



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. 5

May 1966

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- \*May 1 ----- Carderock, Maryland  
LEADER: Tom Blevins (584-9126)
- May 8 ----- Bull Run Mountains, Virginia  
LEADER: Art Wilder (567-0183)  
Take US Rte. 66 to Gainesville; State Rte. 55 to Haymarket; park cars 6 miles from Haymarket. (To get to parking area take first road to right one mile west of Haymarket; turn left at Antioch 4.5 miles from Haymarket; parking place is on left just west of Fauquier-Prince William County line.) From parking area hike south on dirt road to quarry, bear right on road to top of west side of quarry, and follow trail south about 1.5 miles to rocks.
- May 11 ----- Business Meeting, 1718 N Street, N.W., 8 p.m.  
PROGRAM: Arnold Wexler will deliver a slide lecture on his 1962 expedition to the Wind River range of Wyoming (in relation to the trip scheduled there for this summer--see page 3).
- May 15 ----- Harper's Ferry, Maryland  
LEADER: Rich Hall (582-0328)  
Climbing area is along the C & O Canal in Maryland on the north side of the Potomac River across from town of Harper's Ferry. Park cars across from historical tavern.
- May 22 ----- Cupid's Bower, Maryland (or Purple Horse, Maryland, if river too high and/or boats unattainable)  
LEADER: George Livingstone (933-3737)
- May 28-30 -- Seneca Rocks, West Virginia  
LEADER: Bob Adams (292-1340)  
Traditional annual event. Camping at Mouth of Seneca pavilion

(\$ .25 per night) or Seneca Creek Forest Service campground (2 miles west of Onego, left on White's Run Road for 200 yards). Individual commissaries. No beginners.

June 4-5 --- Stover Cliffs, Bucks County, Pennsylvania (alternate: Carderock)  
LEADER: Bill Jarrett (365-4923)

We are being invited by Delaware Valley Chapter of the AMC to Philadelphia's climbing area. Brunswick shale cliffs with spectacular overhangs and delicate traverses. Leader would like to know by Business Meeting who is coming so that necessary campsites can be reserved. See further note below.

\*Anyone desiring dynamic belay practice with "Oscar" should call Dave Templeton (301-268-3168) to make reservations before Carderock Sundays.

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#### 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 Phil Eddy (Chairman) at 942-4231.

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#### MORE ON SCHEDULED TRIPS....

The Stover Cliffs, Pennsylvania, trip is an invitation to meet with the Delaware Valley Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club and climb at their "Carderock." A New York group has also been invited. Tony Gray has information about the rocks and the location of the camping area. I know that, although some of the climbs can be rigged as practice climbs, most of the climbing is done on lead. Like Carderock, there are many climbs, all ranges of difficulty (or easiness), and many different techniques (layback, jam crack etc.) can be used. Someone has mentioned poison ivy, which has never stopped us in the past, but long pants might be in order. No one, as yet, has mentioned beer. The trip will be fun. Not only do we learn a new area firsthand, but we also meet more of our own kind, some of whom we have probably nodded to already at Seneca or in the "Gunks." Also, people will get to know us.

-Sallie Griffin

## MORE ON SCHEDULED TRIPS....

Sharpen your ice axes....Plans are now being made for a Club trip to the Wind River Range of Wyoming. Target is Gannet Peak, at 13,785 feet the highest in Wyoming. This will involve two weeks of mountaineering in one of the most remote and beautiful alpine areas of the United States with backpacking, hiking, and ice and rock climbing. Probable date includes weeks of July 31, August 7, and August 14. Interested persons should make themselves known to Trip Leader Bob Adams. Look for more detailed information in the June and July issues of UP ROPE.

-Timothy Schoechle

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## WOLF ROCK, MARYLAND - MARCH 27

Don Hubbard (HoJo's)  
Terry Robinson  
Mark Carpenter  
Maggie Teel  
Doug Kinney  
Art Brown  
Annaliese Matzen  
Ed Goodman  
Warren King  
Richard Sideman  
Dana Dalrymple  
Chuck Wettling  
Zonia Kemp

Phil & Jimmy Eddy  
Lawrence de Bivort  
Sally Pratt  
Tom Nastoff  
Gerry Martin  
Douglass & Wayne Puddleiner  
John Spillane  
Four Templetons  
Thayis Weibel  
Chipsy Janger  
Ted & Mary Jane Schad  
Margaret Lee  
Bob Croft

David Duffield  
Tom Blevins  
Tim Schoechle  
Tal Bielefeldt  
Terry Kerns  
Bob & Kate Adams  
Joe Shields  
Vince de Santi  
Glenn Cannon  
Pinky Wheatley  
Cindy Richards  
Bill Nicholls  
Pat Blankenship

It was a cool but pleasant day at this rocky outcropping in the Catoctin Mountains near the once-secret Presidential retreat known variously as Shangri-la or Camp David. In the deep cracks there was still some snow left over from several weeks previous. In spite of its scenic location, this is not one of our favorite climbing areas because of the limited number of climbs, most of which are quite short, and because there are no really easy climbs on which beginners can gain confidence.

The scenes which stand out most vividly in my memory are: Bob Adams doing his difficult horizontal stretch start on one of the face climbs; Bob Croft getting his cave-going year-old German Shepherd, Freddy, down to a lower level in the rocks; Mark Carpenter trying to get his girl friend up as many climbs as possible to gain skill and qualify for the Seneca Rocks trip later in the season; Tim Schoechle playing steeplechase on the trail with his Honda.

-Phil Eddy

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## CARDEROCK, MARYLAND - APRIL 3

Don Hubbard (HoJo's)	Bob West.	Phil Eddy & Tribe	Tommy Cross
Chuck Wettling	Don Stemper	Penny Pierce	Mark Carpenter
Frank & Grey T.	Four Templetons	Tim Schoechle	Maggie Teel
Pat Pace	Margery Freeman	Joe Shields	Bob Adams
Ed & Syvone Goodman	Annaliese Matzen	Barry Wallen	Bob Anderson
Ben & Jill Shapiro	Lanny Hughey	Nan Henderson	Richard Sideman
Chipsy Janger	Rich Hall	Vince de Santi	Wayne Brown
John Spillane	Warren King	Thayis Weibel	Anthony Doxiadas
Tom Ballard	Tom Blevins	Art Wilder	Bill Reeburgh
Bill Nicholls	Zonia Kemp	Rob Delk	Emilie Strano
Larry & Sallie G.	Arthur Ziffer	Tal Bielefeldt	Furn Walton
Andy Kauffman	Phil Cardon	Snyder Family	Jim Baugher
Mike & J. Nicholson	Ted Schad	Scott Adams	Harold Kramer
Els Litjens	Keith Kerney	Jim Nagy & Tribe	Merv Oleson
Assorted Caving Types			

This was another beautiful spring day, a perfect setting for our monthly workout at home base on the banks of the Potomac. As usual, almost all of the available climbs were in use at one time or another, and Oscar kept busy all day long giving practice in dynamic belaying techniques.

By way of variety, I saw a couple of lead climbs going on: Larry Griffin led the rightmost of Stirling's Twin Cracks, seconded, as usual, by his lovely wife Sallie; at the other end of the arena, Andy Kauffman and Phil Cardon, who have enjoyed real mountain climbing in the Alps, attacked that nasty overhang in the corner between Jan's Face and Sterling's Crack. And then there was Tom Blevins' attempt to set a speed record up Beginners' Crack. It is best described in terms of the drag racing lingo which I hear from my teenage son Bob: when the flag went down, Tom "pulled a wheelie" and then "laid a patch" right up the first half of the crack, before slowing down at the ledge. Up above, Rich Hall couldn't haul in the line fast enough, and Tom almost got fouled up in the rigging. His time: 20 seconds!

My apologies to the unidentified cavers; they seemed to remain separate from the rest of us, and I was developing writer's cramp from logging everyone in as the day progressed. (But we're always glad to have so many enthusiasts join us on Sundays!)

-Phil Eddy

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## BUSINESS MEETING - APRIL 13

In response to an earlier plea, Grey Bennett Thompson submitted a considerable variety of possible designs for our shoulder patch, to supplement the two designs submitted by Dave Templeton at the last meeting. There does not as yet seem to be any strong sentiment in favor of any one of the designs, so the selection was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

Bill Jarrett, a qualified first aid instructor, has agreed to take on two tasks: (1) to overhaul our official first aid kit and bring it up to date as to nature and condition of contents, and (2) to work up a brief indoctrination for club members into relevant aspects of first aid.

Chuck Wettling resigned as Training Chairman in charge of Oscar operations; Dave Templeton has taken over these duties.

The high point of the meeting was a slide lecture on a canoe trip down the Athabasca River by freelance photo-journalist Dick Montague. We are looking forward to a return engagement next fall and an account of his visit with the Eskimos of northwestern Canada.

-Phil Eddy

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#### NOTES ON HISTORY AND USAGE OF PITONS

The first pitons were developed for use in the Dolomites in limestone, where a piton is expected to flow into a very irregular crack or hole and fill all the tiny internal pits and irregularities and have such great holding power that it can never be taken out. It was generally considered that only a piton of very malleable steel or iron had the qualities to fulfill these requirements. All European pitons today are still being made thus whether they are going to be used in limestone or not.

John Salathe was the first to realize the need of a piton for climbing on granite. During his attempts on the Lost Arrow, he saw that he needed a stiffer, tougher piton that could be driven into solid veins of rotten granite without buckling, that was lighter than an iron piton, that had greater holding power, and that yet could be taken out faster and more easily and be used over and over again. Out of old Model A Ford axles, he forged some beautiful horizontals, which to this day are almost revered by those lucky enough to own them.

The alloy-steel piton is based on a theory radically different from that of the iron piton. It is not expected to follow cracks but rather to act like a spring, pressing against the sides. It has been proven to have greater holding power in granite and similar rock because it can be driven harder and deeper without buckling into the typical smooth cracks so that it is actually tighter. The entire length of the piton is stiff, so that the head does not bend when removed, thus making it possible to do a several-day 300-piton climb without leaving a single piton in place. The invention of the alloy-steel piton is as important to rock climbing as is the new ice screw to ice climbing.

In the early 1950's a new piton was invented by another famous Yosemite climber, Charles Wilts, which helped as much as anything to set such a high standard of artificial climbing. This piton, with a blade the size of a postage stamp, was appropriately called the "knife blade." It was the first piton to be made of chrome-molybdenum aircraft steel and could be used in very thin cracks where no



Since piton could possibly enter. Although they were originally made for artificial climbing, it was soon found that these pins often had even greater holding power than angle pitons. Gerry Gallwas in 1957 forged some regular horizontals out of chrome-molybdenum steel (SAE 4130) for the 1957 ascent of Half Dome; some of these have been used over a hundred times and are still in use.

Yosemite, as any granitic area, has many wide piton cracks. Wooden wedges were never much used because these large cracks are usually filled with dirt. Several persons made large angle pitons, some up to 4-inch-wide, of various materials. Some, made by William Feuerer for the 1958 ascent of El Capitan, were fashioned from aluminum channel, angle iron and cut-off stove legs.

All of these pitons were made by individuals in home workshops and available only to personal friends. Salathe sold a few, but most climbers thought his price of 55¢ too expensive! In 1958 the author started to make this newer type of equipment on a commercial basis. He developed a new aluminum carabiner, stronger than existing steel models, which had a gate that could still be opened under a climber's weight and shaped to be used in combination with the Bedayn carabiner in the Yosemite method of artificial climbing. Ringless alloy-steel angle pitons were invented that were superior in every way to existing models. The larger angle pitons were made of heat-treated alloy aluminum to save weight. A full line of horizontals of alloy-steel was developed ranging from a knife blade to a wedge.

Abortive attempts on Kat Pinnacle's west face showed the need of a piton which would go into tiny bottoming cracks which even knife blades failed to enter. From the need came the "RURP." This "Realized Ultimate Reality Piton" helped to usher in the A5 climbing and was instrumental in allowing tens of existing bolts to be passed up and chopped out. These diminutive pins are far from being just novelties but have become an absolute necessity on nearly all of the newer climbs.

The importance of this new equipment can best be emphasized by saying that since 1958 every major rock climb in North America has used my equipment. The future of rock-climbing equipment lies in the use of the lighter steel and aluminum alloys. Weight is now the major problem to be overcome..."

-Yvon Chouinard from Modern Yosemite Climbing, American Alpine Journal, 1963.

(Reprinted with permission of the author.)

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The following poem, commemorating a familiar cry, is dedicated to all of our old timers who have fond memories of Tuohey's Restaurant. For the benefit of those readers who are not acquainted, Tuohey's is an unpretentious restaurant in Cabin John, Maryland, some three miles from Carderock, our home base on the banks of the Potomac; it is the traditional recuperation center for the group after a hard day's climbing.

## TUOHEY TIME

It's Tuohey time at Carderock  
For climbers old and new;  
Each one thinks first to slake his thirst  
At Tuohey's rendezvous.

"It's Tuohey time!" The cry goes up  
And echoes far and near;  
The rush is on to Cabin John  
To guzzle Tuohey's beer.

It's Tuohey time in Cabin John  
With food and drink they're sated,  
But still the noise of boistrous boys  
Continues unabated.

It's Tuohey time long after dark  
Till ends a perfect day.  
One makes a start, soon all depart  
And homeward wend their way.

-Phil Eddy

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## EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE

Karl Edler of PATC Equipment Committee now has eight 150-foot Columbian nylon 7/16-inch ropes on hand for sale to members at \$19.50 each, first come, first served. Two LaFuma Guide Packs left at \$9.26. He is considering making a large purchase from Thomas Black & Sons at 25 percent discount. All items carried by Blacks subject to discount, and fully guaranteed. Popular items include Polar and Icelandic sleeping bags, duvet jackets, anoraks, tents, Optimus stoves, Bergans Packs, and foam mattresses. Call Karl Edler or Barb Edler at 773-1693.

Don't forget the good stock of backpacking food at PATC Headquarters. Price list available from the Sales Desk.

Latest word on PATC Equipment Bulletin, Twelfth Edition: about half of copy in hands of printer. We hope to have copies available for sale sometime in late June, God willing. New edition will include a complete list of dealers, an equipment checklist, and a list of suggested readings on lightweight equipment, in addition to the sections on technical mountaineering equipment and trail clearing equipment. Cost will be \$1.00 postpaid.

Bargain: One Alpine Hut Mummy sleeping bag, 3-lb. goose down, overlapping tube design, center 30-inch zipper, all ripstop nylon, with stuff bag. Slightly soiled in testing. Regular price is about \$65.00. Sold to the first member with \$50.00! More bag than you'll find anywhere at the price, and it is in new condition (only a few weeks old) except for what appear to be two grease stains near the foot.

-Karl Edler

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#### EXCHANGE PUBLICATIONS

The library of UP ROPE exchange publications is finally being assembled. It is now to be found in the third drawer of the file in the clubhouse maproom. No provision has been made for borrowing as yet . . .

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#### ELECTION NOTICE

At the next regular meeting of the MS/PATC on May 11, there will be a special election to fill the post of Vice Chairman for the remainder of the year. The incumbent, Ed Goodman, has resigned; a nominating committee has duly nominated Tom Blevins, who you may recall failed of election in January only because he was not a member of PATC as required by our constitution (he has since joined). Other nominations will be accepted from the floor.

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#### TRIP REPORTS

In recent weeks we have received a great many comments, pro and con, concerning the policy of UP ROPE in regard to trip reports--what should be included in them and what part they play in the overall format of UP ROPE.

To take the latter point first, we think that probably about half of each issue can be devoted to trip reports. (For financial reasons we have been trying to limit each issue to ten printed pages.) The other half would consist of technical articles (both original and reprints from other publications), notices of interest to readers, trip schedules, book reports, and miscellaneous MS business items. To best serve the interests of all our readers, we feel a fifty-fifty division is appropriate.



With regard to content, perhaps at this time it would be a good idea to mention what we would (or would not) like to see in reports.

--length--short--not more than one-half typewritten page (in addition to names) unless it is an out-of-the-ordinary trip; often just listing the people attending takes half a page.

--include some information on types of climbing, accessibility of parking, camping facilities, etc. if report is about one of our less frequently visited areas.

--personal anecdotes are welcome and interesting if (1) they are neither so personal nor cryptic that only a few readers have any chance of understanding them; and (2) they concern persons who are more or less known to the majority of the group (unless the incident is humorous enough to stand on its own).

--don't include information that is meaningless, routine, or of no special significance--e.g., "Today John Brown climbed Beginners' Crack, Jan's Face, etc."

We don't want to prescribe a specific format for trip reports--a great part of the interest and charm in the reports is the varying literary style of our many contributors. In order to maintain the standards we have set, and to fit all the reports into the available spaces, we find it necessary occasionally to edit some of the material we receive. Most emphatically, however, we don't want to discourage anyone from writing--we hope that any of you will contribute reports when called upon--and anytime in between when you feel like saying something!

-The Editors

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" . . . On his bed of stone, leaning against the great wall, facing empty space which has become his friend, he watches the sun fade over the horizon on his left, while on his right the sky spreads its mantle of stars. At first he is wakeful, then, if he can he sleeps; then wakes again, watches the stars and sleeps again; then at last he stays awake and watches. On his right the sun will return, having made its great voyage below this shield of scattered diamonds. . . "

-Gaston Rebuffat

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UP ROPE is published the last Wednesday of every month and mailed to all subscribers at \$1.50 per year. All articles, news, trip reports, and letters should be addressed to the editors, UP ROPE, c/o PATC, 1718 N Street, NW., D.C. 20036.

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