



## NEWS OF THE PATC. MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

Volume XIX Number 3

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March 1964

### COMING EVENTS

- March 1 Carderock, Md. Meeting in PATC Clubhouse (1916 Sunderland Place, N.W.) after climbing. Harold Kramer will show slides of Ecuador.
- 8 Spitzbergen, Md., and adjacent area upstream.
- 15 Sugarloaf, Md.
- 21, 22 Carderock, Md. Training for Peace Corps.
- 23 At 8:00 in the Smithsonian Auditorium (10th & Constitution Ave., N.W.) Barry Bishop will lecture on the Mt. Everest Expedition. Several organizations are cooperating with the PATC in sponsoring this program and the seating capacity of the hall is not great, so don't be late.
- DON'T MISS THIS 28, 29 Carderock, Md. Training for the Peace Corps.
- April 4, 5 Smoke Hole, W. Va. The Mountaineering Section can do its part to save the Smoke Hole Valley from the dam builders by enjoying a pleasant weekend "doing what comes naturally" And naturally that means climbing on Seneca Rocks. Call Bob Adams (Ch 8-4523) for details about a special camp ground and Saturday night supper in Petersberg with all involved in this effort to save a beautiful wilderness area. A ballroom dance will top off the evening.

### JUST MARRIED!

Frank Sauber and Barbara Gerachis were married recently. The rock climbers extend their congratulations and best wishes to the happy couple.

### RETURN TO CLOUD WATCHING

The time has come to add my name to the list of former editors of UP ROPE. Before passing into that grey limbo of has-beens, I would like to thank all those who helped keep UP ROPE going for the past year.

To my successor, Ed Goodman, I offer my sincere best wishes.

Bob Mole

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

To reduce the possibility of belaying accidents, the following safety rules will become effective immediately.

No beginner or climber new to our group, regardless of previous experience, will belay until he has first checked with the Chairman or Trip Leader.

Standard Mountaineering Section rope signals will be used by EVERY climber EVERY time a climb is attempted.

NO lead climb will be started until the rope leader has checked with the Chairman or Trip Leader and supplied him with the names and rope positions of all members of the team and has described the intended route.

There will be no climbing without a rope.

I know that most climbers in the group are capable of safe unsupervised belaying and these people will be so informed when they check with the Chairman, but we will always have beginners (we hope!), so to prevent any misunderstandings, EVERYONE clear with the Chairman.

I hope that these rules do not bruise anyone's pride, but hurt feelings heal faster than broken backs.

Chuck Wettling, Chairman

February 9, 1964 - Wildcat Rock, Va.

Larry Griffin - Trip Leader

3 Adamses  
Barry Bielsker  
3 Cromwells  
Joe Faint  
Ed Goodman

Tony Harp  
Don Hubbard  
Peter Keller  
Mary Kelliher  
Jean McBee

Judy Powell  
Jim Shipley  
Mary Vincett  
Furn Walton  
Chuck Wettling

The group arrived at Wildcat Rocks at 10:30 AM, Sunday, February 9, 1964.

After dropping a rope over an overhang, climbing started. Belay practice and slab climbing went on in the morning. The group worked on overhangs in the afternoon.

The group was 22 strong, a very large turnout for this time of year. It was nice to see all of them. Jim Shipley, a recent returnee from Viet Nam, was in good climbing shape.

Judy Powell and Furn Walton are two new climbers that we are happy to have aboard.

After a fun-day of climbing and a lot of tired people, we were greeted by eleven flat tires - Oh! our aching backs.

Chris Buckingham

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MOUNTAINEERING COMMITTEE

JANUARY 1964

The Mountaineering Committee had another busy year, and naturally the activity cannot be reported in detail.

Our monthly trips to Carderock were well attended as usual. Two events at this area are notable. A new overhanging climb was established upstream from the Golden Stairs by Joe Faint; a difficult feat in this over climbed area. Our dynamic belay practice with Oscar was resurrected with temporary rigging.

There were many weekend trips. We nearly wiped out the party one night with sub-zero temperatures on the Washington's birthday Seneca trip. Another trip found us bumming water from a troop of Boy Scouts at the high and dry Byrd Shelter on Old Rag. The last weekend trip just before New Year's featured a very enjoyable moonlight hike from the Hermitage to the nearby fire tower. The name Snowy Mountain road was quite appropriate.

A new climbing area known as Caudy Castle's Rock was discovered North West of Winchester. A fine weekend trip was conducted to this isolated area on the Cacapon River. Its varied climbing and 250 ft. cliffs had previously been explored by small groups on unofficial trips.

Summer found Mountaineering Committee members in Wyoming, Colorado, California, and Canada.

One Fall Saturday, a group of climbers waited in vain at Carderock for a bus load of Peace Corps trainees. The reason - it seems that the 9 ton Peace Corps bus found that it could not travel on 6 ton load limit MacArthur Blvd.

As a delightful extracurricular activity, the Committee presented a mock equipment show following the PATC Annual Dinner.

The best known activity of the Mountaineering Committee, however, was the blackout last spring of the Mennen Company sign at Harper's Ferry instigated by Superintendent Prentice of Harper's Ferry National Monument. Further details of this activity will appear in the Bulletin.

With that, I close. We are looking forward to our first year as the Mountaineering Section of the PATC.

Ed Worrell, Chairman  
Mountaineering Committee

Timber Ridge, W. Va., January 25, 26, 1964

Karl Edler  
Harold Kramer

Bob Moler  
Chuck Wettling

This deviationist quartet spent the weekend hiking along Timber Ridge. We found beautiful, uncluttered country up there that is well worth the walk. We crossed a classic alpine meadow which possesses a 180 degree panoramic view of North Fork River Valley. An old wagon road or wide trail traverses the ridge's east slope in this area. A back-packing trip following this route and using the meadow as the mid-way camp would be a rewarding project.

As we had not carried our camping gear on our backs, we spent the night in a pleasant spruce grove off the east side of Timber Ridge approximately 1500 ft. north from the Bennet Gap - Timber Ridge Road intersection. Ralph Smith, brother of land's owner, lives on the south side of Bennet Gap Road, in the second house beyond (or east from) Bucher's Garage.

Those who wish information on the local weather and roads conditions before starting for Seneca during winter months, may call "Harper's Store, North of Seneca, W. Va., Phone No. 28F65, Maxwell by way of Elkins."

There are two more items of interest to be reported. First, Mary's Place is still closed, and second, a VW can be stopped, but it takes a Spruce Knob snow drift to do the dirty deed.

CRW

Potholes, Va. February 16, 1964

The weatherman challenges the Mountaineer.

We arrived at the snow covered Potholes full of vitality and eager to climb on this warm sunny morning. Climbing centered around "the overhang" and the face to the right of it. After many tries and failures, Tim, Bobby, Ed and Chris mastered the overhang although Chris apparently tried too hard and knocked off a foothold. Gradually the sky filled with clouds, the wind roared furiously across the river, and the group adjourned to the clubhouse for a warm lunch and slides. After discussing some current problems confronting the new Chairman, the slides were forsaken and the more avid climbers departed for Carderock to attempt "Cripple's Delight" and "Butterfly", while a few strays got lost at Tuohey's. At sunset we joined the strays for dinner and Chuck's slides taken on his European trip this summer.

Kate Adams

#### MORALS COMMITTEE

In a fitting ceremony under the tables at Tuohey's, Kelly Kelliher became the new Chairman of the Morals Committee.

Seneca Rock & Butler Cave

February 21-23, 1964

Kate, Bob &  
Bobby Adams  
Barry Bielsker  
Bret Blosser

Chris Buckingham  
Joe Faint  
Ike Nicholson  
Jim Shipley

Joe Wegstein  
Chuck Wettling  
Ed Worrell  
Larry ?

This widely advertised trip to Seneca Rock turned out to be an enjoyable week-end in spite of gross mismanagement, bitterly cold weather, and the failure of most participants to reach Mouth of Seneca.

The only notable accomplishment on Friday was a daring ascent of the South Peak via the Old Ladies' Route by Ed, Jim, Barry & Joe Faint. This proved to be a long and dangerous undertaking, with the rock encased in ice and swept by wintry blasts. The other members of the party could claim only that they had reached Bob Roller's cabin in Williamsville, Va., had built a roaring fire in the fireplace, and brought the temperature up to 39 degrees before bed time.

The big push came on Saturday, when eleven of us decided it would be warmer in a cave than in the cabin. After trudging through knee-deep snow for what seemed several miles, we arrived at the tiny entrance to Butler Cave. Clouds of escaping steam gave this desolate spot a nether-world air, but we were more than anxious to go below, away from the biting wind.

There was a little down-climbing and a few squeezes, but soon we were walking down spacious passage-ways that turned but never ended. Joe Faint took us on a most delightful tour of the sights, notably the Moon Room and the largest stalagmite-stalactite we have ever seen. Toward evening we wandered off into what Ike Nicholson calls "Huntley's Cave," where Bret, Chris and Bobby worked their way down to a stream through a succession of narrow openings. Ed and Joe also went exploring in the same general area. Then it was time to start back, for Joe Wegstein had promised to cook a pot of stew big enough for the entire crew. This accelerated our progress through the miles of passage to the Sand Canyon and to the entrance shaft. Then back across the fields of crunching snow beneath a brilliant moon. Chris had the engine running in the VW bus, and this proved to be a popular spot for struggling out of frozen coveralls.

Joe's supper was delicious and especially appreciated in our chilled and near-exhausted state. Just as life began to return Ike Nicholson launched into a glowing description of the wonders of a section of the cave known affectionately as "Marlboro Country." He might have succeeded in talking some of us into going right back to this promised land, except for the fact that Joe Faint seemed lacking in enthusiasm. Those of us who have climbed or caved with Joe have learned to respect any undertaking that he considers difficult.

A safe and sane Sunday of sight-seeing by auto brought us home at a decent hour.

RJA



## NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Miss Furr Walton  
2403 Fomestead Drive  
Silver Spring, Md.

Miss Judy Powell  
2901 Connecticut Ave.  
Washington, D. C.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Frank & Barbara Sauber  
4228 40th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C.

Many thanks to Bob Mole for the great job he did as UP ROPE Editor.

I never realized the immense job Bob was doing until trying my hand at this issue. I solicit HELP from all.

Ed Goodman  
Editor

UP ROPE STAFF

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