

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

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

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# Hanging Around

Big Devil's Stairs  
Apr. 18

Chuck Sproull - Trip Leader  
Don, Betsey and Erika Schaefer  
Jack Rucker and sons  
Lee Harper and friend  
Fred Kitchell  
Dean Mills

Bill Pepper  
Jon Larson  
John Mullen  
Dave Stephens  
Dave Paull  
Judy Frank

The day started off in a typical fashion for the Trip Leader and his riders. The highway which bypasses Washington, Va. has been finished and Rte. 211 makes a bit of a dodgy move to the right at the sign marked "Washington Ski Area." I began wondering what had gone wrong when Mary's Rock on the Skyline Drive came into view.

John Mulle, Don and I put up a short climb on a mushroom-shaped rock near the uppermost falls. Perhaps that climb should be called "Down and Out Blues" since that describes how all of the handholds were sloping. Afterwards, we searched in vain for an incipient squeeze chimney for Don to lead. Finding none, we settled for a nice, long, steep, crumbly face. Ugh! Needless to say, that's part of the cliff which is now much more stable.

Lee and his buddy did an aid climb up a crack in the third rock band and Bill spent most of the day perched on top of a pinnacle belaying everyone who came along who exclaimed, "Gosh, what a far out pinnacle!"

Many new climbs were done that day. Hopefully they will never be too well described. This will allow people to choose ascent routes based on their own judgement and not that of others who have been there before.

The weather was a few degrees too warm to be considered perfect climbing weather because of the annoying little flying critters and because my chocolate bars melted together. However, the heat was strongly conducive to building up a good thirst and enough determination to end the day by climbing into the A & B Diner in Warrenton to soak our parched throats.

Many thanks to those who made the trip.

Accident report: Pete Gardiner did not make the trip because he insisted on playing that dangerous game--softball--before a climbing day. Apparently he went after a fast grounder while not on belay and, sure as you'd expect, he sprained his finger. Perhaps he should wear two mitts.

### TRIP LEADER SHIRKS DUTY TO PASS TEST AS ULTIMATE FREE LOADER

by Bill Thomas

Bill Thomas, scheduled trip leader for the 27 March Seneca trip, drafted a substitute leader so he could go free-loading. It started in February when he was given two free tickets to the Camping and Trailer Show at the Armory. He was not enthused over going, but couldn't pass up a gratuity, so he went and took his ten-year-old son, Jeff, an apprentice free-loader. Almost every booth at the show had some kind of chance to win something, so these two characters spent the whole night signing up to win everything from free campsights, trailers, etc. to free Florida vacations.

The moment of truth came a few weeks later when Bill was informed that he was the sole winner of a free (normally \$45) course in SKY DIVING. Although this awkward forty-six year old climber can navigate the Old Ladies route, etc., the idea of doing a spread eagle swan dive at 3,000 feet (without a belay) was a different story. For the next month Bill read his ground school literature every night and then had nightmares of fouled mains, entangled reserve chutes, landing on power lines, etc. He also worried about the story of a girl student, who, when preparing to dive, fell and got her "chest pack" caught on the landing gear and was flown around dangling from the wheel. He also worried about losing his \$45 freebee. However, on 27 March, Bill's true character as a free-loader prevailed, and he climbed out of the plane, did a hand traverse on the strut past the landing gear and launched into a swan dive.

Beautiful form, except his feet were lower than the desired horizontal attitude (to prevent parachute entanglement), so feeling the force of the 120 mph plus wind blast on his body, he kicked against it (first lesson: you can tread water, but you can't kick air -- it is a different kind of medium). The observers laughed as they watched him "pedaling his bicycle" throughout the 200 foot fall to parachute opening. He then successfully steered his chute to within 40 yards of the target.

His enthusiasm then caused him to step out of character and pay \$11 out of his own pocket to make a second dive. This time he launched in a horizontal attitude with a body arch that stabilized him all the way to chute opening. Then he goofed. When he looked down to check his drift he saw his shadow which he decided to navigate to the target (it was noon). For quite a while he seemed to be holding it right on the target -- but alas -- when he got lower and noticed that both the target and the shadow were moving away from him, he realized to his chagrin that he had been watching somebody else's shadow -- he and his shadow (hidden under him) were heading into the trees, so he turned downwind and went over them and landed in the next field (right on his shadow).

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## P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

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Chuck Sproull

to date.

There is still some time--not much-- for the Section to determine what it is going to do. We can continue to "do our own thing" as individual climbers who happen to belong to the Mountaineering Section and lose any voice that we may have with the Forest Service. Or, we can shake off this ostrich attitude, this selfish isolation, this arrogant policy of non-involvement and do something responsible, reasonable, and beneficial to ourselves.

"A committee has been formed..." Is that the death knell?

## Editorial

A word about Bill Deutermann, former co-editor and editor of UP ROPE. Bill gave up the landlubberly pursuit of climbing for boating. The staff misses Bill's fine touch and hopes that its absence is temporary. Who but Bill Deutermann could come up with an entire April Fools edition story on the night of publication--a story so convincing that a sequel had to be written, "Ordeal on the Finsterwald" with Hermann Eusterfork.

The Seneca Rocks Recreation Area is becoming a reality. It is upon us. John Christian took the initiative to contact Forest Service personnel responsible for planning and development of the area. The plans outlined at their meeting were as follow:

Stage One--(to be completed in two years)

- Visitors' Information Center, parking, and a road to a future picnic ground -- all in the valley and north of Seneca Creek
- a single-pier footbridge at the site of the present bridge
- Roy Gap Trail (as a part of the Potomac Heritage Trail system)
- possibly a Class A trail(s) to the top of North Peak

Stage Two

Picnic ground north of Seneca Creek

Stage Three

Parking south of Seneca Creek

Stage Four

Campground on the terrace southwest of Mouth of Seneca

Future considerations may include picnic ground and amphitheater south of Seneca Creek, administration buildings southwest of Mouth of Seneca, and a water impoundment area in upper Seneca Creek. These developments, whether they become a reality, depends upon demand and availability of funds.

John, Andy Kaufman, Arnold Wexler, and Bill Putnam have met with the Forest Service personnel subsequent to the initial meeting. Rapport has been established and the lines of communication are open. What do we do now?

The needs and requirements of the area climbers have been presented. The Forest Service is well aware of our concern for safety. We are aware of our concern for safety.

"Concern" is not a sufficient force to deal with the Forest Service. The mechanism for thoughtful, positive, and coordinated effort to provide a safety program, or more broadly, proposals which will affect the development of climbing areas into "multiple use" areas exists in the organization of the Mountaineering Section. A mechanism such as this is worthless without motivation and the willingness of the membership to commit itself to a program and to follow through with it.

The Section has become so diffuse that it has practically ceased to exist as a recognizable entity. To speak of providing a coherent and workable program of safety and rescue to the Forest Service is almost ludicrous at this point. Only the efforts of a few members have saved us from total embarrassment

## DEAR GWLADYS

How have you been Gwladys? Haven't seen much of you in these recent issues.

Love  
Norm

Dear Norm,

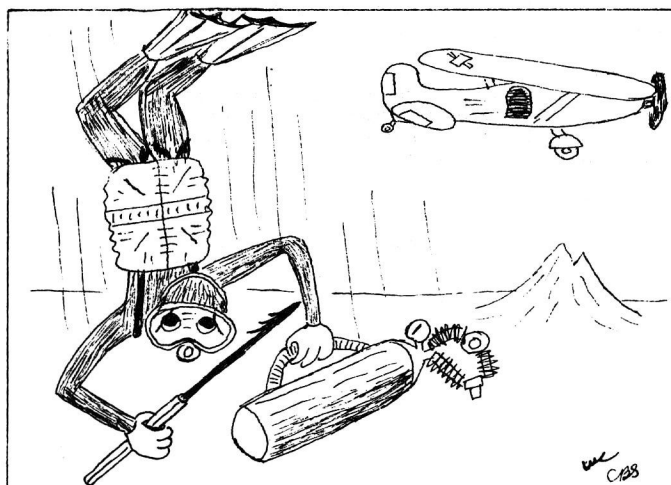
Right. The membership's been fairly vocal in recent UP ROPE issues. This is a temporary lapse into spring writer's cramp caused by Yosemite-tripitis and Alps-osis.

Love  
Gwladys



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.



Skydiving, concluded

There are now two framed certificates hanging over Bill's desk. One is a FIRST JUMP CERTIFICATE awarded by the U. S. Parachute Association. The second, drafted and signed by Bill is a LAST JUMP CERTIFICATE pledging to retire from this hazardous activity with unbroken bones and return to mountain climbing -- it's cheaper.

## Belay Ledge

UP ROPE subscription rate increase for non-PATC-MS members:

Please note: Since the last issue the price of a subscription for non-members has gone up to \$2.50 per year. The price for members of the PATC-Mountaineering Section will remain the same--\$1.50 per year.

New UP ROPE subscribers and address changes:

William Pepper, Jr.	9839 Singleton Dr. Bethesda, Md. 20034
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Mike Bromley	605 Quarry Ave. Seat Pleasant, Md. 20027
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Dr. and Mrs. Fredrick Metsen	120 Center Drive Bethesda, Md. 20014
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1024 Millwood Rd.  
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### Carderock Picnic:

The pavilion has been reserved for the Mountaineering Section's use on June 27 from 4 p.m. on. Bring your own food and related goodies. Also frisbees, bats, a softball or two, whatever. Have a good time.

### Invitation:

All PATC-MS members are invited to attend the wedding of Mike Hill and Nellie Widmayer on Saturday, June 26 in Wheaton, Md. Please call Mike at 336-1471 if you plan to attend.

### Announcement:

Penny Pierce and Gerry Archibald were married at St. Alban's in Washington on Saturday, May 22.

### Harpers Ferry Work Trip (Paint-Out) June 5-6:

Most of the readers of UP ROPE are aware of the Mennen's Talcum Powder advertisement which is painted on the cliffs across from Harpers Ferry. Several of you may be aware that we are again involved in an effort to remove the sign from view. At the April meeting, Rick Banning, Fred Kitchell, Bill Thomas, and Dave Templeton volunteered to help remove the sign. Dave agreed to head up the effort and has been in touch with the Park Service.

Because the sign was not greatly affected by the compound of paint remover and lamp black which was used at the Park Service's suggestion the last time, several other methods have been considered. It has been decided to camouflage the sign with one or two coats of oil-based paint of a color near the present color of the rocks. The Park Service will furnish the paint, brushes, and other gear necessary to do the work. We are furnishing the labor.

The date for the effort is June 5-6 with June 20-21 as a back-up date in case of rain. The four of us are not enough to do the job. We will appreciate your help. Call Dave Templeton at 933-2174 to give your commitment. We will need a minimum of ten people to do the job efficiently.

It will be hard work, but there may be glory in it. Bob King, PATC Public Relations, is contacting the news media to apprise them of this effort. So call Dave to get details and have your name added to the work force.

## Conservation

### TRAIL BIKES IN MARYLAND STATE PARKS

Mike Hill

The Maryland State Senate has urged the Maryland State Department of Forests and Parks to set aside areas in state parks for trail bike and snowmobile use.

In a letter to me, the Department official said that it was realized that off-road recreational vehicles create big problems but that these vehicles will be permitted "...under extremely tight control in selected areas when this use is compatible."

My opinion is that 1) the Department is so understaffed and under-funded as to prevent tight control, and 2) off-road vehicle use is never compatible with State Parks. Apparently the areas and regulations are still under advisement, so now might be a good time for us (Virginia and D.C. residents, as well as Maryland residents) to write your opinions to: State of Maryland, Department of Forests and Parks, State Office Building, Annapolis, Md. 21404.

# CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Date	Place	Leader
June 5-6	Baker Rocks	Peter Gardiner (894-4463)
	Harpers Ferry Paint-Out	Dave Templeton (933-2174)
June 9	Meeting, PATC Headquarters, 8:00 p.m.	
June 12-13	Champe Rocks	Dave Templeton (933-2174)
June 20	Harpers Ferry	possible rain day for Paint-Out -- otherwise just climbing
June 27	Carderock	Y'all come. Climbing and socializing and eating and drinking
July 3-5	Shawangunks	T. McCrumm (527-6272)

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. (The leader's main responsibility is to see that no one kills himself unnecessarily. Also, he is to see that newcomers are introduced around and taught some of the basics of climbing; check out the rigging of top-roped climbs, and last, but far from least, to write up an exciting, lucid description of the trip's highlights.) 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.

## Baker 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 for 7 miles to Harper's Central Dairy on the right. Check in with Mr. Harper. Take a left just past the dairy into a lane, open gate beside quonset hut (and close gate). Follow lane to rocks.

## Harpers Ferry, W. Va.

From the Beltway take I-70 S north and then west on U.S. 340 at Frederick. Just after entering W. Va. make a sharp right (note sign) to Harpers Ferry and check in with the rangers. Head back east on U.S. 340 until in Maryland, make a right just past a picnic area. In 100 feet go right on a

road parallel to the canal and river. Just after passing under the railroad tracks, park on the right at an old tavern. The climbs are just to the left of the train tunnel.

## Champe Rocks, W. Va.

Take I-66 to Gainesville; Va. 55 to Moorefield, W. Va. Left onto U.S. 220 to Petersburg and right onto W. Va. 4 and 28. Go 15 miles to rocks which are on the left. (Note historical marker next to road.)

## Carderock, Md.

From the Beltway take the Carderock exit (15). Go one mile; bear right at sign; go left over overpass; turn right at stop sign and follow road to its end. The rocks are 100 yards past the comfort station. The picnic will be at the pavilion which is at the opposite end of the park from the rocks.

## Shawangunks, N.Y.

North to Baltimore either by Rte. 29, Rte. 1 or the Baltimore-Washington Expressway. 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 Trapps Road and camp in one mile at Coxing Camp. The rocks are two miles up N.Y. 55. (Coxing will probably be wall-to-wall people; think of an alternative place to camp, maybe.)



What dream yet dreamt; what thoughts yet spoken;  
what mountains met.

*Up Rope*

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