

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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Half Dome, N. W. Face
5.8 A-3 Grade VI
May of 1970

by Tom Evans

Mostly it's a collection of memories, then somehow I am there and it's eight miles along quiet trails, then down snow and rock. For a long moment we stand, George Homer and I, hot, sweaty, heads bent back, straining upward at a trillion tons of granite, 2000 feet high. Half Dome. A moment -- a lingering moment of hopes and dreams, of hours and days behind desks, on bolt ladders, under top ropes, hanging from boulders, pushing jumars, splitting fingers and bleeding hands.

We climb, relaxed in the evening warmth. Three pitches and then down to long hours of restless sleep, full moon up on top by 2 a.m. Morning light brings life and desire. Cold, deep shadows cut by a long, thin strain leading up 250 feet. The climb comes to life. Pins clank, hammers pound, slings flap, ropes run. We grope and pull, swing and jerk. I remember last year -- it's different now. We are climbing well and by 2 p.m. reach last year's bivouac ledge. We continue upward and I lead a wonderful pitch up an expanding flake to a bolt ladder leading up to a long pendulum right. Then George goes right and up on bad pins to a ledge. Bivouac. The ledge is 2½ feet wide and 10 feet long. We eat and sleep and look out from our fortress. The night is cold, clear and moonlit. At morning we go upward.

I lead an absolutely perfect direct-aid crack 100 feet to a short pendulum right, then climb to the base of the famous undercling pitch. George goes up jamming and laybacking and gets up into the chimney above. The overhanging, squeeze chimney has been in the back of my mind for over a year. I start the chimney -- it's soaking wet and tight. I can hardly move. Exhale, shove and squirm, slip and block! Salt taste, eyes burn, knees tear and knickers soak up blood. At the crux I have arched out 6 feet. Soon a ledge, a long rest and no doubts -- we are going up this face. Sharp jam cracks take George up to a long steep ramp.

Loose blocks, dirt -- "Psyche flake was here." Big ledges coming up soon. George goes free up perfect jams to the "Big Sandy Ledges." The sun's going down, man! I start the first zig-zag pitch, 20th pitch of the climb. Tired. Late afternoon, great nailing, weather looking bad. Strange sounds float down from above -- like voices. Jesus! Someone is up there! Yes, hanging over the great Visor. Bob Norris yells, then McCrumm. Spirits rise and we yell back -- joking. No, we won't be up today, 6 pitches left. I finish the pitch then down we go to the ledge. Windy face -- cold, we eat and talk. Nice ledge. We doze, sleep, then it's too cold so we just wait.

Dawn, and up the long strenuous zig-zags to Thank God Ledge. George mutters and groans, then I come across. The ledge is fantastically exposed and very narrow. I crawl, heart pounding,

sweating, until it's too narrow then swing down on hands and traverse. I belay as George tries several times to climb a short chimney. Finally he succeeds. The last, difficult, pitch sees me going left then straight up as the rope lifts out the pin I was just standing in. Bolts, then tied blades lead to the last two easy pitches. It is very cold and windy -- we dump the rest of our water then go down and left on a long traverse. Cakes is 5.6 friction. Two friends waiting on top. I climb a few feet and we are on top. Smiles, handshakes, beer, a thick Liverpool accent and warm sunlight are fused to the top of Half Dome.

Down the cables, more friends, trees and paths, swelling hands and aching feet are the way down. The mist trail is mine as I linger to enjoy its wetness. Shoes come off with help and soon a warm embrace with love is the end.

Later as night comes, I wander out alone to look and already I try to remember what it was like. Somehow, it is different now and I wonder as I look -- have I been there?

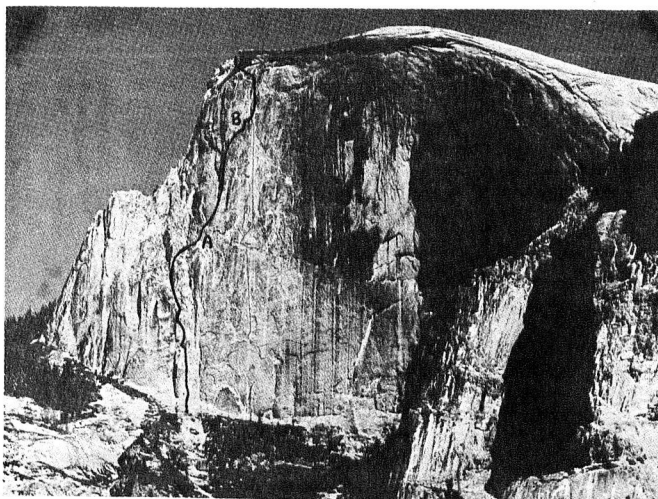


Photo by Tom Frost, "Summit," April 1964

The Northwest Face of Half Dome
A- First Bivouac
B- Second Bivouac

P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

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Hanging Around

Wolf Gap, Va.-W.Va.
Oct. 24-25

Mike Hill - Trip Leader
Nellie Widmayer
Tom McCrumm
Bob and Kate Adams
Hal Kramer
Ann, Linnea, and Maren Stewart
Fred Kitchel
John Hartman
Don Schaefer
Art Wilder
John Fox

Peter Gardiner
Terry Robinson
Janet Gladfelter
Bill Thomas
Judy Frank
David Paul
Hanna and Doug Chandler
Harold Meyer
Beth Waldow
Sallie Jordan
Carla Grubbschmidt

Arriving at scattered intervals all day Saturday, we all converged on Big Schloss. The 2 mile hike was very pleasant as the great views of the fall colors kept one's interest up. The climbing at Big Schloss was all top-roped, retable-up-smooth-slabs-between-ledges type with heroic overhangs at the top. At the PATC cabin that night we had a high time. Terry served up raccoon meat and banjo music on a portable tape recorder and the wine went to our heads. An air of good feelings was in the cabin that night.

Sunday saw us tardily making the 12-mile trip to Devil's Garden for lots of arm-y climbing. Lots of attempts on the "impossible overhang" produced nothing but frustration and blown arms. The scenery was gorgeous, the sun lovingly warm, and everyone enjoyed chimneying and crevice-hopping to get around.

Annapolis Rocks, Md.
Nov. 1

Peter Gardiner - Trip Leader
Don Schaefer
Tink Peters
Bob and Kate Adams
John Pinkston
Craig Bennett
George Rawlin
Steve Gault
Lois Shipway
Susan Anderson

Tom McCrumm
Maren Stewart
Bob Conner
Al Goldberg
Terry Robinson
Nancy Henderson
Chuck and Carol Rynard
Claude Nogay
Sallie Greenwood

While the trip was officially on Sunday, 5 of us embarked late Saturday afternoon to spend a pleasant fall evening at the local shelter. This was especially beneficial to your erstwhile leader who quickly learned what lousy directions he had tried to give to John Pinkston and Bob Conner. To prove a point, on Sunday morning we went back to the cars to find Bob meandering about looking for the trail.

With that settled, we chortled along our merry way to the rocks. Once there the overhang was attacked with "viga" and

cries of, "Why do I have to swing into that @\$\$% tree? Why can't you swing into that tree?" soon filled the air.

Our antics over, some other more possible climbs were done with some interesting moves being demonstrated by Messrs. McCrumm and others on the nose (outside corner) of a neighboring pinnacle.

Late in the afternoon Don Schaefer proved that it was possible after all, dancing lightly up the overhang to the cheers of the throngs assembled below.

N.B. Roy's Place in Rockville, which was visited post-climb, does not serve food on Sundays after 6:30. As an alternative there is a Shakey's Pizza Parlor (very noisy) about a mile further along the Rockville Pike.

Bull Run Mountain, Va.
Nov. 11

Mike Hill
Fred Kitchel

John Pinkston

Hats off to these guys. Rain and cold didn't keep them from making a trip.

Kline Gap, W. Va.
Nov. 7-8

Sallie Greenwood - Trip Leader
Don Schaefer

Lee Gorman
Steve Gault

A poor showing for a great week end but the Trip Leader's fault due to the late publication of UP ROPE, no doubt.

Don and I swung leads on a moderate climb on Saturday, cheered on by Lee who had taken the easy way to the top. Don suggested that the climb be called Careless Love due to a couple of carabiners left by a group which had traversed just below our route. First pitch ended in an unoccupied bird's nest.

Steve showed up a bit later in the day -- a little worse for wear having scrambled up the south side of the gap rather than joining us on the north side. Several bottles of cheer at dinner seemed to cure him.

Sunday was another magnificent day. We set off to do a prominent yellow buttress near the middle of the cliffs -- much scrambling and briar-fighting. A wail of a climb -- named Janis.

Shawangunks, N. Y.
Thanksgiving Weekend 1970

Tom McCrumm - Reporting
Tink Peters
Peter Gardiner
Don Schaefer
Al Weis
June Lehman
Ben Ocampo
Al and Sue Goldberg
Bob Lyon

Mark Carpenter
Mike Hill
John and Beth Stannard
Maitland Sharpe
Paul Fries
Penny Pierce
Jerry Archibald
Sigmund Albert
Helen Morefield

The long Thanksgiving weekend saw only a few early starters, while most of us were gorging ourselves on turkey and all the trimmings at Al Weis'. June, Maitland, Mark and Mike were the only ones climbing before Saturday. The early activity had its toll though, for after Mark and Mike did a long run of 5.8's they both headed home a

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.

day early.

Saturday was a dreary misty day, so while some of us did easier climbs, Don Schaefer decided it was time to do the "Trapps Traverse." Tink, Ben and myself started traversing the Grand Traverse Ledge at the top of Pas-de-deux; while Don, Peter and Al started traversing toward us at Roger's Escape Hatch. After a few hours of third and fourth class bushwhacking and climbing we met on top of Southern Pillar for lunch. Each party had only one fifth class pitch to do, and they were identical. The crux was passing a bush in a narrow crawl space then having to get down on one's belly to worm along on the ledge for about 40 feet. At the end of our pitch was a half dry pile of animal droppings -- origin unknown. Sunday was a similar day but colder. Don, Peter, Tink and I did parallel climbs on Minty and Topsy Trees; and found a new finish to each climb enabling us to get a few moves higher before coming down.

Belay Ledge

Membership nominations:

The following persons have been nominated for membership in the PATC Mountaineering Section:

	Sponsors
Maren Stewart	Tom McCrumm Don Schaefer
Peter Gardiner	Tom McCrumm Don Schaefer

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

Married:

Art Wilder and Sallie Jordan, on November 21.

Brooks Range, Alaska:

Perloff Odman (244-3893) is planning a trip for August, 1971. Contact Perloff for details.

Potomac Gorge trail system:

The trails are now under the care of the PATC. If you are interested in trail maintenance contact Ray Fadner at PATC Headquarters.

Dynamic belay practice at Cupid's Bower:

Bill Thomas has requested that those interested in dynamic belay practice make a reservation with him (536-7948).

Chouinard crampons:

Not only are cadmium-plated being recalled but all Chouinard crampons purchased prior to May, 1970. Send them to Chouinard, Box 150, Ventura, Calif. 93001.

For Sale:

1" nylon webbing, 4000 lb. test, red, blue, orange and white, 10¢ per foot, 9¢ for white. Eiger oval carabiners - \$1.80. Tom McCrumm - 527-6272

Old Fashioned Smokehouse Party

Come to Terry Robinson's on December 19th, 1 p.m., and smoke your own beef jerky! Free maple wood will be supplied for that authentic hardwood flavor. An electric balogna slicer will be available. A general invitation is extended to Up Rope readers to attend this pioneer get-together. All home-brewers, potato pickers, yogurt sourers, cheese fermenters, jelly jammers, mushroom munchers, nut grabbers, soy bean soakers, root beer rooters, raccoon roasters and sourdough bread freaks bring the homespun specialties and your own dinner to the party. 8110 Carlisle Place, Alexandria 768-6485

Equipment Sale:

A special sale will be held December 22nd at 8 p.m. at the PATC third floor meeting room. A very large quantity of equipment is on hand for immediate sale. The following is some of the equipment offered: 2 sleeping bags, 1 tent,

4 pairs of snowshoes, 4 rucksacks, 4 pack frames, ropes, 4 pairs crampons, hundreds of assorted rock pitons and carabiners, 6 ice pitons, mountain pants, parkas, 1 down jacket, pocket knives, 2 axes, whistles, stuff sacks, ski poles, 4 ice axes, wool shirts, gloves, boots, machete, misc. camp equipment and tools, ski boots, piton hammer, slings.

All members of the PATC and the PATC Mountaineering Section are invited to bring in any equipment that they might have for swap or sale. This will be a good opportunity to sell some of that extra gear that we have all been accumulating over the years.

New UP ROPE subscribers and address changes:

Art and Sallie Wilder 5445 White Chapel Road
Lanham, Md.
phone: 577-0657

Ron Adler 2619 42nd St. N.W.
Apt. 103
Washington, D.C. 20007
phone: 338-3458

Nominations

The Nominations Committee has made the following recommendations for a slate of section officers:

Chairman -- Terry Robinson
Vice Chairman -- Tom McCrumm

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the meeting on December 9th. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting, January 13.

Climbing Chef

Many people have asked me the secret of producing my horribly salty jerky. The secret is now published; I have an old refrigerator converted into a smokehouse in the back yard--share the smoke--come on over December 19th.

For those with no experience in smokehouse cookery the secret is to let the smoke and the drying action process the meat. Practically anything can be smoked: beef roasts (round and chuck), fish fillets, beef tongue, chicken breasts (de-fatted; bones optional), oysters, sole of klettershoe, rabbit and squirrel sections, minute steaks (ugh), pumpkin strips, mushrooms, etc. The item to be smoke-dried must be low in fat to prevent spoiling with age. Some minimum fat can be accepted if smoking at higher temperatures since the fat will melt off. Gourmet-smoked products are achieved by marinating the goodies in flavorings suggested below. (after a few words about meat cutting).

Trim the meat of all fat possible. Trimming and slicing is easier if the meat is in a semi-frozen state. Slice the meat into $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch thick slabs. The slabs may be cut into strips but I find these pesky to fiddle with. The slabs, when dry, may be snapped into smaller sizes or ground into pellets for pemmican. Cutting across the grain of the meat allows the marinade to penetrate more easily and also makes gristley meat easier to chew.

Marinades--whatever turns you on, use it. Japanese soy sauce (Kikkoman brand shoyu) is better than the salty American stuff. All dry ingredients may be mixed and added with salt: monosodium glutamate as a flavor-enhancer and spoilage retardant, citric acid powder for meat color and tart taste with age (don't buy any--I have 6 pounds), celery, onion, and garlic salts, pepper, any thing on the spice shelf you like. Sugar counteracts the salty bite. Wines make excellent marinade ingredients. Vinegar with the other ingredients might make a sweet and sour jerky pickle. Write down the weights and proportions of your experiment as you may wish to repeat it.

Concluded on page 4

CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Date	Place	Leader
Dec. 6	Great Falls, Md.	Pat Milligan (360-5014)
Dec. 9	Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 p.m.	Slides of Yosemite and Chamonix by Tom McCrumm
Dec. 13	Wolf Rock	Art and Sallie Wilder (577-0657)
Dec. 20	Cupid's Bower Training	Bill Thomas (536-7948)
Dec. 27	Carderock	S. Claus (N.P. 1)
Jan. 3	Herzog Island	Don Schaefer (521-5326)
Jan. 10	Camp Lewis	Al Goldberg (593-8124)
Jan. 13	Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 p.m.	
Jan. 17	Purple Horse/ Spitsbergen	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. If directions to climbing areas need revision please note the necessary change and send it to Editor, UP ROPE.

Great Falls, Md.

Follow Beltway directions to Carderock (see below) 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) 200-300 yards to end of fence. Follow trail to edge of river.

Wolf Rock, Md.

From the Beltway take I 70 S (exit 17 from Maryland or Exit 19 from Virginia) to Frederick. Pick up U.S. 15 and take it north to Thurmont. Get on Md. 77 west and go 3 miles to the Visitors Center of Catoctin Mountain Park. Turn right, drive past the center and go $\frac{1}{2}$ mile and park in a small lot on the right. Hike 1 mile following the trail signs to Wolf Rock.

Cupid's Bower, Md.

Follow Beltway directions to Carderock. Drive past the Carderock exit, turn left at end of Parkway onto MacArthur

Boulevard. At the Old Anglers Inn, turn left into the dirt lot. Cross the canal and walk right (upstream) toward Widewater. Take the blue-blazed trail left near Widewater to the river. Cross the river to the island. Cupid's Bower is near the foot of the island nearest D.C.

Carderock, Md.

From the Beltway take the Carderock exit (15). Go one mile and bear right at sign; go left over overpass; turn right after passing under canal and park in the last lot. The rocks are 100 yards past the comfort station.

Herzog Island, Md.

Follow directions to rocks at Carderock. Cross the river to the island opposite Carderock. Crossing i.e. wade, paddle or walk, weather permitting.

Camp Lewis, Md.

Follow Beltway directions to Carderock overpass. Get back on Parkway headed toward the District. Drive to the Cabin John Bridge, bearing right at the fork just before going under it and park on the right at the first parking lot past the bridge. Cross the canal, walk under the bridge and turn left, following the bridge to the river. Walk right (up river) 100 yards to the rocks.

Purple Horse, Md. and Spitsbergen, Md.

Follow directions to Cupid's Bower as far as Widewater. Turn left before crossing a cement footbridge. In 30 yards turn right and cross a stream on an old cement slab. Follow the trail downstream, meeting the blue-blazed Billy Goat Trail 75 feet past a sizeable pond on the left. Follow the trail right 300 yards to the rocks.

Climbing Chef, concluded

About salt... Sadly, most jerky recipes closely resemble salt pork formulae. I have come to regard salt more as a condiment than preservative and wish to rely on long, slow smoking to mummify the meat. Allow about $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of salt for 5 pounds of meat slices. Place a thin layer of salt in the bottom of a plastic, glass, enamel or stainless steel (NOT METAL) container and add a layer of meat. Alternate layers of meat and salt and place covered in refrigerator for a day. Add the marinade and refrigerate for 4 to 5 days more, stirring once or twice a day. Drain off the liquid and save it for flavoring soups, salad dressings, or to marinate another batch of jerky.

On the 19th bring plastic bags to store the jerky as well as your formula for marinade. Anyone with allergies to your marinade will want to reserve a shelf above yours in the smoker so your drippy crud will not contaminate theirs.

Although my jerky may be strictly bottom shelf blend, I hope to see some top-drawer jerks at this party. Call 768-6485 to r.s.v.p. Y'all come, hear!

Terry Robinson
8110 Carlisle Place
Alexandria

Up Rope

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