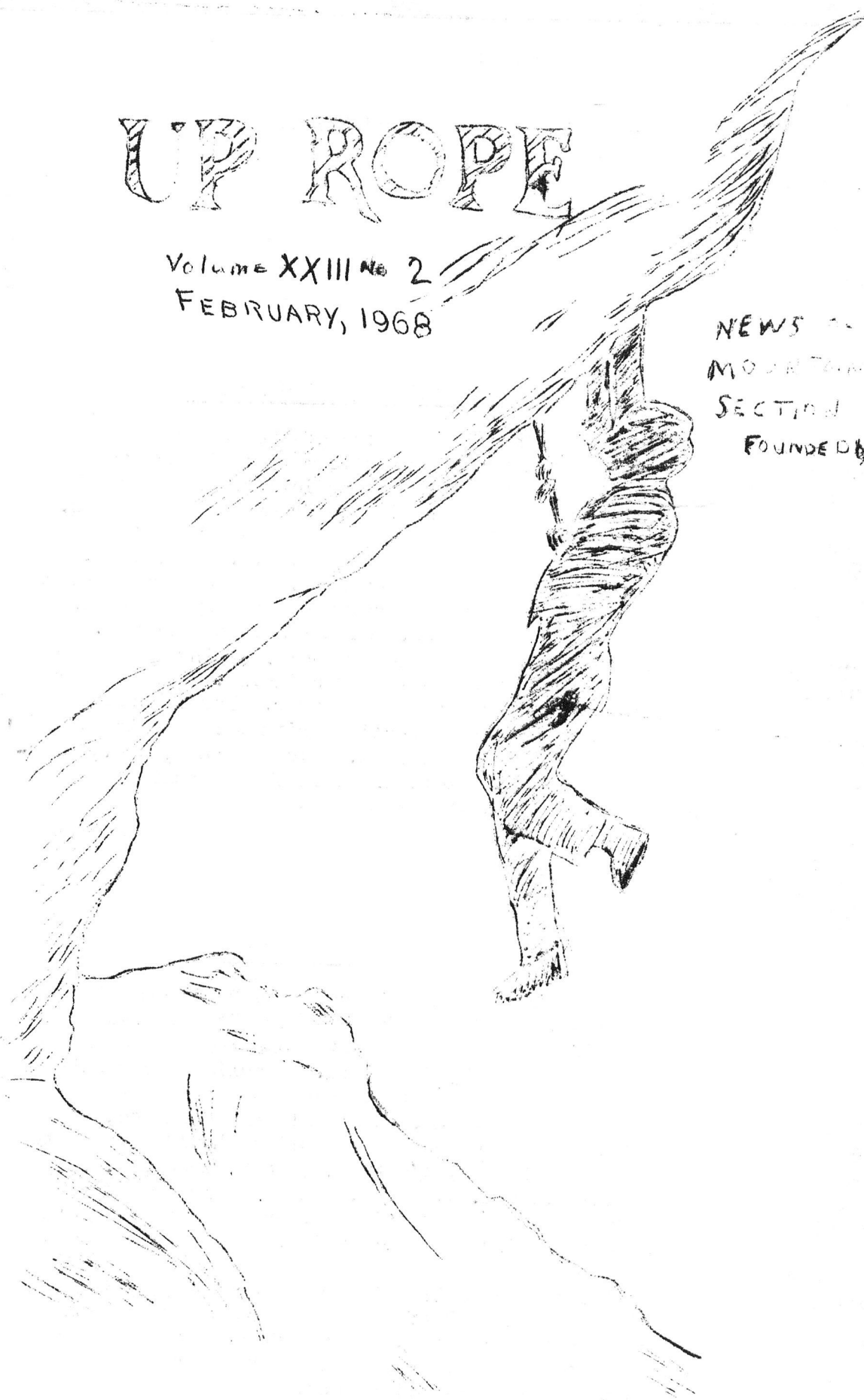


UP ROPE

Volume XXIII No 2
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NEWS OF THE PATC
MOUNTAINEERING
SECTION
FOUNDED BY JAN & MARY CANN



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The Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club welcomes all interested individuals who wish 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 scheduled activities. Climbing lasts all day. Groups stop for supper on the way home. Bring lunch and water. Wear clothing suitable for climbing. For further information, contact the trip leader. For information about the Mountaineering Section write to: Secretary, Mountaineering Section, PATC, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036, or visit PATC Headquarters between 7pm. and 10pm. any weeknight.

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UP ROPE is the newsletter of the PATC Mountaineering Section, founded by Jan and Herb Conn in 1944. Publication is on the last Wednesday of each calendar month at PATC Headquarters. Deadline for submitted material is the next to last Wednesday of the month preceding an issue. Material for inclusion, comments, or questions on editorial policy should be directed to EDITOR, UP ROPE, c/o PATC, 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036. Subscription rates are \$1.50 per year. New subscriptions and changes of address should be directed to: Business Manager, UP ROPE, etc.

Extra copies of UP ROPE are generally found at the Information Desk of the PATC should anyone wish one or two for passouts. Please do not take anymore than is necessary for your aims as these are primarily for use by the Information Desk.

INSIGHT AND PROSPECTUS
CLIMBING IN YOSEMITE

(PART TWO OF TWO PARTS)

ROBERT NORRIS

As Tom Evans said in an earlier edition of UP ROPE*, there are a great variety of climbs in Yosemite. For the most part, the majority of the climbs seem to be in 5.7 and higher categories. In my opinion, any one who can do most of the climbs at Carderock can certainly follow the 5.7 climbs at Yosemite. There are enough climbs there to enable one to work up to leading 5.7 or better.

Protection for the most part, seems to be adequate. But, if you are not confident on adequate holds and tend to overprotect your climbs you could get into big trouble. There simply is nothing to replace technique and there is only one way, that I know, to improve your technique.

The climbing fraternity has been inundated with such awe inspiring pictures and tales of Yosemite climbing for so long that most people, I believe, have a distorted view of all Yosemite climbing. There is no doubt that climbing in Yosemite is a dead (Sorry!) serious business. The shorter climbs are just as much fun as the big climbs, and often their severity is remarkable. I have to qualify that by saying that I really haven't done a big Yosemite climb). The satisfaction of climbing some of the lesser climbs has not found its way into the climbing literature. I think this is a loss for Yosemite and American climbers. The big walls are not there for everyone's undertaking (Sorry again! Please forgive the psychological faux pas'). I am certain that most of us would find our talents and motivations tested by the demands and challenges inherent in all Yosemite climbing. One does not have to be a direct aid specialist to aid climb in Yosemite. There are many short aid pitches (one hundred fifty to three hundred feet) that one can practice on. There is even a bolt ladder on Bear Rock where one can practice one's technique with an upper belay before driving a single piton. Camp 4 had numerous places on the local boulders to practice A3, A4 and A5 piton placement. So, one does not have to be on a wall of over a thousand feet of exposure to find out what a hard pin placement is like.

If there are those who would like to know what an A4 or A5 pin placement is, perhaps this will give some idea. It could be a nest of four or five pins, some perhaps with their heads inverted, placed in a very shallow crack. The idea is to get enough lateral pressure against the sides of the crack to hold your weight for a few minutes. You do not stand in an A4 or A5 pin very long. Why? Well, the most obvious reason is that in a piton placement such as that described above, you test its dependability by thumping each piton in the nest of your finger. If each pin rings with a clear tone, you tie it off and gently apply your weight! To hit a nest with a hammer to test it may, in all probability, destroy it. To forestall arguments, this principle, which is just one of many, was demonstrated to me by Tom Kinbrough who has approximately one hundred ascents in Yosemite. I wish I had the ability to place them.

Another factor in climbing in Yosemite is that competition between the climbers of Yosemite is, I think, quite severe. It is difficult to climb in Yosemite and not be swept up in the competitive atmosphere. Competition, for those who want to compete, has its own unique rewards. Also, I would suspect that ability and technique might have a positive correlation with the desire to compete with others in Yosemite. Of course, you do not have to compete to climb there, but you cannot help but admire those who do. Their feats are truly out-standing when compared with your own abilities.

The Yosemite Granite is fantastically unique in its composition, texture, and

* Yosemite Valley - July 1967, Tom Evans, UP ROPE, Vol. XXII, No. 11, Nov. 1967

structure. The chimneys have a drastic tendency to be comparatively smooth. Friction and counterforce to me, are the secrets of most Yosemite climbing. The laybacks are strenuous and often very long. The jams are also very interesting. The easy ones are hard and the hard ones are frightening. They require a developed technique all their own. (So goes the tale about the ultimate crack—an overhanging flared jamcrack!?). The granite is, of course, glaciated and sometimes water polished, which spells S-M-O-O-T-H.

For anyone planning to go to Yosemite and wondering what to take, I have the following suggestions. To go, and not do any aid climbing, is unthinkable. A 150-ft rope is absolutely imperative.

Perlon is best for aid and of course, I feel, perfectly adequate for free climbing. Also, a 150-ft. quarter inch rope comes in handy for rappels. A pair of Junar Ascenders is just about a necessity on any of the longer aid climbs. There is really no advantage that I can see in coming up on someone else's pins. A minimum of twenty carabiners, preferably those that open under your body weight, is usually adequate. Of course, a good selection of pitons is necessary. A selection of twenty pitons will probably do. All this information is predicated on your climbing partner having approximately the same quantities. Remember, it's quite a long trip to San Francisco and the mountaineering shops. So let that be your guiding light. Before starting to climb in Yosemite, a good coating of Epoxy to all the seams of your climbing shoes will prevent them from falling apart so quickly. It is amazing how quickly you can wear your shoes out climbing in Yosemite.

The climbing season in Yosemite essentially last four months. April and May are the first two months of the season. There appears to be very little climbing done there in the summer because of the heat and the crowded conditions of the valley. The next two months are September and October. These four months are the most active climbing periods in Yosemite Valley.

To say that I was impressed with the climbing in Yosemite hardly describes it adequately. I hope I have not mislead anyone by the use or misuse of adjectives. It is very difficult to remember all the events of a climb, much less to elucidate on an event which in your memory has probably become distorted a bit. Of course, everything said here has been based upon my own experiences and impressions of which I attempted to give an accurate summary.

If there is any value in this essay I hope it is in that it excites your curiosity and provides motivation for you to go and savor the delights of Yosemite for yourself. If you do go to Yosemite and climb, you surely will share many unique experiences with your fellow climbers. Most assuredly your climbing attitudes will never be the same again, Your life will be enriched from the effort.

KNOW YOUR POTOMAC APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB

FIRST OF A SERIES

It is suggested that those members of the Mountaineering Section (MS) who are not members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) drop into the clubhouse at 1718 N Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. some weekday evening between 7:00 and 10:00 PM., pick up some of the literature on the club, and meet the members who are doing voluntary duty there. You may pick up a very excellent descriptive folder, "Meet the PATC", which verbally and pictorially tells of the PATC aims and activities. If you wish, you may call, during the same hours at 638-5306, and ask for literature to be sent to you.

Membership in the PATC is not much more costly than that for the MS. Junior Membership (ages 14 through 20) is \$2 per year. Senior memberships involve a \$5 initiation fee which covers the cost of introductory literature, and are as follows: Individual at \$7 per year, Individual Sustaining or Husband and Wife at \$10 per year

Husband and Wife Sustaining at \$15 per year, and Life at \$100 per year.

The Club is structured with Elected Officers, Appointed Officers, Councilors, and Committee Chairman. The Elected Officers fill the offices of President, First Vice President, Second Vice-President, Supervisor of Trails, Treasurer, General Secretary, and Recording Secretary. Officers filled by appointment are those of Assistant Treasurer of Membership, Corresponding Secretary, Assistant Secretary of FORECAST, and Assistant Secretary of Membership. Committees are those of the Bulletin Staff, Cabin Maintenance, Cabin Reservations, Camping Equipment, Conservation, Excursions, Finance Management, The General Secretary, the Headquarters Staff, History, Maps, Membership, Mountaineering, Photographs and Exhibits, Program, Publication, Publicity, Shelter Maintenance, Supervisor of Trails, Signs, and Special Activities.

The structure shown above illustrates that the PATC provides outlet for every individual's talents and interest and provides a framework in which members of the MS may work to preserve those areas in which their favorite climbs exist. We hope more of our MS members will take heed of this fact.

TRIP REPORTS

Cupid's Bower, Maryland

January 14, 1968

Dave & Joan Templeton
Bob Adams
Art Wilder

Don Schaeffer
Linnea Stewart
Sally Greenwood

The Faithful Six waited in the rain at HOJO's until 10 o'clock for their Fearless Leader (where was he?) and finally left in the rain for the hopefully frozen Potomac. We slid across the rain-covered ice to Cupid's Bower and climbed the rest of the day in the rain. The most spectacular climb of the day was by Joan - in and out of the Potomac with no rope, with only as assist from behind by Dave. Our thanks go to Art for building a fire even though it smoked out two of the best climbs. The rain let up as we left, so we stopped at Carderock to meet the rest of the group (where were they?) and then we were Seven, with Sally Greenwood joining. Even Touhey's was almost deserted. Could it be the weather??

Linnea Stewart

Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland

January 21, 1968

Dave & Joan Templeton
Harvey Noebs
Shirley Liss
John Tichenor
Leo Frank
Don Schaeffer

Terry Robinson
Al Goldberg Family
Mark Carpenter
Stephen Burt
Werner Gruhl
Andy Updike

Mike Nicholson
Trudy Turner - Trip Leader
Bob Adams
Jim Shipley
Art Wilder
Stephen Arsenault

EDITOR'S CORNER

It is normally within the province of an Editor to lambast the hell out of an outgoing administration, especially if his pet ideas were not carried out, and to view the incoming one with a praiseful, but cynical eye hoping, on the one hand, to con them into adopting his favorite panaceas and knowing, on the other, that it has always been the way of mankind to, etc., etc. This Editor, having played a role in the outgoing administration, has nothing but praise for its services over the past year. He indeed views the incoming administration with a praiseful eye (especially the Vice-Chairman) and is certain the Section will have an active year under the Leadership of Joe Nolte, Chairman and Penny Pierce, Vice-Chairman. Let's help them make it a bad year for cynics.

CORRESPONDENTS

I want to say thanks for the cards and visits I received from well-wishers and climbing friends while I was in the hospital recovering from my recent operation on my shoulder. As far as the doctors can tell the operation was a success, but it will be quite a few months before I will have full motion back in my arm: and only then will they be able to tell how successful the operation was.

Sincerely

Tom McCrumm

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

ILLNESS

Joan Robinson has been in Arlington Hospital for surgery.

Hal Kramer is recuperating in fine fashion at Washington Sanatorium after having suffered a heart attack on December 31st.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Sally Greenwood

Sponsors: Penny Pierce
Don Stemper

Carl S. Gibson

Sponsors: Ed Goodman
Dave Templeton

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Anchorage, Alaska 99501

FORSALE

150 feet Goldline, used once, \$15.00. Call Ed David: 496-3281.

CONDITIONING HIKES

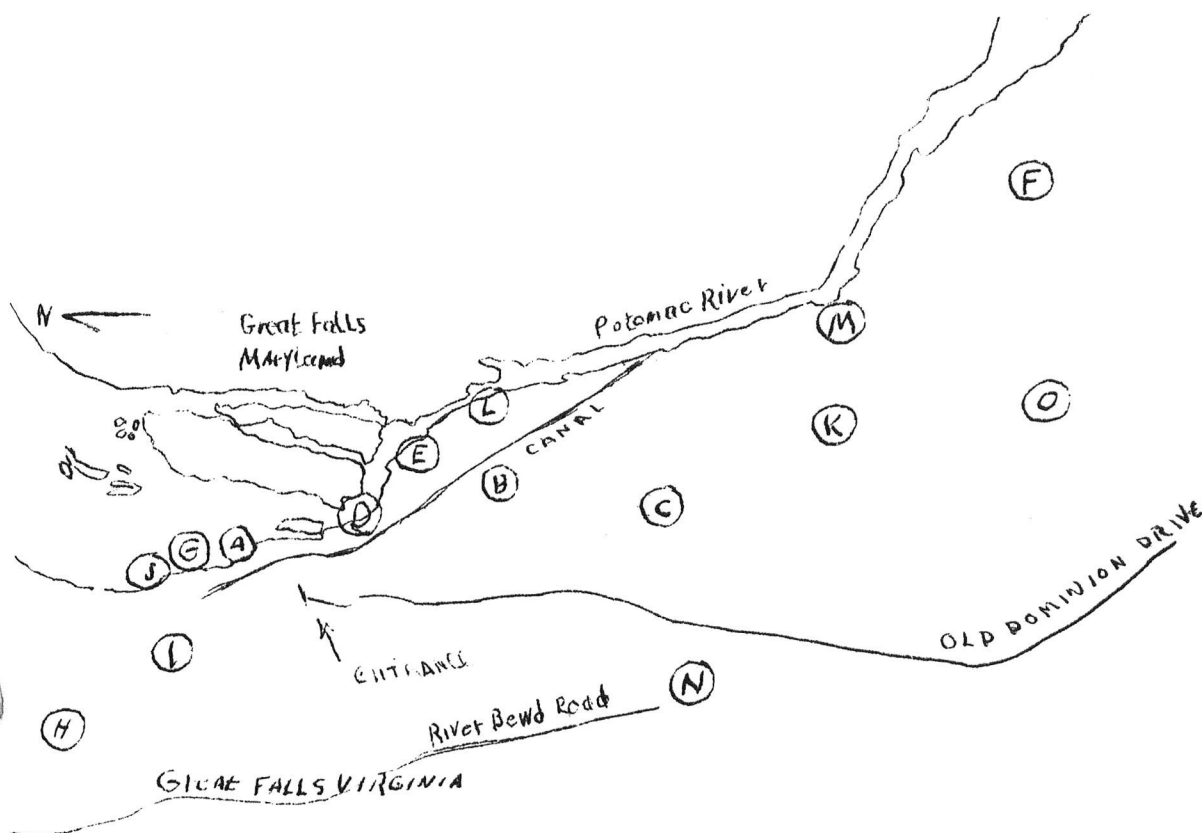
Howard Brackney, an active hiker in the PATC and one who has organized several interesting hikes is interested in working with members of the Mountaineering Section in arranging local hikes which may be used for conditioning hikes and in arranging varried hiking trips throughout the country. In particular he invites us to note the hiking schedule in FORECAST so we may use it for our purposes.

GREAT FALLS, VIRGINIA AREA

In the accompanying picture, taken from the Washington Post the alphabetic flags pertain to the following:

- A. Patowmack Canal
- B. Matildaville, to be restored.
- C. Proposed raised boardwalk with self guiding nature trail to go through as unique upraised swamp.
- D. Falls overlooks, to be improved with interpretive signs and a place for informal talks.
- E. Potomac River Gorge
- F. Difficult Run
- G. A proposed huge parking lot & Picnic Area
- H. Maple beech forest which may become parking lot
- I. Proposed Children's Play Area (Ammusement rides)
- J. Proposed concrete Tunnel from I to picnic area of G.
- K. Visitor Transit (Narrow Gorge Railway)
- L. Suspension Footbridge, Proposed
- M. Proposed Rescue access area
- N. Three proposed group camping sites.

You may draw your own conclusions.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 4 Carderock, Maryland
Trip Leader: Dave Templeton (424-7997)
- February 11 Purple Horse, Maryland
Trip Leader: Penny Pierce (667-2219)
- February 18 Great Falls, Virginia
Trip Leader: Joe Nolte (836-6650)
- February 22-25 Snow and Ice Climbing,
Mt. Washington, New Hampshire
Trip Leader: Al Goldberg (552-2378)

DIRECTIONS TO CLIMBING AREAS

Carderock, Maryland

Refer UP ROPE, Vol. XXII, No. 6, June 1967, Page 7

Great Falls, Virginia

Refer UP ROPE, Vol. XXII, No. 12, December 1967, Page 8

Purple Horse, Maryland

Refer to John Reed's map "Climbs Along the Potomac Gorge". The area contains several climbs of various types.

Park at the area across from Old Angler's Inn. Get onto the towpath and head toward Great Falls (Upstream). Just after Widewater is reached, the blue blazed Billy Goat Trail goes left. Follow this for approximately 3/4 mile to the Purple Horse Area.