



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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November 1964

COMING EVENTS

November 7-8	Wolf Gap, Virginia
November 15	Stoney Man, Virginia
November 22	Purple Horse, Maryland
November 29	Sugarloaf, Maryland
December 6	Carderock, Maryland
December 13	Sptizbergen, Maryland

Sunday meeting place is Howard Johnson's restaurant, Wisconsin and Western Avenues. Climbers leave for the rocks at 8:30 a.m., so come earlier if you want breakfast there. Climbing lasts all day, and groups of climbers sometimes stop for supper on the way home.

Any interested person, whether P.A.T.C. member or not, is invited to join in the Section's activities. If you are completely new to climbing you are invited to learn to climb and belay capably and enjoyably, or, if you already know a kletter-schuh from a chimney, you are invited to enjoy using and improving your current climbing skills in the company of like-minded people. Bring lunch and suitable clothing to climb in.

Nearby trips are scheduled most Sundays and advance sign-ups are unnecessary. Weekend trips are planned about once a month to more distant climbing areas where more opportunity exists for continuous climbing.

THE ETIVE SLABS OF BEINN TRILLEACHAN

"If you fall, just start running!" One hardly expects this advice from a fellow climber, but it makes good sense on the Etive Slabs. Fortunately, the need did not arise...

I had no sooner heard of the trip to Edinburgh than I began to hope for a day of climbing in Scotland. But it would never have come to pass without the assistance of three very good friends: Miss Betty Killick of the Admiralty Surface Weapons Establishment, who was with us on Bull Run Mountain last Spring; Mr. Arthur Brown of Ferranti Ltd. in Edinburgh; and, especially Mr. Michael Strong, also of Ferranti,

who had the kindness (and courage) to include a complete stranger from America in his climbing team.

Having no wheels, food, warm clothing or rucksack, I was overwhelmed and delighted by Art Brown's offer to supply all these things. At 6:30 on a chilly overcast Saturday morning, he was at my door in the International Hotel of downtown Edinburgh. In a few minutes we were at his house, where his charming wife had prepared a perfectly wonderful breakfast. Anyone who has lived out of a suitcase for a week or two knows what it is like to come upon a home-cooked meal. Then the four of us (including Bob, an enormous good-natured shaggy dog) piled into the family car and were off to Glencoe and Buachille Etive Mor, where we were to meet Mike Strong and the other climbers at 10:00.

We passed over the new firth of Forth Bridge, which rivals our Golden Gate Bridge, and then for an hour or so found our way through a succession of picturesque little towns. But eventually we came to the wild and desolate beauty of the highlands, heather-covered plains ringed by rugged hills and crossed by endless lochs. Finally, 150 miles northwest of the city, we crossed a ridge and descended into the great valley known as Glencoe. Buachille Etive Mor is an impressive pyramidal peak, offering a myriad of climbing routes on its steep upper slopes. Its name means the Big Shepherd of Etive, and it is joined by a long sweeping col with Buachille Etive Beag, the Little Shepherd of Etive. Together they guard the entrance to Glen Etive, which runs to the southwest for perhaps 20 miles, where Loch Etive leads into open water at the west of Scotland.

We stopped at the base of the Buachille to wait for Mike. I hadn't been out of the car very long before I realized that I was in for a chilly day in my green shirt and Holubar parka, even though the sky had cleared. That is when Art came up with an "extra" sweater, a half-inch thick and warm as a sleeping bag. I refused to take it off until I was back at the hotel.

Then a "mini" appeared out of nowhere and rolled to a stop. Four lively young fellows in half-inch-thick sweaters piled out for introductions. Beside Mike there were Jim Bouffrey, Brian Robertson and a Dave whose last name I failed to catch. I was informed later that Brian is one of the best climbers in Scotland, and having watched him in action, I can well believe it. But our team was to consist of Dave, Jim, Mike and me.

As we drove down the one-track road toward Loch Etive, I realized that we were not to climb on the Buachille, but on Beinn Trilleachan, which rises from the west side of the loch. Even from a distance it was evident that the face of this mountain is an unbroken 60-degree slab except for a 6-foot ceiling that sweeps across it half-way up. A facade of overhanging pillars rims the upper edge and separates the slab from the upper reaches of the mountain.

During the walk to the base of the climb there was a discussion of various routes; the Hammer, the Agony and the Long Reach. (Not too different from American names!) But our route, recommended for dry weather only, is known as the Claw. It follows a ramp at the left edge of the slab and is separated from it by a 20-foot vertical step. Dave and Jim did the leading, and I was a well-protected third. This suited me just fine, especially when Jim explained, "This isn't the best climb on the slabs, but it is probably the most difficult!" I noted later that the guide book calls it Very Severe.

Climbing on the ramp was quite harrowing. The slope was too great for feet only, but the finger holds were few and thin. The Scottish climbers wore Pierre Allain climbing shoes or the British equivalent, Robert Lorry; these seemed to be superior to Kronhofer Kletterschuhe on this particular climb, where one had occasionally to step on a bit of soggy turf. After several leads of this, we worked around onto the vertical face. This was even thinner, ending in a strenuous 10-foot layback. After another hundred feet of slab we were at the base of the final pitch, which I thought the most difficult of all. First one had to stand on top of an 8-foot block which was outslipping and devoid of holds. This required a stirrup. Then one had a 12-foot chimney between smooth outslipping walls. It was one of the best leads I have seen, and I was glad for an upper belay.

Soon we were bounding down a grassy trail on the right edge of the slab, down to the big flat rock that serves as the "Luncheon Ledge" of Etive Slabs. After a few minutes' rest for changing shoes and for heckling the boys still on the rock, we jogged back down the trail to the Mini and headed to the famous Kingshouse Hotel, and a relaxing hour of conversation over "pints".

Mike tried to tell me that it sometimes rains in Scotland, but I found this hard to believe. So far as I am concerned, this is a land where the sun is bright, the rock is firm, and the climbers are the friendliest in the world.

Mr. Chairman, let's schedule a week-end trip to Ben Nevis before the weather gets cold!!

-----RJA

The PATC Equipment Committee will sponsor a mountaineering equipment auction at PATC Headquarters as the program for the Mountaineering Section meeting on Sunday evening, 6 December 1964 at 8:00 p.m. Items for sale will include a number of miscellaneous but usable (some new) mountaineering items belonging to Barry Bishop, the Equipment Committee (test items), and others. A few of the more than 150 items are as follows: climbing hat (Hillary type); heavy English overboots; Everest-type overboots; British climbing goggles; two-burner alcohol stove; 2 qt. plastic water bottle; gray wool turtleneck sweaters, waffle-weave underwear; gray wool climbing knickers; miscellaneous wool socks, mitts, gloves, scarfs, etc.; blue nylon rip stop wind pants; Bud Davis sleeping bag compressors; ice axes; expansion bolt kits, asstd. Pitons; asstd. Carabiners; several hammers; several pairs boots; several wool shirts; etc.

Individuals with excess equipment available for sale to Club members are invited to call Karl Edler, Equipment Chairman, at 773-1693, and make arrangements to add items to the auction.

Sugarloaf Mt. 9/27/64

Charles A. Raposa, Jr.
Frank E. Zahar
Ed Goodman
Kate Adams
Bobby Adams
Sallie & Larry Griffen
Merv Olsen
Harold Kramer

Maggie Teel
Carol Scott
Joe Nolte
Chris Buckingham
Talbot Bielefeldt
Robin Faith
Phil, Robert & Jimmy Eddy

Sugarloaf cont'd.

The day defied the weatherman by being sunny and cool. The trip was scheduled for the lower area, but we decided that it would take far too much effort to step over the Trespassing sign across the road, so we joined the Griffens at the upper cliffs. (To keep the trip official, Chris, Bobby and Harold went off to the lower area after lunch.)

There were a number of praiseworthy ascents during the day. The more sporting among us directed an assault on the Beginners Crack face, while we mortals climbed the crack and offered constructive criticism to the Gods below. Butterfingers and its variations was, as always, a popular challenge. Harold, Chris and Ed were among those who distinguished themselves on the route. Robin, after climbing up and down the Beginners Crack, exhausted herself on a layback. Forsaking the sport, she curled up behind a rock and lapsed into unconsciousness. Mark climbed the overhang to the right of Butterfingers four times. Perhaps there is something up there worth looking at. Charles and Frank, first time out, quietly climbed like flies up the rock. One female spectator from the audience along the path walked up and asked to be put on a climb. Despite our counseling, she had to retreat. Oh well-- it took fifty years on Everest.

The climbers began to disappear from the climbs and someone suggested dinner. After some debate, we showed up at Tuohy's. There was decided the fate of the schedule for the next two months; who would set up Oscar at Carderock; and who could be tricked into writing this little composition. Guess who?

-----T.P.B.

EQUIPMENT NEWS ITEM

At last there is a store in the Washington, D.C., area which carries a complete line of climbing equipment, and which has a Gerry franchise to boot. The proprietor is E. W. Remington, whose previous shop in Bethesda, and before that in Rockville, was known to man of us. The new name and address:

Camp 'N Ski, Inc. T/A
11230 Georgia Avenue
Wheaton, Maryland 20853

This is in the Wheaton Triangle (not Wheaton Plaza) almost opposite the Safeway grocery store, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ blocks south of University Boulevard. It is a couple of miles or so north of the new beltway. (Take the Silver Spring exit, but go north away from Silver Spring toward Wheaton) Store hours: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. weekdays, to 6 p.m. on Saturdays. Telephone 933-3737.

Besides all the standard items of climbing gear--rope, pitons, carabiners, slings, hammers, etc.--the store also stocks equipment for caving, skiing, camping and sky diving. Lightweight equipment is featured: clothing, packs, tents, sleeping bags, and dehydrated foods. Hiking boots and klutterschuhe are also in stock; for some models the range of sizes on hand is adequate to assure a good fit in minutes rather than months. Prices on Gerry equipment are their catalog prices; on some items, where he can deal directly with the manufacturer, Remington's prices are lower.

Mr. Remington's eighteen years in the U.S. Geological Survey, during which he traveled to many rugged parts of the world, from Point Barrow to the South Pole,

gave him considerable experience with the types of equipment he now sells. He is, therefore, well-qualified to advise customers as to the equipment most appropriate to their anticipated needs.

I believe that you will find, as I did, that a visit to this store and a bull session with its proprietor, is quite an interesting experience.

-----Phil Eddy

SUGGESTION FOR PITON PULLING

Removing a well-placed piton can be a very difficult job. If one is fortunate enough to be in a position where he can have both hands free, he can attach something to the piton and pull while he wallops it with his hammer. Usually this something is a carabiner, or similar hardware. Not only does it get in the way, but also it gets badly beat up in the process. My suggestion is to use a piece of stranded wire, such as is used for clothes lines, guy wires, etc., which cost only about a penny per foot. (Even picture hanging wire might do) A piece about 30 inches long, used double, affords a good grip for pulling the piton. It does not get in the way of hammering, and keeps the piton securely in hand when (and if!) it comes out. All that one need worry about losing is his balance. I have tried this technique a couple of times and feel that the idea is worth being put into circulation for more extensive testing.

-----Phil Eddy

NEW SUBSCRIBER:

Thomas S. Englar
1201 North View Road
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

"Exchange Publication"
Terrapin Trail Club
University of Maryland
College Park, Maryland
(was being sent to Jim Fox)

NOTE: Without apologies UP Rope increases its subscription rate to \$1.50. Effective the first of November. Send money to Phil Eddy, PATC Headquarters, 1916 Sunderland Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

UP ROPE is pleased to announce that Phil Eddy has consented to be our new Business Manager, thus terminating Hardy Hargreaves many years of faithful service. We are sorry to lose Hardy but he deserves his well-earned rest. --ED GOODMAN, EDITOR

UP ROPE exchanges publications with many other mountaineering organizations. These will be listed in a future UP ROPE and made available upon request.--ED GOODMAN, ED.

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NOTE: The typist accepts no responsibility for errors due to illegibility of submissions. It will be greatly appreciated if authors will please double-space texts and/or use a pen for handwritten ones.