



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. 9

September 1966

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 3-5 ----- Seneca Rocks, West Virginia  
LEADER: George Livingstone (EM 3-7161)  
Stay at Mouth of Seneca pavilion or Seneca Creek  
campground. Individual commissaries. No beginners.  
Annual dinner at Riverton Methodist Church.

September 11 ----- Great Falls, Maryland  
LEADER: Art Wilder (567-0183)

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

September 18 ----- Harper's Ferry, Maryland  
LEADER: Rich Hall (582-0328)  
Climbing on Maryland Heights. Bring hard hats.

September 24-25 --- Old Rag Mountain, Nethers, Virginia  
LEADER: Chuck Wettling (843-6217)  
Backpacking or single day excursion. Individual  
commissaries.  
Alternate: Fort Lewis, Maryland

Coming attractions: Wolf Gap, Big Schloss and Devil's Gardens; Annapolis  
Rocks, Maryland; Rocks State Park. Advise program scheduler of sentiments  
(Tony Gray, 338-2146).

## 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 542-4231.

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## SENECA ROCKS, W. VA., JULY 4TH WEEK-END

George Livingstone	Maggie Teel	Sharyn Lewis
Penny Pierce	Don Stemper	Tony & Meg Gray
Rich Hall	Adams Three	Art Wilder
Tal Bielefeldt	Tom Blevins	Bob Williams
Chuck Wettling	Margaret Lee	Bob & Dick Mole
Tim Schoechle	Lee Evans	Roger Craig
Lanny Hughey	Pat Kenny	Arnold Wexler
Trudy Turner	Andy Kauffman	Els Litjens
Chips Janger	Barry Wallen	Walt & Marlene Snyder etc.
Tom Grey	Al Klov Dahl	Emily Strano

In spite of the oppressive heat at Seneca, quite a lot of climbing was done. And, of course, there was the usual swimming, square dancing, campfires, and even an unpublicized beer party.

Friday night was normal--late arrivals, noise of car engines, doors slamming, flashlights prying painfully.

The days dawned all too soon and too warm. Those who lingered over breakfast found the rocks already hot as they began climbing. Then the sun would come on even stronger, drawing climbers to the swimming hole like bees to flowers.

Nearly all the standard climbing routes saw traffic, and there was even a new route pioneered by Bobby Adams and Bob Williams.

On Saturday night the square dance at Harmon provided us with entertainment and two homemade cakes won in a cakewalk. Sunday there was a campfire at the Pavilion, highlighted by fireworks and the Bluegrass songs of Tom Grey.

Of course, as everyone should know, Tony Gray and Rich Hall happened upon an eight (8) barrel beer party at Bear Heaven and nobly proceeded to protect and uphold the name and highest traditions of our glorious club. A hearty "well done" to them!

G. T. Livingstone

## LITTLE STONYMAN, VIRGINIA, JULY 31

Arnold Wexler	Bob Lyon	Pete Henrickson
Al Klov Dahl	Phil & Jimmy Eddy	Dennis Poffenroth
Chris Kulczyk	Tal Bielefeldt	Els Litjens
Bill Glosser	Bill Oscanyan	Tony & Meg Gray
David Hensleigh	Larry & Sallie Griffin	Tom Blevins
Thais Weibel	Chips Janger	Trudy Turner
Barry Wallen	Park Ranger Leigh Hoar	

This tail end of July brought beautiful climbing weather; it was clear and warm, and for the first time I can recall, we were not chased off the cliffs by a mid-afternoon shower. Several people got a headstart by camping out nearby the night before.

There were fewer than usual of the more experienced climbers present; several had already embarked on the expedition to the Wind River Range in Wyoming. Correspondingly, there seemed to be more than the usual proportion of newcomers with only a few weeks' climbing experience. I made up a train of three or four of them and played choo-choo engine on three not too difficult climbs. What a pleasure it was to sense their feeling of accomplishment at having surmounted the crux moves--moves which are no trouble when one has them memorized, but are not exactly trivial to one who is not yet sure of himself on the rocks.

Since nobody seems to know names for most of the routes at Little Stonyman (all I can recall are Keyhole and Armbuster), I would like to propose a system for referring to these climbs. The idea comes from a place on the Mont Blanc massif near the Franco-Italian border; it is known as "L'Inominata," which is Italian for "the unnamed." Thus the routes on Little Stonyman could be named in sequence, from north to south: L'Inominata 1, L'Inominata 2, ..., L'Inominata 10 etc. Of course, sooner or later someone will be sure to put up a route between two recognized routes thereby giving rise to L'Inominata 3.1, L'Inominata 3.2 etc. Then there will be L'Inominata 3.2B (Blevins' variation), L'Inominata 3.2L (Livingstone's improved variation), L'Inominata 3.2Bl (Blevins is one up on Livingstone) and so on....

A welcome guest was the local park ranger, Leigh Hoar, who seemed really interested in doing some climbing. Tony Gray and Tom Blevins showed him around. According to Tony, Ranger Hoar has promised to alert us if and when any ice falls form in the region next winter. This would be a not too common event around here and would give a rare opportunity to practice ice technique.

Phil Eddy

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## CARDEROCK, AUGUST 7

Don Hubbard (HoJo)	Phil Eddy	D. & J. Templeton	Chuck Wettling
Margaret Lee	Chris Kulczyk	Dennis Poffenroth	Pete Henrickson
Bob Moskowitz	Joe Aro	Glenn Cannon	Steve Poulsen
Don Stemper	Penny Pierce	Chips Janger	Bob Lyon

B. & J. Shapiro	Trudy Turner	M. & J. Nicholson	Don Rice
Els Litjens	Dave Richmond	John Reed & Fam.	Larry & Sallie Griffin
Bill Glosser	Don Slater	Harold Swift	Joe Ennis
Al Goldberg	Ralph Stockhausen	George Rawlins	David Small
Terry Robinson	Barry Wallen		

Although this was listed as the alternate trip for the day, it must have drawn a much bigger turnout than did the official trip to Baker Rocks (see next issue of UP ROPE for report). Due to the heavy preponderance of relatively inexperienced climbers who wanted either to learn how to climb or else to be checked out on belaying, most of the experienced climbers present were called upon to instruct. As soon as we arrived on the scene, Don Stemper and I set up the kindergarten and primary school; somewhat later Dave Templeton arrived with Oscar's winch and set up the secondary school. These diploma mills ground away all morning and on into the afternoon. Now we have a new crop of aspiring climbers who will be able to join in the fun on Seneca Rocks on the Labor Day week-end.

Welcome back to Don Hubbard and Chuck Wettling, who have just returned from a mountain climbing trip with Sterling Hendricks in British Columbia (ED. NOTE: we look forward to a report for UP ROPE!). He came back looking more like Papa Hemingway than his usual resemblance to Admiral Rickover. Dig that facial foliage, man!

Phil Eddy

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## TWO WEEKS IN THE CANADIAN ROCKIES

My trip was off to a great start when my luggage was held up in New York for over three hours by Greyhound, and I missed my flight for Calgary, Alberta. However, I persevered, and finally managed to get on another flight (despite strike complications) and rendezvous with Fritz Wiessner as planned.

Our destination was the annual two-week summer camp of the Alpine Club of Canada, being held at Mt. Assiniboine, about 40 miles southwest of Banff. It was my first trip to the "real" mountains, and I was all eyes as we drove from Calgary to Banff. One comes on the mountains suddenly; they rise up abruptly out of the great plains that stretch across Canada, and welcome the mountain climber to an awesome new world.

We stayed one night at the Alpine Clubhouse at Banff, and, along with about 60 others, took buses to the start of the pack trail the next morning. From there we hiked the 12 miles into the camp through Assiniboine Pass. Our gear, except for rucksacks, was packed in by horses, and the pack train remained our major link with the rest of the world.

The camp site was at 7,000 ft. in the shadow of Mt. Assiniboine (11,870 ft.), often called the "Matterhorn of the Rockies." Lesser peaks (9,000 to 10,000 ft.) abound in the area, and one could be roped up and climbing just 45 minutes from camp. The camp was a regular tent city, set up to accommodate 150 people in three- and four-man tents, and boasted such luxuries as a tea tent, a drying tent (for washing clothes and self), and an enormous dining tent complete with kitchen crew.

Each afternoon we were able to sign up for climbs we wanted to do the next day, and the climbing committee had the responsibility for determining the final make-up of each party. There were two professional Canadian guides at camp and many experienced climbers who also acted as leaders. For beginners, snow, ice, and rock schools were conducted, and for those who wanted only to hike and enjoy the countryside, the area offered an abundance of scenic possibilities. Sparkling blue lakes, wild flowers of every description and color, rushing streams, and green meadows were all around us.

I was able to do three climbs while at Assiniboine, being limited by my own lack of experience and conditioning, time, and weather; but I thoroughly enjoyed what I did accomplish (including an afternoon of interesting rock climbing). Parties generally left camp around 8 a.m. and returned between 3 and 5 in time for tea. After supper we gathered around the campfire (it was usually pretty chilly by then) to sing and listen to accounts of the day's climbing activities (joined one evening by a young bull mosse who soon became a frequent visitor). Although it was still daylight at 9:30 p.m. it meant bedtime for most, because George, the "bugler," woke us at 6:30 a.m. with his attempts at reveille.

I left Assiniboine eight days after my arrival, mainly because I was unsure of my transportation back to New York. However, on arriving back at Banff, I found I had a confirmed flight and was able to take off for three more days of climbing in the Lake Louise area with five other people I'd met the previous week.

We hiked up the Victoria Glacier, at one end of the lake, to Abbott's Pass and stayed at the hut there at 9,000 ft. We attempted Mt. Victoria, but turned back short of the south summit because of the hour, the snow conditions, and our inadequate clothing. Even so, it was a magnificent view of the surrounding area. The next day two of us did LeFroy (the peak that faces Victoria from the other side of the Pass), which was a most pleasant snow climb.

Needless to say, I was very sad to leave Canada after only two short weeks of good climbing and new friendships. But now that I've had a taste of mountaineering (from cutting steps to glissading), I know I'll want to return for more.

I would highly recommend the Alpine Club's summer camp for those interested, as I was, in gaining some basic knowledge of what mountaineering is all about. I think it is particularly good for the novice; the more experienced climber who is used to leading his own expeditions and following his own routes might be loath to submit to another's direction for two weeks. For me, though, it was an unforgettable introduction to the mountains and to mountaineering, where rock climbing is only a part of the total picture.

Pinky Wheatley

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#### RED CROSS FIRST AID COURSE

The long talked-about course in first aid finally materialized late in July. It was the Red Cross Standard First Aid course, taught by our own Bill Jarrett, who

worked us into his course in Advanced First Aid. "We" were pitifully few in number; of the many who had expressed an interest earlier, only a half dozen were able to take this course: Tony and Meg Gray, Dave and Joan Templeton, Tal Bielefeldt, and myself. Perhaps a later course can be negotiated for the others.

Phil Eddy

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### ECSTASY, JR. (Seneca Rocks)

So named because of its close proximity to the fine south-end route Ecstasy, this route provides still another way to avoid that nasty hike to the Lunch Ledge. It is a short but pleasant 5.4 route which essentially goes up the first obvious crack system on the West Face as one moves up the talus gully from the South End.

From the west corner of the South End move up the gully perhaps 50 yards. Look for a ledge above with a pine tree which requires some scrambling to attain. Beyond this ledge to the south and down is a sheer wall. The ledge forms a comfortable belay position for the first pitch of about 70 feet.

Climb up and across to the south passing a second pine tree. Follow a narrowing exposed ledge almost to its end. Climb a nearly vertical concave face capped with a bulge. Above the bulge follow a chimney crack to a large ledge with the usual pine tree. The south end of this ledge is used for belaying Ecstasy.

The second pitch, perhaps 85 feet, goes up the shallow inside corner at the north end of this ledge. Above, this corner rounds off into a small ledge beneath a bulge. Step left, then climb the crack system breaking this bulge to its top. The climber is now on top of the South End.

A variation on the second pitch ascends the face rather than the corner to still another higher corner, then follows this somewhat overhanging corner to the top. Either of these pitches also offers escape routes for those who prefer not to climb the more demanding upper pitch of Ecstasy.

Larry Griffin

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### BOOK REVIEW

ON THE HEIGHTS by Walter Bonatti

(Rupert Hart-Davis, Soho Square, London, 1964: available from  
Recreational Equipment, Seattle, \$5.95)

Walter Bonatti, one of the world's foremost mountaineers, writes in the preface to On the Heights, "...I want to add my pen also, not as a writer but as a climber who



believes that he knows the mountains well enough to be able to speak of them." And he does know the mountains well enough to be able to speak of them. He writes of his experiences from 1949 to 1961, starting with the north face of the Grands Jorasses; including Rondoy Nord, the Southern Patagonian Cordillera, and the Italian Himalayan expeditions to K-2 and Gasherbrum IV; and ending with the tragedy on the Central Pillar of Mont Blanc.

This book is interesting not only for the accounts of his great ascents, many of them "firsts," but also for the opportunity it gives the reader to gain insight into what makes Bonatti tick. One can learn about the inner workings of a man who will undertake the most difficult Alpine routes alone and in mid-winter.

If one is looking for fine literature, go elsewhere. If one is interested in the feats and personality of one of the world's great mountaineers, read On the Heights.

G. T. Livingstone

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#### LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

MARGARET LEE WRITES: "In July's issue of UP ROPE I was surprised to see our Chairman refer to us as a 'dilettante bunch of Sunday afternoon rock climbers.' I have, of course, no basis of comparison in the U.S., but I should have thought the Mountaineering Section of the PATC, whilst relishing the 'joys of the rocks, the clouds and the high places' as UP ROPE terms it these days, does take itself pretty seriously--witness the number of new routes which are constantly being put up by our more aspiring members, the thought and work which is put into the training of new members or beginners, and the distances people are prepared to travel for a day or week-end on the rocks.

"It is difficult, of course, on the Atlantic seaboard of this continent to indulge in any 'mountaineering proper' but surely again the enthusiasm and vigour of the group is evidenced by the number of members who, at their own expense, have made trips this summer to Wyoming, British Columbia, and the French Alps. Undoubtedly among the currently active group there is potential for participation in major mountaineering expeditions but surely one's over-all suitability would have to be amply demonstrated before any sponsor is likely to come forward. I feel those who are really keen will somehow make the effort to get themselves to the high mountains--even if they don't make it to the Himalayas. Or is it that in this welfare age the spirit of independence and individual achievement has been lost?"

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS FROM TOM McCRUM: "I was in D.C. last week, and got a chance to talk to Keith Kerney and Don Stemper, but had no time for some climbing. Right now I am in the Marine Corps in N.C., but I hope to be able to make it up to D.C. to get in some climbing occasionally this year."

AND FROM WILLIAM WELSH, M.D. (active caver and climber in area in early 1940's): "My wife and children and I will soon move to Bishop, California, at 2821 Highland Drive. On the quadrangle a water tower is indicated on the western edge of Bishop; our home is next to this point. Bishop is on the edge of the High Sierra and is

the gateway to some of the finest mountain country in the world. Mammoth Mountain ski area is a few miles north. Washington rock climbers, and PATC members, will be welcome. We will feed you, apply balm to your blisters, and let you have a bath and a swim and a place to sleep. You may use us as a meeting place or a mail drop."

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#### NEW MEMBERS

(to be voted on at September 13 meeting)

Chips Janger  
Sponsored by:  
Tom Blevins  
Tony Gray

Barry Wallen  
Sponsored by:  
George Livingstone  
Dave Templeton

Els Litjens  
Sponsored by:  
Harold Kramer  
Art Wilder

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