



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

1718 N St N W Washington, D. C. 20036

Vol. 35 No. 6

JUN. 1970

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SENTINEL ROCK, NORTH FACE
Grade V, 5.8 A-3
June, 1969

Tom Evans

Rest is a great thing! After attempting the NW face of Half Dome Bob Williams and I decided to take a few days off and recover our strength. Morning would find us sleeping until 9. Then we would raid the local pastry shop and Bob would consume his usual dozen chocolate-covered doughnuts. Later we would end up at Camp 4 talking to some of the local boys. Harding, Pratt, Chouinard and Birdwell were quite friendly and willing to advise us on any of our climbing problems. By mid afternoon we would feel up to working on some of the various boulders around camp. I failed on most of the hard ones at first but after repeated efforts I was able to overcome quite a few. Bob is a natural boulderer and seemed to breeze up everything. Evenings would bring supper and talk around a camp fire.

After a few days we decided to do another climb. We searched the guidebook, asked all the local heroes, and finally decided on the Chouinard-Herbert route on the north face of Sentinel Rock.

The afternoon of June 4th found us approaching the great north face of Sentinel. Up slabs and grooves we climbed to the base of the climb. A large ledge at the base of the route served as a bivouac. The view was impressive. To the left the nose of El Cap was in perfect profile. To the right the Yosemite Falls commanded our attention.

We spent a comfortable night and by 8 am were on the climb. I led up a corner on the right, 5.5, to a dirt covered ledge. Bob led through and up to the base of a 5.7 squeeze chimney. I led up into the tight chimney and found the climbing quite enjoyable. Bob then led up a 5.7 jam to the top of the Chessman Pinnacle--a prominent feature on the route. I led through, up and right to a crack that I nailed to a sling belay from a bolt. Bob led up and right, over mixed rock, to a crack, then nailed to a sling belay under a large roof. We were well into the afternoon when I joined him to study the next section of the route. I led out left nailing up under an arch as a thunderstorm passed overhead. The nailing seemed hard, as the rock was rather poor, and I sweated out every pin! Finally I reached a left-facing corner and belayed in slings. "The pins were all good," Bob said with a smile, and led through up the inside corner. The corner was very steep and the hauling line hung out a good 3 feet from the wall. I followed up to the small ledge that was to be our bivouac. We were in excellent condition, doing some good climbing, and enjoying every minute of it! Our joy soon faded as we were quite cramped on the ledge and spent a rather uncomfortable night.

Dawn came and after breakfast I led a 4th class traverse

right then back left. Bob came up and led through to the base of a rather nasty looking 5.8 crack. Not feeling absolutely confident on 5.8 jams, a few well placed pitons saved him considerable effort. He belayed in slings at the bottom of a right-facing corner. The route up the corner looked bad. Dougal Haston had been unable to climb this section (in very trying conditions) a few weeks before and had to rappel off the climb. The first 30 feet involved a 3 to 4 inch overhanging 5.9 jam crack that I couldn't climb free. Nailing was extremely awkward and pin placements were difficult. A thin crack on the left wall offered relief until it was possible to move back right, into the main crack that was, by then, a 1 inch aid crack. The rock was the best that I had ever seen and I finished the pitch up over 2 small ceilings to yet another sling belay from a bolt. I looked to the right and saw Chuck Pratt and Dennis Hennek climbing like wildmen on the Salathe-Steck route. We exchanged greetings and asked it they would wait on top, as we didn't know the way down. Route finding gave Bob trouble on the next pitch but after some time he went right and over a ceiling to a long crack that he nailed and climbed free for 90 feet to a ledge. The next pitch led up a tight squeeze chimney to a jam crack, then left up a large ramp to a belay in the branches of a pine tree. Bob then led through, up a chimney to a ledge. I came up and climbed some very loose flakes, that were quite unprotected, until a series of ledges led to the end of the climb. Pratt and Hennek were waiting on top, after climbing the whole wall in one day with no food or water! Bob came up and we enjoyed the breathtaking view from the summit. The descent went well and we enjoyed the company of those great climbers as we climbed down ledges, slabs, and snow to the Four Mile Trail.

That was to be my last climb in Yosemite, for after a few days rest it was time to go. On a gray and rainy day in early June I left the valley of my dreams. As I drove past El Cap I just had to stop and take that long, last look. But it really wasn't so bad because I knew I would be back, for one can't stay away for very long before that certain irresistible restlessness takes hold and drives them back, time and time again, to the incomparable Yosemite Valley.

THE CLIMBING CHEF (from page 4)

During the simmering, it would be well to skim off the scum like surface of the liquid. Do not hesitate to discard this, as it consists of melted rubber, for the most part, and is quite inedible.

When all is tender, arrange the sole tastefully on a large Bong, garnished with the laces and tongues, and serve Bon Appetit from Norm Wallache, The Climbing Chef.

NEXT MONTH NORM ENDS HIS THRILLING TAIL ON THE FINSTERWALD!

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Chairman's Corner

After spending time climbing in Boulder, Colorado, and more than a month climbing in Yosemite Valley, I have become very impressed by the effect of the ever increasing number of climbers that dot the rocks and the mountains these days. The sport of climbing which has for so long been reserved to few, is quickly losing its unique ground. Today we are in the midst of a new wave of commercialism in rock climbing and mountaineering. Every year more new stores, new clubs, new magazines, and new schools and guide services crop up. Along with this expanded commercialism must come many more people. I feel that the sport of climbing is quickly following the footsteps of its brother, skiing.

In Yosemite Valley there are numerous direct aid climbs that have been greatly altered by the thousands of pitons that have been placed and removed. One practice aid route, which a few years ago took all horizontal blade pitons, now is just a series of holes into which you must place $1\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 inch angles! On weekends the resident climbers either go on the big walls or they backpack. The shorter, more moderate routes most often have a line waiting at the start. Even on a Friday I had 4 parties behind me on a popular grade III; and things are only bound to get worse. With the ever rising climber population, RURP crack will soon be taking 4 inch bongs!

There isn't too much that we can do about this growth problem, however. Like the overall population growth we must expect a sudden and large surge into the climbing field, as more and more people seek outdoor recreation in an ever decreasing area. As rock climbers and mountaineers we all like to teach others what we enjoy so much ourselves, for the companionship is a very important aspect of climbing. It is inevitable, however, that climbing will gain more and more popularity in the very near future, resulting in the climbing areas, which are definitely limited by geography and geology, to become more and more crowded. The only hope that we have of maintaining the much desired solitude of the climbing world is to be absolutely sure that these climbing areas are to be kept as open land. It is of utmost importance at this very moment that we work to create more open land and to keep all our few remaining wilderness areas intact. So many people see the mountains and the valleys for the amount of water they can supply for electricity or agriculture; and the woods only for the number of houses that its trees will build. With the ever increasing population we are facing the extinction of the very nature of the most precious resource we have...the wilderness. These areas can be as small as Carderock or as large as most of the state of Alaska, but to us they must all reign with equal and utmost importance.

As Horace Greely said in 1851, "Friends at home! I charge you to spare, preserve and cherish some portion of your primitive forests; for when these are cut away I apprehend they will not easily be replaced."

Tom McCrumm

TRAINING COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The first training Sunday was scheduled for April 26, at Carderock. Sixteen people availed themselves of the training in climbing, belaying and rappelling. Bill Thomas, June Lehman and Chuck Sproull spent the day demonstrating, instructing, and belaying. Kindergarten was used for the first climb and for belaying and rappel practise; Barnacle and Beginners' Crack were also used.

A revolving loan system with the five pairs of kletter-shoes belonging to Terry Robinson and June Lehman made first climbs much less frightening and possibly made converts. Some time ago June Lehman suggested to Dan Couch of Appalachian Outfitters that he could advertise his store and make a contribution to the growth of climbing in the metropolitan area by making kletter shoes available to beginning climbers. June now has three pairs of shoes stored in her Plymouth (Men's sizes 8, $9\frac{1}{2}$, and 11). Inquiries should be directed to Bill Thomas (KE6-7948) or June Lehman (JA2-0105) about their use.

The Climbing Techniques Checkout List has been re-typed (by a pretty redhead conned into it by Chuck Sproull) and will be used after sufficient practise on the part of the more enthusiastic and persistent new climbers.

For new climbers with more experience and a desire to get into continuous climbing we need an Oscar date. Are there any volunteers?

Also, we need volunteers to donate a few hours to new climbers who may ask to go to the Gunks or to Seneca. Would those of you who could spare some time for that please contact Bill Thomas at KE6-7948.

Bill Thomas
Chairman, Training Committee

Belay Ledge

New arrival:

David Stemper in the permanent campsite of Don and Linda Stemper on May 19.

Address changes and new UP ROPE subscribers:

Buffalo Mountaineers c/o Charles E. Potter
131 60th St.
Niagara Falls, N.Y. 14304

Tom S. Culverwell Box 475
Southwest Harbor, Me. 04679

Mike Madden P.O. Box 8
Greenbelt, Md.

Buffalo Mountaineers Council member:

Tony Gray in the Mountaineers' executive council.

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.

Missed Tony at the Gunks on Memorial Day. Press of business.

Gunks guidebooks:

The present edition of Guide to the Shawangunks has become as scarce as proverbial hen's teeth. If you have one hang onto it. If you know where there are some extras pick them up. It will probably be at least two years before a new edition comes out.

Friends of the Shawangunks gift:

The Section voted \$100.00 to the Mohonk Trust's Millbrook Fund. Individuals wishing to make personal contributions to the Fund should write the check to the Millbrook Fund and send it to the Mohonk Trust, New Paltz, N.Y. 12561.

Hanging Around

Carderock
Apr. 23, 1950

Chris Scoredos
Duncan Burchard
Marion Warmold
Mary Mitchell
Jean Burnstad
Mary Sturgeon
Herb Conn

Eric Scoredos
Marion Harvey
Marion Jackson
Al Webb
Maxine Haleff
Johnny Reed

The weather forecast of continued fair brought a turnout of optimistic climbers to the Hot Shoppe in spite of steady rain. The scheduled trip to the Bull Run Mountains, however, seemed a little too ambitious in view of the downpour, and the equally wet but closer rocks of Carderock were chosen instead.

While the rest of the group slogged along the muddy tow-path (pre-comfort station and swamp days, Editor), Chris, Eric, and Marion Jackson voyaged in style in the Scoredos 5-man Sink Stopper, a veritable Leviathan among the rubber boat flotilla. (It takes a lot of air, Marion reports, to inflate such a titanic tub.)

Ropes were promptly suspended over the Beginners' Crack and Ronnie's Leap, and these climbs were found slippery but negotiable. Herb seized a lull in the storm to climb Sterling's Crack, but he left the holds too wet to please those who tried to follow. Beginner Jean Burstad made a noble attempt to climb Ronnie's Leap, which she was determined to complete (from where she left off, two-thirds of the way up) on the next dry Sunday.

We welcome Al Webb to our group, a climber from the New York and Boston A.M.C. who drove all the way from Frederick just to see if the Washington climbers function in the rain. Mary Sturgeon arrived at mid day on a hike with two girl friends. The girl friends cheered as Mary gave them a demonstration of movement in the vertical plane before the hike was resumed.

Old Rag
April 25-26

Terry Robinson - Trip Leader
Mary Jane Wyman

John Wyman
Gee Gee Mallonee

I began at the Nethers parking lot and carried all the hardware and camping gear through the roller coaster rock pile up the northern flank of Old Rag. The weather was beautiful and clear. Trilliums and bloodroot and rare yellow violets were my delightful trail companions.

The Boy Scouts had assaulted and taken the Table Rock area and were laying seige to the spring close to the summit so I moseyed to higher (quieter) land near the summit. After making camp in the late afternoon, I scrambled to the summit to discover nothing but church groups--no climbers. Trip Leader, party of one! As I had no climbing companion, it seemed as if I had brought all the hardware for nothing. Where were all those hopeful voices I heard on the phone?

Around dinner time, John came hoofing and huffing over the hill for water. His party had camped at the higher Byrd's Nest Shelter in the saddle of Old Rag. I made tentative plans to visit him that evening to talk over the next day's activities. Just before dark, true to my word, I went over to his camp to find him much chagrined. Within one-third stone's throw downhill from his camp was a sparkling spring. He had been informed of this by a local scoutmaster. It seems that the Park Service does not wish to admit the presence of this spring (200 yards southeast down the fire trail, at the base of some rock slabs) since the spring is seasonal and intermittent. I offered John some liquid solace in the form of a tiny bottle of scotch which I carry for anticipated medical emergencies: sprained ankles, snake bites, lost husbands, etc.

The pitter-pat on my tent rain fly told me that there were either tall bears or dark rain clouds over my tent. It rained through the morning and dampened my ardor to go climbing. Breakfast was a sluggardly thing. After strangling my portable gasoline stove several times for its recalcitrant behavior, I managed to squeeze out some hot jello and hot, wet gorp to eat. When I broke camp I needed no sooth-sayer to tell me that John was tiptoeing off the back side of the mountain--nor did I blame him because of the rain.

My descent route through Weakley Hollow down the fire road to Nethers was nat a lonely one as I was overtaken by the Wanderbirds on a weekend outing. The Birds were being stampeded downhill without heavy packs or other encumbrances by none other than June Lehman's husband, Howard. The fire road through several virgin stands of hemlock was tastefully decorated on either side by blankets of large, white trilliums, may apples, winter cresses, bloodroots, crow's foot, and myrtle. Those who missed this trip missed more than the climbing!

Book Review

"Climbing." Vol. 1, Issue 1. To be published monthly in Boulder, Colorado.

A new magazine has arrived on the scene, an "American Rockclimbing and Mountaineering Magazine published every month." The editorial of the first issue says that "Climbing" will direct itself to the interest of rockclimbers and mountaineers, and that they undertake this aim only because they believe that it is not presently being done by any of the other American climbing journals. "Climbing" desires to become narrowminded to the side of technical climbing only where other climbing journals have gone into hiking, camping, conservation, and backpacking. Their idea is to pass this type of information and literature on the spectrum of technical climbers in the United States.

Within the new magazine there are many regular, monthly sections. "Basecamp" has general news of climbs and climbing in the U.S. and around the world; "Routes and Rocks" is devoted to climbers' personal accounts of climbs in each of six specified areas in the U.S.; and the "Cairn" section is intended to record new ascents, also in the six prescribed areas. The idea of dividing the United States into six areas seems a good one for the purpose of "Climbing," as their idea is not to just cover climbing in the West as "Summit" often does, or to cover climbing in the East as "Appalachia" does, but rather to develop a line of communication among climbers all across the United States by giving equal time to all areas. The six areas cover roughly the following: the greater Northwest, including Montana and Wyoming, California, Colorado, the greater Southwest, all of New England, and the eastern border states including Florida, and last, the Midwest and the Atlantic states that remain.

The purpose and the editorial policy of "Climbing" I agree with, but even with their first issue the separate sections relate only to climbing in California and in the Northwest, and, of the four main articles, one is about Yosemite, two about Colorado, and one about the Southwest. Hopefully future issues will show that this Colorado-based journal is indeed interested in the great amount of climbing that is done east of the Mississippi River.

Tom McCrumm

CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Date	Place	Leader
June 10	Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 pm	
June 13-14	Kline Gap	Roger Birch (527-6272)
June 21	Annapolis Rocks	Sallie Greenwood (683-5091)
June 27-28	Seneca Rock	Bill Thomas (KE6-7948)
July 3-5	Shawangunks	Mike Hill (336-6471)
July 8	Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 pm	Slide show of Nepal and India by Art Wilder
July 12	Old Rag	Terry Robinson (OX3-4188)
July 18-19	The Hermitage	Janet Gladfelder

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.

Kline Gap, W. Va.

From Washington drive west on U.S. 50 to New Creek, W. Va. Follow Rte. 42 through Maysville to Maysville Rd. Right onto Rte. 42/5 and go 3.8 mi. to "T" intersection. Right at intersection for 1 mile. Bear left at fork of road past a quarry. Cross bridge and park. Walk through barnyard and along stream's right bank. Cliffs will be across stream.

Annapolis Rocks, Md.

From the Beltway take I-70 S north past Frederick to U.S. 40. At the top of South Mountain park at the roadside park on the left (there is a gas station on the right). Follow U.S. 40 (on the right) to the Appalachian Trail which parallels I 70 for 100 yards. Go right and uphill. In 2 miles turn left at the Annapolis Rocks sign. Go 100 yards to the cliffs.

Seneca Rock, 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. Mouth of Seneca is 22 miles from Petersburg on W. Va. 4 and 28.

Shawangunks, N.Y.

From Washington take the Baltimore-Washington Parkway

(or U.S. 1 or U.S. 29 in heavy traffic) to the Baltimore Parkway. West on I-83 to Harrisburg. Follow Interstate signs toward Allentown (I-81 and I-78). East on I-78 and U.S. 22 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 Traps Road and camp in 1 mile at the Coxing Camp. The rocks are 2 miles up N.Y. 55. (Editors' note: good luck and please send in any corrections.)

Old Rag, Va.

From the Beltway take I-66 W through Gainesville and U.S. 211 west to Sperryville. Turn left on U.S. 552 south for 1 mile. Then right on Rte. 231 south for about 8 miles. Right on Rte. 670 to Nethers. The long way up is the fire road straight ahead; the short, but easy way is up the blue-blazed trail to the left.

The Hermitage, Pa.

Take I-70 S to Frederick and U.S. 14 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 (zero point) at the Septic Tank works on a macadam road with new houses. Go 5.2 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.

Climbing Chef

Going light on a long climb? A delicious meal, prepared from wild greens and a few items easily carried about the person is

FILET OF SOLE KRONHOFFER

Obtain, from the nearest foot, a well seasoned kletterschue. It should be tender, though not too young, and mildly aromatic. With a sharp piton, remove the laces and detach the hard, inedible plastic tip that may occur at either end. Reserve the laces, tongue and other giblets. From the uppers, carefully pry off the eyelets which should then be placed in the pocket. (Pack out all trash and garbage that cannot be destroyed.) With a few deft strokes of the piton, separate the uppers from the sole.

Once free of the uppers, the soles will be found to be light, fragrant, and smoothly textured, albeit a bit on the tough side. This last (pardon) fault can be corrected by laying the soles on a flat rock and pounding vigorously with the piton hammer. Brown the soles, laces and giblets over the cooker, then set to simmering over a low flame.

In the meantime, gather as many varieties of lichens, grasses, and small proteinaceous crawling things as are found on surrounding ledges, shake free of dirt, and add to the pot.

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Up Rope

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