

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

No. 5 May 1967

1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20036

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 2

Lecture sponsored by the Audubon Society: "Teton Trails", to be presented at 5 pm and 8:30 pm at the main auditorium, Natural History Museum, 10th and Constitution. Although the film is chiefly about wild life, there are some excellent sequences about climbing on the Grand Teton.

May 10

Swap and sell Session, PATC conference room, 8:30 pm. Anyone interested in selling camping or climbing equipment at the session should call Carl Edler first at 773-1693.

May 7

Carderack, Maryland a.

Leader: (check with Lanny Hughey)

May 14

Harper's Ferry, Maryland Leader: Bob Adams

May 21

Edes Fort, West Virginia

Leader: Larry Griffin. Those interested in making this a weekend trip should contact Larry.

May 27-30

Shawangunks, New Paltz, New York Leader: Chips Janger

Note: Lecture by Barry Bishop on the Everest Expedition.
May 5th (Friday), 8:00 P.M.
Museum of Natural History Auditorium, loth & Constitution
\$1.00 donation
Come early for seats.

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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 (301-833-7460). For information about about the Mountaineering Section, write to the Secretary.

UP ROPE PUBLICATION

UP RCPE is published on the last Wednesday evening of every month at PATC Headquarters. It is mailed to all subscribers at \$1.50 per year. Deadline for all material to be included in the next issue is May 26. All articles, news, trip reports, letters, want ads, gripes, and praise 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.

BOOT REPAIR

Excellent craftsmanship and repair work in re-soling climbing boots is done by Steve Komito, Bootmaker, Box 503, Boulder, Colorado. His prices are extremely reasonable, to wit: resoling --\$5.00 per pair repairing worn toes and uppers -- \$2.00 per pair

Found: A camera bearing the name Charles Beer was found at Carderock by Art Wilder, April 8th. Tel: 567-0183

UPS AND DOWNS

Mount Winstone, British Columbia, July 1966

The Mt. Winstone area in the Coast Range of British Columbia is about 100 miles north of Vancouver. The peaks go up to about 10,000 feet, snow climbs are common, summer days are long, and the weather is good. We had only five bad days out of twenty-five, and had clear views from the summits of all of our climbs.

Only six mountaineering parties had visited the region before 1966, the most recent being the British Columbia Mountaineering Club, which climbed almost everything in the area two summers prior to our trip.

Don Hubbard and I flew to Vancouver on July 7 to resolve final details of food supplies and charter flights. Sterling Hendricks met us a day and a half later, having just arrived in town ahead of the airlines strike.

On July 9 the three of us, with \$180 worth of food, boarded a single engine "Beaver" float plane and flew to Art Dilabaugh's hunting camp on Fishem Lake. That afternoon Art trucked our supplies along an old mining road to a small cabin where we spent the night. The next day Art returned with several horses and carried our gear to the last timber below the Falls River Glacier. Our camp site was quite pleasant with plenty of firewood, a crystal clear rivulet and an abundance of wild flowers.

From this base we climbed Metacarpolis, Galleon, Beast, Culture, and Oreamnos (the last so named by Don because of the mountain goats in the immediate area).

Beast was the most interesting as it involved steep, wet, waist-deep snow and cotten slippery rock. Oreamnos is a minor peak and an easy rock scramble, and is mentioned only because it might be our only primary ascent in this area.

In two rather unenjoyable trips we backpacked our camp over the Mt. Winstone-Corner Mountain col and settled on a rocky island in a snowfield on the south slope of Mt. Winstone. The morning after our arrival a 24-hour storm blew in and dropped over a foot of wet snow on us. We were snowbound for two days, but the third morning dawned clear and cold and we climbed through breakable snow curst and tricky snow-covered talus to the center summit of Mt. Winstone. This is one of the higher peaks in the region, and the panorama visible from the top is as beautiful as any I have seen. Mountains and snowfields fill the view to the horizon in all directions.

An easy climb of Corner Mountain served as a rest day before the "big" climb of our vacation -- Mt. Monmouth (approximately 10,470 feet). Our route on Monmouth followed a steep snow gully to a loose rocky spine broken by three gaps that were bridged with sharp snow ridges. We reached the top in clear weather, but a storm was browing; so, foregoing our usual summit lunch, we hastily retreated to the glacier. On the trek back to camp, I had my first look at those legendary Alpine creatures, ice worms.

The following day we packed our camp down to a site in timber on the banks of the Tchaikazan River. About this time I was put out of action for a few days by a flu-type infection. While I was recuperating, Sterling and Don climbed a nearby summit which Don named "Virginia Peak".

After I had regained some strength, we hiked down the beautiful valley of the Tchaikazan River, arriving at Fishem Lake two days later. While waiting for our charter flight we dove into Fishem Lake for chilly baths -- and then burned our climbing clothes.

Back in Vancouver we were amazed to find the airlines strike still on. We went

(continued)

Mount Winstone (continued)

on standby for TCA and were home the next afternoon, one day ahead of our original schedule. The entire trip, which included 25 days in the mountains, cost approximately \$500 per person, and I certainly got my money's worth as it was one of the most successful and enjoyable mountaineering vacations I have experienced.

Pinkham Notch, New Hampshire, March 1967

Tal Bielefeldt, Mark Carpenter, my wife Sue, and I, the only survivors of the planning stages of my Mt. Washington trip, piled out of the car in front of the AMC's Pinkham Notch Camp at 8 pm on March 23. Sue and I took a room for the weekend, but the thrifty young climbers preferred using a tent.

Our spirits, somewhat lowered by the falling snow, were depressed even further when the AMC manager cold us the weather forecast was for light snow flurries. Smiling, he told us the last snow flurries had brought 13 inches of powder. We all went to bed.

At three the next morning, Tal, Mark, and I started up the trail to Tuckerman Ravine, traveling by moonlight (sometimes), starlight (other times), and flash-light (most times). Thankfully the new snow turned out to be considerably less than thirteen inches, and by the time we reached Tuckerman Ravine Shelter (dubbed HoJo's) it had stopped snowing altogether. After a cold breakfast (and my first cigarette since leaving Pinkham Notch) we rearranged our packs, leaving what we would not need in a lean-to. Shortly after finding the trail into the ravine, I admitted to having lost the feeling in my right foot. Discretion being the better part of valor, and frostbite once a year being enough, I retired to the relative "warmth" of "HoJo's" while Mark and Tal climbed down.

Sue arrived later, and I explained my circumstances. The boys, meanwhile, had gone into the ravine, skirted the right slope just above the ravine floor, and headed up the right gully. After some hot coffee, we left the shelter full of skiers to look for Mark and Tal. We saw them emerging on the lip of the ravine far to the left of the right gully where they started on down, but we lost sight of them shortly thereafter. The next time I saw them face to face was at "HoJo's" three hours later. The way down into the ravine was tricky, but they apparently made it with no problems. It had turned out to be a fine day, and we didn't expect that two such days in a row could happen in March. Had I gone 650 miles for nothing?

The next morning did make it two fine days in a row. So we left Pinkham once again, this time at 8:30 am and well rested. HoJo's was jammed with skiers again, and after coffee we examined a fine ice-filled couloir going up the left flank of the ravine toward Boot Spur. It was even better than the headwall, because there we had no skiers nearby. The walk in was short. After stopping at some rocks for lunch, we got into our crampons and roped up.

From here the going was all up; not vertical, but steep enough to be interesting. We went up 75 feet apart, kicking steps and cutting steps on hard-packed snow and ice. About three fourths of the way up, we climbed over some rocks and into the couloir itself. By now it was 2 pm, and we knew the chance of reaching the top early enough to return was slim. We decided that by three pm we would turn around, regardless of how far we advanced.

Mark led the next pitch, and I joined him on a fine belay ledge. While Tal came up to join us, Mark stepped out. Suddenly, he yelled, "Al! Get me on belay! This whole *!\$&¢@ thing is about to come loose!" Moments later we were all together on the belay ledge. Mark explained that there was a crack as wide as his hand going across the whole couloir. The whole ice slab appeared ready to break loose.

(continued)

Pinkham Notch (continued)

Tal started down, each step he cut sending snow and ice into our faces. pitch was slow. Then a bit faster. Once out of the couloir we again moved in unison. At "HoJo's" an elderly woman greeted me. "It looked like you were doing something interesting," she said.
"It had its moments," I said.

Back at Pinkham Notch we had turkey for dinner. "What do you think of the mountain?" I asked. Mark thought it was a good winter mountain -- a fun climb. The next morning we left for home. Looking back as we left, all of us must have thought something like, "So long friend. See you next winter."

--Al Goldberg

Whiteside, North Carolina, January 1967

On the morning of January 13, Rich Hall, Tom Blevins, and I pulled into Highlands, North Carolina to climb Whiteside Mountain -- one of the last big unclimbed faces in the East. We set up at the Highlander Restaurant (which we highly recommend) and contacted the local ranger whose office was right next door. The ranger proved helpful and directed us to a bank where it was necessary to show our qualifications and to sign releases from liability.

Whiteside is near Highlands. The road to it is mostly paved, but portions are surfaced with gravel. Whiteside proved to be something we totally misjudged at a distance. There is no way to reasonably compare it with anything I have There are three cliffs: two in line vertically, the other 200 meters to the left. They are all very wide, each approximately a half mile wide. We started up at 11:30 am, each carrying most of the iron he owned and all sorts of junk along with it. There are no trails to the base of the cliffs, and the brush is very heavy in places. The weather was perfect -- 65 degrees and sunny-with scenery to match. One and a half hours later we reached the base of the left cliff where we stopped and stared straight up.

The whole wall rose in one unbroken, absolutely crackless solid granit sweep, up, up, and out of sight! The first 100 feet is a ramp inclined 50 degrees, which Proved to be our first experience with friction climbing, for there were no hand holds or footholds. The rest of the cliff from there starts in a huge bulging Overhang that sweeps up and away at a high angle and is quite impossible. After a complete reconnaissance, we reached the following conclusions: The cliffs are 700 feet high, and one can climb 1300 feet in a straight line up from the bottom cliff trhough the top one; there are no cracks of any use on the cliffs, save one which forms a huge flake 200 feet up and peters out; there is a center section that goes up for about 400 feet which could be climbed as it is pretty broken up, but we considered it of too low a standard to really bother with; the hike in is scenic enough, but rough; and anyone climbing the big faces will have to use bolts and a lot of them, and will have to plan on bivouacing.

On the next day, we decided to give Blackrock Mountain a go; it is near Whiteside. The jump-off point for Blackrock Mountain is a home on the left side of the road to Whiteside, where the pavement ends. There one should check with Mrs. Norris before climbing; she is very helpful. We erred again in estimating heights. We figured 400 feet, but learned that Blackrock Mountain is really 900 feet. Again, we found no trails to the base of the cliff, and the going was steep in thick brush.

Blackrock is a big cliff -- one mile wide and 900 feet high. It is inclined at angles varying from 60 degrees for the first 500 feet to 75 degrees and overhanging angles near the top. The face has never been climbed and the technique is all friction for the first half. Tom led the first pitch, which goes up a (continued)

Whiteside, North Carolina (continued)

prominent band of white granite and traverses left over a stream of water, and then up to an obvious belay ledge. Rich and I followed and soon we were all getting used to the friction technique. Just like on Whiteside, there were no cracks or grip holds. The second pitch was a scramble; the third took us back across the stream to the white granite band; the fourth pitch was a short 45 feet to an obvious scoop in the face; and the fifth pitch made the entire trip a success. The protection up to the fourth pitch is poor; farther above, it is awful: first pitch, 2 pins; second, none; third, 1 pin; fourth, none; and fifth, 1 pin. Pins can be placed at the belay points, but at best some are questionable.

Tom led the climb in the only way possible, in a direct line. Sixty feet above me, he placed the first and only pin. Ninety feet above that, with no rope left, he reached a large belay ledge. The climbing wasn't very difficult, but it was exhilirating. Care was the word, nothing real hard, but one slip by the leader and the whole rope gets its lunch. After climbing for four hours, we were 500 feet up. The weather was turning bad, and after making a short reconnaissance of the remaining section above, we started rapelling.

There is only one route down and it requires some traversing rappels and some lead climbing up to rappel points. This is an important route and we suggest strongly that anyone going down there to climb should contact us before going. Rich gave us a scare when the rope snapped out of his rappele rig as he was starting down. We got down after 550 feet of rapelling. That night Tom slept in my Yosemite bivouac hammock and claimed to have slept comfortably. The drive back home on the next day took all day Sunday--eleven hours in perfect weather.

There are numerous climbs in the Highlands area that are of high standard and unclimbed. The climbing is not extremely difficult for the first few hundred feet, but is such that no mistakes can be made. We suggest that hardhats be worn because any fall would be a tumblin one that would certainly injure the head. We are looking forward to finishing the white-band route and recommend the area to confident, competent, and careful climbers in the Mountaineering Section.

--Tom Evans

Seneca Rocks, West Virginia, March 5, 1967

There is a fine rappelle route down the south face of Seneca for those who would like a stimulating alternative to the lunch ledge trail. The anchor point is the small (approximately 4-inch diameter) pine tree at the top of the Simple-J Malarkey Route. Use a sling to avoid damaging the tree with the rope, and place the sling very low on the trunk. Drop the rappelle ropes down, keeping them close to the rocks to prevent their catching in the trees at the bottom. Be careful not to dislodge loose rocks. It is best to use two 150-foot ropes joined together as the drop is a "tad" over 150 feet (nylon rope stretches).

-- George Livingstone and Tom Evans

Blood and Guts, Virginia, March 19, 1967

With the help of Ed Goodman and Mark Carpenter, approximately 30 climbers soon located the Blood and Guts area. I had only had a rough idea which climb was Blood and Guts. We put several rapelle ropes down the face; Bill Wallace set up Blood and Guts; and Phil Eddy put a rope on the corner by the walk-up route. We were in business. The high river made it necessary (for most people) to use a rope to get to the B&G climb. Lots of guts Sunday, but no blood. Bob Adams set up a difficult climb just upstream of B & G which got considerable attention.

Although it was a nice day, a cold breeze was blowing up river. After (continued)

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Blood and Guts (continued)

lunch we moved upriver to the Romeo's Ladder Area where we worked on Romeo's Ladder (?) and several other climbs, compliments of Bob Adams. Performance awards for the day go to Chris Buckingham for entertaining two young ladies who came out climbing for the first time, and to Tom Evans for those wooden pitons we saw on several routes.

---Art Wilder

regarding the proof Jacobs off

Caudy's Castle, April 16, 1967

It seems that secessionist movements are gaining ground these days in our group: for the second week in a row the scheduled trip drew a sparse turnout while Seneca Rocks and Carderock got most of the attention.

When I reached Caudy's Castle about 10:30 a.m., I found to my amazement that only Frank and Grey Thompson were there. They had camped there overnight and were just thinking of trying a climb. Soon afterward Bob and Kate Adams drove up, followed by Mike Hill and Fred Walton, a couple of students from the University of Maryland. Somewhat later, Tom Blevins showed up with Helen Breckman.

Bob and Kate did the long inside corner route on the river side, while the rest of us fumbled our way up easier routes off to the left. We all then finished off the day with some practice climbs on the opposite side and then headed for home. The weather was great for climbing, no matter where one climbed. ---Phil Eddy

CONSERVATION NOTES

The following note was excerpted from a National Park Service announcement in the Federal Register, Vol. 32, No. 72, Friday, April 14, 1967:

"Notice is hereby given...that a p lic hearing will be held beginning at 9 a.m. on June 14, 1967, in the Luray High School auditorium, 14 Luray Avenue, Luray, Val, for the purpose of receiving comments and suggestions as to the appropriateness of a proposal for the establishment of wilderness areas within the Shenandoah National Park. Portions of these proposed wilderness areas are located in Albemarle, Augusta, Madison, Page, Rappahannock, and Rockingham Counties, Va.

"Interested individuals, representatives are invited to express their views in person at thehearing, provided they notify the hearing officer in care of the Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park, Luray, Va., 22835, hy June 12, 1967. Those not wishing to appearmay submit written statements to the hearing officer at that address...." 2.43 12.23

For further information, please contact Bob Robinson.

Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks Recreation Area

agin in the state of the state In the March issue of the Social Climber, the Pittsburgh Climbers announced of again some of the plans that are beginning to leak out concerning the Spruce Knob-Seneca profits to Rocks Recreation Area. According to the note, the Forest Service plans to construct a "Modified Royal Glen Dam" with a summer pool that will create at the 1050-foot contour level, an 1100-acre lake.

Additional plans call for a 90-family-unit recreation area, presumably near the lake, and a new road into Spruce Knob from Riverton. Also under consideration is the construction of a stone tower on top of Spruce Knob.

MONEY FOR CLIMBERS

The March issue of the American Alpine Club News announced that climbing fund grants are available to young climbers wishing to attempt worthwile projects in remote areas. Five grants of \$100 each are available for the 1967. Application forms and deadline information are available at the American Alpine Club, 113 East 90th street, New York, New York 10028.

MT. RAINIER SUMMER PROGRAM

The Mt. Rainier Guide and Ski Service has an exclusive franchise with Mt. Ranier National Park to provide mountain guiding, climbing instruction, climbing equipment rental and sales. The Mountaineering Seminars conducted throughout the summer are organized for the purpose of providing the finest in mountain climbing instruction. Basic and advanced seminars are offered. Four basic seminars are planned for July 1-5, July 28-August 1, and August 11-15, and August 25-29.

Tuition fee for the five-day basic seminar is \$100.00 out of which a \$30.00 reservation fee is deductible. The fee includes: instruction, meals, climbing ropes, shelter, ice hardware, first aid equipment, and a certificate of successful completion. Seminars are conducted at Camp Muir situated at the 10,000-foot level on Mt. Rainier and are concluded by a climb to the summit.

Each seminar participant, basic and advanced, is asked to submit a brief resume of their climbing and outdoor background. Courses include roped snow climbing, stopping falls, self arrest, glissading, glacier travel, ice climbing, steep glacier climbing, practice crevasse rescue, work on snow caves and igloos, instruction in sleeping on snow, etc.

Further information, including applications, registration forms, and equipment lists is available from the editor's file. Or, you may write to:

Manager, Guide Service Manager, Guide Service

summer: Paradise Inn winter: Box 553

Paradise, Washington Mercer Island, Wash. 98040

EXPEDITION NOTES

East Africa

The Iowa Mountaineers are sponsoring an expedition to East Africa and an outing to the Maligne Lake area in Japer National Park, Alberta, Canada. For more information write to the Iowa Mountaineers. P. O. Box 163, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

Japan Alps

The Colorado Mountain Club plans a seven-week outing to the Japan Alps. The first three weeks will be spent climbing in the northern Japan Alps, then a one-week backpacking trip from Mt. Yari to Mt. Shirouma along the backbone of the Alps followed by excellent rock climbing on Mt. Tanigawa and finally a three-week sightseeing trip including Tokyo, Nara, Kyoto, the inland sea, and Nagasaki. Address inquiries to Dr. William Y. Takahashi, 1136 Alpine Avenue, Boulder, Colorado.

EXPEDITION NOTES (continued)

Yukon Alpine Centennial

The Yukon Alpine Centennial Expedition will take place this summer in Canada's highest and most spectacular mountain area—the Icefield Ranges of the St. Elias Mountains. The Alpine Club of Canada, the Canadian Centennial Commission, and the Yukon Territorial Government are providing considerable funds to launch climbers into Yukon's Icefield Ranges.

Twelve unclimbed peaks—one named for each Province and Territory and one to be named Centennial Peak, on the Alaska-Yukon boundary will be climbed by a team of four Canadian and four American climbers. In addition, there will be two 2-week base camps in the Icefield Range.

All participants will be flown into the various base camp areas from the Kluane Lake airstrip. A charge of \$250 will be made for each member of the teams and a charge of \$200 will be made for the base camps.

Organization and management of the Expedition will be handled by the Alpine Club of Canada. Other details will be handled by the Arctic Institute of North America, which for several years has conducted many scientific investigations in the Icefield Ranges.

Applications for the expedition should be submitted to Eric C. Brooks, 910 Keith Road, West Vancouver, B. C.

SAVE THE CHOCKSTONES AND ROSEATE SPOONBILLS!

In the April issue of Ramparts magazine appeared to be what I consider the best case for saving the land and forests of this country. The article is Part One of "America Raped", by Gene Marine. I think this essay is particularly valuable to the "sportsman" because of its point of view. Any outdoorsman, debating the pros and cons of protecting woods and wilderness, tends to think along lines of his particular sport. Many an ardent camper-conservationist goes down in defeat when confronted with the argument: "After all, there are other people besides hikers. ...etc."

are other people besides hikers, ...etc."

The author presents himself as a "tourist" type (my term), opposed to what the mit-wilderness people call "backpack snobs". This latter group consists of the mountaineers and backpackers who want the wilderness saved for their respective activities. Mr. Marine believes that the reason for saving the forests and swamps from the engineers is not to protect the camper from tourists, but rather the necessity of maintaining the ecological balance. He cites cases like the Florida Everglades, California's Bodega Bay, and the mutilated redwoods as examples of ecological systems that are possibly forever changed. (Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks, West Virginia, is listed as an area in danger.) The central theme of the article is that by changing his environment without regard for long-range consequences, mankind may be slowly forfeiting its birthright to live on this planet. Those intending to remain in residence might do well to investigate this essay and its sequel in May.

---Talbot Bielefeldt

THIRTY

It is no surprise to anyone who has climbed regularly weekend after weekend that I have not appeared very regularly at the club's outings for the past few months. So it will probably be less surprising as I tell you that my appearance in future outings will be even rarer and less regular than they have lately.

Ever since my return from the West Coast last fall, most of my time has Nevertheless, been spent in catching up with myself, which for me is quite a switch. I have been offered an interesting professional assignment that will require me to be out of town for the next four to six months, and possibly longer, save for periodic returns to visit family and friend.

I only regret that I will not be able to keep my hand in UP ROPE any longer than I have, for although it did manage to get off the ground each month, it never did quite fly during my editorship as I had hoped it eventually would. Next time, perhaps.

Regrets aside, I am happy to announce that Dave Templeton will be the new UP ROPE Editor. Dave can give UP ROPE the time, the spirit, and the intestinal fortitude that it requires. More than that, Dave is ready, willing, and able.

Thanks to all of you in the Mountaineering Section who have helped perpetuate UP ROPE by contributing material, time, and effort. Trying to make this newsletter more meaningful and interesting has been a rewarding challenge. My thanks to those who have really made it fun, especially to the wednesday nighters, who month after month have gathered round to put UP ROPE on the press, beer in our bellies, and mirth in the job.

---Vince De Santi

TOGETHERNESS

Recently, when Bill Thomas's wife expressed concern for his taking their young son climbing on a Sunday morning instead of to Sunday school, Bill defensively but proudly retorted with this gem: "a family that belays together stays together"

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