

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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

Vol. 36

No. 5

May 1971

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Hanging Around

Buzzard Rocks, Va.
Mar. 14

Dave and Joan Templeton - Trip Leaders

Michele Levelle, Don Hubbard and Al Goldberg - Hot Shoppe group

Beth Waldow

John and Mary Jane Wyman

Tom McCrumm

Ed Goodman

Mike Bromley

Tom Randall

Hank, Buff, Scott and Lee

Harper

Claude Nogay

Fred Kitchell

Hal Myer

Tink Peters

Don Schaefer

Don Jackson

Jim and Tom Donovan

John Canzonieri

Mike Sutton

Rufus St. Bernard

Lois Shipway

An enjoyable conversation with Michele, Don and Al at Hot Shoppe started the day out right. We could not talk them into journeying into the hinterlands, however. Couldn't blame them. The fog blanketing the area did not do our hopes for a sunny day any good. The weather report did promise sun for the afternoon, so we clung desperately to our belief in the predictive powers of science. (Does a prediction of a 20% probability of rain have a 95% confidence factor, or better?)

Beth and Hal were at the fish hatchery when we arrived. As we were directing them to the parking area, John and Mary Jane drove up. Tink, Tom and Don arrived while we were getting our packs on. We all proceeded to slog our way to the cliffs. Ed, Don, Mike, Jim, Tom, Tom and John came close behind us and the Harpers and Mike with Rufus got up in time to help rig the initial climbs.

Constant climbing at Buzzard Rocks will soon demand the use of 200-foot long ropes. It is a pleasant area, but tossing the ropes down is a chore. It is sort of like threading a needle to get a rope through the stands of trees littering the slopes. (To digress: Forgive me ecologists, etc. This reminds me of an idea of mine that the human mind is like a dimensionless point with all sorts of antithetical notions protruding from it like so many spikes. Lets face it. When you can't get your rope through the trees, they are littering the slopes. A similar blasphemous thought occurred to me the other day--if it were not for the invention of the motor car we'd be up to our ears in horse manure. Being in such straits might be preferable to being up to one's cerebellum in lead derivatives, particularly since one could grow mushrooms in the stuff, psychedelia and otherwise.)

In spite of the litter, one gets interesting climbs at Buzzard Rocks. Top belays are required for most of them and the average climb combines friction pitches, layback slabs, and balance.

Some training was given early in the day. Mike Bromley,

Tom Randall, John Canzonieri and Hank Harper were tested on their ability to handle an overhead belay. Scott and Lee Harper and Mike Sutton were introduced to body rappel techniques.

The sun burned the fog off about noon and we were able to enjoy the views of the valley. Lois and Claude arrived while we were taking a lunch break and they were followed shortly after by Fred.

As Bob Adams is in Georgetown Hospital being treated for a muscular spasm, we were left to our own devices to find the climbs. Dave remembered a few from his last trip there. Not knowing their names he referred to them as "that one over there;" "This one the Griffins showed me," and "I can't figure out how Bob Adams did this, but let's rig it anyway."

Tink, Tom and Don explored around and found, in addition to the classic climbs there, a recess in the cliffs which yielded a couple of Gunks-type overhangs and several other interesting climbs. Goodman took over Bob Adam's role and put up a gymnastic-type of climb up a wicked overhanging point. In going over the point, his struggle to move the belay rope made it appear as if he were trying to tie the rock up. It is suggested that this blimb be named "Ed's Package." Also, how about "Tom's Torture Chamber" for the cave climbs. The last I recall, there is no list in the Club files of names of the climbs at Buzzard Rocks.

The weather and the climbing turned out so well that we delayed leaving until we had to make our way down with the sun. The Trip Leaders having failed to determine a congenial spot for a return trip way-stop each of the groups wended their separate ways back to the city.

Seneca Rocks
Mar. 27

Sallie Greenwood - reporting
June Lehman

John Christian
Dave and Joan Templeton

Joan and Dave bailed out of the week end early on-- due to 5⁰ weather Saturday morning. John and June rambled all around the area checking out the charts for the Seneca guidebook. I arrived late Saturday afternoon in time to do nothing but soak up some rays.

A high school group from somewhere in Pennsylvania was down for the weekend. The "group" numbered about 30. One person seemed to have an idea of what a rope was supposed to be used for.

Sunday was spent on a pleasant climb on the southern end. June and I basked on sundry ledges while John forged ahead. June led an additional pitch up to the beginning of Old Ladies, which John assured her would be a first ascent.

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Hanging Around, concluded

Little did we know that Bill Thomas was conquering other "mountains!" (see Bill's "Trip Report" next month.)

Carderock
Apr. 4

Sallie Greenwood - Trip Leader
Taina Dutescu
Mike Hill
Tink Peters
Chuck Sproull
Joe Ebner
Roger Birch
Marjorie Coffey
Kathy Andberg
Kathy Clucas
The Milligans
John Pierre-Benoist
Harold Myer
Bill Quigley

Harold Kramer
June Lehman
Tom McCrumm
Steve Gault
Chips Janger
The Goldbergs
Mike Davis
Phil Eddy
Terry Robinson
Bob Norris
Art
Dean Mills
Bob Lyons

Actually, there were many more people around. These are only the bodies that the Trip Leader could readily identify. 'Twas a great day--no accidents and quite a few new people introduced to the wonders of Carderock climbing.

Linville Gorge, N.C.
April 10-11

Chuck Sproull, Trip Leader
Don, Betsey and Erika Schaefer
Taina Dutescu

Pete Gardiner
Peter Sprouse

"Well, there it is," I said as I calmly swerved my dodgin' Dart back on to the winding road. It was about 2 am and my passengers had just awakened for reasons which don't need elucidation. I had seen it before from this road but wasn't quite sure where. At occasional overlooks the eerie spire shape of Table Rock Mountain loomed above the lesser features as if seeking the bright moonlight. It looked higher than my memory of it. The sight meant that we would be at camp in an hour.

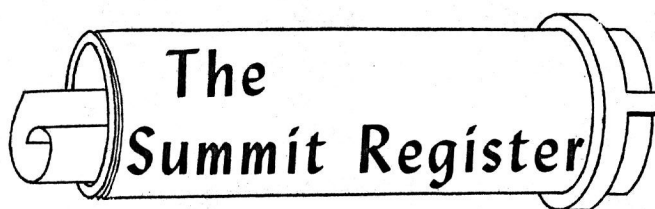
We had followed Interstate Routes 95, 85 and 40 south and west from D. C. until the N.C. Route 18 split north to Morganton, N.C. Here we picked up N.C. 181 and continued north about 25 miles to Table Rock Road (to Gingercake Acres), turned left and drove about 10 more miles to Table Rock Campground. More precise driving directions and distances are on file with the Up Rope Editor.

Later that morning, after the sun came up, we could see remnants of the 15-inch snowfall of one week ago still lying on the 4500 foot Blue Ridge balds. Where we were, about 3500 feet, the temperature had gone down to about 50 with little wind.

After breakfast we hiked 1 1/2 miles south of Table Rock to the Chimneys. This area put us in mind of the Shenandoah Old Ragged Ridge Trail as we climbed over, under, around and through the stacks of rocks. At a boulder known as the "Wart" we took a trail to the right and descended to a narrow spur. From here we could look down upon a two-humped pinnacle known as the "Camel," and further south to the North Carolina Wall.

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 for PATC Mountaineering Section members and \$2.50 per year for non-members. The additional dollar may be credited towards membership dues. New subscriptions and address changes should be sent to Business Manager, UP ROPE, etc.



Dear Carderock Climbers:

Since most of the stories about the leg-breaking accident at Carderock (early April) seem to be, at best, fifth hand, I thought I'd throw in a few facts along with a relatively fresh second hand account.

What I saw was this: A climber, aged about 14, lying at the bottom of Elsie's Other Edge Face; conscious, severe pain in the right leg. He was on his back; head toward the cliff. Adequate first aid had been administered and an ambulance called. The bottom belay setup was still in place, and a single small loop in the end of the belay rope hung at the top of the climb.

The story given me by eyewitnesses was this: The climber had reached the top and asked for a ride down. He was clipped to a waist loop by a single non-locking carabiner. As he put his weight on the system, the carabiner somehow opened and he fell.

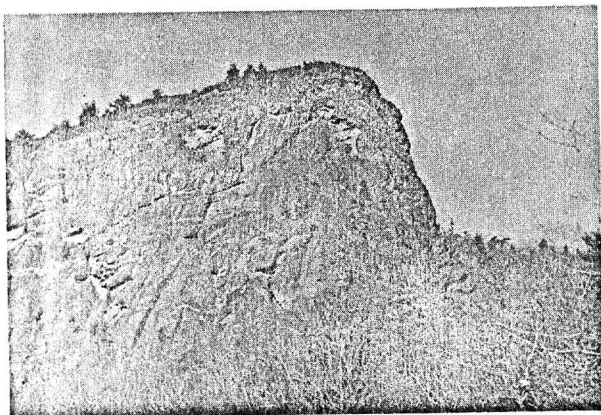
The boy had been climbing about two weeks, as it was reported to me. This was backed up somewhat by the fact that he wore high-topped hiking boots. His belayer, also in his early teens, reportedly had been climbing for about a year. It's significant that a beginner, obviously quite good to have climbed this particular face in hiking boots, was injured through ignorance of the most basic safety techniques.

Unfortunately, accidents like this reflect on all Carderock enthusiasts. Possible Park Service reaction is a popular topic for morbid speculation as is, God forbid, the idea of hordes of blood-hungry tourists munching popcorn and shouting the climbing equivalent of "Ole!" It's bad enough now.

Without getting into a big training dispute, I'd like to suggest that a chart illustrating basic static climbing safety techniques be posted permanently at Carderock on the bulletin board. No actual climbing techniques--just fundamental procedures and gloomy words of caution. It could show the proper setup for a belay, the belaying sequence, necessary knots, and maybe a picture of a locking carabiner for those climbers who aren't yet sure what Goldline is. Pros? Cons?

A little insight into the climbing mentality of some of the Carderock tyros: When the ambulance attendants arrived at the scene of the accident, they asked about the best way to carry the victim out. Proposed and discussed by at least two climbers present was, yes, you guessed it--haul him up over the Bolt route.

Mel Banks



Chuck Sproull's picture of the Section's Easter project-- the northeast corner of Table Rock Mountain...

It is 1/2 mile long, up to 500 feet high, bulging and relatively featureless.

We continued our descent behind the spur, through a cave and then south for about 1/2 mile along imaginary to non-existent trails, through thick clumps of laurel and then through thicker brush and tangles of greenbrier. Those who wore short sleeve shirts, or knickers without knee socks may very well have been thinking phrases of four-letter adjectives with each long, red, jagged reward their bare flesh received.

About 80 yards beyond the tree-topped buttress Don and I began climbing up a steep face to the first ledge. Walking south 10 yards brought us to an inside corner facing north. Here we climbed 40 feet up an overhanging squeeze chimney capped by an overhang and a jungle -- lots of welcome vegetable holds. Following this next ledge to the south 30 yards, we encountered another short inside corner facing north which was less difficult to climb. From here all we could see were very steep ledges arching out of sight, alternately right and left with several hundred feet of bulging faces above the intersections. We found that by traversing up to the right we could walk out to where the ledges disappeared into a blank wall. This is OK for getting good landscape photographs but not for getting to the top. The ramps leading left and up gave us some very pleasant 4th class scrambling under a small waterfall and 100 feet of not so steep friction as a final pitch, also done 4th class. From the edge it was another 1/2 mile bushwhack back to the trail. The others had found a scramble route up a system of ledges 200 yards north of where we climbed.

Taina's beef stroganoff tasted pretty good that evening back at camp. So did Don's wine and Duncan Hines' climbers' dessert. In our mirth we all agreed that it had been a gorgeous day.

More clear air, bright moonlight, mild temperatures and sleeeeeeeeeeep.

Sunday morning we attacked the west side of Table Rock just north of the chasm known as the Devil's Cellar. Satan must have climbed all over North Carolina -- the falls at the north end of the gorge are called the Devil's Kitchen and there is a 400 foot crag south of Asheville called the Devil's Courthouse.

Don and Pete climbed a zigzag chimney while Taina, Peter and I climbed some overhangs, a chimney and a jam crack to the top. The pleasant features on my climb were the soft, thick-piled, moss-covered ledges. These were just far enough apart so that I couldn't step up from one to the next, but with some effort could do a pullup on poor handholds, twist slightly and with one last wiggle sit down on the ledge. This move is related to the mantle (retable) and should be referred to as an abutment.

At the summit we were met by a gang of Outward Bound students doing their thing up the east face.

According to how much moss, lichens and rotten rock we cleared from the cliffs, and information gathered from the

local climbers, we put up some new routes that weekend -- or, PATCMS strikes again!

A New Route for Carderock Cowboys

by Terry Robinson

A new climbing route has been named at the Carderock climbing area! I would like to officially register the new route as "Roy Rogers's Revenge." It is a 5.4 free climb on a huge elm tree opposite the cliff faces Staircase and Nubble Face. I am quite a wildlife and tree lover, and advocate of gathering firewood in high places, Tarzan yells, Twisting and Watusing among the leafy boughs at New Year's Eve Parties and of other such communal nesting festivities. Being a tree lover, I am fascinated with the possibilities of discovering other risky and risque games with trees.

Not that I have tried being a lover in the trees, I was just standing around at Carderock caressing the tree while watching a climber suffer his way up the Golden Staircase. Some people simply lean on trees. I caress them to enjoy the tactile pleasures of the bark textures, deriving some hidden delight, decidedly Freudian, from the ridges and crevices, the rough and smooth of it, mossy or bald. While I was peering up at the climber and flirting with the tree I chanced to spy a singular protuberance on the Potomac River side of the tree. This prominence was a chesty burl with a remarkable resemblance to the forward half of a saddle, complete with saddle horn and pommel. Ten feet from the ground at the level of this saddle the double trunk of the tree offers an enticing hand jam.

Three distinct methods have been used to ascend "R.R.R." A traverse has been accomplished from the cliff side of the tree. Those with favorable height and respectable "ape index" arm length might vault to the saddle with ardor. The easier ascent route utilizes a four foot high stump on the downriver side of the elm. This stump was an ash sapling that suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. True to its destiny, e that suffered the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. True to its destiny, even as a stump, the ash is two feet from the elm. A short excruciating retable may be accomplished on the stump, or a short chimney stem to the top of the stump.

The object of the tree calisthenic is to achieve a standing position in the saddle. This has been variously achieved by using a hand jam layback, or a leg over the pommel and pulling to an upright although crushing posture, and -- most difficult of all -- a retable on the saddle itself. In the interest of conservation, proceed with caution!

Belay Ledge

More about the Paint-out:

Rick Banning (270-2138) and Bill Thomas (536-7948) have volunteered to lead the assault on the Mennen sign at Harpers Ferry, tentatively on May 1. They could use help--particularly from those climbers who helped paint out the sign a couple of years ago.

Seneca Guidebook drafts:

Bob Robinson has requested that anyone who may have a draft of the guidebook return it to the Section as soon as possible. There are numerous errors in the draft which could cause someone unfamiliar with a climb some trouble--or at least pause for thought.

New UP ROPE subscribers and address changes:

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John B. Conley	5375 Duke St., #614 Alexandria, Va. 22304
John Pierre-Benoist	2423 Menokin Dr., #102 Alexandria, Va. 22302

CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Leader</u>
May 2	Carderock Pavilion 8:00 p.m.	Slides and talk by Warren Harding and Mr. Derryberry
May 2	Little Stony Man	Al Goldberg (593-8124)
May 8-9	Kline Gap	Don Schaefer (521-5326)
May 14	Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 p.m.	
May 16	Wolf Rock	Mike Hill (336-1471)
May 22-23	Caudy's Castle	Dave Templeton (933-2174)
May 29-31	Shawangunks	(no trip leader)
June 5-6	Baker Rocks	Peter Gardiner (894-4463)
June 9	Meeting, PATC Head- quarters, 8:00 p.m.	
June 27	Don't forget the Carderock party!	

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 changes and send them to Editor, UP ROPE, 1718 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Carderock, Md.

From the Beltway take Carderock exit (15). Go to Carderock Recreation Area, and go to first parking lot to the right or to the left.

Little Stony Man, Va.

Take I-66 west to Gainesville and U.S. 211 around Warrenton. Continue on U.S. 211 to Thornton Gap. Turn south onto Skyline Drive and go 7.6 miles to the Little Stony Man parking lot. Hike 0.6 miles on the Appalachian Trail to the cliffs. (Don't turn left where the sign says 0.1 miles to Little Stony Man.)

Kline Gap, W. Va.

Drive through Winchester, Va. on U.S. 50; continue to New Creek, W. Va. Follow Rte. 42 through Maysville to Maysville Road. Turn right onto Rte. 42/5 and 3.8 miles 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.)

Wolf Rock, Md.

Take I-70S to Frederick. Pick up U.S. 15 north to Thurmont. Get on Md. 77 west and go three miles to the Visitors Center of Catoctin Mountain Park. Turn right and go a half a mile (on the road past the Visitors Center) and park in a small lot on the right. Follow the trail signs to Wolf Rock -- one mile.

Caudy's Castle, W. Va.

From beltway take either Va. 7 or U.S. 29-211 to U.S. 50 to Winchester. Take U.S. 522 north about 15 miles and go west on Va. 127 (changes to W. Va. 45) to Blommery. Five miles further find sign marked "Caudy's Castle" on right and turn left on dirt road 1 1/2 miles to parking lot.

Shawangunks, N.Y.

North to Baltimore -- Rte. 29, Rte. 1 or the Balto-Wash Parkway. West on I-83 to Harrisburg. Follow the 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 about 8 miles and turn left onto Traps Road and camp in 1 mile at the Coxing Camp (no dogs and 75¢ per night per person). The rocks are two miles up N.Y. 55. (The Interstate north from Harrisburg has been completed which shortens the trip a bit. The Editor will be happy to revise directions when more information is in hand.)

Baker Rocks, W. Va.

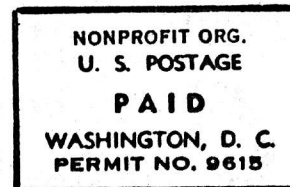
From beltway take I-66 to Gainesville and bear right onto Va. 55 to Moorefield, W. Va. Turn left onto U.S. 220 for 7 miles to Harper's Central Dairy on right. Take left just past dairy into lane, open gate beside quonset hut. Follow land to rocks.

HARDING AND DERRYBERRY

Warren Harding and Roger Derryberry will be at Appalachian Outfitters Saturday, May 1. Sunday at 8:00 they will present a demonstration of climbing safety and equipment for both big wall climbing and snow and ice at the Carderock Pavilion. Slides and a movie will be shown.

Up Rope

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DATED MATTER