



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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Nose Route, El Capitan, 5.8, A-3, Grade VI

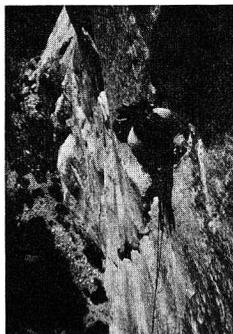
Tom Evans

Somehow I had imagined myself doing it in a T-shirt, in the blinding sun, sweating, thirsty, exhausted. In the "old days" we climbed the sunny faces at Seneca -- had to get ready for the heat.

Lightning and thunder brought me abruptly back from those days. The Boat creaked and moaned as I nailed its east side, blinded by the driving rain and hail. Ninety feet out from Texas Flake, Nose route, El Capitan. Seventeen hundred feet to the ground, expanding flake, rope drag pulling the lower pins out. Paul Sibley comes up. Together we freeze. Think: Forget the climb. How do we survive?

Rappel 250 feet to a ledge, hang tight, wait it out. Seven hours brings darkness and the storm rages on. We are alone. Despair seeps into every fiber; fear licks. Paranoia. Unrelenting wind and rain, surely born in the depths of El Capitan and saved for those who would dare. For a moment I am away, through time and space, warm, with Viv. The persistence of memory assembles friends and good times. Dylan sings to me.

Paul Sibley, absent-minded, ever smiling, wild man from Boulder, Colorado. He climbs very well; been around. Late April finds our paths crossing in the snow of Camp 11. The Nose is important to him. We shake on it. Tomorrow we start. Tomorrow and two weeks of tomorrows bring rain and snow. I age in the rain; havn't climbed anything in 8 months, going crazy.



Paul Sibley in Stoveleg Crack

A lazy day and clear as we fix the first pitch. Afternoon sun warms and we grove and study the giant. We are radiant. Years have brought us here, we go further on our own. Camp 11 bivouac. We sleep late, exude confidence -- inside I wonder. The pitches go by and Sickle Ledge comes up

on the right. Two short swings take me there. A storm threatens, keeping us close to Sickle, then vanishes. Bivouac. A full moon urges us upward and we consider it, only for a moment, we are happy here on our wall.

The sun reaches us as I swing right, running to beat the blankness. Paul wants the Stoveleg Pendulum so I go higher. Then it's Paul -- up 75 feet and down again. He is gone and back again, high on the wall to the left. Then he is free, knowing the joys of flight and the terrors of being human. We learn about Stoveleg Crack: exposed, strenuous, knuckle-tearing, incredible. Time stands still as we exchange leads; each pitch like the last. Dolt Tower is the end and we sleep.



King Swing by Tom Evans -- on the Nose at 1,700 feet

The early morning sun bakes us. El Cap Tower goes by and Paul wiggles up behind Texas Flake. I lead off on bolts toward Boot Flake. Smooth, absolutely vertical, turned-on place. All is peace--briefly. Then it's hell.

Very early in the morning all is quiet, so we sit and wait, talk of rappels, secretly hoping. Dawn is clear and we collect the rubble with which we climb. We strip, dry out, and signal for a weather report. Bad news comes floating up; everything says no, but we go. Late morning and Paul lowers me 65 feet from Boot Flake. I gather momentum and dash for the left. Fixed pin. I drop 35 more feet and play in the air again. King Swing. Afternoon finds us in the gray bands. Higher I climb to Camp IV; we bivouac. We have reached a "zone boundary." We look down and it's not real, people vanish, cars shrink. Reality is where you are and where you are going.

A cold morning hears the tap-tap as Paul skirts the Great Roof. I enter the 1,000-foot dihedral. Perfect crack, fantastic nailing, outrageous drop. We go upward and Paul's hammer goes downward. We tease immobility, "Pass the hammer."

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Chairman's Corner

John Christian

Having a traditional column like this to comment in could result in a one-way transfer of ideas and views. I hope it will not be. You will have to ensure that it isn't. Your reactions and views are needed; there will always be room in UP ROPE.

I was very pleased to see a standing-room crowd at the February meeting. I hope it means that more members -- both new and old -- are interested in taking an active role in the Section. Don't wait to be cajoled. I'd rather you volunteered, especially if it's to work on a problem you are personally concerned with.

I've initiated a program of climbing-area overseers. This is somewhat analogous to the Appalachian Trail overseers only here we are concerned with various climbing areas. The purpose is to ensure the continuation of climbing at each climbing area. The functions of the Overseer will be to: develop and maintain liaison with the private owner or government official; make known our interests and needs; become aware of any plans or developments which could affect climbing; resolve or bring to the attention of the Section any problems associated with climbing, eg. unsafe practices, environmental destruction, access, etc. Don Schaefer will take care of Kline Gap, Sallie Greenwood will oversee Annapolis Rocks and Black Rocks, Chuck Sproull will look after the Potomac Gorge including Carderock and I'll continue overseeing Seneca Rocks.

Incidentally, it appears that our overseeing efforts at Seneca are going to be effective: the Forest Service apparently has given up the idea of Class A trails to the top of North Peak and has shelved plans for the \$55,000 concrete footbridge in favor of a simple new suspension bridge as a result of our lobbying. So -- we can ensure our climbing future.

Will those of you who have a favorite climbing area please volunteer to be the "overseer" for it. (Editor's note: see the list of climbing areas elsewhere in this issue.)

I'd like to see some emphasis on mountaineering in the Mountaineering Section. Rock climbing need not be an end in itself. There is a big world out there for mountaineering. It requires a lot more knowledge than rock climbing. And it provides a pretty heady environment for doing rock climbing. An "interesting" pitch at 10,000 feet with some objective dangers can be very demanding. That older attitude, which I subscribe to, that "the leader--because he is the leader--never falls" is especially appropriate in the mountains. It is also not an inappropriate guide for most climbing at Seneca.

All of this is to say that we are offering a program that leads to better and safer climbing and eventually to the mountains. Dave Templeton is continuing to handle basic training in rock climbing; Joe Jensen will be holding rescue training; Phil Cardon is developing a mountain medicine class; and Tom McCrumm is collating the interests members have expressed

Tom McCrumm is collating the interests members have expressed in a summer trip to the mountains. They have volunteered; they could probably use your help.

I hope that once beyond basic training any non-member who intends to take further training will realize that this training is available only because we are an organized group. This training should be an incentive to join with us in an active Mountaineering Section.

TRAINING COMMITTEE REPORT

Dave Templeton

Committee meeting: Phil Cardon, Don Hubbard, Joe Jensen, Joe Wagner, Arnold Wexler and I met at PATC Headquarters February 2 and proceeded to solve some of the problems of the training program. A statement of intent was agreed upon. This is as follows:

Per the Mountaineering Section constitution, the Chairman is required to maintain a training program for the benefit of present and prospective members. He delegates his authority for this task to a training committee which is composed of an appointed task leader, chosen and volunteer members. Per the direction of the Chairman the committee implements, augments, revises, updates and advertises a program designed to equip the climber with the knowledge necessary to enable him to perform effectively in all mountaineering situations.

The committee feels this statement embodies the desires of the Section's membership and its elected officers.

A plan for rescue operations was discussed. Phil Cardon stated his desire to give a series of lectures on mountaineering medicine and presented the committee with a rough course outline. Joe Jensen agreed to develop a course in mountaineering rescue techniques and I agreed to continue work on the regular training course.

The committee will appreciate hearing by phone, letter, or on Section trips from the membership on the matter of training and those things which the members feel would be desirable to include in the training program.

Training trips: Usually I will report on training trips through regular trip reports. As summer moves toward us more trips involving continuous climbing will be scheduled. People intending to go on training trips which involve continuous climbing should let me know of their intentions first (trainees, that is) so that climbing teams can be set up. You will not be passed over, even if you have never climbed before. The Seneca trip and Caudy's Castle on April 2 are such trips. For the Caudy's Castle trip contact me by March 29.

Training lectures: Don Schaefer gave the November 17 lecture. He presented material which he had given at the Smithsonian: characteristics of ropes, slings, pitons and carabiners. Don's experience in compiling the new edition of the equipment bulletin plus his varied climbing experience enabled him to present information we could have gotten from few other sources.

A lecture on snow and ice techniques was made by Tom McCrumm at the January 19 meeting. Harold Meyer discussed equipment and considerations for buying it until Tom showed up from Swap Night. Tom expanded on the subject and discussed problems one encounters in ice and snow climbing and how

Up Rope

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this should effect one's decisions when buying equipment.

The next lecture is scheduled for March 15 at the club house and beginning at 7:15 p.m. The subject will be continuous climbing and its problems.

The Nose, concluded from page 1

Pin after pin the same but each a position all its own. Time creeps. Perfect cracks, steep corners, still wet. Frogs greet us, we wonder, then, go on. Paul goes free, jamming to Triangle Ledge, Camp VI. An impressive place with few visitors and a 2,500-foot drop. Water trickles from above. We hide and sleep.

Last day -- straight up. Solid nailing, wet, beautiful. Paul goes by in the sun, we are warm, feel wonderful. He sits in the alcove and I swing right on hands and can see the top. A ladder of bolts is the road home and Paul is right on.

Cleaning is easy -- no hammer needed -- and I hang free below the final overhang. The climb ends so suddenly that it is startling. Flat ground; we shake on it.

Late evening. We have to hurry to be down by dark. For a long moment I just stand, almost in disbelief. I want to sit and sort it all out in my mind, but no -- must hurry. As darkness comes we are facing the monster called Friday night, its headlights blind us. Now I'm really confused. Looking past the endless stream of automobiles, up through the trees, I can see the great wall in profile and I wonder as I look: "What am I doing here?"



Tom Evans coming over the top on the Nose

BELAY LEDGE

Alpine food tests:

Ten French and Italian mountaineers are planning to test special food by staying on the Grandes Jorasses -- Aiguille de Rochefort arrete at 13,123 feet -- for nine days. The purpose of the test is to evaluate certain food items for climbing expeditions in winter at high altitudes. The items were selected by the French Alpine Club.

Membership applications:

The nominees should be present at the next meeting.

Nominee	Sponsors
Betty Boeker	Bill Thomas
	Don Schaefer
Bill Pepper	June Lehman
	Dave Templeton

New UP ROPE subscriber::

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 1113 Normandy Dr.
 Richmond, Va. 23229
 703-285-3091

SUMMER MOUNTAINEERING TRIP
 FOR MOUNTAINEERING SECTION MEMBERS

The Mountaineering Section of the PATC is proposing a trip for the coming summer. In recent years many of the local climbers have gone to the mountains for a summer mountaineering vacation--but none have gone as a Section-sponsored or Section-organized group.

The purpose of a mountaineering trip this summer is two fold: First, to offer the less-experienced climbers of the Section a chance to have a learning mountaineering experience, and, secondly, to organize a trip where Section climbers can rendezvous and climb together. There are many possibilities for the location of this trip and if interest is great enough, more than one type of trip could be planned. For example, a mountaineering trip could be planned for the Wind River Range in Wyoming or somewhere in the Canadian Rockies; a rock climbing trip to the Needles of South Dakota and to Devils Tower, Wyoming; a backpacking trip could be planned for almost any of the lesser traveled wilderness areas.

Continued on page 4

CLIMBING AREA INFORMATION NEEDED

Tom McCrumm

I am in the process of developing a master list of all the climbing areas that the Mountaineering Section goes to. For this list I need: directions to the area, rough mileage from Washington, the type of climbing peculiar to the area (ie. slabs, top rope only, aid, leading, ice, overhangs, etc.), and any other information about the area that might be of interest to climbers (how extensive is the area, whether it's been developed as a climbing area or if it's still fairly unexplored, if there is a walk into the area, if camping is available nearby, if swimming or a water supply is handy, if the rock is rotten, dirty, or loose, good view, and most important, how close the nearest beer supply is. More importantly, what is the owner's name, are there any access problems, is it warm in the winter and cool in the summer, snake population, etc.

The following is the list that I have developed so far. Most of the obviously popular areas

The following is the list that I have developed so far. I have information on most of the obviously popular area but I need details for the rest. Those areas marked with an asterisk are those about which I have no information whatsoever. In fact, some might be duplicate names for other areas.

Please go over this list and give me any information you can about any area which you know about. Also, please tell me about any areas which I may have missed. If you would, write down any details that you can supply and mail them to me at 1230 N. Quinn St., Arlington, Va. 22209.

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| | Maryland | |
| Carderock | Purple Horse | Camp Lewis |
| Cupid's Bower | Herzog Island | Spitzbergen |
| Great Falls | Sugarloaf Mtn. | Point of Rocks |
| Maryland Heights (? same as Harpers Ferry?) | *Chimney Rock | *Wolf Rock |
| | Rocks State Park | Annapolis Rocks |
| | Black Rocks | Pot Holes |
| | Virginia | |
| Merkin Rocks | Boucher Rocks | Echo Cliffs |
| *Cow's Hoof | *Corkscrew Rock | Chain Bridge Rocks |
| Juliet's Balcony | *Ringbolt | *Flatirons |
| Bird's Nest | Great Falls | *Prospect Rock |
| Old Rag | Little Stoney Man | Bull Run Mountain |
| Little Devil's Stairs | Big Devil's Stairs | White Oak Canyon |
| *The Cove | *Buzzard Rock (2 in Quarry) | *Hawksbill Mtn. |
| Sperryville | Shenendoah N.P. and 1 outside) | *Wildcat Rocks |
| | | *Old Rag Reflector |
| *Crescent Rocks (1 in SNP, 1 outside) | | Oven area |
| | West Virginia | |
| Seneca Rocks | Champe Rocks | Nelson Rock |
| North Fork Mtn. | Baker Rocks | *Judy Rocks |
| Smoke Hole Cliffs | *Pinnacle Rock | Dolly Sods - Bear Rocks |
| *Ice Mtn. | Eagle Rocks | Caudy's Castle |
| Edes Ford | Greenland Gap | Kline Gap |
| Cosner Gap | Hanging Rock | Grace Rock |
| Devil's Garden | Big Schloss | |
| | Miscellaneous | |
| Hermitage/Schaffer Rocks, Pa. | | Stover Cliffs, Pa. |
| Shawangunks, N.Y. | | Linville Gorge, N.C. |
| Mt. Washington, N.H. | | Chapel Pond, N.Y. |
| Cannon Mtn., N.H. | | Whitehorse Ledges, N.H. |
| Cathedral Ledges, N.H. | | |

CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

<u>Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Leader</u>
Mar. 4-5	Seneca Rocks, W. Va. (Training-contact Dave)	Dave Templeton (933-2174)
March 8	Meeting, PATC Headquarters 8:00 p.m.	
Mar. 11-12	Eagle Rock, W.Va.	Chuck Sproull (894-4463)
Mar. 18-19	Shawangunks	Harold Meyer (248-5297)
Mar. 26	Bull Run Mtn.	Jon Larson (223-7314)
Apr. 2	Caudy's Castle (Training)	Dave Templeton (933-2174)
Apr. 9	Annapolis Rocks	Beth Waldow (527-1269)
Apr. 12	Meeting, PATC Headquarters 8:00 p.m.	

If more information is needed by people interested in going on the Section's trips--call the Trip Leader.

Seneca Rocks, W.Va.

From the Beltway take I-66 to Gainesville and bear right onto Va. 55 to Moorefield, W.Va. Turn left on U.S. 220 to Petersburg and pick up W.Va. 4 and 28 (a right in the middle of town). Go 22 miles to Mouth of Seneca. After crossing bridge over North Fork turn left onto dirt road. Go 1/4 mile to parking lot by river. Cross bridge.

Eagle 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 south and go 16 miles past Petersburg. Turn right on paved road to the rocks and campground (about 5 miles).

Shawangunks, N.Y.

North on the Beltway (405) to Colesville exit, Rt. 29 N, to 70 N East, to the Baltimore Beltway (695). Go left on 695 toward Towson, and at Exit 24, go west on Interstate 83, the Timonium-York exit. In exactly 70 miles (one hr. 10 min.) take Rt. 81 to Allentown. (Do not take 78N to Allentown). 86 miles later, or one hour and 17 minutes later, turn onto

Rt. 80, the Stroudsburg-Bloomsbury exit. Drive 46 miles to 209 N. (Note: 80 and 209 join at Stroudsburg). Avoid 209S and 209 Business, which peel off to the left. Take Exit 52, to Milford, exactly one hour after you got onto Rt. 80. 37 miles later turn onto the new Rt. 84 and drive 40 miles (45 minutes) to the last exit, Exit 5. Turn left onto 208 N to New Paltz and prepare for the slowest hour of the entire trip. After 14 miles turn left onto 44-55 and wind your way about 7 miles to the Brauhaus "T" intersection and continue past the hairpin turn about a mile, to Trapp Road. Turn right and go about one mile, crossing two bridges, to poorly-marked Coxing Camp, on the right after the second bridge. Bull Run Mountain, Va.

From the Beltway take I-66 to Gainesville. Bear right onto Va. 55. About 1/3 mile past the junction with U.S. 15 bear right (note Skyline Cavern sign) onto a secondary road. In about 3 miles turn left at a T-intersection where the road becomes dirt. The road is paved again at the county line. Col. Hugh Sock's house is passed then park at the base of a steep jeep road on the left (don't block the jeep road). Hike up the jeep road until it starts to level off, then pick up a trail on the right where the electric lines cross the road. The rocks are about a mile up the trail and are 200 yards past a good view that is partially blocked by a 10-foot high boulder.

Caudy's Castle, W.Va.

From the Beltway take either U.S./Va. 7 or U.S. 29-211 to U.S. 50 to Winchester. Follow U.S. 522 north about 15 miles and go west on Va. 127 (becomes 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.

Annapolis Rocks, Md.

In Frederick, Md. pick up U.S. 40 towards Hagerstown. At the top of South Mountain park at the roadside park on the left--across from a gas station. If you drive over I-70 you've gone too far. Follow U.S. 40 on left side toward I-70 following blue-blazed trail along old trolley tracks. AT follows edge of embankment of I-70 under bridge at right. Annapolis Rocks are about 2 miles up the AT.

Summer Trip, concluded from page 3

The trip would be open to Mountaineering Section members only; and only those who have some degree of climbing proficiency, preferably some seconding experience, but mountaineering experience need not be necessary -- you can learn that this summer from the more experienced Section members. Also some degree of physical conditioning, as well as a Section-supplied course in basic mountain rescue and mountain first aid will be required.

Presently, the trip is an idea only. If you are interested in making definite plans call Tom McCrumm at 525-6272. Details can be worked out when the kind of trip that interests people is known.

Up Rope

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