

FOUNDED BY  
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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PAGE 1

### CLIMBING IN THE SELKIRKS

Frank E. Zahar

This year, finally free of the Air Force and its paid free vacations to lovely places like Saigon and Guam, I was able to return in earnest to my much neglected climbing. Without much wasted time after my discharge, I applied for the Appalachian Mountain Club's (AMC) summer trip to the Northern Selkirks of British Columbia. Our semi-expedition was headed by Dr. John Woodworth of Connecticut.

After my three thousand mile drive to Golden, British Columbia, I was very anxious to get my legs and arms climbing once again. All seventeen trip members rendezvoused in Golden. The majority of the group flew out to Calgary, Alberta and continued to Golden by bus. As this was my first trip of all most expedition size, I was very much impressed by the logistics of a fourteen day trip for seventeen people. It seems to me that we had half a Greyhound full of food and supplies. After our last good hot bath and a steak dinner, we were ready for the next day's adventure.

Early the morning of July 14, a large flatbed truck full of climbers, food, and equipment, roared off down the road. The end of the road for us was a logging road north of the Trans-Canadian Highway, the so called Big Bend Highway along the Columbia River. The dirt road was dusty and bumpy. Shortly after we unloaded the truck, a big screaming bird swooped down on us--the French Allouette helicopter that was to fly us into the Selkirks proper. We were flown in to the timber line, landing in an area called Fairy Meadow. After the helicopter made several trips, ferrying in our party and its equipment, we bid good-bye to our pilot and our contact with the outside for two weeks. We all admitted that the helicopter ride was one of the highlights of the trip, especially flying up and over the snout of a large glacier.

In 1965, a group of climbers, assisted by a helicopter, constructed a cabin at Fairy Meadow. The cabin was to be our base camp for the two weeks, supplemented by a tent camp used in some of our ascents on Granite Glacier.

What an area for base! Around us the green of the forest and immediately above the eternal snow and ice world! The Selkirks are not the highest mountains (10,000 to 11,000 feet) but they were ours and remote, not trodden upon by the masses. Just about all the major peaks in the area have been climbed. There remain, however, many first route ascents on the rock faces.

The average day would see us split into parties of four, bound for surrounding peaks--Damnon, Sentinel, Austerity, and Colossal to name a few. Unlike the previous year's trip, we had our share of foul weather. Rain, snow, hail. You name it and it came down. One was fortunate to be caught in the snug

little cabin with its pot bellied stove in such weather. We also remember the days in a leaky tent on the glacier. It seems whenever we had ambitious plans for the following day we would put up a high camp on Granite Glacier and, sure enough, bad weather would move in.

Some of our ambitious plans were to put up new routes on Mt. Austerity and on the rock face of Little Black Friar. With bad spells of weather, which meant of course, snow at higher altitudes, all we ever did was look at the unclimbed face of Little Black Friar. Looking at it from different summits, it appears that the face will take plenty of difficult free climbing and some direct aid. So, as it now stands, it is still waiting to feel the hands and boots of climbers.

Four members of our party also tried the unclimbed east ridge of Mt. Austerity. Again, the weather proved a deciding factor and, along with the difficult rock, forced a retreat by rappel.

The climbing in the Northern Selkirks is mainly on snow and ice and the area has many glaciers. Although there are many crevasses to avoid, only once did I witness anyone falling into one. The victim was perturbed at our first step of rescue--taking pictures of her.

On our long days waiting out the bad weather in the cabin, discussions would turn to, "I wonder what's happening in the outside world?" Here we were without any communication, and we never even spotted an airliner overhead!

July 26 found us with our equipment all packed up on the only semi-level area of Fairy Meadow. Suddenly, out of the clouds came our whirlybird to take us to the land of good hot baths and good cold beer. We all will have many fond memories of a great time in the high places.

### ROYAL ROBBINS TO SPEAK

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club and the Mountaineering Section will sponsor an illustrated lecture by Mr. Royal Robbins at 8:30 PM, Dec. 9.

Mr. Robbins, one of the foremost technical rock climbers in the United States, will speak on Climbing in Yosemite Valley with emphasis on El Capitan. The two-hour program will include both color slides and a movie.

The program will be presented at the Department of Interior Auditorium at 18th and E Streets, N.W.

## P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

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## Hanging Around

Shawangunks  
Nov. 9-11

Tom McCrumm - Trip Leader

Chuck Sproull

Mike Hill

Sallie Greenwood

Jim Aldrich

Bob Lyons

Tom Evans and Kitten

Bob Waldrop

June Lehman

Jack, Billy and Larry Rucker

Bev Johnson

Dick Sideman

Eric Rosenblum

Penny Pierce

Jerry Archibald

John Standard

Tony Galvin

Matt Hale

Glenn Cannon

Ed Roach

Without a doubt Veterans Day weekend 1968 at the Gunks will be a memorable one for many of those there. Hopes of good weather lured a fair sized contingent of Washington climbers to the Gunks for the three day weekend, but the good weather never appeared. A cold rain late Friday night resulted in a cold, wet, cloudy Saturday, and not too much climbing was done. The rain started again Saturday evening and turned into snow during the night - but the evening festivities were heightened by the arrival of an old climbing friend of mine from Colorado who came to join us for the weekend - and we didn't let the foul weather put a damper on our recalling of good times past. Unfortunately the weather made the roads slippery, and Bob Waldrop's car had a slight accident with some rocks on the side of the Trapps Road. Luckily neither he nor Bob Lyons were hurt badly.

Sunday greeted us with six inches of fresh, wet snow, with more coming. Needless to say, fixing breakfast was a chore. By noon most everyone had headed back to Washington; but Sallie, Chuck, Mike, June, Jim, Tony, and myself decided to stay on. After a warming up and drying off visit with Werner Bishop and Hans Kraus, we hunted up Joe Donahue, who was generous enough to allow us to use his Boutique Ski Resort Lodge for a drying room and a place to sleep Sunday night. Sunday afternoon was spent investigating some climbing possibilities on a rock outcropping behind the Ski Minnie. Back at Joe's ski lodge after dinner at the Brauhaus, which was constantly out of food, we invented a new sport - Snurfing (SNOW SURFING). Amidst gales of laughter, the seven of us stayed up well past midnight snurfing down the ski slopes on our snurf boards (an air mattress on a plastic ground cloth). With one's weight spread out over a large area, the coefficient of friction between the plastic and the snow is at a minimum and some rather frightening speeds are attained.

Monday dawned bright and sunny, and following a quick breakfast we were out on the snow again with our snurf boards. As we became bolder, runs were made from the top of the expert slope, three abreast, over 1000 feet to the bottom. On the first such run Tony, Chuck, and Mike hit a bump and cleared 25 feet before touching ground again! Oofffff! The weather also being good for climbing, we soon returned to the Uberfall where Penny and Archie had just arrived from Al Weiss's in time for lunch. June, Mike, and Jim stayed on to climb while the rest of us, exhausted from a great non-climbing weekend, started the drive home. Before long the call again will be heard - "Let's go snurfing!" and "I'll drink to that!"

Sugarloaf Mtn.  
Nov. 3

Penny Pierce - Trip Leader  
Al and Sue Goldberg and  
children

Don Schaefer

Bob and Kate Adams

Don Hubbard

Tom Presson

Jim Nagy

Cheryl Prihoda

Harold Kramer

Clara Miller

Hans Halberstadt

June Lehman

Chuck Sproull

Tom McCrumm

Bill McCullough

Bill Deutermann

Jim Aldrich

Bob Waldrop

Mark Ireland

Marie and Lubos Postifil

Linnea Stewart

Bob Croft

Lewis Licht

## Editorial

In November, Chairman Joe Nolte met with officials of the Dept. of Agriculture concerning the land acquisition at Mouth of Seneca. The land in question (about 300 acres) does belong to the United States Government. What is in contention is the price to be paid for the land by the government. Those who are losing land allege that the government has been juggling the assessed value, in some cases assessing at less than 5% of the market value, based on offers tendered by private buyers (and the government) in the recent past! If agreement cannot be reached, the case will go to court.

As Chuck Wettling has pointed out, there are factors here which are beyond expression in monetary terms. While we were unable to help Mr. Harper and the other private citizens in their fight against condemnation, we can support their efforts to obtain just compensation for their losses. The law provides that land cannot be condemned and purchased by the government at less than the market value, as established by bona fide offers of purchase. The Mountaineering Section as a group should petition the appropriate officials to help our friends in Mouth of Seneca achieve fair treatment at the hands of the Forest Service.

The Nominating Committee has decided to place at least two names in nomination for each of the elective positions. A decision has not been reached on the candidates. However, their names will be announced at the upcoming business meeting and again in the January UP ROPE.

All members should make an effort to attend the January business meeting so as to have a voice in the election of officers for the coming term.

Lack of space prevented inclusion of THE CLIMBING CHEF and BOOK REVIEWS this month. Look for these scintillating features and an article on Guadalupe Peak, Texas, in the January issue of UP ROPE -- the journal of climbers, by climbers, for climbers.

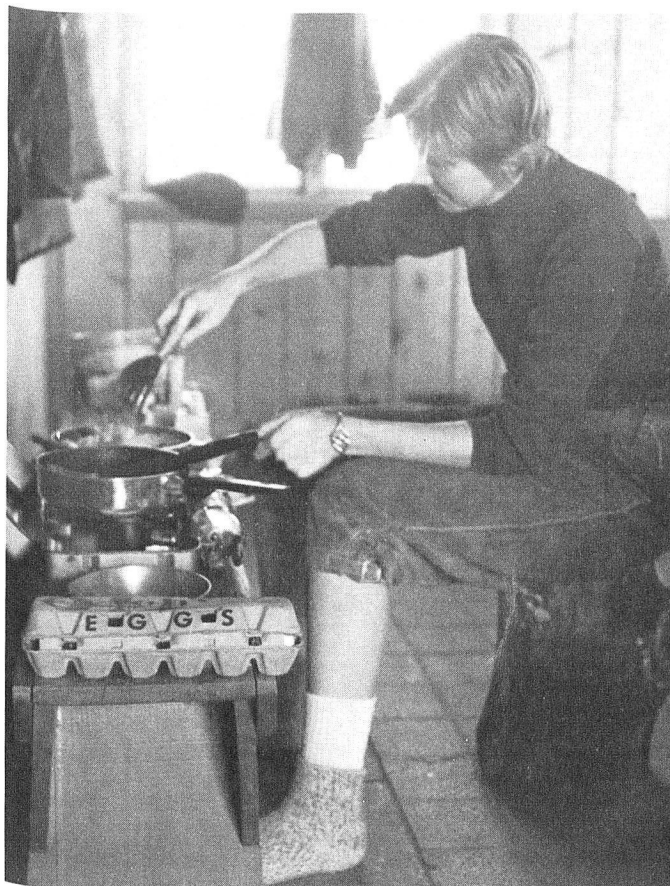
*William W. Deutermann, Jr.*

*Up Rope*

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 pass-outs. Please do not take any more than are necessary. These are primarily for use by the Information Desk.

Due to the inefficiency of the Trip Leader, the complete list of names has gone into hiding--perhaps it can be resurrected at a later date. In any event, it was a fairly uneventful day with very inconsistent weather. Several people worked on lead climbs to the left of the trail while others concentrated on more normal madness to the right.



World Famous Biscuit Shooter Sallie Greenwood in the Shawangunks

## The Summit Register

Dear Editor

Residents of the Mouth of Seneca are losing homes and lands that have been theirs for many generations, in many cases, since the ground was originally cleared. This tragic and unjust condemnation of private property is for the purpose of adding unneeded territory to the already large National Recreation Area.

The kindly people of Mouth of Seneca have befriended us for many years, yet only two personal letters on their behalf have appeared in UP ROPE, and not one word of any expression of "Mountaineering Section" sympathy has been printed.

Is this all that you can do?

Chuck Wettling  
Anchorage

Dear Art,

Since we arrived we've been climbing only once, as we were out of the country for several weeks and have only recently got settled. The one time we went was to La Dame Jeanne, a rock formation in the forest of Fontainebleau, which is really only a series of enormous boulders (30-50 feet). It is a beautiful practice area. The rock is very solid with peculiar holes, apparently produced by the wind blowing the sand of the region against the rocks. The ground is all soft sand about six inches deep, so no one uses ropes for anything up to about 30 feet - if one falls it's quite easy to take. However we were somewhat

bothered by this, as we were much more used to climbing with ropes. Great for getting over this fear, though. The climbs range from very easy to extremely hard, both balance and muscle-type overhangs. Because it is the practice area for most of the Paris climbers, of which there are many, all the climbs are well-delineated - even more so than Carderock- there are purple dots to show you where to put your feet. (Purple is very hard, there are also red, yellow, and blue climbs.) We met a guy, whose father is a guide at Chamonix, who was really good, and some of the other climbers were formidable! The weather is getting very bad now but we hope to go again soon. That area is supposed to be the easiest of the four practice areas around Fontainebleau - I can't wait to see the others.

We saw Helena Clarke Ferne and her husband Georges - she looks great but has done no climbing since coming to Paris. Paris is just terrific - the only city I've ever liked living in.

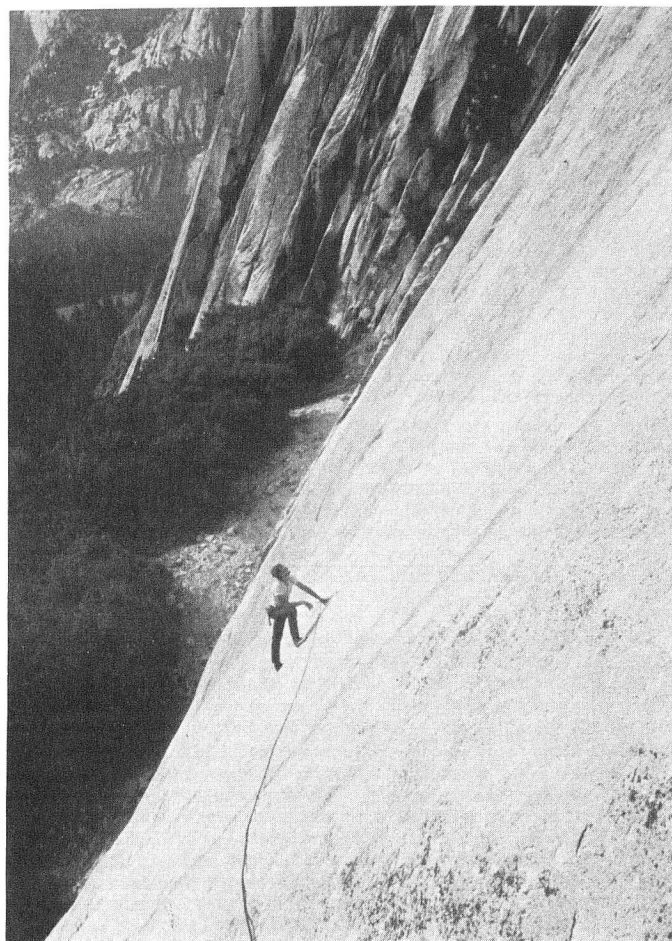
Regards to all the climbers and every one.

Jill and Ben Shapiro  
Paris

Dear Editor:

Keep up the good work on UP ROPE. The features are really Great. How about an article on Guadalupe Peak, Texas? There's some great climbing and hiking there. By the way, what happened to "The Climbing Chef" and "Book Reviews" this month?

Norm Wallach



Bob Norris on the Arches Terrace in Yosemite Valley, 1967

"The most excruciating joy is accompanied by the consciousness of the imminence of death - and with the same intensity. And it seems that one is not possible without the other."

Rollo May  
"Psychology Today"  
Feb., 1968

# CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Interested individuals are invited to participate in our activities. Please call the Leader for information and to inform him of your plans.

Date	Place	Leader
Dec. 8	Carderock	Joe Nolte (836-6650)
Dec. 9	Royal Robbins lecture Department of Interior Auditorium, 8:30 PM	
Dec. 11	PATC Headquarters Meeting, 8:00 PM	
Dec. 15	Rocks State Park	Roger Hammill (589-1584)
Dec. 22	Great Falls, Md.	Mike Hill (335-1471)
Dec. 28-29	Hermitage	Bob Adams (292-1340)

Trip Leaders are reminded of their responsibility to arrange for a report and, if a leader is unable to make his assigned trip, to appoint a substitute leader.

## DIRECTION FOR DECEMBER TRIPS

### Carderock, Md.

From the Beltway, take the last (or first if you're coming from Virginia) exit in Maryland toward Great Falls. In half a mile turn right at the Carderock sign, left over the overpass, through a tunnel under the canal and right to the last parking lot. The rocks are 200 feet beyond the rest rooms.

### Rocks State Park, Md.

From the Washington Beltway take the Baltimore-Washington Parkway to the Baltimore Beltway. Go either west (long but free) or east (through the Harbor Tunnel with a 60¢ toll) to U.S. 1. Go north to Benson, take the Bel Air bypass, and turn north on State 24. Go through Forest Hill and in 3-4 miles you will drive through a notch in the rocks. Park 100 yards past the rocks.

### Great Falls, Md.

From the Beltway take the last (or first if you're coming from Virginia) exit in Maryland toward Great Falls. Pass the Carderock sign and go until the Parkway ends. Turn left on McArthur Boulevard and follow it 4 miles to the Great Falls

parking lot. Walk left (downriver) until the second path on the right at the end of a chain link fence. Follow the path 100 yards to the climbing area.

### The Hermitage, Pa.

Go via I70S to Frederick and U.S. 15 to Thurmont and Emmitsburg. Turn left on Md. 97 at the light in Emmitsburg, continue to the Pa. State line where it becomes Pa. 16. At the west end of Rouzerville turn right (north (zero point) at the Septic Tank works on a macadam road with new houses. Go 5.2 miles to Old Forge. At 5.5 miles turn left onto the Swift Run Road and ascend to Monument Rock turnout at 6.4 miles on a sharp left turn in the road. Park here and walk right on the blue-blazed trail .2 miles to the cabin and rocks.

### notices:

The North Carolina Outward Bound School has staff positions open for the summer of 1969 as Crew Instructors, Assistant Instructors, Sherpas, and Rock Climbing Specialists. For details see Tom McCrumm.

People interested in the Mountaineering Section's Third Annual Mt. Washington Trip on Washington's Birthday weekend, please contact Al Goldberg (593-8124). If interested in chartering transportation, please let me know.

## LOOK WHO'S HERE!!!!!!

### Born:

A girl, Sonja Gruehl, to Werner and Andrea Gruehl, Sept. 24

### Born:

A girl, Erica Lee (Prusika) Schaefer, to Don and Betsy Schaefer, Nov. 7--Betsy's birthday!

### Married:

Don Stemper and Linda Wood, Nov. 9

The following person has been nominated for membership in the PATC Mountaineering Section.

### Name

### Sponsors

Bill McCullough

June Lehman

Joe Nolte

Nominees should be present at the next scheduled business meeting so that their applications can be voted on.



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