



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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COMING EVENTS

- December 1 Carderock, Md.
8 Echo Cliff, Va.
15 Herzog Island, Md.
22 Purple Horse, Md.
28-29 Hermitage, Pa. (directions below)
January 5 Carderock, Md.

Directions to Hermitage: Take U.S.240 to Frederick Md., U.S.15 to Emmitsburg, left on Md.97 (becomes Pa.16) to Monterey, PA. Continue 3.7 miles on Pa.16 to Rouserville, turn right on Antietam road (not conspicuous). Go .3 miles past Old Forge Camp-ground, turn left on Swift Run Road (dirt road) .9 miles up this road at wide place, where road turns sharp left, park. Blue blazed trail on right leads 1/4 mile to cabin.

Recreational Resource Survey of the Potomac Basin

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

When the Army Corps of Engineers makes a river basin survey, as they recently did in the Potomac Valley, they are required to enlist the assistance of other federal agencies having an interest in water resources planning in the particular basin. Each of these agencies makes a study in its own field of interest

and evaluates the impact of the Corps' construction proposals on this field; and these agency surveys form parts of the total report.

Somewhat overshadowed by the Corps' reservoir recommendations and their supporting data, but nevertheless an important document in its own right, is SURVEY OF RECREATION RESOURCES, POTOMAC RIVER BASIN, which was prepared by the Southeast Region of the National Park Service and appears as Appendix I of the POTOMAC RIVER BASIN REPORT, released last Spring.

After describing the characteristics of the basin and its present recreational resources, this Park Service study discusses factors to be considered in recreational planning and then outlines a plan for meeting the recreational needs of the Potomac Valley. The remainder of the report is a detailed evaluation, from the recreational point of view, of each of the 26 reservoirs under consideration by the Corps.

The Park Service inventory shows that there are now some 266,000 acres of public, non-urban recreational lands in the Potomac Basin in 49 areas. The recreational plan calls for acquisition (or designation) and development of 82 additional areas at various levels of government, totaling some 773,000 acres - and even this will fall short of what is estimated to be needed by the year 2010.

On the national level the Park Service proposes establishment of 457,000 acres of new recreational areas in six units. Foremost of these is the Spruce Mountain National Recreational Area, embracing some 400,000 acres in the Monongahela National Forest and including Spruce Knob, Seneca Rocks, the Smokehole area, and associated mountains, forests, streams, and geological formations. The Service also urges the establishment of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, enlarged and developed from the present C. & O. Canal National Monument. On the federal level also are included proposals for two parkways. The Allegheny Parkway would run diagonally across West Virginia from Harper's Ferry to Cumberland Gap, connecting numerous areas of scenic and recreational interest. The Appalachian Parkway would provide an extension of the Skyline Drive northward into Maryland and Pennsylvania and perhaps farther, utilizing a route along the Shenandoah River in northern Virginia.

Indicating that the basin is relatively well supplied with federally owned recreational facilities, the report lays great stress on the importance of efforts by state and local governments to provide more recreational opportunities for their citizens. On the state level it is recommended that 48 new areas be acquired, embracing some 253,000 acres.

Of special interest is the proposal for the Potomac Basin Park, comprising a large area of about 125,000 acres in Maryland and West Virginia, sometimes called the Paw Paw-Cacapon Region. It would include the present Cacapon State Park, the lower valley of the Cacapon River, the Paw Paw section of the Potomac River and the C. & O. Canal, Ice Mountain, part of the Green Ridge State Forest, and Town Creek Reservoir. This area

could be cooperatively administered by state agencies, or by an interstate agency.

Prominent among the state recreational areas would be 14 Corps of Engineers reservoirs, whose recreational facilities would be managed by state agencies. These include the Monocacy River Reservoir in Maryland; Brock's Gap in Virginia; Licking Creek, Tonoloway Creek, and West Branch Conococheague in Pennsylvania; and Back Creek in West Virginia. The Park Service states that of the 16 reservoirs recommended in the Corps' Potomac Basin Report, 14 would enhance the recreational potential of their areas, and only two (Seneca and Royal Glen) would do more harm than good. Many conservationists are surprised that the Park Service should accept these reservoirs as desirable for recreation, in view of the large draw-downs at most of them in late summer and fall and the resulting exposure of extensive devegetated areas.

A substantial group of new state parks is recommended along the Potomac estuary, below Washington. In Maryland there would be the Mattawoman Creek, Maryland Point, and Medley's Neck parks, while Virginia would have parks at Mason's Neck, Marlboro Point, Matthias Point, and Nomini Cliffs. A recreational area is proposed for the Zekiah Swamp in southern Maryland, another for South Mountain (which is traversed by the Appalachian Trail), and a third for the Savage River section in western Maryland. Two state parks, Furnace Run and Calme's Neck, would be established in the northern portion of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley.

Still another type of recreational area is proposed at the state level - the recreational river. Substantial mileages of the upper Potomac, the Shenandoah, and the Cacapon would be placed in this category and protected from incompatible developments.

On the local or county level some 64,000 acres in 28 areas should be set aside, the report recommends. The most important of these would be the Bull Run Mountains Park in northern Virginia.

Of course it may be a long time before most of these recommendations are carried out, and some doubtless will never be implemented. Yet the National Park Service has performed a notable service in projecting the recreational needs of the Potomac Valley and identifying the specific areas that might well be set aside. Let us hope that most of them will be acquired and preserved before it is too late!

PHILIP J. STONE
Chairman, Conservation
Committee, P.A.T.C.

UPS AND DOWNS

Bull Run Mountain, Virginia, October 13, 1963

October 13 dawned a beautiful Sunday, with just a little

nip in the air. We started off from HOJO's for Bull Run Mountain, Virginia, at about 9:00, as usual. Although the day started out poorly (only three people showed up at 8:00), as it wore on, more and more people came trudging up Bull Run Mountain. We were joined by Ed Worrell and met two early birds who had already come. Things began to liven up when Bill Faulhaber came along, followed by Ed Goodman & Co. About lunch time we were invaded by a horde of Boy Scouts, who took over the entire cliff-top while building fires, cooking hot dogs and getting Chris to open cans of applesauce, etc.. As a result we ambled off and took a look at Two Inches More. Ed tried twice, making it the second time beautifully. After this we watched some hairy climbs up Charlie's Crack, and many valiant tries.

We had a chance at mountain rescue as accident-prone Bill Faulhaber got his rope jammed in a fall off of Bull Run Overhang (this later happened to several others also), and sat dangling in mid-air until someone unjammed the rope.

At about sundown we headed down the 3-mile trail, and at the end groped our way in total darkness across a small creek. Fortunately no one fell in, and we all took off, headed for a rendez vous at a Chinese restaurant in Falls Church.

Jon Olson

New Subscribers

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MEMMEM'S Borated Talcum TOILET POWDER

Ed Worrell reports that the Mennen Company has donated \$250 to the P.A.T.C. in appreciation of our effort in eradicating a well-known sign at Harper's Ferry.