



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

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

Vol. XIX No. ⁵4

May 1964

COMING EVENTS

- May 10 Wolf Rock, Thurmont, Maryland
- May 17 Little Stoneman, Virginia
- May 24 Great Falls, Maryland
- May 29-31 Seneca Rock, West Virginia. Experienced climbers only. All persons intending to attend, call Bob Adams at CH8 4523
- June 7 Carderock, Maryland
- June 13-14 Hermitage, Pennsylvania. Call Bob Adams, CH8 4523, for reservations.
- June 21 Echo Cliffs, Virginia
- June 28 Experienced climbers only. Destination to be announced at HOJO's.
- July 3-5 Seneca Rock, West Virginia. Beginners' trip. Must be able to belay.

NOTE: The PATC Mountaineering Section meets every Sunday at the Howard Johnson's at Wisconsin and Western between 8:00 and 8:30 AM. Newcomers are welcome. Bring rain gear, sneakers or other climbing shoes, lunch and canteen. Late arrivals should check the note behind the SE drain pipe to be sure of the destination.

Seneca Rock - April 4th and 5th, 1964

Bob, Kate & Bobby Adams
Barry Bielsker
Bret Blosser
Chris Buckingham & Family
Penny Cromwell
Larry and Sallie Griffin

Merv Oleson
John Schelleng
Jim Walsh
Chuck Wettling
Ed & Blondie Worrell

This trip to Seneca was scheduled to coincide with the "Whitewater Weekend" - an attempt to dramatize the efforts of outdoor enthusiasts at preventing Corps of Engineers construction of a large dam in the Sm-oke Hole area. The proposed dam will inundate a large section of the beautiful West Virginia countryside. Whitewater Weekends' featured attraction was two whitewater canoe races, one Saturday and one Sunday, and if the number of water borne canoes equalled those seen on auto roof racks in the area, the canoe races must have been well supplied with contestants.

Outnumbered and outpublicized by canoists, the rock climbers, undaunted, clung to their own devices in protesting the dam movement; meanwhile carefully denying in word and deed any too-close association with water.

Ex post facto inquiry revealed the following specifics: Bob & Kate climbed Breakneck, Conn's West, and with Barry, Thais. Larry, Sallie and Bret wandered around on various pitches and ledges of the East Face - Larry and Bret were also observed climbing an unnamed section vertically below the top of the Old Man's. Bobby, Chris and Penny climbed Conn's East, Conn's West and Breakneck. It was noted that Bobby and Penny both ended up the two days with large gaps in their britches, but it is assumed that the morals committee will be satisfied with the presence of Chris as chaperone. Chuck led Jim and Merv up to the North Peak via the Gunsight, and up the Old Man's to the South Peak. He did, however, modify the Old Man's to the extent of climbing an off-route overhanging inside corner that seemed difficult to yours truly. Various other people, including at least one couple who had driven from Cleveland, were observed on the faces and peaks, but details of their efforts are unknown.

Saturday night dinner by the Petersburg VFD Ladies Auxiliary was followed at the Seneca Pavilion by a superficially mild, but deeply significant contest of will between the intellectual and the anti-same elements of the club. Efforts of the intellectuals, Ed, Blondie and Bret at using the single gasoline lantern for study of certain formidable, abstruse documents, and thus establishing an unwholesome precedent, were thwarted by Kate's brilliant tactic - she led her anti-troops in a game of five card stud (using Puffed Oats as markers) on the same table and under the same gasoline lantern. Bravo Kate !

One serious note - on Sunday a large rock was accidentally dislodged from the west face and crashed very close to Kate Adams. Climbers are all aware of the danger imposed by falling rocks. However, this occurrence, which could have easily have been fatal, should re-emphasize the importance of exercising caution in dislodging loose rock under circumstances where a person might be struck when the rock falls.

NOTE: We might all benefit from Ed Worrell's good example of wearing a hard hat when climbing.

Editor

LOCAL CLUB PROVIDES ROCK CLIMBING INSTRUCTION FOR PEACE CORPS

"Climb if you will, but remember that courage and strength are naught without prudence. Do nothing in haste, look well to each step, and from the beginning think what may be the end."

Edward Whymper
Scramble Against the Alps

With the advent of Spring in the Nation's Capital, many people will be looking for more exciting outdoor activity. One group in Washington which is probably more enthusiastic about Spring is the Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club.

The mountaineering group consists of the hardy, fun-loving individualists who find pleasure in scrambling up rocks with great ease (and at times falling in the same manner). Ropes are used (of course!) and tied securely at the waist. The average climber uses such equipment as pitons, karabiners, and a hammer. (Pitons are nail-like devices which can be placed in cracks in the rock and karabiners resemble large chain links. They anchor the rope to the pitons). Sunday trips often take us to such places as Carderock, Maryland, or Great Falls. On weekend outings, the club travels to areas such as Seneca Rocks, W.Va., or Old Rag Mountain, Va. where extensive "lead climbing" is available.

In the past, the club has shown that it has other interests besides fun for its members. A recent outing was with a rather large concern of the government-the Peace Corps.

Having been called upon, the present chairman of the Mountaineering Section, Chuck Wettling, volunteered the club's services for teaching purposes. A number of young men and women presently involved in a two year training program were instructed in the basic rudiments of rock climbing.

This particular group of Peace Corps members have plans to work in Nepal. This country is well known for it is here that Mt. Everest is located. The general terrain is rugged. It was hoped that the volunteers would learn something that may prove of use in their work in Nepal. The club, with arrangements being made by the Alternate Chairman, Bob Adams, and Willi Unsoeld, head of the Peace Corps in Nepal, thus began their teaching program.

About sixty novice climbers turned out for lessons spread over a period of two week-ends, including Easter. Unfortunately, one day proved to be a complete failure due to an unexpected snow storm. Aside from the resulting damp weather, the other three days were successful.

In the early part of the day there were about ten experienced club members present. They taught the correct use of ropes and climbing

equipment and could give accurate information concerning the sport itself. As the day progressed, this number increased. At a final count, there was almost an equal number of club members and Peace Corps volunteers.

Now that the Mountaineering Section has more or less resumed its normal schedule, it is always ready to welcome new people on the rocks. Anyone interested can call the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club headquarters for information or be at Howard Johnson's restaurant (Wisconsin and Western Avenues, NW) any Sunday at 8 AM. We are pretty hard to overlook because of our unique apparel and can usually be found in the right rear corner of the dining room.

Kelly Kelliher
Jean McBee

The April 4th and 5th Seneca Rocks trip was contributed by MWO.
Sorry Merv!

The climbers went to Bull Run Mountain
EI EI O!
Here a scratch, there a scratch
Everywhere a scratch-scratch
EI EI O!