



FOUNDED BY  
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

### At Base Camp

Besides climbing, the Mountaineering Section is becoming increasingly involved in matters which concern future opportunities -- and problems -- for the mountaineer. To keep everyone informed we are reporting here pertinent items discussed and handled at regular MS meetings. At the first MS meeting, September 13, following a busy climbing summer for many members, these important items were brought up:

Dave Templeton memorial -- MS Chairman John Christian paid tribute to the Chairman of the Training Committee, PATC and MS member Dave Templeton who fell to his death on August 5 during lead climbing training. The PATC Council has agreed to a suggestion by Don Schaefer to support a new cabin in the Seneca Rocks area in memory of Dave. The Section membership unanimously authorized MS officers to study ways to build or acquire such a cabin and recommend alternate befitting memorials, such as climbing and naming an unnamed peak, a training service at Carderock or a mountaineering library.

New vice chairman -- June Lehman was unanimously elected to succeed Sallie Greenwood as vice chairperson.

Training -- Joe Jensen was appointed training chairman and asked to work out a continuing training program for novice and intermediate climbers. The membership took notice of the new chairman's plans (1) to undertake a "highly structured but informal" training program; (2) to make a maximum effort to bring novices up to a standard where they can participate in MS mountaineering and climbing activities; and (3) to discontinue specific training meetings and conduct training as part of MS climbs whenever feasible using volunteer instructors. A motion was approved to recommend to the training committee to continue training climbs and meetings, at least once a month.

Safety -- John Christian reported about an earlier MS executive committee meeting which examined and discussed the section responsibilities for safe climbing and training. In a lively exchange, numerous club members supported proposals to make club trips safer and offered additional suggestions. Rescue training will be resumed and fellow climber Dr. Phil Cardon has generously agreed to conduct a new mountaineering medicine course in spring 1973.

Beginning now, the section will accept only MS members as trip leaders and requires them to be familiar with first aid, basic rescue and emergency techniques. Before entering a climbing area, trip leaders should contact the responsible ranger or park official when practical, obtain information about the

location of a telephone, names, locations and phone numbers of ambulance service/rescue squad, physician, hospital, park or forest ranger and police department. UP ROPE will collect this information for future use and updating. A first aid kit stored at PATC headquarters will be available to trip leaders.

Membership cards -- New membership cards will show climbing qualifications (trip leader, rope leader, second) following a motion approved at the meeting.

Mountain rescue course  
A brief, basic course for trip leaders and potential leaders is being planned for this fall. In 3-4 demonstrations and practice meetings (one probably indoor) in the Washington DC area general responsibilities of trip leaders and basic mountain rescue techniques and equipment will be covered. Contact Joe Jensen for details.

### Hanging Around

Wolf Gap, VA/WV, May 20-21

- |                           |                      |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Bill Pepper - Trip Leader | Mike and Nellie Hill |
| John Pepper               | Dave Templeton       |
| Bob Connor                | Rich Parrish         |

A drizzling Saturday produced some very slippery spots at Big Schloss, what with the lichen and all. After lunch the weather improved slightly, and the Peppers and Bob Connor spent most of the afternoon attempting to follow Mike Hill's example on an exasperating bit of rock below the big ledge. Dave and Rich were not present, having planned to drive up Saturday night from Seneca. Non-climber Nellie Hill patiently sat the day out on top of the mountain, getting cold and wet from wind and cloud.

Saturday night the Parrish-Templeton team car charged into camp, bearing a snoutful of Seneca mud and weeds. After eating in the rain, we stood around getting wet and lamenting that we hadn't reserved the PATC cabin for the weekend.

Sunday, Mike Hill led the way to the Devil's Garden. A barrier has been erected across the Camp Hemlock entrance, and it is posted "No Trespassing," although we didn't discover the sign until later. After fording the swollen creek and doing some delicate scrambling along the creek bank, we reached the Garden. The weather was a repeat of the day before and the top of the rocks were very slick. But Mike assured us the overhangs would be dry, and he was right. (Cont'd. on p. 3)

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## From the Editor's Chimney

PROTECTING the mountain in its natural setting is a modern problem for North American and European climbers who until quite recently had to worry only about relatively moderate damage caused by a few. But the physical harm done to rock, water and vegetation is becoming greater and more severe as more people become active in mountaineering -- and as the climbing hardware business is becoming 'big business'.

Equally serious is the threat to the spirit and ideals of mountaineering and unless the new climbing generation will free itself from the conviction that everything can be scaled and conquered -- with the right technical equipment -- there will be little left of unspoiled rock or climbing spirit.

Today we can observe a growing group of climbers who place more emphasis on safety in equipment than on safe climbing. Fortunately, we also notice a growing awareness of the threat of excessive use of climbing hardware to rock spreading through the North American climbing community. Increasing use of nuts or clogs in place of pitons is one example that comes to mind.

Like most other sports, climbing has its diverging schools of thought and technique, its own peculiar fads and fashions and its share of saints and sinners. The use of certain 'aids' is certainly no longer at issue but the climbing of "impossible" routes, aided primarily through the exclusive and multiple use of bolts and similar devices finds favor and fascination with a good number of today's climbers.

A fellow climber in Canada recently spotted an article in the British Mountain magazine which deals with the butchery of the ideal, the romance and the spirit of mountaineering. Its author, Reinhold Messner, a 27-year old Austrian and one of Europe's expert mountaineers (Marmolata South Face, Yerupaja Chico, Nanga Parbat, Manaslu), thinks that the faith placed in equipment by many of today's climbers is chiefly responsible for "The Murder of the Impossible." He writes:

"What have I personally got against 'direttissimas'? Nothing at all; in fact, I think that the 'falling drop of water' route is one of the most logical things that exists. And of course it always has existed -- so long as the mountain permits it. But sometimes the line of weakness wanders to the left or the right of this line; and then we see climbers -- those on the first ascent, I mean -- going straight on up as if it weren't so, striking in bolts of course. Why do they go that way? "For the sake of freedom," they say; but they don't realize that they are slaves of the plumbline.

"They have a horror of deviations. "In the face of difficulties, logic commands one not to avoid them, but to overcome them," declares Paul Claudel [Prominent European rock climber.Ed.]. And that's what the 'direttissima' protagonists say, too, knowing from the start that the equipment they have will get them over any obstacle. They are therefore talking about problems which no longer exist. Could the mountain stop them with unexpected

difficulties? They smile: those times are long past! The impossible has been eliminated, murdered by the direttissima."

Messner understandably deplores the climber who forces his way, and none other, on the face, bolt by bolt. He notes that rock faces are no longer overcome by skilled free climbing, "but are humbled, pitch by pitch, by the methodical manual labor... Ambitions are no longer built on skill, but on equipment and the length of time available. The decisive factor isn't courage, but technique; an ascent may take days and days and the pegs and bolts counted in hundreds. Retreat has become dishonorable, because everyone knows now that a combination of bolts and singlemindedness will get you up anything, even the most repulsive-looking direttissima."

People are drilling more and climbing less and less, and what disturbs us most as mountaineers -- they have erased every single limit in climbing and "impossible" has been stricken from the climber's vocabulary. And with it risk and the toe-hold relationship between man and mountain: "Man has achieved the impossible."

There is hope that the next generation will free itself from the reliance on equipment and again search for the 'limits of possibility -- for we must have such limits if we are going to use the virtue of courage to approach them.

"...in the future let's follow the road that past climbers marked out," Messner implores his fellow climbers, "I'm convinced it's still the right one. Put on your boots and get going. If you've got a companion, take a rope with you and a couple of pitons [Better yet, nuts. Ed.] for your belays, but nothing else. I'm already on my way, ready for anything -- even retreat, if I meet the impossible. I'm not going to be killing any dragons, but if anyone wants to come with me, we'll go to the top together on the routes we can do without branding ourselves as murderers."

DAVID F. TEMPLETON JR.  
March 29, 1926 -- August 5, 1972

Dave Templeton died quickly without suffering while participating in an activity that he sincerely enjoyed. During his last 30 feet of climbing we spectators below heard him exclaim several times about what a fine route that one was. If the amount of sweating and struggling he did to ascend the overhanging chimney and step out on top was any indication of his feeling of accomplishment he must have been quite proud.

Those of us who knew him well realize that he was never selfish -- all the way to his final pull on the rope in an attempt to protect someone else. We who have been in dangerous situations with him will not forget him nor lose respect for the depth of his compassion. CS

*Up Rope*

UP ROPE is the Newsletter of the PATC Mountaineering Section, founded by Jan and Herb Conn in 1944 and published monthly except during August. Deadline for submitted material is on the evening of the second Wednesday each month. Editorial contributions, trip reports, letters and comments should be directed to Editor, UP ROPE, c/o PATC, 1718 N St. NW, Washington D.C. 20036. Subscription rates are \$1.50 a year for PATC MS members and \$2.50 for others. Send new subscriptions and address changes to Business Manager, UP ROPE.

HANGING AROUND (cont'd. from p. 1) Everybody had a great time and agreed that the Garden was much more fun than Big Schloss.

In the middle of the afternoon, Mike saw a large pilot black snake on a ledge below us. John, an avid snake collector, went down to try to catch it while Father Bill watched from above. When John was a couple of feet away, he discovered a copperhead right behind the black snake! He called for reinforcements and Dad went down and caught both snakes. When it turned out that nobody wanted to inspect the copperhead at close quarters, he let it go. John had a happy ride home in the back seat of the Pepper VW, handling the six-foot pilot black snake, but Bob Connor in the front seat had a queasy trip.

Shawangunks, NY, May 27-29

Mike Hill - Trip Leader	Al Schrock
Nellie Hill	Terry Robinson
Chuck Sproull	Marcia Coppel
Tom McCrumm	Maitland Sharpe
Janet Gladfelter	Rich Parrish
Dave Templeton	Jean-Pierre Benoist
Madeleine Mailllet	Mireille Bordat
Bill and Dave Pepper	Bob Connors
The Goldbergs	

Most of us arrived early Saturday morning and ended up together by chance at the extension to Coxing Camp. The weather was great all three days, sunny but slightly warm. Some escaped the usual holiday crowd by climbing in the Near Trapps and the far end of the Trapps. A lot of relatively new climbers got some experience on the lead. The evening campfire sings brought out no less than four guitars, two kazoo's and a recorder (not to mention a bumper crop of vulgar songs). I was dismayed to see that John Stannard has engineered a new shape nut that fits the ubiquitous Gunks horizontal crack, eliminating the need to place those psychologically reassuring bomb-proof angle pitons. Great for the rock but hard on the psyche!

(P.S.: Some of you may have noticed that I-84 is now open from Port Jervis in the direction of Scranton. It is not complete however, taking you halfway there and leaving you in the boonies with no good roads.)

Old Rag, Va., May 1-4

Betty Boeker - Trip Leader	Helen Zeidler
Ben Meiley	

The trip took place but attendance was low and it rained most of the time.. We camped and hiked and enjoyed the outdoors as much as could be expected.

Crescent Rocks, Va., June 18

Jean Pierre-Benoist, Trip Leader (Al Goldberg)

Originally Al was supposed to be the trip leader, however, the "super athlete" managed to pull a muscle in his leg while playing baseball (that hallowed "trust"). After several "I'm sorry's" Al asked me if I would be willing to take over and I accepted.

For those who remember the weekend of the 18th it rained miserably. Nevertheless I went to the rocks confident that if nobody else was crazy to go in the rain I would enjoy a pleasant walk (though somewhat damp). I was not disappointed. The woods as always, revealed their most subtle nuances and delicate beauty in that foggy, rainy weather. I took a few pictures in the hope that the lense would see as much as my eyes. The loneliness was beautiful.

#### ACCIDENT REPORT

EAST FACE, Big Schloss Mountain, Wolf Gap Recreation Area, W. Va. On Saturday, August 5, 1972 at about 3:45 pm, Dave Templeton, 46, of the PATC Mountaineering Section fell 60 feet to his death from a ledge near the summit of Big Schloss. He landed head first on some rocks and died instantly from head and neck injuries. Cause of fall was failure of protection.

Dave had been conducting a training session on lead climbing with two beginners, Gregory Christopoulos and Marty X. Dave

lead the climb (a fairly difficult one-pitch climb with a long traverse) belayed by Greg and set up his top belay by placing a single 3/4 inch hexagonal nut down into a crack in a large rectangular block. The vertical crack was open at the top and the side away from the cliff. The nut was wedged about 3 inches down and between some horizontal ribs which extended in from both sides. Pete Gardiner saw Dave test the nut by pulling hard several times to the left and perpendicular to the crack, in the same direction as the rope. Then he tied off with a clove hitch and a carabiner on the nut runner. The distance from his single bowline waist loop to the nut was about 2 feet and probably a secure belay considering the rope angle and his sitting position on the smooth block.

Marty started climbing and fell at the beginning of the traverse 15 feet off the ground. He was belayed from the top and bottom and recovered successfully. After a total of about one and a half hours he finished the climb and had cleaned all of the hardware. Then he untied from both ropes. The rope down to Greg was now allowed to run straight over the edge from Dave instead of to the left as it had before. Also, it ran in the same direction as the crack and at this time there were 2 feet of slack behind the belay system -- from the nut to Dave. Greg started to climb and asked for tension at the beginning of the traverse, fell to the ground unhurt and saw Dave land just beside him. Dave wasn't wearing his hardhat which he had on during the lead. According to John Bonine and Jan Lane who were at the top a few feet away when tension was requested, Dave shifted his position slightly to the left and was pulled quietly over the edge.

When I arrived at the bottom two minutes later, Dave was lying motionless on his stomach. No pulse was detected. John had run down to the campground 1.5 miles away to notify the ranger. At about 6 pm three George Washington National Park rangers arrived and half an hour later four members of the Woodstock Rescue Squad came up from a road and trails to the east of Big Schloss. By 8 pm we had transported Dave's body out to an ambulance at the campground.

The tightness of the clove hitch and the curved grooves in the bevelled sides of the nut suggest that the nut failed at several hundred pounds of force. Also, upon inspecting the belay area while waiting for the rescue parties, it was found that Dave could have provided adequate protection for both climbers by tying a long sling or rope completely around a section of the large rectangular block. Charles B. Sproull II, 8-12-72.

## Belay Ledge

#### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The nominee should be present at the next meeting:

Nominee	Sponsors
Scott Twentyman	Dave Templeton
	Hal Mayer

#### MEMBERSHIP ROSTER

A roster of Mountaineering Section members and subscribers to UP ROPE was mailed during August. It appears that a number of new members and subscribers were not listed or changes of address were processed too late for which our Business Manager apologizes sincerely.

Our thanks to Lois Shipway who donated many hours and energy to revise the listings and type the new roster.

#### TO OUR FRIENDS...

Joan Templeton would like to thank everyone for the many cards, letters, phone calls and visits she received after Dave's death.

#### Alpine/cross-country skiing

If you are interested in alpine/cross-country skiing this winter in the U.S. and Canada, please give the following information to UP ROPE: Name, address, phone number, previous skiing experience (all specialties) and tentative winter plans. If sufficient interest is shown, the Mountaineering Section may organize activities, provide information about x-c events of other mountaineering clubs or help members organize their own ski trips.

# Climber's Calendar

Date	Place	Leader
September 17	Wolf Rock	Jack Rucker (B:296-3600 X652)
September 24	Bull Run Mountain	Bill Thomas (H:536-7948)
October 1	Carderock (Training)	Joe Jensen (H:(301) 761-5627)
October 7-9	*Shawangunks	June Lehman (B:281-4324)
October 8	Great Falls, MD	John Anderson (H:836-1692)
October 11	Meeting PATC Hq, 8 pm	
October 15	Annapolis Rocks	Bob Connor (H:424-1928)
October 21-23	*Seneca Rocks	John Christian (B:382-7825)
October 22	Crescent Rocks	Jimmy Shipley (H:(301) 789-3641)
October 29	Little Stony Man	Joe Wagner (966-6379)
November 5	(Training)	Joe Jensen (H:(301) 761-5627)
November 8	Meeting PATC Hq, 8 pm	

\* Lead climbers and experienced seconds only. Members and guests desiring to climb must arrange for climbing partners before arriving at the destination.

For more information about Section climbing, call the Trip Leader. People interested in training and practice climbing should contact Joe Jensen no later than three days before the scheduled event.

DIRECTIONS

Wolf Rock, MD -- see UP ROPE, July 1972

Bull Run Mountain -- see UP ROPE, March 1972

Shawangunks, NY  
Look at a recent road map. Examine the route from Washington to Harrisburg PA. Take I-81 to Allentown (not I-78N). Pick up I-80 at the Stroudsburg-Bloomsbury exit. Drive 46 miles to U.S. 209 North. Take exit 52 to Milford (about an hour since you entered I-80). Pick up I-84 going east to exit 5. Turn left on U.S. 208N to New Paltz. After 14 miles turn left on U.S. 44/NY 55. Continue past the Brauhaus T intersection (7 miles), through the hairpin curves, uphill and to the Trapp Road. Turn right and go about 1 mile, crossing two bridges, to the poorly marked Coxing Camp on the right.

Great Falls, MD  
From the Washington Beltway (U.S. 495) take exit 15, go past Carderock exit on George Washington Parkway and turn left on MacArthur Boulevard. Follow to Great Falls parking lot (4 miles). Walk downstream on tow path until rocks can be seen below. Follow trail breaking right and scramble down to rocks.

Annapolis Rocks, MD  
From the Washington Beltway (U.S. 495) take I-70S north past Frederick MD and pick up U.S. 40 going north. 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 have gone too far): Follow U.S. 40 toward I-70, on the right following blue-blazed trail along old tracks. Appalachian Trail follows edge of embankment of I-70 under bridge at right. Go right uphill and after two miles turn left at the Annapolis Rocks sign. About 100 yards to cliffs.

Seneca Rocks, WV  
From the Washington Beltway (U.S. 495) take I-66 to Gainesville. Pick up U.S. 55 and follow it to Moorefield WV. Turn left on U.S. 220 to Petersburg. In Petersburg pick up WVa 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 park lot by river. Cross bridge by rocks.

Crescent Rocks, VA  
Take VA 6 from Arlington VA through Leesburg, Purcellville to a point just beyond the intersection with VA 734 (from left) and enter VA 601. After about 1.5 miles cross the Appalachian Trail and park. Walk along AT for about 0.25 mile then continue on trail to Crescent/Raven Rocks.

Little Stony Man, VA  
From the Washington Beltway (U.S. 495) take I-66 west to Gainesville and U.S. 211 bypassing Warrenton to Thornton Gap. Turn south on 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 mile to Little Stony Man).

The UP ROPE Staff regrets the late publication and mailing of this issue. Members are reminded that information about climbs and other activities can be obtained by calling PATC headquarters (202) 638-5306, Monday through Friday, 7 to 10 pm, MS of-ficers or the UP ROPE Editor.

*Up Rope*  
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