



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. 10

October 1966

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 2 ----- Carderock

LEADER: Bob Adams (292-1340)

October 8-9 ----- Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks, West Virginia

LEADER: Bob Adams (292-1340)

West Virginia Recreation Society, a conservation group, is sponsoring an annual get-together boosting the area as a recreational resource. (Some may remember last year's meeting). A meeting is planned Saturday evening for talks on "West Virginia Highlands Primitive Areas and the Scenic Rivers Bill." As we have a vital interest in the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks area, it might behoove us to show our support by putting in an appearance.

October 12 ----- Business Meeting, 1718 N Street, N.W., 8 p.m.

October 15-16 --- Wolf Gap, West Virginia

LEADER: George Livingstone (EM 3-7161)

Individual commissaries. Climbing at Big Schloss and Devil's Garden. DIRECTIONS: from Washington to the parking place at Wolf Gap is 108 miles. Go via US 211 to Gainesville; take Rte. 55 to Strasburg; and US 11 to traffic light (intersection of Main & High Streets, 2nd stop light) in Woodstock (zero point). Continue south on US 11 for 1.1 miles and turn right on Rte. 42. At 3.1 miles go into Calvary. (At 4.2 miles Va. 682 comes in from Edinburg on left). Reach Columbia Furnace at 7.5 and just before bridge turn sharp right on Va. 675, leaving Rte. 42. At 10.0 miles is end of Stony Creek trail on right. Continue on Va. 675 ahead. Enter George Washington National Forest (sign at 10.6). Take right fork at 10.7 just across bridge, continuing on 675.

(Va. 717 comes in on left from Liberty Furnace). Reach Wolf Gap at 14.2 miles. Park at end of wood road on left side of Va. 675. Cabin is 150 yds. further on wood road.

October 23 ----- Bull Run Mountain, Virginia

LEADER: Dick Sideman (347-7390)

DIRECTIONS: Take Interstate 66 to Gainesville, and then Rte. 55 to Haymarket. Parking area is 6 miles from Haymarket. (To get to parking place, take first road to right one mile west of Haymarket; turn left at Antioch, 4.5 miles from Haymarket; parking area is on left about 1.5 miles 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 about 1.5 miles to rocks.

October 29-30 --- Annapolis Rocks, Maryland

LEADER: Larry Griffin, Tony Gray (338-2146)

DIRECTIONS: Take Capitol Beltway to Interstate 70. Go north on Rte. 70 to US 40 at Frederick; west on US 40 (not Alt. 40) to South Mountain (about 15 miles). Park on top of South Mt. where AT crosses US 40. From parking area cross US 40 and hike north on AT .5 miles to where the Annapolis Rocks trail comes in on the left (west). Go west on this trail for .2 miles to rocks.

COMING ATTRACTIONS: Long Veterans' Day week-end to Shawangunks, New York

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 of Phil Eddy (Chairman) at 942-4231.

BAKER ROCKS, W. VA. - AUGUST 5-7

On Friday afternoon, the Grays in one car, and George Livingstone, Tom Blevins, and myself in another, left Washington for Baker Rocks. We had planned to meet at the

Strasburg Inn for dinner, but the restaurant closed at 8:00, and our car had gotten a late start. George seemed determined to make it, but with 40 miles of winding road ahead, 27 minutes in which to cover it, and two passengers casting furtive glances at the speedometer, he gave it up as a lost cause. When we arrived, however, we found the Grays' car outside the restaurant, and Tony and Meg inside keeping the kitchen warm. So we sat down to a delicious meal and then continued on to the rocks.

The next morning we split into two groups (having been joined by Meg's sister Joanne Fike and her friend Mike Mason). Four of us gathered our gear and set out for the rocks while the other three headed for Moorefield and the swimming hole.

Tom led us up a climb on the pinnacle just right of the main body of rock. It was a fairly enjoyable climb. The most frustrating move proved to be maneuvering ourselves out of the snarl of ropes, slings, and carabiners littering the ledge where I'd been belaying. After a bit of instruction from Tony on rope handling technique, we continued to the top where Tom situated the four of us in straddle position around a needle of rock probably three feet in diameter. After rigging a rappel we decided to kick a large loose boulder off the top in order to clean off the climb. It turned out to be heavier than we'd thought and cleaned off parts of two belay ledges on the way down. We waited in silence until the rock stopped vibrating, then quickly depopulated the pinnacle.

That evening Mike and Joanne left and Arnold Wexler and Andy Kauffman joined us on the way back from Seneca. After trading war stories about the day's climbing, we all settled down to dinner of hamburgers and under-done chicken....

We got up the next morning to find that Andy and Arnold were already on the rock. George suggested that a quick morning climb before breakfast might be invigorating. Two of us agreed and started up Moor's Madness on empty stomachs. We found the climb a bit overrated. The rock was all solid and liberally bucketted, except for a boulder traverse near the top of the first pitch. The footholds were fairly good below the bulge, but there were no handholds for balance. Or so it seemed. Tom found a quarter inch depression for his index finger and traversed the corner without difficulty. In following, however, the index finger hold eluded me. So I settled for a spread-eagle position using friction holds with as much skin and cloth as could be pasted against the rock, and slithered around the corner to rejoin Tom at the belay ledge. The rest went smoothly, despite a little friendly heckling from George and Tony below.

There's probably something to be said for climbing before breakfast, but I think not much. With stomachs growling, and moving mostly by virtue of gravity and inertia, we returned to camp, ate, policed the area, and all decided that we'd had it for the week-end. As we left we could hear Andy Kauffman singing as he belayed, with Arnold Wexler below insisting "up rope" between choruses.

All in all it was a good week-end, especially for George, Tom, and me, who sat with beers in hand, enjoying the feeling of pride and accomplishment that comes from knowing you've beaten Tony Gray back to Tuohey's.

Thais Weibel

JULIET'S BALCONY, GREAT FALLS, VIRGINIA - AUGUST 21

Don Hubbard (HoJo's)	Furn Walton	Phil and Jimmy Eddy
Diane Nousanen	Harvi Moebs	George Livingstone
Beth Collins	Chris Kulczyk	Bill Deutermann
Al Goldberg	Don Stemper	Sherpa Pierce (Penny?)
Jim Nagy	Trudy Turner	Els Litjens
Stephen Carter	Michael Hill	Harold Kramer
Tom Blevins	Bob Lyon	Lanny Hughey
Pat Kenny	Clenn, Carrol, and Robyn Cannon	
Thais Weibel	Bill Oscanyon	Frank and Grey Thompson

Hot and muggy atmosphere again shrouded the PATC-MS this day. Juliet's Balcony, Romeo's Ladder (with elbow hold), the immediate vicinities of the aforementioned, Bird's Nest, and Armbuster were fair game for those who wished to partake.

"Had any trouble today?" the Park Ranger asked, as he herded his tourists among our Bird's Nest riggings. (Luckily we had disposed of the last of the fallen, bloodied, broken bodies amid the farthest of the ever-near poison ivy.) "One hundred fifty thousand years ago, folks," continued he, "the Falls were located at Theodore Roosevelt Island," supplying them with another juicy bit of extraneous information to spew at "Show and Tell" in school and at cocktail parties. And, "at that time, the water level of the river was up to here as you can tell by this smooth, little pothole here and that large one over there."

Armbuster proved to be too much of one for any of the climbers, but T. Blevins' new supine belay was installed, tried and tested on Bird's Nest. Has the "publish or perish" syndrome yet hit the rock climbing set?

Pat Kenny

BUSINESS NOTE

The following was turned in at the September business meeting of the Mountaineering Section, as a proposal for amendment of the By-laws (Ref: Section V-C):

"It is hereby proposed that the Mountaineering Section schedule meetings for the conduct of business only every other month on the second Wednesday."

/Signed/ Anthony C. Gray
Charles Wettling
Margaret Lee

This will be brought up for discussion and vote at the next business meeting on October 12.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Local specimens of Homo Subterraneus (Cave-going Man), are engaged in an admirable effort to make their lair (Field House, near Riverton, West Virginia) more presentable. Sundry supplies such as paint, screens, mattresses, etc., as well as willing hands are needed. Anyone who knows where these supplies can be procured at reduced rates, or who is willing to help, please get in touch with the Caretaker, Hester Miles. (Office: 962-4395; home: 654-1227)

Sometime in late October or in November the Mountaineering Section will hold a work party at High Acres in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Object: to remove tree limbs which overhang the house before they give trouble. No date or specific details are available yet; they will come later. Volunteers may contact Phil Eddy evenings on 942-4231.

THE MOUNTAINS AND THE BOULDER

In distant Andean place where the Southern Cross
Shines down on feathered forms of jagged ice,
And seldom throughout time is known a trace
Of human trail marking the broad expanse
Of glacial slope or sound of human voice,
Except perhaps a shepherd's muted tone
Fluting his herd around some steep ravine.

There we had gone by choice to seek a song
Of high adventure ringing through our clay--
From varied place and background we were drawn
To pioneer upon untrodden crags,
Bound by a magic sense that something good
And valid can be seized from sky, and snow,
And rock, and human friendship forged upon
The evils of that higher, purer world.

—John Filsinger

LAST MINUTE NOTE--October 19; Climbing in Peru, 8 P.M. P.T.C. Clubhouse.
Slides and lecture by former member of the Iowa Mountaineers, Doc Bauer,
on climbing in the Peruvian Cordillera. Ascent of 19,000 foot
Mt. Pisco and ramblings to Chuicchu.

NEW MEMBERS

(to be voted on at October 12 meeting)

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