

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

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

Vol. 35

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### Hanging Around

Shawangunks  
Sept. 26 - 27

Shawangunks  
Sept. 26-27

Tom McCrumm - Trip Leader  
Mike Hill  
Pete Gardiner  
Don, Mark, and Pat Milligan  
Dave Paull

Tink Peters  
Chuck Sproull  
John Stannard  
June Lehman  
Judy Frank

The turn out at the Shawangunks this weekend was appropriately low, due to the late summer heat wave that had the whole East coast in its grip. A few of us made it a long weekend, but the heat and humidity kept us down to two climbs per day before retiring for cool, liquid refreshment, both internal and external.

Tink Peters, on her first trip to the Gunks and after only three previous lead climbs, seconded two 5.4's and three 5.5's for the weekend. Meanwhile the Milligan brothers were doing their thing at the upper end of the spectrum by leading a 5.9 and a 5.10.

My hat is off to the real heros of the weekend...the smart ones who stayed home in the air conditioning.

Carderock  
Oct. 4

Bill Thomas - Trip Leader  
Bro. John Baptist Belthrunis  
Bro. Elias Dominie Nova  
Linda Harris  
Tom McCrumm  
Marianne Krasny  
Storry Norman  
Peggy Dykes  
Irwin P. Jelppe  
Chris Fleming  
Fred Weaver  
Dean Mills  
Bill White  
Dick Sideman  
Bob and Kate Adams  
Sallie Jordan  
Sharon Sassaman  
Catherine Vanderhof  
All Milligans  
Joe Ebner  
Noel Grove and family

Rev. J. Ray Vandergrift  
Bro. Michael Pietrzyk  
Rev. Eugene Cahouet  
Dave and Joan Templeton  
Roger Birch  
Mike Hill  
Bill Smith  
Paul Bachwilt  
Betty Sugarman  
Dove Toll  
Susan Anderson  
Conn Hickey  
Bob Waldrop  
Al, Sue, and Mark Goldberg  
Art Wilder  
Maitland Sharpe  
Monique Hansele  
June Lehman  
Hal Kramer  
Dick McCombe  
Carole Richardson

Nancy Webb  
Helen Morefield  
Susan Byrnes  
Sallie Greenwood

Robyn Craft  
Bob Lyons  
Ledlie Dinsmore  
Kathy Feeney

Beautiful day. Lots of training. Lots of new faces.

Shawangunks  
Oct. 17-18

Tom McCrumm - Trip Leader  
Mike Hill  
Steve Gauge  
Sallie Greenwood  
Linda Harris  
Art Wilder  
Peter Gardiner  
Paul Fries  
Dave Templeton  
Joe Nolte - non-climbing visitor

Tink Peters  
Maitland Sharpe  
June Lehman  
Al Weis  
Susan Anderson  
Sallie Jordan  
John and Beth Stannard  
Ben O'Campo  
Janet Gladfelter

"It's 34 degrees!" said weatherman Mike Hill as we set up our tents at Coxing Camp at midnight. Old Man Winter dealt us an early blow, or maybe it was because we had all been used to the previous six months of torrid Washington-area weather. Reports on Saturday morning from some of the late arrivals were of snow flurries north of Port Jervis.

"Damn, why didn't I bring my down parka."

"Thank God for no rain (or snow) but this wind has got to cease."

After a slow Saturday morning breakfast and much grouching about the cold wind, we creaked our stiffened bodies to the Überfall where, much to our delight, we discovered little wind and warm rocks.

It seemed as though little ambitious climbing was done this weekend due to the large number of beginners along -- but then who wants to lead 5.8 face climbs in a cold, gusty wind. (Ed.'s note: Mike Hill did. -- and ye olde Ed. yo-yo-ed along behind using her best Chouinard cadmium-plated false eyelashes.) Even IBM had its beginner weekend, and our friends Al Weis and Jim Wallace spent their time with IBM beginners.

I came upon Frank Zahar around the corner on a nearby belay ledge. He reported a good summer in the Andes although he was out of commission for nearly two weeks with altitude sickness.

Maitland Sharpe tried the Icarus bit, sans wings, and found himself soon back on the ground. Fortunately, he was only about 10 feet up to start. The distaff side had a good weekend -- Linda Harris and Tink Peters did their first lead. Concluded on page 4

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## Chairman's Corner

After a summer of uncertainty about the future of rock climbing at Greenland Gap, I recently received a letter from Mr. David Burt, Jr., one of the owners of the Greenland Gap land. The owners of the land have said that we can no longer climb at Greenland Gap. It is, of course, a great disappointment to many of us that this new and good rock climbing area is now closed to climbing. We had great expectations for this area. A preliminary guide to the area — with over 50 routes included — had been compiled.

At this time we do not know exactly why the area has been closed to us and a personal meeting with the owners is planned later this winter. We are hoping that they have closed the land to our climbing activities because they are not familiar with the sport of rock climbing and that they are worried that someone may get injured on their land. If this is the case there is a possibility that we can convince them of our skill, sincerity, and good safety record: in hopes of obtaining permission to climb there again. It is, however, most imperative that we respect their decision and do not climb at Greenland Gap. Climbing there now would only ruin forever the possibility of obtaining permission to use Greenland Gap at a later date.

With the increasing use of outdoor areas and the growing interest in climbing in recent years, the private landowners who own climbing areas may begin to get more strict in allowing people to use their land. In the future we must keep this in mind and make a special effort to respect landowner rights and regulations. The first thing that will close privately-owned climbing areas to us is any destruction of property, littering, or impoliteness to the owners. Witness what has happened in very recent years at Edes Fort, Caudy's Castle and Greenland Gap; and try your best to do whatever is necessary to protect our climbing areas.

## Belay Ledge

Ken Karcher

Ken, who died October 8, was one of the active climbers not too many years ago. He was with the area climbers Hubbard, Hendricks, Wexler, and Kaufman, who pioneered numerous routes in the Mt. Waddington area as well as the Coast Range in the '40's and '50's.

Address changes and new UP ROPE subscribers:

Paul Shoup

2403 Kerry Lane  
Charlottesville, Va. 22901

Chouinard cadmium-plated crampons:

Yvon Chouinard is recalling his brand of cadmium-plated (silver colored) crampons due to a heat treatment defect. The crampons will be repaired or replaced. Send to: Chouinard, Box 150 Ventura, Calif. 93001.

## ONE INCH NYLON SLING: A modest test

Tom McCrumb

There has been much publicized test data on the strengths and wearing capabilities of nylon climbing rope, but very little on the nylon webbing that most climbers use. This past spring I had some static tests run on five samples of one inch nylon webbing.

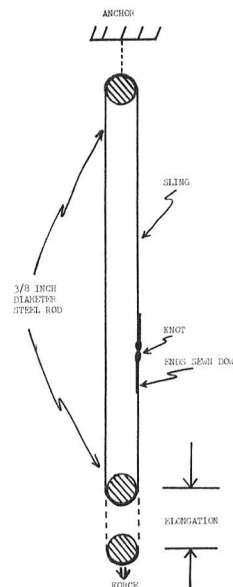


Figure 1. Layout of the testing rig used. The sling is anchored at one end around a rod that is the same diameter of a carabiner. The force is applied at a similar anchor at the opposite end.

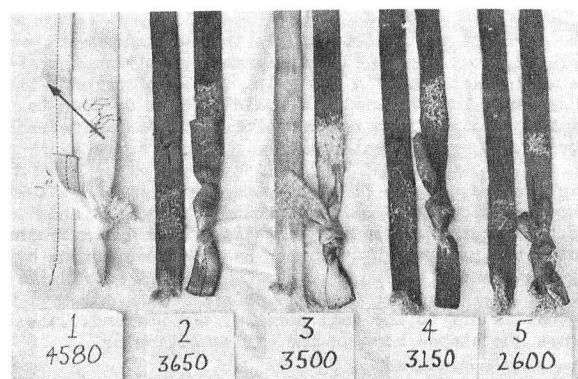


Figure 2. Slings after failure. Sling 1 was totally new and made of one inch tubular nylon webbing (Type 5625, 4000 pound test). Sling 2 was five years old and moderately used (same type of material as Sling 1). Sling 3 was one year old and moderately used (same material as Sling 1). Sling 4 was five years old and moderately used; made of one inch solid weave webbing but had been heavily used and showed obvious

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.

wear. The Type 5625 webbing is the standard 4,000 pound test one inch tubular webbing that most mountaineering equipment suppliers sell. All slings were tied with a fisherman's knot with the ends sewed down to prevent untying while in use. All slings were 48-inch loops, except Sling 1 which was a 40-inch loop.

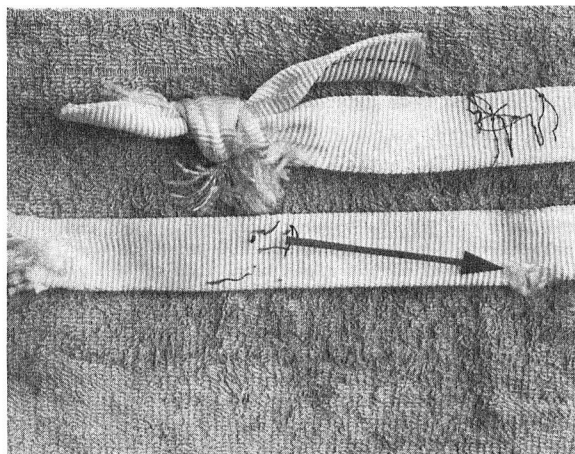


Figure 3. Detail of Sling 1 after failure. Notice that the sling broke at the edge of the knot as did all the samples, but also that the sling started to fail at a point a few inches from the knot (arrow).

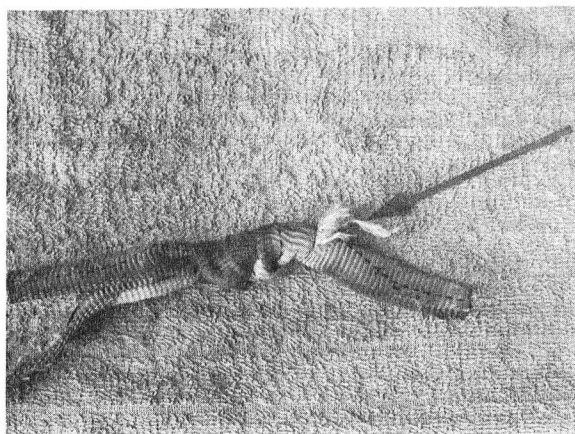


Figure 4. Detail of Sling 2 after failure. Notice that the actual point of break is inside the knot with only a few frayed ends sticking out.

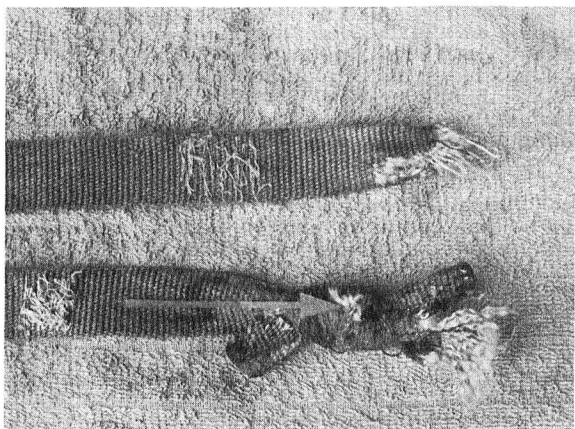


Figure 5. Detail of Sling 5 after failure. Notice how the sling material in the knot itself has started to fail (arrow).

	Test results	
	Elongation (approximate)	Tension
Sling 1	2.1 inches	500 pounds
	2.6	1,000 pounds
	4.3	2,000
	4.8	2,500
	5.2	3,000
	5.6	3,500
	6.0	4,000
	6.2	4,500
	6.3	4,580 (failure)

Comments: Threads broke at 1,400, releasing tension to 1,200 pounds. Total percentage elongation at failure was 25%.

Sling 2	1.5 inches	600 pounds
	2.5	1,000
	4.0	2,000
	5.0	2,600
	6.0	3,400
	6.2	3,650 (failure)
Sling 3	Similar to Sling 2	3,500 (failure)
Sling 4	2.5 inches	500 pounds
	4.0	1,000
	6.0	2,100
	8.0	3,100
	8.1	3,150 (failure)
Sling 5	6.6	2,600 (failure)

Comments: Samples 2-5 threads snapped at 1,000 to 1,300 pounds. Knots tightened at about 1,500 pounds. All samples showed a permanent stretch of the fibers of about 2.5 inches after failure.

This test is by no means a complete test, but I do think that some conclusions can be drawn. Note, for example, the difference in strength between a new sling and one which has been used moderately (Slings 1 and 3), also, at the greatly reduced strength of the old sling that showed much wear (Sling 5), although it had no obvious cuts, just general fraying. It has been mentioned before that a sling that appears to be in good condition may, in fact, be very weak as a result of surface abrasion. The thinness of the webbing results in greatly reduced strength after only moderate surface abrasion. The tubular webbing may have a greater life under abrading conditions which could be the cause for the higher breaking strength of Sling 2 over Slings 4 or 5.

There have been cases where slings have broken when used as rappel anchors -- due mainly, I think, to rope burns in the webbing which greatly reduce the strength the same way abrasion does. Nylon webbing is sufficiently inexpensive that climbers can replace slings after they have had a few years of use or when they show any obvious signs of wear.

Those Were the Days...

Dave Templeton

If you will look at the UP ROPE masthead, you will note that the newsletter was founded by Jan Conn and her husband, Herb. It was about 1947 and the initial copies sold for a nickel a copy. Jan and Herb put up quite a few of the climbs at Carderock -- Herb's Horror and Jan's Face -- being a few listed in old UP ROPEs.

The climbs in those days were done in tennis shoes. According to Arnold Wexler, "In order to get tennis shoes which would give us the best feel on the rock, we bought the cheapest kind we could find. These turned out to be Japanese-made. The soles were like paper and, as a consequence, it was almost like climbing barefoot."

Somewhere in the Mountaineering Section's files is a copy of songs compiled by Jan -- climbing songs written by Jan and her contemporaries. Tapes of these songs, as recorded by Jan, exist; Don Hubbard and Arnold Wexler have original tapes. I'd like to see something done to preserve a tape for use at PATC headquarters.

# CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Date	Place	Leader
Nov. 7-8	Kline Gap	Sallie Greenwood (683-5091)
Nov. 11	Bull Run and Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 p.m.	Tom McCrumm (527-6272) Slide show by Tom Richards
Nov. 14-15	Seneca Rock	Ed Goodman (281-4126) Terry Robinson (0X3-4188)
Nov. 22	Little Devil Stairs	Don Schaefer (521-5326)
Nov. 26-29	Shawangunks	Don Milligan (360-5014)
Dec. 6	Great Falls, Md.	Pat Milligan (360-5014)
Dec. 9	Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 p.m.	

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 Road. Turn right onto Rte. 42/5 and go 3.8 mi. to "T" intersection. Right at the 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 are across the stream. (Camping area is on the left bank.)

## Bull Run Mountain, Va.

From the Beltway take I 66 west to Gainesville. Bear right onto Va. 55. About a third of a mile past the junction of U.S. 15 bear right onto a secondary road (note Skyline Caverns billboard). In about 3 miles, turn left at a "T" intersection (Antioch) where the road becomes dirt. At the county line the road is again paved. Shortly after the beginning of the paved road drive past Col. Hugh Socks (Ret.)'s house and park at the base of a steep jeep road on the left (don't block any driveways). Hike up the jeep road into an old quarry; just before reaching an old steam shovel, pick up a white-blazed trail which runs along the right side of the quarry. Just before paralleling a second steam shovel the

trail heads right into the woods. The rocks are about a mile up the trail and 200 yards past a good view which is partially blocked by a 10-foot high boulder.

## Seneca Rock, W. Va.

From the Beltway take I-66 to Gainesville, Va. 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.

## Little Devils Stairs, Va.

Take I 66 to Gainesville and follow U.S. 211 to Thornton Gap in the Shenandoah National Park. Drive north on Skyline Drive past Elkwallow and Mathews Arms campgrounds to the Little Hogback overlook. Park and walk north on the Skyline Drive for 200 yards to the Jinney Grey fireroad on the right hand side of the road. Follow the fire road for about a mile (until a 4-way intersection is reached). Take the left hand (blue-blazed) trail. After .35 miles, cross a stream. Leave the trail and bushwhack east (following the stream); cross bottom of talus slope to a rocky couloir (about .25 of a mile). The major cliffs are down the couloir and to the left.

## Shawangunks, N.Y.

From Washington take the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (or U.S. 1 or U.S. 29) to the Baltimore Parkway. West on I-83 to Harrisburg. Follow Interstate signs to 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. (75¢ per person per night). The rocks are 2 miles up N.Y. 55.

## Great Falls, Md.

Follow beltway directions to Carderock (above) except drive past Carderock exit and turn left onto MacArthur Boulevard when the Parkway ends. Go approximately 4 miles to the Great Falls parking lot. Walk left (downriver).

Continued from page 1

ing, and Sue Anderson did her first continuous climb after only a few trips to Carderock. Women's Lib in climbing??? Never!!

The most impressive news of the weekend was that John Stannard finally completed a route he had been working on at Lost City for the past year and a half. Rumor has it that the climb is a modest 5.11! Maybe John has more success at the Icarus trick.

*Up Rope*

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