

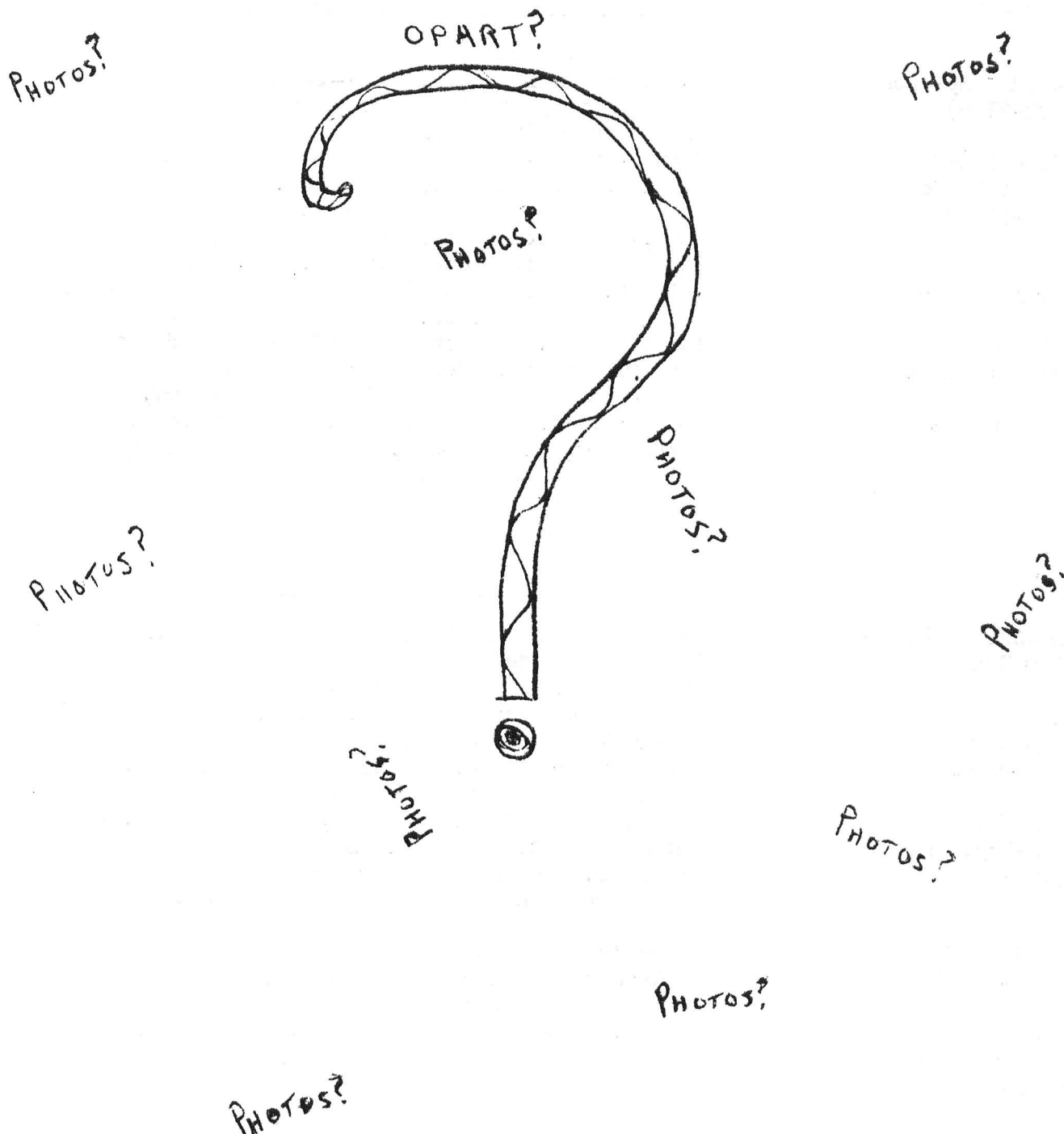
# UP ROPE

## NEWS OF THE PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

FOUNDED BY JAN AND HERB CONN

VOLUME XXIII No. 6

JUNE 1968



## CONTENTS

TRIP REPORTS	3
CHAIRMAN'S CORNER	4
EDITOR'S CORNER	5
CORRESPONDENCE	5
COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT'S	7
GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENT'S	7
CALENDAR OF EVENTS	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.

UP ROPE PUBLICATIONMOUNTAINEERING SECTION  
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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.

## TRIP REPORTS

## ACCIDENT REPORT-SENECA ROCKS 20 April 1968

On Saturday, April 20, during a rainy afternoon at Seneca Rocks, Mark Carpenter, Bob Lyon, Lanny Hughey, Thais Weibel, and myself retreated inside the large cave on the south end. Since the rain showed no sign of letting up, Mark and I decided to nail an interesting-looking line across the top of the roof. I led out, scrambled as high as possible, then went directly into aid. When hanging at about the sixth pin and trying to reach as far as possible in placing the seventh, I pulled on a small ledge on the roof, which turned out to be loose. I, of course, brought this to the attention of everyone inside the cave, and Mark even moved a few feet to the side -- seemingly out of its estimated line of fall.

After a couple of more pins, I was preparing to repel down and change places with Mark. As I pulled on the belay rope, it apparently brushed across the loose rock behind me and pulled it out. I noticed the rock after it had already begun to fall and consequently was unable to utter much of an effective alarm. By the time I did blurt out "ROCK!" it was almost on top of Mark and gave him very little opportunity to do anything to protect himself. The rock, shaped like a small home-plate, broke directly across Mark's knee (fortunately hitting on the flat side rather than the edge). As it hit the ground, it shattered with small pieces spraying over Mark's body and head. Fortunately, as noted above, there were several people in the cave who were able to assist Mark immediately as it took me several moments to repel down from my last pin.

Although nothing was broken and no permanent damage incurred, Mark's knee was bruised very badly. His head was fortunately protected from the splattering of rock by his hard hat.

Although all climbing accidents are, to a certain degree unique, this one seemed especially so because of the angle distortion caused by the cave. When I originally discovered the loose rock and announced it, Mark actually moved out of the seeming line of fall; yet, the rock fell directly to the point where he moved. When I repelled down Bob Lyon was amazed by my angle of descent, and as I later studied the line of the rope as it hung, I, too, was almost incredulous, as it seemed to be hanging at a 70 degree angle from the roof.

This, of course, does not at all justify the accident. As leader on the rope, it was my responsibility to make absolutely sure that Mark moved far enough to the side to be completely safe from the fall of a loose rock. But an awareness of this accident may help others avoid the same sort of thing in the future.

.....Chips Janger

No amount of "he should have done this" or "I would have done that" can change the fact that this accident happened. Since it has irrevocably happened, all we can do is try to prevent a recurrence of this type of accident or try to protect ourselves from the dangers of falling rocks.

Mark was wearing a hard hat with a crushable liner and, after seeing the puncture in the outer shell of the helmet, I hate to think of what may have happened if he wasn't wearing a helmet.

.....Joe Nolte

## CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

## Spruce Knob - Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area

This is a greatly reduced version of a report by Ansen Courter on the proposed recreation area in the Seneca region of West Virginia.

The basic authority for a recreational area at Seneca is found in the National Recreational Area Act. This bill authorizes parks in many different areas but provides no monies for the actual purchase of land. The monies are provided by a Funding Act. Again, this one act provides monies for many different park areas.

Because of the broad nature of the NRA Bill the PATC is formally in favor of the Bill; however, there are points of protest against specific areas of this Bill.

The NRA proposal for the Spruce Knob - Seneca Rocks Area would provide four types of areas.

1. Pioneer Area - basically a preservation of an area with only very limited improvements. Seneca Rocks is not included in this area.

2. Water Related Zone - areas of existing or anticipated recreation use along streams and rivers and around lakes and reservoirs existing or planned. Small dams would be built to provide flood control and small lakes.

3. Scenic Travel Zone - Scenic Access roads and trails bordering particularly scenic areas (does this sound familiar).

4. Forest Management Zone - the areas where forest resources are managed for optimum harvest and regeneration with multiple use as an important factor. Basically this allows contract timber cutting with provisions for re-planting after logging operations.

Another facet of the NRA provides for recreational complexes. Such a complex is planned for the vicinity of Seneca Rocks, and another near Spruce Knob.

This is a very general outline of the NRA. Hopefully we will be able to enlist the aid of some of the people who are really familiar with this Bill and have them contribute articles to Up Rope or appear at one of the meetings.

## EDITOR'S CORNER

To properly appreciate this section this month refer to the Objectives Committee Report below, refer to the extreme lack of Trip Reports over the last two to three years of UP ROPE, and place yourself in the shoes of an editor who recurrently finds major articles being submitted to him after the deadline date.

First, regarding that section of the Objective Committee's report which relates to UP ROPE, I appreciate any and all suggestions and there are excellent suggestions in the report. The Committee should be aware, however, that as Editor, I set the objectives for UP ROPE. It is spelled out in the Consitution. Unless the Constitution is changed, in which case a new Editor should be found, or unless the Chairman decides to replace me, I shall continue to run UP ROPE myself.

I believe this will delineate the extent of the Objectives Committee's authority regarding UP ROPE. All of the ideas spelled out below are good and could have been relayed to me personally or by a letter to the Editor. Maps of the kind desired exist and will be included in the Introductory Packet as asked. Inclusion of a paragraph on any type of activity and of any sort of map will be done if it fits the month's format and if it is sent in by the deadline date.

Regarding Trip Reports, being human myself, as you may have guessed, I can understand how the writing of a Trip Report can be put off into the blind end of infinity. If nothing else, send the list of names. Anything else you list highlighting the day will be appreciated. From now, on expect my calls if Reports aren't in by deadline.

The deadline has been mentioned. Any articles submitted in any fashion, by anyone, if submitted past the deadline will be printed a month late if accepted for publication.

In return for your cooperation, I'll refrain from getting mad, which won't be as amusing, but may save me a punch in the nose, and will increase my own efforts to produce a better UP ROPE.

Incidentally, all is not grim. Thank you for writing letters to Baker, Byrd, Randolph, and Staggers on the subject discussed by the Chairman.

Where are those photographs for the cover? They should have quite a bit of contrast, be of a decent size to fit on the page and should come in in great quantities.

## CORRESPONDENCE

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The May 1968 issue of "Up Rope" carried an appeal from the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy requesting support in counteracting the efforts of W. Va. landholders who are attempting to either block the establishment of the Spruce Knob-Seneca Rocks National Recreation Area or else to force the removal of the power of condemnation from the enabling legislation.

All of us who are familiar with the area want the region preserved in its present state and available for continued out-door recreation. Many of us have participated in efforts to realize this goal. It would be a great disappointment and loss to us if the area is closed to recreational use.

However, this should not be the only consideration receiving our attention. The Mountaineering Section has a firmly established relationship with Mouth-of-Seneca residents. Our climbers first made their acquaintance nearly 30 years ago. During the ensuing years we have camped in their fields, climbed their rocks, explored their caves, and hiked through their woodlands. Now, we should hear their side of the story.

In view of our long and friendly association with these people, it is only fair that the "local landholders" be invited to submit a statement for publication in "Up Rope"

Chuck Wettling  
Anchorage, Alaska

More from Chuck

I have been out with the Mountaineering Club of Alaska several times but nothing spectacular. No rock climbing in this area.

I will start surveying this month and should see a lot of the country. Will be traveling by small plane and helicopter.

Did a fair amount of skiing this winter and have a paralled turn developed.

Gentlemen:

I am a year round "outing clubber" (McGill Outing Club) for a good number of years, and have just been given the change to attend Ager Physics Symposium in Washington, D. C. in April 8-11. Since I have never been further south than New Paltz, N.Y. I would be very pleased if I could be included in one of your trips into the Appalachians during Easter weekend. If you have no Rock Climbing planned, just to get into your mountains to hike and camp would be wonderful. I am relatively competent in techniques of climbing, and have been leading for about eight years.

If you could make some trip a reality, I would be very happy. Could I phone you in Washington during the preceeding week?

Miss Liz Nichol with whom I've had some very pleasant hours on the rope together and recommended your club.

Best wishes in all your projects,

Yours truly  
Uwe Embacher  
Glaciology Subdivision,  
Inland Waters,  
Energy Mines and Resources,  
# 8 Temporary Building, Carling Avenue,  
Ottawa Ont. Canada

Ed. Note: Uwe was put in touch with Jerry Archibald who introduced him to Seneca Rocks.

Editor, UP ROPE

Dear Sir:

I am responding to an article in the December issue of UP ROPE concerning an incident at Seneca Rocks, West Virginia involving some PSC members.

Although this was not a Club function, we conducted an inquiry into the incident as two of our members were involved. Our training procedures were re-evaluated in light of the incident and we found the author's points very helpful. In the course of our inquiry, the following points came to light:

- (1) The person on the rope needed no assistance nor did she request any.
- (2) The rock was not kicked but fell either due to rope action or to natural mass wasting.

Further, we have decided not to discourage night climbing if proper precautions are taken. This is valuable experience for cavers.

Thank you for bring this matter to our attention.

Sincerely yours,  
Lanny E. Lehto  
Executive Director  
Potomac Speleological Club, Inc.



Ed. Note: I'm curious as to why one would drive some 300 miles to Seneca Rocks to do night climbing. I was under the impression the climb started as a day climb. Not a belabor a point, however, perhaps we climbers should pay heed to item 1 in Mr. Lehto's letter and stay the hell out and away from under caver's when they are climbing. In particular, we should remember we are not our caver's keepers.

#### COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT'S

#### OBJECTIVES COMMITTEE REPORT PATC MOUNT/INLEERING SECTION MAY 15, 1968

Our committee was formed March 13, 1968. Members included Dr. Robert Adams, Chuck Sproul, Tom McCrumm, Bill Thomas, June Lehman, Bob Robinson and myself. We have since held four meeting - March 28, April 2, April 16, May 8. Many topics have been covered concerning the club as a whole and we have several recommendations to make at this time.

We recommended the establishment of a permanent Training Committee to consist of no less than three members including the chairman. This chairman will be responsible to the club chairman and serve at the discretion of the club chairman. We want to stipulate that this training encompass the basic techniques of climbing as well as Oscar, Rescue, First Aid, and Safety training. We also recommend that the Training Committee first meet with the Objectives Committee in order that we may give them our ideas for a more full treatment of member training.

In reference to the club publication, UP ROPE, we want to recommend that there be no more referrals to back issues concerning directions to the climbing areas. Also that a map of climbing areas in the immediate vicinity be drawn and published annually. Copies of this map should also be included in the introductory Welcome Packet and distributed to all beginning climbers. Any information in regard to camping fees, climbing regulations, type of climbing - lead or practice, and the restrictions of private property should also be published with the monthly schedule. We also recommend the inclusion of a paragraph each month that would cover any accidents, near misses, and mistakes. These may be reported anonymously with the hope that others will benefit by not repeating the errors.

We recommend that the First Aid kit be found and brought up to date - hopefully with the advice and aid of one of our doctors. These supplies should be carried on all the club trips by the Trip Leader.

Further recommendations relate directly to the PATC-MOUNT/INLEERING SECTION Constitution and By Laws. They will be published in UP ROPE, and acted upon at a future meeting.

This report is respectfully submitted by Penelope Pierce, Chairman, PATC - Mountain-leering Section Objectives Committee.

#### PATCH COMMITTEE

Patch is here. Patch accepted by the membership has been paid for, has been received by the Patch Committee and will be presented to the membership at the upcoming business meeting.

#### GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### FOR SALE

150 ft. Lengths 7/16" Goldline rope, \$23.00.

Nylon sling webbing, soft white rubular variety, 4000 lb. test. 8¢/ft.

One 60 foot length 3/8" Goldline rope, \$7.00.

Call Tom McCrumm at 527-6272.

## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Charles Wettling  
c/o Bureau of Land Management  
Division of Engineering  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, Alaska, 99501  
(June thru Oct. only. Use  
previous address after Oct.)

Andrew J. Kauffman  
Apt. 1210  
500 23rd Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037

Mike & Trudy Nicholson  
7400 Arden Road  
Bethesda Maryland 20731  
Phone: 469-9598

## WEDDING BELLS

Mike Nicholson and Trudy Turner on May 11.

## MEMBER-TO-BE

David Eric Thompson, 7 lb. 12oz, 21 inches.  
Sponsored by Frank and Grey Thompson on May 10.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 30-31, JUNE 1-2	Shawangunks, New York*
	Seneca Rocks, West Virginia*
JUNE 2	Great Falls, Virginia
	Trip Leader: Joe Molte (836-6650)
JUNE 9	Wolf Rock, Maryland
	Trip Leader: Art Wilder (630-9055)
JUNE 15-16	Edes Fort, West Virginia
	Trip Leader: Chips Janger (554-1422)
JUNE 19	Business Meeting. P.M.C. Club House, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 8 PM.
JUNE 23	Harpers Ferry, West Virginia*
	Trip Leader: Tom McCrumm (527-6272)
JUNE 30	Old Rag Mountain, Virginia
	Trip Leader: Al Goldberg (552-2378)
JULY 4-7	Seneca Rocks, West Virginia*

\* 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 experience climber prior to the trip date, as teams usually form in advance. Other beginners and non-climbers are welcomed as observers.

## DIRECTIONS TO THE CLIMBING AREAS

Seneca Rocks, West Virginia

Edes Fort, West Virginia

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

Great Falls, Virginia

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

Old Rag Mountain, Virginia

Refer UP ROPE, Vol. XXII, No. 9, September 1967, Page 10

Wolf Rock, Maryland

Refer UP ROPE, Vol. XXII, No. 10, October 1967, Page 7

Harpers Ferry, West Virginia

To get to Harpers Ferry, take US route 70S to its junction with US route 340. Cloverleaf onto route 340 for west. Drive to Harpers Ferry. The route is well marked. After registering, cross back over the Potomac, take an immediate right after crossing the bridge, keep right and drive to a parking area by the ruins of a lock keeper's house under the cliffs. Register with Park Rangers in Harpers Ferry before climbing.