



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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Adventures at the Shawangunks when the sun isn't shining
(Being the Congenial Reflections of a
Latter Day Knickerbocker)

Tom McCrumm

During the past year we have been plagued with much bad weather during our weekends at the Gunks. Because of this, our resourcefulness has found many other things to do when we wouldn't climb.

One of the most popular bad weather pastimes is a hike from the Uberfall down to Mohonk, either to the rocks at Skytop, or the Mohonk Mountain House itself. The Guide to the Shawangunks describes the route. Also, in the same area are some interesting rock formations called Devil's Staircase.

Another popular side trip is a hike up to the falls by Lake Minnewaska. The trail to these falls starts off route 55-44, about a half mile west of the Ski Minne area, following the stream about another half mile up to the falls which are quite spectacular. In winter the falls are all frozen solid, and some careful ice climbing could be done there. Continuing up the trail past the falls, one comes to the road into Lake Minnewaska. The lake at Minnewaska is beautiful in both winter and summer. In winter it can be walked upon, offering a multitude of short climbs and boulder problems from the water's edge; and in summer it is so clear that the bottom can be seen almost anywhere.

There is a large rock formation directly behind the Ski Minne lodge which offers some climbing possibilities, or one can throw snowballs off its top onto one's friends as we did last November. One can always go snurfing at Bontique Ski Area (Joe Donohue permitting).

A nice morning trip is the hike up to Milbrook Mountain to investigate the rock there. Most of the climbs are rated over 5.7 and have aid pitches. The approach starts up through the woods about two miles down the road past Emil's Restaurant. Be careful going up in snowy weather, as an icy boulderfield has to be crossed. Another pleasant half day trip is the hike into Outback Slabs. The approach is described in the Gunk guidebook.

It's only a short drive over into the lower Catskills where some easy but quite pleasant climbing and hiking can be found. The Appalachian Trail Guide to that area covers the possibilities. For the more industrious drivers, West Point is not too far down the river and is always open to visitors.

Starting about the first of July the blueberries begin to ripen on top of the cliffs at the Shawangunks. The most luscious berries can be found on top of the Near Trapps, back off the trail about 100 feet.

In really obnoxious weather, when one would rather be under cover, a visit to the Brotherhood Winery in Washingtonville, N.Y. is a must. Washingtonville is on route 94 about

25 miles south of New Paltz. Free tours can be made through the oldest winery in the U.S. all year round, with much sampling of the wines. It's quite an experience on a rainy afternoon -- and the barns there offer some great building climbing too -- that is if one is still standing!

Last but not least...one can always stand around the campground in the mud and the rain and drink beer.

Hanging Around



O.R. Tang: Overhang
specialist.

Ape Index: 14.4

Little Stony Man
Aug. 24

Mike Hill - Trip Leader
Nellie Widmayer
Al Klovedahl
Sallie Jordan
Deanna Ballou
Roger Birch

Art Wilder
Sallie Greenwood
Els Litjens
Merv Oleson
Linnea Stewart
Ann Stewart

Al, Sallie J., Deanna, and Roger were so psyched up about climbing that they were on the rocks at 9:30! Al led them up Keyhole before the rest of us even showed up. Art, Sallie G., Ann, and Els took off soon after arriving

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for a circuit hike to Cedar Run and Whiteoak Canyon. Merv and Al were leading everything in sight even though it was downright warm when the afternoon sun hit us. Nothing new was put up, but the old climbs were yielding to heavy traffic. The climber's ate dinner in Warrenton while the hikers hurried back to hit Touhey's before it closed.

Edes Fort
Aug. 17

Mike Hill - Trip Leader
Wes Stiles

Nellie Widmayer

Although it was a beautiful day, only we three showed up. Everyone else was either scared off by the 130 mile drive or was still on vacation out West. We did the Buttress Route and started what I thought was Faint's Ceiling. A closer look, however, put the fear of God in our hearts and I finally admitted that we were on the wrong overhang.

After an hour of delightful swimming in the Cacapon River, we headed back for dinner at Wes's apartment in Frederick.

Shawangunks
Aug. 29-Sept. 1

Tom McCrumm - Trip Leader
Sallie Greenwood
Pete Anderson
Phil Eddy
Phil Stanwood
Al and Sue Goldberg and family

Roger Birch
Phil Hocker
Eric Rosenfeld
Wes Stiles
Richard Sideman
Shirley Milgram

It was a rather desolate weekend at the Shawangunks for a Labor Day weekend. Not only was the Washington contingent very small, but there were very few climbers there from New York and New England. In a way it was just as well as the weather was hot and humid, making climbing a battle against both rock and heat. I am sure almost as much salt was consumed as was beer.

We were joined by some visiting climbers from Frederick, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and New York. Wes Stiles, from Fort Detrick, near Frederick, did his first leads this weekend (Betty and Belly Roll). Pete Anderson, from Philadelphia, did his first climbing in three years having just gotten back from a Peace Corps stint in Nigeria where, as Pete says, "The highest thing around is the hump on a camel's back." Sallie Greenwood did her second lead and was encouraged to do more.

A large amount of climbing was negated by the intense heat and humidity and, as a result, most climbers could be found in the pond at Coxing Camp in the middle of the afternoon or making the easy climb up onto the popular "barstool

belay ledge" at the Brauhaus. The heat also kept the snails off the rocks so the Trip Leader could not attempt to once again advance the state of the art of climbing introduced by Don Schaefer in the July UP ROPE.

Probably the most spectacular event of the weekend was the admission by Roger Birch that he needed a new pair of climbing shoes.

Kid Theory (Eric Rosenfeld), Phil Eddy, and Richard Sideman managed Sixish and Bunny in the drenching heat, while Theory and Sideman also labored up Southern Pillar with great pride.



Sunrise on the Middle Teton. Taken from Wall Street on the Grand Teton. Picture by Tom McCrumm

BELAY LEDGE

Boots for sale:

Penny Archibald has a pair of Peter Limmer boots, size 8 wide for sale, \$20.00. Little used. Phone 589-7305.

Boot repair:

Steve Komito of Boulder repairs klettershoes at reasonable rates. Resoling costs only \$5.00. For \$8.00 one can have klettershoes resoled and both toes capped. Steve also resoles RR's and RD's, sells climbing equipment, and will start making custom boots this fall. His shop is on North Broadway in Boulder; his mailing address is Box 503, Boulder, Colo. 80302.

Belay Ledge, cont. p. 3

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.

Book Review

MOUNTAINEERING IN CHINA compiled by the People's Physical Culture Publishing House, Peking, China, 1965. 85 pages, photographs.

Certainly not a book you should expect to find in your local bookstore, MOUNTAINEERING IN CHINA, is nevertheless an interesting account of mountaineering activities of the Communist Chinese within the past fifteen years. Their widely doubted ascent of Mount Everest is documented with pictures and tales of heroism and do-or-die feats performed "for the honour of the Motherland." To get the reader into the proper spirit of the book, the foreward explains the motivations behind the "brilliant achievements" of the mountaineers of the New China People's Republic.

"New China promotes mountaineering as a sport to improve the people's health and cultivate their finer qualities; courage, tenacity, and fortitude in face of hardship, and to further scientific investigation, in the service of socialist revolution and socialist construction. In New China, the socialist system facilitates the development of mountaineering, and the progress in this sport shows the advantage of this system. Chinese mountaineers, matured under the great care and education of the Chinese Communist Party and the brilliant thinking of Chairman Mao Tse-tung, have a high sense of patriotism and collective responsibility. Armed with determination to despise difficulties while at the same time taking them into full account, they are good at combining their great ambition of 'Across the snow and ice and over sheer cliffs, we vow to plant the red flag atop the summit.'"

This philosophy sounds a bit like that of the pre-World War II German climbers, willing to take all risks in order to attain the summit for the glory of the Fatherland. Although the Germans unfortunately lost many fine climbers during this period, no where in MOUNTAINEERING IN CHINA are fatalities or even any close accidents reported. Perhaps the Communist Chinese not only climb the highest mountains without failure, but also without accident or incident -- a fact I find dubious.

The achievements worth mentioning are those by the Chinese women. It seems as though they not only have total integration of the sexes on major expeditions, but even expeditions of women only! An expedition in 1959 to Mustagh Ata, altitude 24,900 feet, had eight women members, all of whom reached the summit, thereby "breaking the woman's world altitude record". Altitude record though it may be, it still cannot outdo the feat of 58-year old Miss Annie Peck, a schoolmistress from Providence, Rhode Island, who in 1908 reached close to 22,000 feet on the North Summit of Huascaran, with no crampons or high altitude equipment.

The success of the Chinese ascent of "Mount Jolmo Lungma (Mount Everest), the highest peak in the world", is nebulous at best; and the account in MOUNTAINEERING IN CHINA only tries to create an image of success. If they did indeed make it through the indomitable barriers described, the Chinese climbers must have been superhuman.

"The sky darkened and the temperature dropped to minus 30 degrees as a hurricane arose. The climbers nevertheless continued to go forward."

Later, above 28,000 feet, the four summit climbers left one of their party behind and continued on alone. Soon they ran out of oxygen.

"It was beyond belief that any human being could survive on the small amount of oxygen in this extremely rarified air, in what Western climbers called the 'lethal zone', while continuing to exert the energy necessary to climb rocks and fight the cold. This was the moment of life or death, success or failure. Wang Fu-chou resolutely declared, 'We'll press ahead!', 'Sure we will!', responded Chu Ying-hua and Gonpa in one voice. They discarded the oxygen apparatus and started on what must count as one of the

most arduous and hazardous adventures in the history of mankind. Enduring indescribable hardships and surmounting many difficulties, these three members of the Chinese Mountaineering Expedition, finally topped the summit of the world's highest peak at 4:20 hours Peking time, on May 25, 1960, adding a brilliant page to the annals of Chinese sports."

Meandering through the many photographs in the book one finds that most of their equipment seems to be of pre-World War II vintage. Most of their clothing seems to be cotton, the technical equipment is not up to date by Western standards, and no metal packframes are seen. There is an interesting picture of a smiling Chairman Mao extending his congratulations to one of the Everest climbers. The one color phot has an expedition member in a gold polka-dot down parka, if you can imagine such a thing!

MOUNTAINEERING IN CHINA, though not much for authenticating Chinese mountaineering feats, is certainly a classic example of propaganda from Communist China, and may interest a sociologist more than a mountaineer.

Tom McCrumm

Belay Ledge, continued

Tent for sale:

Holubar Royal-lite tent. Two man. From Eric Rosenfeld 108 E. 91st St., New York, N.Y. \$50.00.

Carderock trash:

It has been brought to our attention that the Carderock climbing area is inundated with trash and broken bottles. This is not the work of our members, but as regular users of the area we should show our appreciation by having a clean up trip. This could be accomplished most easily if everyone attending the Oct. 26 trip would bring along a trash bag.

Climber's registration at Harpers Ferry:

The following is a quote from Title 36, Parks, Forests and Memorials, Part 7.78 a: Harpers Ferry National Historical Park:

"All persons shall register at park headquarters before climbing any portion of the cliff face of Maryland Heights. A registrant shall check out, upon completion of climbing, in the manner specified by the registering official."

Seneca Rocks Guidebook:

Route descriptions of the following climbs at Seneca Rocks are needed immediately. Our guidebook is scheduled to become a reality in the very near future. The route descriptions must be in as soon as possible. Send them to Lanny Hughey 5519 Sonoma Road, Bethesda, Md. 20034. Follow the style used in the Gunks guidebook.

No Dally Alley	Satisfaction #1
Kaufman's Rib	Dusty's Popoff
Pine Tree Traverse	Karson's
Climb into Gunsight	Rocking Slab
Gunsight to S. Peak Direct	Heel and Toe
Grandiose	Reverse C
Stuff and Nonsense	Bee Sting
Front C	Grand Traverse
Cotton Mouth	Worrel's Thicket
Jankowitz-Kamm Route	Jane's Route
Bishop's West Face	Orange-aid (Ouch)
Chris's Lead	East Face Climb
Sixth Sense	Skyline of N. Peak
Sayre's Route	Mallory's Flashlight
Big Chimney	Great Expectations

Rope for sale:

George Livingstone is selling Goldline, 7/16"x150'. Call him at 530-6186.

Address changes:

Bob Robinson

6916 Arbor Lane
McLean, Va.

Mark German

1510 R.St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Larry and Sallie Griffin

2451 South Race St.
Denver, Colo. 82210

Belay Ledge, concl. p. 4

CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Sept. 13-14	Seneca Rocks	
Sept. 20-21	Old Rag	
Sept. 27-28	Shawangunks	Tom McCrumm (527-6722)
Oct. 4-5	Wolf Gap, Big Schloss and Hanging Gardens	Dick Sideman (347-7390)
Oct. 8	Meeting, PATC Headquarters 8:00 PM	Summer trip slides. Contact June Lehman (JA2-0105)
Oct. 11-12	Seneca Rocks, Greenland Gap and Champe Rocks	
Oct. 18-19	Shawangunks	Sallie Greenwood (683-5091)
Oct. 26	Carderock	Chuck and Margaret Wettling

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.

Seneca Rocks and Champe Rocks, W. Va.

From the Beltway take I 66 to Gainesville and bear right onto Va. 55 to Moorefield, W. Va. Turn left onto U.S. 220 to Petersburg and right onto W. Va. 4 and 28. Champe Rocks is 15 miles down W. Va. 4 and 28. Mouth of Seneca is 7 miles beyond Champe Rocks on W. Va. 4 and 28.

Old Rag, Va.

From the Beltway take I 66 west through Gainesville and U.S. 211 west to Sperryville. Turn left on U.S. 522 south for one mile. Then right on Va. 231 south about 8 miles. Right on state road 670 to Nethers. Enter parking lot about two miles past Nethers. The long way up is up the fire road straight ahead and the short, but steep way, is up the blue-blazed trail to the left.

Shawangunks, N.Y.

From the Beltway take the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (or U.S. 1 or U.S. 29 in heavy traffic) to the Baltimore Park-

way. West on I 83 and north to the Pennsylvania Turnpike just before Harrisburg. East on the Turnpike to Pa. 283 north (10¢ toll). East on U.S. 22 and I 78 to Pa. 512 north. Get on Pa. 115 north to Wind Gap and onto U.S. 209. Follow U.S. 209 past Ellenville, N.Y. and turn right onto N.Y. 55 and U.S. 44 east. Go approximately 8 miles and turn left onto Trapps Road and camp in one mile at the Coxing Camp. The rocks are 2 miles up N.Y. 55.

On the return trip, follow U.S. 22 directly to I 83 (don't use Pa. 283 and the Turnpike). Also, be sure to use the bypass section of U.S. 209 around Stroudsburg.

Wolf Gap, Big Schloss and Hanging Gardens, W. Va.

From the Beltway take I 66 to Gainesville and bear right on Va. 55 through Front Royal and on to Strasburg. Go south on U.S. 11. At the south end of Woodstock, turn right on Va. 42. At the sign for Columbia Furnace turn right and get on secondary road 717. Follow signs to parking area at top of ridge.

Greenland Gap, W. Va.

Drive west on U.S. 50 to New Creek, W. Va. (60 miles past Winchester). Pick up W. Va. 93 south and follow it for 15 miles to Scheer. Watch for a dirt road and a bridge over a creek just to the left of route 93. Turn left on the dirt road and drive .3 miles to a fork. Turn right and drive .3 miles into the Gap. Park in any one of several turnouts. Climbs are on the left side of the road.

Carderock, Md.

From the Beltway take the last exit in Maryland before the Cabin John Bridge or, from Virginia, the first exit after the Bridge toward Great Falls and Carderock (note signs). Go one mile to Carderock sign, bear right, go left over overpass, under canal in tunnel, and right to the last parking lot. The rocks are beyond the Bulletin Board.

Delay Ledge, concluded

Anneliese Matzen

P.A. Landhaus Hatzl
Unterleitenweg 3
A 6370
Kitzbühel, Austria

Paul Bradt

Box 128
Rte. 2
Burlington, Wisc. 53105

Herb Kinsey

301 Eastover Rd.
Charlotte, N.C. 28207

Entertainment, Oct. 8 Meeting:

Slides from summer mountaineering trips are to be shown. Select your best slides. Contact June Lehman (JA2-0105) who will be co-ordinating the slide session.

Up Rope

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