



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036

Vol. XXI No. 4

April 1966

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*April 3 ----- Carderock, Maryland

April 8-11 -- Shawangunks, New Paltz, New York

LEADER: Larry Griffin (560-8831)

Individual parties and commissaries unless response justifies hiring a bus. Contact leader for information and directions.

Alternate trip: Purple Horse, Maryland

(Park at Anglers' Inn; cross canal and go upstream to wide-water. Take path on left just before crossing bridge.)

April 13 ---- Business Meeting, 1718 N Street, N.W., 8 p.m.

PROGRAM: Dick Montague will present a slide lecture on his trip from the Snow Dome high in the Selkirks, hydrographic center of North America, down the Athabasca River. Mr. Montague is a freelance photo-journalist who has traveled the trails of the Hudson's Bay voyageurs for many years, and made this particular trip for the National Geographic.

April 17 ---- Corkscrew, Blood and Guts, Juliet's Balcony area, Virginia

LEADER: Chuck Wettling (843-6217)

(Take Beltway to Great Falls, Dranesville exit, where you pick up Route 193 to Great Falls. All cars must be left in Great Falls Park parking area, at a cost of 50 cents. Take main trail downstream to climbing area.)

April 24 ---- Little Stony Man, Virginia

LEADER: Ed Goodman (931-2912)

(Take Route 211 to Panorama entrance to Skyline Drive. Park in Stony Man parking area, on right hand side of road.)

April 25 ---- UP ROPE publication night at 1718 N Street, N.W.

*May 1 ----- Carderock, Maryland

*Anyone desiring dynamic belay practice with "Oscar" should call Chuck Wettling (843-6217) to make reservations before Carderock Sundays.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Mountaineering Section welcomes all interested individuals to participate in our weekly outings, and to share with us the joys of the rocks, the clouds, and the high places. Sunday day trips leave from Howard Johnsons' at Wisconsin and Western Avenues, N.W. at 8:30 a.m.--come early and have breakfast. If you are late, check behind the southeast drainpipe for any change in the day's climbing activities. Climbing lasts all day, and groups of climbers stop for supper on the way home. Bring lunch and water, and wear suitable clothing to climb in. For further information contact the Trip Leader or:

Chairman: Phil Eddy (942-4231)
4500 Strathmore Avenue
Garrett Park, Maryland

Vice-Chairman: Ed Goodman (931-2912)
5345 Sanger Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia

HARPER'S FERRY, WEST VIRGINIA - FEBRUARY 13

Don Hubbard
Tim Schoechle
Maggie Teel
Ed Goodman
Tom Shomo
Sandra Holt

Chuck Wettling
Margaret Lee
Joe Nolte
Kate & Bob Adams
Tal Bielefeldt
Mark Carpenter

Barry Wahlin
John Schelling
Glen Cannon
Tom Blevins
Jim Dowis
Gerry Archibald

Nobody believed we would really go out to Harper's Ferry in a chilly all-day rain in mid-February, or if we did that anyone would climb. But one thing led to another, and there we were on the Mennen sign in a driving rain.

On my way to the rocks I was stopped by a local resident who ventured the opinion that only a madman would be up there "on a day like this." He was also a little upset because someone had rolled a rock which barely missed his car. I assured him that it couldn't have been any of our people.

Not unexpectedly, Chuck, Margaret, and Kate deserted the faithful for a hike along the ridge. They reported knee-deep snow most of the way.

Tal, Barry, Mark, Tom, and Jim started early in the day and made a long climb somewhere to the right of the Mennen sign; then walked across the bridge to see the sights in town.

Ed, Tom Shomo, Glen, and I began with Sam's Pin and then did a fairly easy route to the right of the sign, reaching the cave just as the sun broke out. We made a valiant attempt to dry our long underwear on a 7/16 inch clothesline, but the rain began again, colder than ever, just as we got undressed. There was nothing to do but put those wet clothes back on again.

We kept losing people all day, starting with Tim and Maggie at 9 a.m., and by the time we got back to Marrocco's, there were only four left.

-Bob Adams

SUGARLOAF, MARYLAND - MARCH 13

Bob, Kate & Bobby Adams	Ralph Haller	Ben & Jill Shapiro
Bob Armstrong	Nan Henderson	Joe Shields
Rick Banning	Mike Howell	Richard Sideman
Tal Bielefeldt	Lanny Hughey	Suzy Slairn
Betsy Brandriff	Chips Janzer	Walt, Marlene & Barbara
Glen Cannon	Harold Kramer	Snyder
Lee Caraher	Warren King	Emlie Strang
Mark Carpenter	Margaret Lee	Dave, Joan, Rollie & Debra
Vince Di Santi	Conrad l'Heureux	Templeton
Karl Edler	Jim & Pat Nagy & kids	Frank & Grey Thompson
Dave Elvin	Bill Nichols	Furn Walton
Ed & Syvone Goodman	Belandi Price	Thayis Weibel
Tony & Meg Gray	Eddy, Douglas & Wayne	Bob West
Larry & Sallie Griffin	Pudleiner	Chuck Wettling
Lindsay Haisley	Bill Reeburgh	Arnold Wexler
Rich Hall	Larry Rossini	

This was the first Sunday that felt like Spring, and it brought out people we hadn't seen for months. For that matter, some of the people we were used to seeing looked entirely different without their long underwear and down jackets.

We had the pleasure of meeting a number of new climbers, who performed very well in spite of the general severity of the climbs at Sugarloaf. Most of them had an opportunity to try a rappel or two on the outside corner next to Butterfinger.

Ever since the dark day that Al Klov Dahl discovered the ghastly overhang known as the "Rhythmic Roof" we have been plagued with people who will drop a rope across it and call out cheerfully for volunteers. This trip was no exception. Spectators along the footpath were treated to a succession of spectacular flights into space, accompanied by colorful expressions of disappointment.

After a few hours of this we got an early start for Tuohey's, where an informal banquet was held in company with several illustrious members of the PSC.

-Bob Adams

CARDEROCK, MARYLAND - March 6

J. Purinton	H. Swift	H. Kramer & sons	Larry & Sallie Griffin
F. Pohanka	K. Edler	D. & J. Templeton,	Tony Gray
D. Stemper	P. Pierce	Rollie & Debbie	T. Englar
V. Di Santi	M. Teel	B. & K. Adams	M. Carpenter
P. Wheatley	A. Wilder	R. Sideman	Buzz Jones
T. Ballard	C. White	T. Robinson	B. & J. Shapiro
A. Jenkins	M. Lee	N. Morewood	Conrad Eaton
J. & D. Ney	R. Haller	C. Wettling	R. Jasper
B. Wallen	B. West	P. & J. Eddy	L. Hughey
N. Henderson	T. Blevins	E. & J. Cole	K. & M. Richards
L. Mueller	B. Nicholls	E. Strano	E. Mini
T. Schoechle	L. Evans	E. Chickles	C. Janger
G. Livingstone	H. Clarke	R. Banning	D. Dalrymple
F. & G. Thompson	C. Scoredos	D. & W. Pudleiner	

In spite of partially clouded skies and quite chill breezes, we had a very successful day. Just about every climb was in use at one time or another except for Sterling's Twin Cracks; they were not accessible from below because the Potomac was too high.

Oldtimers will be glad to know that Chris Scoredos is still an active climber, who joins us occasionally. His rappelling style is famous amongst us: with outboard leg thrown over the rope and a hand holding on either side, he gallops down a cliff faster than most of us do it with brake bars. I watched him come down the 50 feet or so of Jan's Face in about 3 seconds. But he cheated this time: he wore gloves!

The real hero of the day was Oscar, the dummy on which we practice dynamic belay technique. He was busy for most of the day, helping to qualify a number of people for second position on a lead climb. To his honor we propose the following toast:

Here's to our Oscar
That chunk of concrete,
Who lands on his can
Instead of his feet.

With the aid of a winch
He soars into the trees,
Enjoying the view
And feeling the breeze.

Comes the night and repose
In his cave in the rocks;
Oscar's glad to escape from
The school of hard knocks.

Then a jerk on the lanyard,
And he plummets to earth;
The novice below
Rues the day of his birth.

Many crashes he suffers
In the course of the day,
In order that duffers
Can learn to belay.

-Phil Eddy

WILLIAMSVILLE, VIRGINIA - MARCH 19-20

Ed Goodman	Rick Banning	Mary Berthiaume
Belinda Price	Jack Dempsey	Scott Evans
Karen Jensen	Buzz Jones	Cary Kerns
Douglas Kinney	Dick McGill	Lynn North
Chris Reynolds	Maggie Teel	Pete Stoller
Bob Stoller	Tim Schoechle	Joan, Debbie, Rollie & Dave
Pinky Wheatley		Templeton

Preliminary Comments:

There are strange things done for the sake of fun
By us fools who toil and slave,
But beneath the sod scoots the queerest clod
The nut that loves to cave.

With Ed Goodman, we were twenty-three
Such nuts in Williamsville
If he'd brought more food and been less rude
We'd all be down there still.

The March 19 weekend saw us "potholing" high in the limestone valley and ridge country of Highlands county in far western Virginia. Headquarters was one of Bob Roller's cabins in the alpine setting of the Bullpasture river gorge... comforts included refrigerator, intermittent running cold water, group commissary, electric range, indoor plumbing and a big warm fireplace.

Visits were made to the Crossroads and the Witherose horizontal maze caves, providing lots of walking, high rectangular gallerys, few formations, and plenty of confusion.

Summit-Thorn Mountain, Aqua, and Bluegrass were among other caves done.

Marshalls, the beautifully adorned stream passage in the north wall of the Gorge, slightly upstream from our cabin, saw much after-dinner traffic and some photography. Access was bad, however--severe bushwacking from downstream and a washed out bridge at Aqua campgrounds upstream. The ten mile Tower Hill Mountain trail also yielded a pleasant but long afternoon.

-Dave Templeton and
Timothy Schoechle

SCRAMBLES AMONG THE TUSCALOOSA SANDSTONES

Returning to Washington from Williamsville long enough to gather funds, Rick Banning and myself set out immediately for Germany Valley in the company of

Dixon Hoyle of VPI. We arrived at Seneca Rock Tuesday. A very hot quiet afternoon watched us ascend Seneca Rock via the Lower Skyline and the Conn's East routes. The starry sky foretold an even hotter day and we arose early from the cavers hut for Champe Rocks. Here we had some difficulty crossing the swift early spring torrent of the North Fork immediately below the rocks. We followed the remains of the old road up to the northern of the two main passes through the three flake escarpment. (The structure is similar to Seneca with three flakes rather than two.) Here the road disappears beneath steep talus walls (road shown on USGS quadrangle washed out in the flood of '49). The end buttresses towered vertically on our right and left, being higher and cleaner than the similar Roy Gap at Seneca. We chose a skyline route up the northern flake. This is a moderately difficult free first pitch with bongs and long blades crossing slightly tilted vertical strata alternating good hard quartzite with softer sandstone and the attendant piton problems. Two more easy pitches brought us to the summit of this north rear flake and an impressive view of the hanging North Fork Mountain ridge cliffs above us and a glimpse of some silent high alpine meadows dotted with sheep. We stepped off the flake onto a soft fern and rhododendron col which led us north and down to still another gap not previously visible. Its sheer walls presented a flake of particularly good quartzite about 10 feet thick and two hundred feet high which stood perfectly alone and vertical with several classic vertical crack systems on its east face. Thirst, heat and a late hour led us down the talus couloir to the North Fork and a Tyrolean traverse to the pasture and car. The next morning we were greeted by snowflakes and a stiff 34° wind. We again set out for Champe Rocks with the objective of exploring the complex of ridges, meadows, cliffs, and streams behind the Champe Rock facade. With the use of a light trail motorcycle we crossed the swinging bridge at Big Run, one gap south of Champe and were able to quickly check out the numerous trails and roads. We quickly covered the three miles in the upper valley, emerging in a high meadow overlooking the whole hidden valley. The property and flocks are owned by Johnny Miller whose neat cabin is perched on the grassy slopes in this isolated Swiss setting. A hike to the Middle Champe summit and scramble into the southern gorge revealed a pleasant trail connecting Johnny's farm with the North Fork. This path lined with tall conifers and paved with mossy talus, carried us along the rushing cold creek in a high Wyoming-like setting. Emerging on the north Fork we traversed a high alluvial terrace south to our swinging bridge.

Champe Rocks offers more varied and perhaps more extensive climbing than the Seneca Rock, and its hidden valleys and escarpments offer many excellent and rewarding mountaineering problems. Access from the high pastures to the north belongs to the Champe family and is unexplored. Johnny Miller does not object to visitors but those using the Big Run jeep trail should notify Walter Nelson, c/o Postmaster, Mouth of Seneca, in advance for reasons left to the reader's imagination.

-Timothy Schoechle

AMENDMENT TO BY LAWS

Petition presented at the annual meeting 29 January 1966.
Signed by Ed Goodman, Chuck Wettling, and Harold Kramer.
Adopted at the next monthly business meeting, 9 February 1966.

Section II "Selection of Chairman and Vice-Chairman"

shall be amended to read:

A nominating committee, appointed by the Chairman, will annually nominate a Chairman and Vice-Chairman to be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Section.

The names of the members of the committee shall be published in the December issue of UP ROPE, and the names of the candidates selected shall be published in the January issue of UP ROPE.

During the Annual Meeting, nominations of properly qualified individuals will be accepted from the floor.

BUSINESS MEETING - MARCH 16

It was announced that Helena Clarke has resigned as Treasurer of the Section. Sallie Griffin was appointed as new Treasurer. This job will be combined with her former position as Membership Chairman.

The main feature of the evening was a 57-minute color and sound film "Annapurna," prepared by the expedition photographer, Marcel Ichac. It told the story of the successful 1956 French expedition to Annapurna and Dhaulagiri in the Himalayan Mountains. There was a record attendance at the meeting, including many newcomers as well as quite a few old-but-rarely-seen faces. We hope to see them all again soon.

-Phil Eddy

SPRUCE KNOB - SENECA ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Last October, complete with ceremonies and speeches, the proposed Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area became a reality. At that time Senator Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia explained his philosophy with regard to the use of the region. It basically amounted to a "something-for-everyone" approach, and obviously included a scenic highway. Recently an article by Senator Byrd entitled "Come to Spruce Knob" appeared in the Congressional Record, again setting

forth his ideas for the development of this new recreation area. In part it reads:

"...What will we do with all this beauty? We are certainly going to take care of it, preserve it, and develop it only in the most careful manner so as to make it available for more people to enjoy. The U.S. Forest Service will manage it and work closely with the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources to bring out its full potential for outdoor recreation.

"There will be some additional facilities, giving each of the many types of users the kind of recreation sought. There will someday be scenic roads and overlooks for those traveling by car. There will be campgrounds, picnic areas, and related facilities.

"There will also be rugged back country for those who want less of civilization's trimmings. Rock climbers and cave explorers will continue to enjoy this country. The clear headwaters of the South Branch will continue to provide pleasure for white-water canoeists and fishermen alike.

"I consider the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area as one of the best investments that this Nation can make in its public lands. We will be making needed capital improvements in an outstanding area adjacent to the populous north."

"I hope many people will find time to enjoy it.

"One of the most exciting aspects of Spruce Knob to me is its proximity to the great population centers of the country where huge developments have just about erased out all but the smallest patches of greenery.

"It has been estimated that more than 30 million people live in urban areas within a 250-mile radius of Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks, and that there will be a million visitors a year at the recreation center by 1970 and eventually some 5 million a year."

As in October, it is still clear that Senator Byrd, at least, sees commercial gain as the primary motive in the proposed development of Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area. He is still following his "something for everyone" approach, but with little real regard for any long range conservation planning or preservation of true wilderness areas. Let us hope that the Forest Service views the matter somewhat differently.

-Pinky Wheatly and Maggie Teel

BOOKS ON CLIMBING

PATC has: Relaying the Leader
Techniques of Rock Climbing
Accidents in American Mountaineering

for sale at the headquarters desk.

"...We at last pulled ourselves onto the summit slabs. Here the summit of the Fou floated in the clouds and the towering cumulus all around at our level reminded me of many similar moments while flying. However, here one could actually feel the elements and be part of them. These sculptured forms, ever-changing like life itself, made mockery of our Fou. The south face of the Fou, perhaps the hardest climb in the western Alps, yet it could not compare to a soaring cliff of vapor with cracks and chimneys of translucent crystals never to feel a human hand..."

--John Harlin

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