

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

XXII No. 3 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036 March 1967

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 5 Carderock, Maryland
Leader: Ed Goodman (281-4126)
- March 7 Business Meeting, PATC Hdqtrs, 8 pm.
1718 N Street, N.W.
- March 12 Sugarloaf Mountain, Dickerson, Md.
Leader: Tal Bielefeldt (WH 6-4375)
- March 19 Blood n' Guts, Great Falls, Va.
Leader: Art Wilder
- March 26 Edes Fort, West Virginia (near Cacapon)
Possible weekend trip. For information, contact: Larry Griffin (528-8212)
Alternate: Purple Horse, Maryland: if weather is bad.

If enough interest is expressed, small climbing trips can be scheduled to unexplored Eagle Rocks in the Smokehole area (contact Larry Griffin) or to Baker Rocks near Moorefield, W. Va. (contact George Livingstone).

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THE PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

The Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club welcomes all interested individuals to participate in its weekly outings and to share in the freedom of the hills. Sunday day trips leave from Howard Johnson's at Wisconsin and Western Avenues, N. W. at 8:30 am. 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 clothing suitable for climbing. For further information, contact the trip leader or Tony Gray (338-2146). For information about the Mountaineering Section, write to the Secretary.

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UP ROPE is published on the last Thursday evening of every month and mailed to all subscribers at \$1.50 per year. Deadline for all material to be included in the next issue is Friday, March 24. All articles, news, trip reports, letters, want ads, gripes, and compliments should be addressed to Editor, UP ROPE, c/o PATC, 1718 N Street, N. W., Washington, D. C. 20036.

Send subscriptions and changes of address to the Business Manager, same address as above.

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL

We received a surprising number of voluntary contributions to this issue of UP ROPE and wish to thank those who took the time and trouble to express their interest. Hopefully, others will pick up the ball too. But everything has a front and a back -- the more submissions an editor receives for publication, the greater his job of sifting out the sense from the nonsense and the careful from the careless writing. But we recognize that this is the editor's cross.

Nevertheless, without wishing to bite the hands that feed us, we offer some suggestions that can make the editor's cross lighter and the reader's enjoyment greater.

First, the contributors to UP ROPE should note the deadline date for submissions. This date differs with every issue, and is noted on the inside cover (page 2) of UP ROPE each month. Submissions received by the editor after an issue's deadline date will not be included in that issue.

Second, everybody likes a good joke or a humorous anecdote, so write it for everybody. But if you're writing in such a manner as to avoid the accusation of being a gossip, or if your joke has meaning for only five out of the 300-odd UP ROPE subscribers, then what you have to say should be related or whispered, not printed.

Third, a good way to write so that everybody can share the experience is to give your piece a reference point in the same universe that the readers live in. It's really easy: simply tell us where the activity occurred, when it occurred, and who took part in the activity. Presumably the activity is at least vaguely related to mountaineering, rock climbing, the Mountaineering Section or its members. Furthermore, it's fine to write figuratively as long as the figurative language enriches the reader's understanding. But if you can't let the reader see the difference between figurative things and literal things, you're not being funny--you're not even being clear.

Finally, we are not trying to make UP ROPE more than what it is -- a club newsletter, plain and simple. It's whole raison d'etre is to serve the common interests of its member subscribers. The interest that UP ROPE holds for its readers depends on how interesting its contributors are; if UP ROPE has little to say of interest, it's because the contributors have little to say of interest. Your newsletter is your mirror --if you don't want to see yourselves, then don't put any silver behind the glass; or, if you prefer to make faces in it, that's your prerogative, too. Your editor can only put the frame around it and make sure it gets hung on the wall every month.

FOR SALE

--Kronhofer boots, almost new, size 10½-D --\$19

--Gravil, 12-pt crampons to fit boots, double-buckle leather straps. Worn twice --\$15

Contact: M. Carpenter (WH 6-3710)

SENECA ROCKS GUIDEBOOK

Climbers who appreciate and love Seneca Rocks as one of the finest climbing areas in the Eastern United States will be happy to know that work is underway to publish a climber's guide to Seneca Rocks. The laborious task of describing, illustrating, photographing, and compiling the many routes at Seneca is being undertaken by George Livingstone and Thais Weibel.

Although earlier guides to Seneca have been published, none have been as comprehensive and complete as the proposed guide will be. One of these earlier guides was recently published by the Pittsburgh climbing club. The first known guide to come from the Washington, D. C. area appeared in an article written by John Reed and published in the 1955 PATC Bulletin (July-August). In his article, Reed describes a dozen of the standard Seneca climbs, complete with photos and illustrations.

Persons who want a useful interim description of these Seneca climbs while awaiting completion of the guidebook, may obtain xerox copies of the PATC article at a nominal cost from Glen Cannon, Department of Oceanography, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland 21218.

COMING ATTRACTION

Mr. Matt Hunter, a member of the Harvard Mountaineering Club, will give a slide presentation of the 1966 expedition up the west face of Mount Huntington. An article describing this expedition is published in the latest issue of the American Alpine Society's Journal.

PATC
Thurs
March 9
8PM

BOOK REVIEW

Under the somewhat dubious title, "Anyone Can Climb," the article appearing in the February issue of Popular Mechanics gives a beginner's first impression of a 13,768-foot peak on the Palisades Glacier in California. The account is a very simplified, glossed-over account of what it's really like to climb a mountain, to wit: "I did it on my 40th birthday...after you have hiked 13 miles...all uphill--to get to the base of the mountain, the actual climbing is just a series of nice long rests." Although the article is merely a vehicle for dramatizing or playing up one's personal experience in a very flippant matter, it does provide some information of interest to climbers looking for a place to go for formal training. The article lists "three excellent climbing schools in the United States": the National Park Service at Mount Rainier, Washington; and Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming; and Larry Williams Mountaineering Guide Service in Big Pine, California.

CUPID'S BOWER--January 29

Being the first to arrive, I was also the first to find that Cupid's Bower is a true island. However, Bob Adams came to the rescue with his canoe (the blue bomb). We moved the entire group across the river, which must be some sort of a miracle, because we did it without an accident. Art Wilder spent the rest of the day bringing over the latecomers.

With the exception of myself, everyone got in some good climbing. Al Goldberg was the star of the practice face, and Art Wilder did a fine job on Grunt. Tal Bielefeldt led the tension climb with Mr. "anybody-can-tension-climb" Goodman bringing up the rear -- I've seen it all, now!

Later in the day, while Tal and Art were paddling people back to the shore, Tal caught a fishhook in his ear while passing under some low branches. Luckily, Tal had just taken an intern, Pete (last name unknown) across, and Tal and Pete left for the hospital. To the best of my knowledge, everybody was taken off the island. Most of us ended the day at Touhey's.

--Mark Carpenter

NEW SNOW AND ICE ROUTES AT SENECA

Our expedition arrived at Seneca Friday night, January 20, expecting to practice snow and ice techniques on our climbs. The weather was just awful--sunshine blanketed the entire area, making the great south-end "glacier" of Seneca almost non-existent; it was melting so fast that it was almost impassable --almost! From the road on Saturday evening of that weekend, one could see an ice-axe swinging in steady rhythm, and one could hear echoing through the canyon, cries like, "why the heck can't you make your steps bigger!" Anyway, the "glacier" extending between the path and Ecstasy Jr. and the "bergschrand" above it were climbed by three new "routes". Considering that it was dark, dangerous, icy, impassable, etc., the first party has modestly requested that their names be withheld. Besides, people think we are crazy enough, as it is.

-- Mark Carpenter

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

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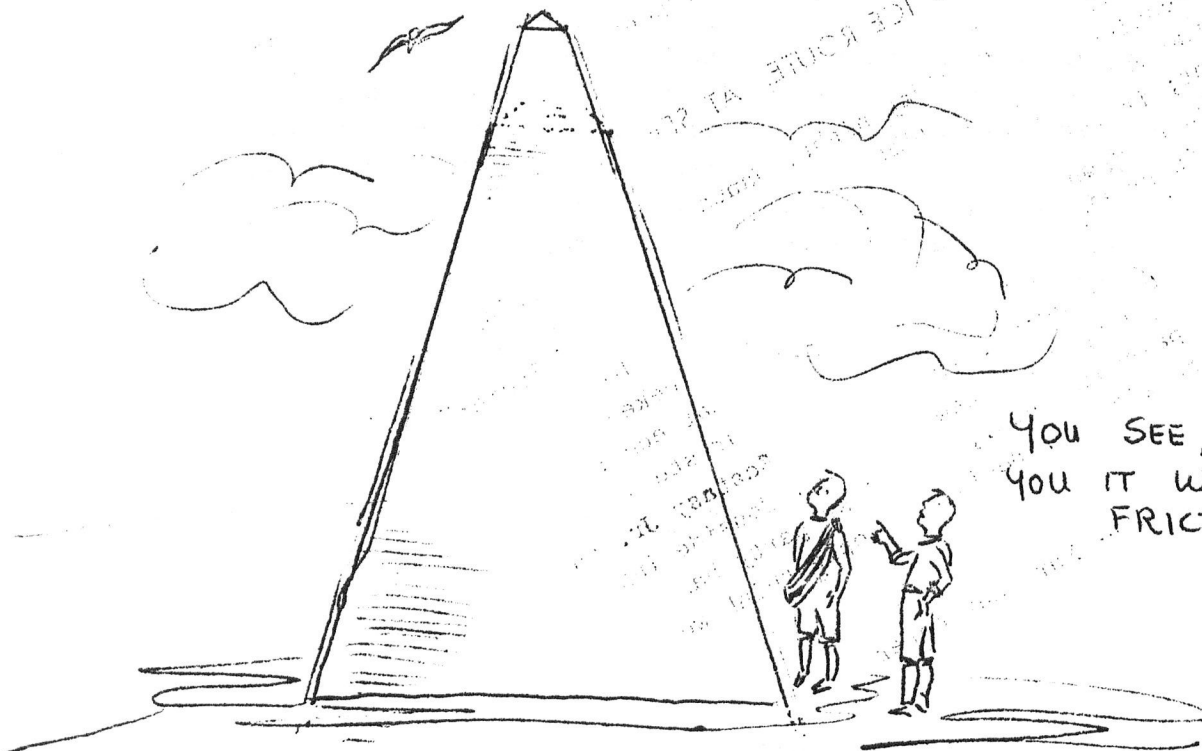
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This evening, as I write these lines, the desire seizes me to breathe the night for a few minutes. It is winter, and cold. Hemmed in between two black masses of houses, ringed by the roofs of my narrow street, the stars seem to move slowly as I advance.

"It is cold," I say to myself, "that's a good sign. The snow will be hard."

It is both early and late. It is the hour when mountaineers go out onto the hut terrace to scan the sky, test the wind and snow. It is cold and cold means a fine day. It is the time to light the lantern and start out....

--Gaston Rebuffat



YOU SEE, TOM, I TOLD
YOU IT WAS ALL A
FRICTION CLIMB