



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

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### CLIMBING SEASON IN FULL SWING; MS OFFERS EXPEDITIONS

THIS SUMMER, PATC Mountaineers will again be found climbing in many parts of the world. For those who have not completed their plans for a summer vacation in the mountains, the PATC Mountaineering Section is offering two exciting opportunities to mountaineer, climb, hike and relax:

Four weeks, or less if you wish, in southern Colorado's mountains with Joe Jensen and group;

One week, at the end of August, at Cannon Mountain, New Hampshire, with Dave and Joan Templeton.

Before we give you the details -- here's an incomplete run-down on what some of the MS members will be doing this summer: Our Chairman, John Christian, has been invited to help as a guide and rope leader by the Alpine Club of Canada for one week at the Fryatt Creek mountaineering camp. Afterwards he will helicopter with a handful of ACC members to the Clemencau area of the Wood River group in the Canadian Rockies for two weeks of ice and snow mountaineering.

Sallie Greenwood, former indefatigable UP ROPE editor and departing Vice Chair Person (leaving for the mountains out West) is now in Peru on her way to the Cordillera Blanca. In her endeavor with the Iowa Mountaineers have joined Tom McCrumm and Don Schaefer.

June Lehman has left for the High Tatra Mountains in Czechoslovakia from where she will later join up with Joe Jensen's Colorado expedition. At latest count, some nine people have signed up for Joe's expedition, including Matt Blumenthal and Chuck Sproull. Hal Myers is believed to hit the U.S. southwestern mountains, former MS Chairman Hal Kramer has just returned from the Kilimanjaro area, John Anderson and wife Madeleine are surveying Mt. Washington summit and surroundings and Rich Parrish seems to be commuting between the Gunks, Seneca Rocks and Yosemite. John Larson, Betty Boeker (who is moving to Washington state) and your UP ROPE editor will be climbing in the Canadian Rockies for two weeks and participate in the AAC Fryatt Creek camp.

Arnold Wexler will be climbing out West during August and Andy Kauffman has left several weeks ago for the Rockies. This initial survey is brief and incomplete but we hope that we will hear from you in September and that you will share your climbing experiences with us.

#### Summer's End Expedition

A Labor Day expedition into the wilds of New Hampshire will be led by Dave Templeton and his wife, August 26-September 10. Preliminary plans are to leave town about 5 a.m. on Aug. 26 and camp at LaFayette Camp or some other site near Cannon

Mountain. Climbing will be done on Mt. Cannon and possibly at Whitehorse and Cathedral Ledges at North Conway. Anyone interested in going should contact Dave at 933-2174 prior to August 1. Only lead climbers should consider going and in two-man parties.

#### Colorado Expedition

Interested in spending all or part of August climbing in Colorado? A group from the PATC Mountaineering Section will be leaving this area by car on July 29 and returning on Aug. 27. Members are welcome to ride out with us or meet us in Colorado at a pre-arranged time and place.

Aug. 1-5 will be spent in the vicinity of Denver (camping at Joe Jensen's parents farm), rock climbing around Boulder, and getting acclimatized on some of the nearby mountains.

Aug. 6-9 we will be in the South Colony Lake region of the Sangre de Cristo range. Climbing possibilities here include Crestone Needle, Crestone Peak, Kit Carson Peak and Humbolt Peak.

Aug. 10-14 we will move to the Mt. Blanca massif where we will have opportunities to climb Mt. Blanca, Mt. Lindsey, Little Bear Peak and Mt. Ellingwood.

Aug. 16 we will head toward Durango from where we will ride the Denver & Rio Grande narrow gauge railroad to Needleton. Leaving the train, we will backpack up into the Chicago Basin, high in the San Juan Mountains. Here, we have scheduled nine days of wilderness mountaineering, rock climbing, hiking etc. The climbing possibilities are limited only by your imagination (and capabilities).

Expenses will be kept at a minimum. Much of the food will be bought in Colorado to avoid hauling it out there. We will try to get together on tents, stoves and climbing gear to conserve weight on backpacks.

You will want to have good mountaineering boots and an ice ax. The days will be pleasant, with rare afternoon showers. Nights will be cool. I've always found a sweater and a wind parka to be sufficient for climbing. Down sleeping gear is a must. Participants should bring their own eating utensils. Personal items should be kept to a minimum as there will be a good deal of food and gear to be carried on the backpacks.

For more details, call Joe Jensen at (301) 761-5627. If you want to meet us in Colorado for part of the trip, we must get the details worked out ahead of time. In Colorado, the point of contact will be the Jensen's farm, 2521 E. 68th Pl. North of Denver, tel.: (303) 288-9576.

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## THE SUMMIT REGISTER

Editor, UP ROPE

The reasons for this letter were prompted by comments in UP ROPE and Eastern Trade--and also for that matter by what I have found on my return to U.K. climbing.

You will recall the opening passages of the Seneca Guide (on which I have written three times to John Christian suggesting amendments, in particular a reference to the summit register as a source of information) in which I referred to the need for care in avoiding the use of pitons, in turn to avoid damaging the rock. John Stannard makes the same point. He has, however, I suggest missed the point as regards putting in permanent (and dangerous) soft iron pegs in the Gunks. These will not discourage the regular use of hard pegs. What is needed is an approach from the other pole, i.e. from the human, ethical end. Climbers have got to be brought up to think that the first requirement is skill and nerve and their development. Safety, as a paramount aim, merely encourages ridiculously high levels of protection as a substitute for skill and nerve. Using what the routes offer naturally, plus such aids as may be used which will not damage the rock, should come in parallel with the development of skill. Here in the U.K., I am again just managing to lead 5.6-5.7s but the great joy for me is that I no longer have to carry pitons and a hammer. No climb which, officially, I can lead, merits a piton: so, the rock suffers only the wear from my rubber boots and my nerves stay good.

Bob Robinson

Editor, UP ROPE

The May issue of UP ROPE contains an instance of illogical behavior common in climbing, which also bears directly on an area in which I have a great interest. A trip report relates the use of a one-pitch cliff at the Shawangunks which had the advantages of no climbing fees, few people and the illusion of first ascents. First of all, the fees charged by the Trust (i.e. The Mohonk Trust, Ed.) are minimal compared to the expenses borne by climbers for transportation and equipment. Furthermore the Trust has earned this support and much more by the benefits it has intentionally bestowed on climbers for many years. The continued existence of the Shawangunks is not made more secure when climbers avoid the very real debts that they owe. Second, it never ceases to amaze me when someone fails to see the self-contradiction implicit in publishing the existence of a small cliff when its principal advantage is that it is not crowded. Such publication might have made sense 20 years ago, but active promotion of climbing areas today is indefensible. Thirdly, the illusion of first ascents has been preserved by the extremely sparing use of pitons and the continuation of this illusion is based on the frail hope that people who have the independence to seek out new areas

Until further notice there will be no change in the deadline. Trip reports should be mailed the week following the climb. For late news and contributions, please contact the editor directly at 4528 Windom Pl., NW, Washington DC 20016, tel.: (202) 966-6379.

for themselves, will also be sensitive to the damage that is caused by foot traffic and the piton. Publishing such as has occurred in UP ROPE can only remove even this faint hope.

I would like to take this opportunity to propose a number of policies for the UP ROPE and PATC, which is after all the only organization in this area which might be able to deal with some of the problems that exist. First of all, everything that goes into UP ROPE should be screened with an eye toward the impact it will have on climbers and climbing areas. In particular, I would like to see the detailed instructions on how to get to various climbing areas deleted from future issues. Let people come to club meetings in order to hear trip reports and to find out how to get to climbing areas. Second, since the PATC has written a Guide to Seneca I think that they must also assume the tremendous burden of helping the area survive the increased activity that the guide has caused. A master plan for climbing at Seneca has to be worked out with the government agency concerned, the talus slopes on either side of Seneca must be stabilized, and an efficient system of instruction must be operative every weekend in order that people may learn how to climb without causing damage either to themselves or to the area. The level of experience and ecological sensitivity at Seneca is very low, and a great crag may be destroyed as a result. In addition I think that this is not the time to publish the existence of other areas as a solution to the problem at Seneca. An ecologically insensitive climber will cause the same amount of damage wherever he climbs, and if he is to be educated it will be at Seneca. Before anyone promotes a new climbing area it is his moral responsibility to stabilize talus slopes, provide soft iron free of charge, and provide someone who will be present each weekend to watch over the area.

I would also like to take this opportunity to present arguments against the publishing a guide to Carderock before anyone seriously considers doing this, in hopes that the PATC will support a similar position. It is hard to conceive how a guide could increase the use of this area above that which it already sustains. However, it would certainly increase greatly the climbing done on each of the various problems by directing people's attention to them. A guide would tend to focus activity on smaller areas of the rock. Carderock's real value is not as an area in which there are a number of stereotyped boulder problems, but as an area in which one can work out for himself any one of an infinite number of boulder problems. A guide would thus be detrimental to both Carderock and its climbers. Even to this day people are fascinated by the Yosemite Decimal System (YDS) grading of climbs, and it is a great temptation to write a guide so that the difficulty of the various problems can be rated. Even in the days when people really believed in YDS ratings for fifth class routes, they would never have attempted to use such a system in a place such as Carderock. It is simply not applicable. What is needed at Carderock is a program in cooperation with the government, to provide paths and to keep the soil loose around the trees so that vegetation can continue to survive.

Pitoning has never been a problem at Carderock due at least in part to the example set by the PATC. If a less responsible example had been set, there would now be no Carderock left to preserve. If the PATC is to continue to provide this kind of example, it must take great care that its action and voice are both responsive and relevant to modern problems at all times. It must also recognize that as a result of its publishing the Guide to Seneca Rocks, it has assumed a major responsibility for the preservation of that area. John Stannard.

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 month at PATC Headquarters. Deadline for submitted material is the next to last Wednesday of the month preceding an issue. Editorial contributions, trip reports, letters and comments should be directed to Editor, UP ROPE, c/o PATC, 1718 N St. NW, Washington DC 20036. Subscription rates are \$1.50 a year for PATC Mountaineering Section members and \$2.50 for non-members. The additional dollar may be credited toward membership dues. Send new subscriptions and address changes to Business Manager, UP ROPE.

# Hanging Around

Echo Cliffs, Va.  
Apr 23 -- see UP ROPE, May edition.

Shawangunks, N. Y.  
April 29-30

Tom McCrumm - Trip Leader  
Mike Hill  
June Lehman  
Linda Harris  
Jane Bradley  
Neil Arsenault

Dave Templeton  
Bill Bookhout  
Sherrill Young  
Ray Sneed  
Pete Birkholz  
Misc. others

After so many weekends of rain in April, we were anxious for a good sunny weekend at the Gunks to bring out those May flowers. Fine weather we had, which brought more climbers than flowers I think. Spring was certainly three weeks behind Washington at that time, with the trees only barely budding. Unfortunately the climbing scene at the Gunks isn't what it used to be for us -- the Coxing Campground, the past usual camping place for the Washington climbers has now become overly popular, and hence overly crowded, noisy and complete with rip-off artists -- so keep your gear in sight wherever you camp at the Gunks now. Mike and I drove up a day early, anxious to get back on the rock after the winter. We rattled off a good day of 5.7s to see just what shape we were in -- needless to say after a winter with little climbing we were beat by nightfall. The remainder of the Washington crew arrived at various hours Friday night and we were all on the rocks early Saturday for another beautiful hot sunny day of climbing. Bill and Sherrill, their first trip to the Gunks, did Three Pines, Minty and High Corner with Dave Templeton. High Corner, though not terribly difficult (5.4) (No but "very difficult" or IV+. Ed.) is an imposing climb for a novice due to the gymnastics and contortions required to complete the top pitch.

Neil Arsenault and party did Drunkards Delight, the only climb at the Gunks that has a ten foot overhang to surmount which is only 5.5! It's been said that the holds are so good that as you reach up for them a big hairy hand comes out of the rock and tightly grasps your hand making it almost impossible to fall off. Linda and I did a climb I have been very anxious to do for a few years -- Yellow Ridge in the Near Trapps -- it's a great climb, but you'd better have your crack climbing technique well wired together if you expect to get past the first pitch. I didn't keep track of who did what else except that I'm sure everyone got their first sunburn of the year.

The future of climbing at the Gunks is becoming questionable this year. The area is getting more and more crowded, campsites are hard to find, equipment is getting ripped off, most popular climbs already have other parties on them when you get there, and even if not, it's hard to climb without a party either above you, below you and one on each side of you. I recommend that all of those climbers who have enjoyed the pleasures of climbing at the Gunks in the past and those who intend to climb there in the future be concerned about the area.

Seneca Rocks, W. Va.  
May 6-7 (Training trip)

Dave Templeton - Trip Leader  
Matt Blumenthal  
Russ Brown  
John Christian  
Bob Connor  
Phil Eddy  
David Hall  
Judy Jenkins  
Jay Ozment  
Bill Pepper  
Rich Parrish  
Sherrill Young  
John Bonine  
Jeff Brown  
Greg Christopoulos  
Brian Conroy and friend

Jimmy Eddy  
Bud Herrman  
Nick Kelly and wife  
John Patterson  
Al Schrock  
Bob Schultz  
Bill Bookhout  
Bob Breugemann  
David Clark  
Martha Crawford  
Johanna Guccione  
Anna Huguenard  
Tim Lee  
Mark Pellow  
Phil Schrock  
Arnold Wexler

Parrish and I came early and did a day of climbing on Friday. Rich led the greater part of Ecstasy Jr. and then allowed me to lead up to Thais. Instead of continuing out of the corner after the step-around, we traversed under and up to the South Summit kicking off the residue of the rockfall from the ledges there.

The bulk of the party arrived on Saturday morning. After watching Jimmy Eddy take off in his fishing garb, the four intermediates, Blumenthal, Herrman, Al Schrock and John Patterson were sent off to climb with Phil Eddy, Christian, Wexler and Parrish respectively. Ozment, Jeff Brown, Pepper and Connor seconded the respective teams. I took the novices -- Clark, Christopoulos, Schultz, Crawford, Phil Schrock and Russ Brown over beneath the Southern Pillar and we belayed, rappelled, prusiked and climbed there for most of the day. We were augmented in the afternoon by John Bonine and Judy Jenkins. About six in the evening, we made our way wearily back to the campground.

After hungrily watching Judy Jenkins prepare gourmet delights and after helping everyone sample her cheese fondue and after-dinner liqueur, I ate my red beans and rice a la Terre West Virginia. Entertainment was provided by a group sing with guitar backup and solos done by the Mouth of Seneca (Patterson, Parrish and Templeton). With a good solid beat provided by the guitars the gathering sang songs of Jan Conn's, Herb Conn's (Jam-Crack Joe Climbs Again), Dave Templeton's and some upstart named Bob Dylan. Bud Herrman used Parrish's guitar to lead us through "The Sounds of Silence" and Matt Blumenthal used Patterson's to take us through "Where Have All the Flowers Gone."

Sunday found us up and going. Anne Huguenard and Johanna Guccione had come in during the night. Also we were joined by Brian Conroy and his girl friend, Nick Kelly and his wife, and Bill Bookhout and Sherrill Young. With Phil Eddy, Parrish, Bookhout, Kelly, Jeff Brown and myself leading and with Patterson, Connor, Herrman, Conroy, Russ Brown and Bill Pepper seconding we split up the intermediates and novices and took off for the climbs. It gave me great pleasure to know that Brian Conroy had recovered from the fractured leg he suffered at the Gunks last year and that he is now climbing again. I also enjoyed watching Bill Pepper lead on Lower Skylene. Our new crop is coming along nicely and both, the ranks of climbers and the leadership in the club, is being augmented rapidly with good people.

I forgot about Anne Huguenard and Johanna Guccione who took off for the Lunch Ledge early in the morning. Phil Eddy found them there and got them on a practice climb near Old Ladies' and so made up for my oversight. (P.S. by Anne: After a rather novel trip into Seneca Saturday pm via -- would you believe? -- Jerome, Va.! -- Jo and I arrived at midnight. Weary and much disappointed we had missed the sing-in. We were up and fed and off to the Lunch Ledge at 7:30 am. I'm limited to very slow uphill hikes and wanted to be there when the others arrived at 9:30. Dave had dictated excellent directions and we arrived at the ledge at 8:45; having 45 minutes to wait, we instantly curled up on a rock and went back to sleep. About 10:30, Phil, Vanya, Bob and Judy arrived with the dismal news that at 9 am Dave had changed plans and wasn't coming. They instantly adopted us and we started looking for a climb. Old Man's was overpopulated, so we opted for Old Ladies. John went up in record time. Judy tied in and left. She worked fantastically well and hard but had to stop when nothing worked. Johanna had climbed exactly one small rock before at Wolf Gap in October. She followed John's route and looked to us as if she'd been climbing since birth; she sounded like that too. I managed about 40 feet before it became evident my right arm wasn't ready yet. But it took no little swallowing of pride to push off into a slip, recover, and come down. It was beautiful! PATC climbers are generous and patient with novices.)

I hope you all enjoy these trips as I do. I appreciate the cooperation from those who are helping me train and from those who are being trained. Those of you who learned the ropes, so to speak, at this and previous weekends are urged to get out on the regular trips and put what you have learned into practice.

## CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Date	Place	Leader
July 22-23	Wolf Rock	Dave Templeton (933-2174)
July 29-30	Seneca Rocks	Bill Thomas (536-7948)
August 5-6	Wolf Gap (Training)	Dave Templeton (933-2174)
(no general meeting this month)		
August 19-20	Seneca Rocks	John Christian (229-2792)
September 10	Wolf Rock (Training)	Dave Templeton (933-2174)
September 13	Meeting PATC Hq, 8 pm	

\* office phone

For more information on Section trips, call the Trip Leader. People interested in going on Training trips should contact Dave Templeton no later than three days before scheduled event.

DIRECTIONSWolf Rock, Md.

From the Washington Beltway (U.S. 495) take I-70S to Frederick and pick up U.S. 15. Continue north to Thurmont, get on Md. 77 west and go 3 miles to the Visitor's Center of Catoctin Mountain Park. Turn right, go 0.5 mile and park in a small lot on the right. Hike 1 mile following the trail signs to Wolf Rock.

Seneca Rocks, W. Va.

From the Washington Beltway (U.S. 495) take I-66 to Gainesville. Pick up U.S. 55 and follow it to Moorefield, W. Va. Turn left on U.S. 220 to Petersburg. In Petersburg pick up W. Va. 4 and 28 (right turn). Go 22 miles to Mouth of Seneca. After crossing bridge over North Fork turn left to dirt road. Go 0.25 mile to parking lot by river. Cross bridge by rocks.

NOTICE: There will be no general meeting in August and trips between the end of August and the middle of September will have to be individually arranged. Please contact John Christian or Dave Templeton for suggestions on club trips and training activities.

Wolf Gap, W. Va.

From the Washington Beltway (U.S. 495) take I-66 to Gainesville and bear right to Va. 55 through Front Royal and Strasburg. Just past Strasburg enter I-81 South to Woodstock and exit into Va. 42 going west. At Columbia Furnace sign turn right and enter Va. 675. Follow signs for Wolf Gap and USFS campground at top of ridge.

ATTENTION TRIP LEADERS: Your main responsibility is to see that participating climbers use safe techniques and equipment to avoid serious accidents. If a leader is unable to accompany the assigned trip he must appoint a substitute leader. You can help making the trip enjoyable and rewarding by introducing newcomers around; checking out the rigging of top-roped climbs and reporting back to UP ROPE about the highlights of the trip. The report should include names of all participants. If directions to climbing areas need revision, please note the necessary changes in your trip report to Editor, UP ROPE, 1718 N St. NW, Washington DC 20036.

BELAY LEDGE

Starting September or October all Galibier boots (RRs, RDs, PAs, Super Guide RDs, Hivernale Double Boots, Peutereys etc.) will increase 25 percent in price. This is an increase by the factory in France.

Tom McCrumm

Mountaineering Medicine Course  
May 8 - June 26, 1972

Dr. Phil Cardon, Lecturer  
Dr. Robert Engler, Lecturer  
June Lehman  
John Markwell  
Gerald Johnson  
Arnold Wexler  
Joe Wagner  
Tom McCrumm

John Patterson  
Jack Rucker & son Jack  
Bill Bookhout  
Betty Boeker  
Don Schaefer  
John Christian  
Dave Templeton  
Sallie Greenwood

Using the Seattle Mountaineers' book "Medicine for Mountaineers" as a text, Drs. Phil Cardon and Robert Engler prepared the 15 enrollees of the PATC MS Mountaineering Medicine Course for handling any medical emergency which might arise in an alpine emergency. Dr. Cardon, who is Chief of the Unit of Psychosomatics of NIMH's Laboratory of Clinical Science, put together a course in which he covered problems arising in the treatment of traumatic disorders and problems resulting from the effects of high altitude. Dr. Engler, an orthopedic surgeon practicing privately in Fairfax County, covered the treatment of fractures and reduction of dislocations. The course required seven weeks for completion. Dr. Cardon states that with sufficient demand the course will be repeated during the winter season.

UP ROPE readers please note that this is the combined issue for July and August 1972. We expect to add the extra pages to one of our fall or winter editions. The next issue of UP ROPE will appear in September.

The Editor

*Up Rope*

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