shipley	HQ Co. 52d Avn Bn. APO 95, San Francisco, Cal.
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UPROPE staff:

Editor: Bob Mole
Business Manager: Hardy Hargreaves
Typists: Marty and Mary
Printers Devils: Chuck, Kate, Joe, Bill

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