

UP ROPE

NEWS OF THE PATC
MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

FOUNDED BY JAN AND HERB CONN

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JOE FAINT LEADING
RINKY-DINK, CHAMPE ROCK
FIRST ASCENT

CONTENTS

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
THE EXCHANGES
THE SLICKS
TRIP REPORTS
EDITOR'S CORNER
GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

3
4
5
6
7
7
8

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THE PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

The Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club welcomes all 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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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.

THE WEST VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS CONSERVANCY
directs your attention to this

EMERGENCY--EMERGENCY--EMERGENCY

March 14, 1968

A GRAVE CRISIS HAS arisen with respect to the development of the National Recreation Area at Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks. Local landholders, who began to organize several weeks ago, are now working diligently to defeat the NRA and their efforts are beginning to get results in Washington. Let me emphasize this -- these people do not seek a fair price for their land, they want to stop the development of the NRA.

They want one of two things: A repeal of the act which created the NRA, or removal of the power of condemnation from the act. If either of these two goals is achieved West Virginia's brand new National Recreation Area is finished.

THE POWER OF EMINENT DOMAIN was written into our law by men who understand that occasions arise when the public good must be considered before the rights of the private individual - I believe this is one of those times.

West Virginia needs the NRA; the economy of the South Branch valley needs the NRA; and the people of the United States need it. In view of this need, private land must be purchased to form this facility just as private land was bought to form the Great Smokey Mountain National Park, or the Shenandoah National Park, or the new State Park in Canaan Valley. No public facility of this nature can be formed in this crowded day without the purchase of some private land. Still we must recognize the right of the individual to fair treatment.

THE LANDHOLDERS ARE PROTECTED in two ways: Their land is appraised by private land experts who have no connection with the government whatsoever. If the price thus arrived at is not satisfactory they may appeal it to a claims court where it will be reviewed and adjusted as necessary.

THE FUTURE OF THE SPRUCE KNOB-SENECA ROCKS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA STANDS
IN JEOPARDY AS OF THIS DATE AND ONLY YOU CAN HELP!

Do you want to fish or cut bait?

HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!

If you are an individual who is interested in the welfare of the Mountain State you can write four letters to the men whose names appear at the top of the following page - if you are extremely busy you can write one letter and make three copies of it, but this is not as effective. Turn the page and look at these names.

Mr. John Baker, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20000

Senator Jennings Randolph
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20000

Senator Robert C. Byrd
Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20000

Honorable Harley O. Staggers
House Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20000

If you are the representative of one of our affiliated organization you can ask the group to go on record as favoring the NRA AS IT IS PRESENTLY CONSTITUTED and have your secretary write the necessary four letters. You can also include this information in your Newsletter or issue a special Bulletin to your membership asking them to support the NRA with its power of condemnation intact. The West Virginia Chapter of the Izaak Walton League has already made such an appeal. (Ed. note: Here's the information, climbers. Can we do this at the April meeting?)

If you are a member of an organization which will soon have a State meeting.

If you are a writer or newspaperman you might check the facts presented in this letter through the Forest Service or through any of the men listed above and govern yourself according to what you feel is the greatest good for the greatest number of people in the light of your own judgement.

If you are presently involved in conservation work in Washington, D. C. we will appreciate all of the help you can give us on the hill.

If you are from out-of-town don't hesitate to write these letters; the West Virginia Highlands, thank God, don't belong to one group or one state, but these men above need to know if the public supports this NRA.

If you are indifferent to the fate of the National Recreation Area at Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks you have the easiest task of all. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS TO SIT ON YOUR HANDS ABOUT SIX WEEKS!!

Tom King
Chairman

The West Virginia Highlands Conservancy
120 E. Main Street
Bridgeport, West Virginia. 26330

THE EXCHANGES

Taken from The Newsletter of the Chicago Mountaineering Club.

Cairn Peak Via the North Buttress
August 1. By Ted Schad.

For the first climb, following the long trip into camp, Olle selected Cairn Peak, which is the nearest summit to camp. The north buttress is easily reached by traversing snowfields and intermittent rock slabs and boulderfields on the south side of the valley leading toward Indian Pass. Leaving camp at 8:15 AM. the party which consisted of Olle, Ward Wickwire, Helena Peller and Ted Schad, reached the base of the buttress at 10. Five or six rope lengths of high angle rock climbing, with excellent holds and belay points, lead to the summit.

Rated by Bonney as having one pitch of 5.4 difficulty, this party found the climb much easier. Both Olle and Ward lead the climb, using parallel routes most of the time. The summit was reached about 12:15, where we spent two hours enjoying the view and locating the very many summits which surrounded us.

We descended via a prominent couloir on the southwest side, hence down boulderfields and grassy slopes and ledges to a small lake just west of the peak. From this point, to avoid descending to the Island Lake trail, we contoured around and traversed over several rocky knobs to reach the trail to camp where it comes over the saddle.

* * * *

Ted's report is that of a climb with Olle Swartling, Ward Wickwire, and Helena Peller during the 1967 Western Outing in the Wind Rivers, Wyoming.

THE SLICKS

Those of you who have not read it are directed to David S. Roberts' 'Death in a Far Place' which appeared in the January 27, 1968 Saturday Evening Post. The article is an extract from Roberts' forthcoming book Mountain of My Fear which relates the ascent of Mt. Huntington by Ed Bernd, Matt Hale, Don Jensen and Roberts. It was on the return from this ascent that Ed Bernd was killed in an accidental fall.

The September 9, 1967 issue of the same magazine as pointed out by Else Litjens has an article 'I Like to Risk My Life' by A. Alvarez. In this article Alvarez discusses our sport, his philosophical attitude toward it, and the ambivalent American 'Panem et Circum' and 'Mom-istic' attitude concerning any 'dangerous' activity.

TRIP REPORTS

Seneca Rocks, W. Va.

March 30-31, 1968

Don Stemper	Tom Evans	Bob Norris
Sally Greenwood	Chips Janger	Jerry Archibald
Bill Deuterman	Mark Carpenter	Don Schaeffer
Joe Nolte, Trip Leader	Mike Hill	Chris Buckingham & Friend
Thais Weibel	Bob & Joan Robinson	
Haggie Teel and 2 (?)	Bob, Kate, & Bobby Adams	

The honors for this trip go to Mark Carpenter and Mike Hill who did Totem, Pleasant Overhangs, and Ye Gods & Little Fishes ALL IN ONE DAY.

Saturday was beautiful and everyone put in a full day of climbing from Pleasant O to Old Ladies.

Sunday found Tom Evans in the throes of death on SSS. Sunday afternoon brought rain and an early departure.

Joe Nolte

Annapolis Rocks, Maryland

April 7, 1968

Harold Kramer	Robin Craft	Leo Frank
George Kramer	Linnea Stewart	Mike Hill
Bill Thomas	Art Wilder	Bob & Kate Adams
Billy Thomas	George Livingstone	Mary Eldridge
Lanny Hughey	Ed Ellis	Kathy Eldridge
Bob Norris	Bob Entsler	Mike Madden
Mark Carpenter	Penny Pierce	Tony Madden
Glen Cannon	Tom McCrumm, Trip Leader	

The trip got off to a glorious start by having the trip leader take a wrong trail and end up wandering through the woods for an hour trying to find himself! Climbing went quite well, with all trying to negotiate the spectacular overhangs which dominate the area. Unfortunately, not all were able to negotiate the rocks, which resulted in some hair-raising falls. Mark Carpenter and Mike Hill spent most of the warm sunny afternoon nailing up and over the huge roof, while other climbers rappelled down the rock to see the Raven's nest, complete with 4 eggs. I imagine Momma Raven wishes the climbers would return "Never-more".

This climbing area offers a variety of good climbing, all with sound solid rock, which is primary granitic. Being so close to Washington, perhaps we could develop this area a bit more. There is an A.T. Shelter on the trail, with a spring for water, as well as a good place to camp at the top of the cliffs. All this makes it quite feasible for overnight trips. Anyone who might be interested in going up there for a day or two to clear the area of obnoxious bushes and limbs, as well as for some climbing, please contact Tom McCrumm at 527-6272.

Tom McCrumm

EDITOR'S CORNER

Last year this column decried the practice of the indiscriminate use of pitons in free climbing in the Potomac Gorge. We were serious it has been pointed out by George Livingstone that this practice is still being contained in the Carderock area. Now one of the lists of technical knowledge a climber must process is the knowledge of when and where a piton may be placed. There is no excuse for anyone, regardless of his affiliation, to tear up rocks with pitons, when the M.S. has the facilities for him to learn proper technique. The guilty parties are not affiliated with the M. S., fortunately or unfortunately, as the case maybe. We hope our exchange readers in this area will pay heed to our grievance and we hope our member readers remain militant.

We are still accepting black and white photos for the cover page. We have received some wonderful shots, but they did not have sufficient contrast to 'take' in the transfer process. However, this gave an excuse to contact Trudy Turner for another of her excellent covers.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR SALE

150 ft. lengths 7/16" Goldline rope, \$23.00.
1" wide tubular nylon sling webbing, 4000 lt. test., 7¢/ft.
Tom McCrumm, 527-6272.

Used climbing rope (Suitable for practice climbing)
Danny Simonds, 894-0579.

WANTED

An experienced mountaineer to accompany me on a climbing trip out west this summer. Plan to leave about July 8th for 50 days. Route as follows: Direct to Denver, Boulder, Aspen area, then to Mt. Rainier, return via Tetons and Devil's Tower.
Contact Tom McCrumm, 527-6272.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Werner Grull. Sponsors: Bill Thomas and Art Wilder.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- MAY 4-5 Edes Fort, West Virginia
Trip Leader: Bob Norris (829-1078)
- MAY 12 Sugarloaf Mountain, Maryland
Trip Leader: Joe Nolte (836-6650)
- MAY 15 Business Meeting. PATC Club House, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 8 PM.
- MAY 19 Caudy's Castle, West Virginia
Trip Leader: Don Stemper (667-8644)
- MAY 26 Baker Rocks, West Virginia*
Trip Leader: Joe Nolte (836-6650) (Bring water)
- MAY 30-31, JUNE 1-2 Shawangunks, New York*
Seneca Rocks, West Virginia*
- JUNE 2 Great Falls, Virginia
Trip Leader: Joe Nolte (836-6650)
The local Sierra Club will be out to see what climbers do for "relaxation"

* These areas are areas in which continuous climbs predominate. Beginners ready to attempt continuous climbing are advised to arrange to get on a climbing team with an experienced climber prior to the trip date, as teams usually form in advance. Other beginners and non-climbers are welcomed as observers.

DIRECTIONS TO THE CLIMBS

Edes Fort, West Virginia

Seneca Rocks, West Virginia

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

Sugarloaf Mountains, Maryland

Refer UP ROPE, Vol. XXII No. 7, July, 1967, Page 9

Shawangunks, New York

Refer UP ROPE, Vol. XXII No. 8, August, 1967, Page 9

Caudy's Castle, West Virginia

Go west on US 50 to Winchester. Go north from Winchester on U.S. 522 for 15 miles. Turn left on Va. 695. Go west for 6 miles to Bloomery (2 houses). On the way to Bloomery you pass the West Va. line, and the route no. changes to West Va. 45. Continue past Bloomery for 5 miles to a sign on the left which reads "Caudy's Castle". Turn left on the dirt road. Go $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the small parking lot at the end of the road. You are now within 50 yards of the rocks.

An area with a wonderful view of the Cacapon, there are excellent leads and practice climbs. A swimming hole is not too far from the camping area by the parking lot.

Baker Rocks, West Virginia

A lead climbing area. Rocks contain fossils.

Proceed as for Seneca Rocks, About one mile west of Moorefield, W. Va. a sign on the right points to the rocks. One must drive down a private road and park on private property, so take care of our image.