



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. 8

August 1966

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- August 6-7 ---- Baker Rocks, West Virginia (Alternate-Carderock)**
LEADER: George Livingstone (363-7161) or call
Tony Gray (338-2146)
Rte. 55 to Moorefield, W.Va., left on Rte. 28 for
7 miles to Harper's Central Dairy on right. Take
left off 28 into lane, open gate beside quonset hut.
Follow lane to rocks. Note, this is private property,
so don't impair the milk giving qualities of
Mr. Harper's cows.
- August 14-15 --- Edes Fort, Cacapon, West Virginia (near Berkeley Springs)**
LEADER: George Livingstone (363-7161)
Interesting climbs and excellent swimming. Individual
commissaries and don't forget to bring plenty of water.
Private property, we are arranging camping permission
with owners.
- August 21 ----- Echo Cliffs and Juliet's Balcony, Great Falls, Virginia**
LEADER: Dave Templeton (or contact Tony Gray--338-2146)
- August 28 ----- Purple Horse, Maryland**
LEADER: Tony Gray (338-2146)
Park across from Old Anglers Inn. Swimming in the
beautiful Potomac if you've a mind to.
- September 3-4 -- Seneca Rocks, West Virginia**
LEADER: Tony Gray (338-2146)
Individual commissaries. No beginners. It is expected
that the traditional get-together of climbers and cavers,
both active and retired, will be hosted as usual by the
Riverton Church on Saturday, September 3. Dinner about
\$1.25. Make reservations by Wednesday, August 24, with
Tony and Meg Gray (338-2146) weekdays between 6 and 10
p.m. (The usual arrangers, Ray and Sue Moore, are in
Colorado for the month of August.)

NOTE: There will be no business meeting in August since the regular day, August 10, is the last day of the First Aid course.

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 Johnson's 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 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.

ON "MADMEN ONLY"

On a hot July 3, 1966, at Seneca Rocks, Roger Craig and I, having climbed the Totem in the morning, decided to attempt a route on the west side of North Peak in the afternoon. This route, Madmen Only, is about 40 feet north of the Gunsight Notch and was pioneered by Jimmy Shipley. It is considered one of the severest routes on Seneca even though it is only one pitch.

From the take-off on a flake, I swung out onto the face, hands on two small holds and soles flat against the face for friction. Then I reached over to what appeared to be a small ledge on the left but was actually a most pleasing bucket hold. A quick retake and I was in the niche at the bottom of the overhanging "lay-back" crack. Rather than being able to rest comfortably and survey the crack above, I had to struggle to keep myself in the niche, using a palm and elbow jam. My anxiety was rising due to the absence of adequate protection as the only piton I had placed was well below and might just bring the rope taut as I hit the talus.

Above me a Cassin ring blade piton driven into a "two by four" in turn driven into the corner crack gave mute testimony to the imagination and ingenuity of Jimmy Shipley. In his pioneering of this route he had no bongs and had to improvise. Now, several years later, I reached up, withdrew the piton with my hand, and dropped it to the ground, intending to retrieve it later. Unfortunately, it became lost in the rocks.

Being without the proper size bongs, I was in somewhat the same predicament as Jimmy. However, knifeblade pitons provided a solution. Using a thin CMI blade, which I placed in a small crack on the left wall and tied off, and disdaining as too severe an attempt to free climb the "lay back" crack, I edged upward on stirrups. Two more pitons, knifeblades, enabled me to reach a sloping ledge where I could rest, having surmounted this overhanging crack.

At this point--although the face was still slightly overhanging--the left wall of the inside corner, containing the layback crack, eased back to less than vertical. Consequently, the next 20 feet went free and ended at an even larger ledge.

Here I was presented with a choice. One possibility was the inside corner which continued diagonally upward to the left gradually diminishing and ending in a blank face. The other was 10 feet to the right where there was a vertical crack system leading to the summit ridge. I chose the second possibility as the day was hot, I was tired, and this route offered the quickest way to complete the climb.

Unfortunately, there was an almost blank wall between my ledge and the crack. I started the traverse, didn't like the poor holds, and came back. Then Roger said, "Well, it's just one of those moves you don't like to make, but you just have to go ahead and do it." Buoyed by his seeming optimism, I again edged out to the right, again felt uncomfortable; but I kept going and moved onto the small footholds and used the "wrong-way" handholds until I was at the base of the crack.

Suddenly, I was in trouble, uttering a dispirited, "Oh! Oh!.." I sagged downward on my holds and fully expected to fall, wondering all the time if that last piton, a rusty double-eye Austrian, could hold me. But no, I mustn't give up, and pulling back up I shoved my left hand into the crack probing desperately for a hold. I found an edge, held on, and unclipped a sling set to use on a rusty angle piton. But I was shaking so much that I could not get the "biner" into the eye and had to loop it over the piton. Then I was able to hang back, drive another piton, clip into it, and finally relax and rest.

Even after resting, the next 20 feet up the crack, although quite straight forward, were a real struggle and it was not until on the summit ridge that I was able to breathe a sigh of relief and experience the fulfillment coming from a struggle on the rocks, as I belayed Roger.

.G.T. Livingstone

ON "AGONY"

New Route:	Seneca Rocks
Leader:	George Livingstone
Second:	Tim Schoechle

Located midway between Marshall's Madness and Ship's Shivering Shimmy on the Face of a Thousand Pitons. The climb begins in the same inside corner as Ship's Shivering Shimmy, but after the first chockstone (25 feet), it traverses left to the center of the Face of a Thousand Pitons where one starts to ascend the central crack system. The face becomes increasingly vertical, but there are a couple of tight chimneys where one can wedge and rest. The overhang below the chockstone at midpoint required stirrups but I'm sure it can be done free. We belayed at base of chimney on chockstone. Above this point, the chimney is tight and was strenuous. Where it tightens up, we went onto the left face for 10 feet before entering an

inside corner which runs to the top. A fine route. As far as known never before done in its entirety.

. . . George Livingstone
(taken from South Summit
Register, entry of May 29,
1966)

From South Summit Register, entry June 19, 1966. . . "Agony was started but was found to be not enough of a challenge. George Livingstone deserves a great deal of credit for AGONY. Tension was used for 15 feet to attain a sling belay in lower portion of chimney."

. . . Tom Blevins
Bob Williams
Chips Janger

LETTER TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors:

There has been a great show of imagination and creativity in the climbing activities of our club this year. I find these developments both refreshing and exciting. Where will they lead?

Are we just a dilettante bunch of Sunday afternoon rockclimbers or are we a group dedicated to the entire scope of mountaineering? I believe that we are the latter and that we always have been, regardless of occasional appearances to the contrary.

Let's continue in the traditions of mountaineering and of our club and always be seeking to expand the range of our endeavors. Let's go to Fitz Roy, the Karakoram, McKinley, and even the unclimbed peaks of Antarctica.

. . . George Livingstone

For Tom Blevins and others unnamed:

". . . A rock wall seen from in front always looks worse than it is: even a profile view is apt to be misleading, as the small ledges, cracks, and chimneys which make a climb go are invisible. You can never say that a route will not go until you have tried it. A look even at relatively close range is not enough; you must actually get on it."

From: The A.A.C.'s Handbook of American
Mountaineering, by Kenneth A. Henderson

ANNOUNCEMENTS...

ETC...

The Patch Committee will hold an open meeting on August 29. The meeting will be held at the Clubhouse and will start at 8:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting is to invite comments on the patch design by Trudy Turner, submitted to the Section at the July meeting. Your attendance and comments will be appreciated by the Committee.

The Training Committee, as announced at the last meeting, has 100 copies of the little 32-page manual "Useful Knots and How to Tie Them" published by the Plymouth Cordage Company, makers of Goldline. Copies, at 10¢ each, may be purchased from Dave Templeton. Beginners are urged to acquire a copy.

A climbing rope was found on the Lunch Ledge at Seneca over the July 4 weekend. If anyone lost a rope or knows someone who lost one, contact:

T. R. Evans
Frederick Troglolytic Association
Naylor Hall
Fort Detrick, Maryland 21701

Will the person who borrowed my 1965 Summit's, please contact me.

George Livingstone (363-7161)

The Club's lumpy mascot, "Oscar," will be up to his earth shaking antics on August 7 at Carderock. Aspirants wishing to stop Oscar's wild plunges should show up at HoJo's by 8:30 a.m. or be at Carderock by 9:30 a.m. Come willing to assemble Oscar, help with the festivities, and de-assemble it--all in the training. The order of participation will be:

- (1) beginners, who have been checked out on all types of static belay by a recognized Section climber;
- (2) members of the Mountaineering Section or P.A.T.C. who wish a practice repeat; and
- (3) non-members who wish a practice repeat.

" . . . This time the bivouac was comfortable though we were parched. Miles away the lights of the town of Shiprock glittered. Cars crept along, illuminating their snail-like movement. The night, it seemed, reduced our troubles to their proper scale, and restored our sense of proportion. It fortified our spirit. In the silent struggle with nature, our lust for adventure had brought its stimulation. The solitude gave us time to think. By a struggle with a tangible objective man can learn those essential qualities in his own self. Socrates stated that happiness is curiously related to pain. Climbing illustrates that satisfaction is greater after an experience of discomfort. In the discovery that there is a penalty for too much comfort, man longs to escape from the artificial to the natural order to escape from the social religious, and political creeds of the material world. The codes and regulations men live by just a few miles away did not apply to us. We had made a complete escape from civilization, within full sight of it. We were of no concern, in fact almost unknown, to the man-made order in full view. . . ."

. . . Fred Beckey

NEW SUBSCRIBERS

Dennis N. Poffenroth
525 N. Imboden Street, #202
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Christopher Kulczyk
7505 Democracy Blvd., #A-422
Bethesda, Maryland 20034

Elizabeth Nichol
9616 Accord Drive
Potomac, Md. 20854

Roger Craig
1521 Dormont Avenue (Dormont)
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Els Litjens
6025 Spring Hill Dr., #304
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770

Tom Goff
717 Univ. Blvd. E.
Silver Spring, Md.
20903

K. Peter Henrickson
912 East Capitol Street
Washington, D.C. 20003

Raymond H. Fadner
1301 Longfellow St., NW.
Washington, D.C. 20011

Dr. D.W. Thayer
816 Easley St.
#417
Silver Spring, Md.
20910

UP ROPE STAFF

Editors: Maggie Teel
Pinky Wheatley

Assoc. Ed.: Timothy Schoechle

Bus. Mgr.: Phil Eddy

Typist: Hester Ailes

FIE ON PURPLE HORSE!

FIE ON CUPIDS BOWER!

FIE ON JULIET'S BALCONY!

GAS RATIONING IS OVER!

INTERSTATE HWYS ARE HERE!

ON TO SENECA, ON TO CHAMPE!

LET'S REACH OUT! . . .gl