



FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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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 meeting on November 8 these important items were brought up:

New members -- Membership applications were approved of the following new members Pat Lane, John Bonine and Marjorie Prohaska.

Seneca Rocks -- It was reported that the U.S. Forest Service has not dropped its projected tourist trail to north peak.

Dave Templeton Memorial Fund -- Contributions can now be made in the memory of Dave to this fund which is exempt from taxes.

Accident -- Don Watson from Colorado fell to his death near South Face, Seneca Rocks, in November. Initial reports said the climber who was described as experienced rappelled using a mechanical brake (bar and SMC carabiner) when the carabiner malfunctioned and released Watson about 100 feet above the ground. UP ROPE has subsequently received a conflicting report and will publish additional details in another issue, but counsels caution when using similar brake systems. Neil Arsenault told members that the type carabiner in question has opened under certain stress situations when used for rappelling by cavers.

Directions -- A motion to temporarily discontinue the publication of directions to climbing areas in UP ROPE was passed. (See our editorial on page 2).

INVITATION

TECHNICAL CLIMBING in pictures and sound by Tom Frost, on Saturday, Dec. 30 at 8:30 pm, Sheraton Hall, Washington DC. Barry Bishop will introduce Tom whose lecture is part of the annual convention program of the American Society for the Advancement of Science, Dec. 26-30. Tickets at the door, \$1.00.

International mountaineering institute, May 14 - 21, 1973 will be hosted by the Indian Mountaineering Foundation at Darjeeling.

Expedition to Colombia has openings for a few interested explorers and mountaineers to climb and explore in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta in February 1973 for two weeks. Call UP ROPE editor for contact.

Hanging Around

Linville Gorge, N.C., July 1-4

Chuck Sproull - Trip Leader
Lois Shipway - Trip Reporter
John Pierre-Benoist
John Birch
Dave Dantzler

John Gibbs
Al Schrock
Sarah Hogan
Jack Rucker, sons
and son's friend

John P. and John B. met Lois and Chuck at Table Rock Overlook at 3:00 in the morning, five hours ahead of schedule since traffic on the first 100 miles of I-95 was less congested than had been anticipated. By 4:00 am we were getting ready to catch up on the sleep we didn't get during the nine hours of driving. Al and Sarah had arrived on Friday afternoon and, coincidentally, were camped near the same picnic table we had chosen.

After a leisurely breakfast we noticed how warm and still the air was. The poor visibility to the east and west, caused by heat haze, suggested that we were in for some hot rock climbing.

Al and Sarah departed to do some hiking and to look the place over. The rest of us set out to climb and the Chimneys and at a two-humped pinnacle called the Camel. The Chimneys are a set of 60-foot high rocks on the ridge 1.5 miles south of Table Rock. Near their south end, we turned on to an inconspicuous path and descended about 150 yards to a magnificent overlook. The 500-foot high North Carlina Wall was to the south of the large pinnacle on which we stood. The Camel could be seen below and to the west of us. We climbed up a crack between the two humps, up the north hump, then down and across to the south hump and rappelled off.

We returned to camp just after Dave and John G. arrived and discovered another surprise. I had forgotten the dinner steaks and tomorrow's breakfast beacon. Since my beverage supply was dangerously low, we decided to drive 43 miles into the town of Blowing Rock and do some shopping.

On Sunday we climbed a 100-foot chimney on the right side of the south end of Table Rock and a 200-foot one on the west side just beyond the Devil's Cellar. Returning to camp we noticed a (Pg.3)

TO OUR MEMBERS AND CLIMBING FRIENDS WE EXTEND

BEST WISHES FOR THE SEASON !

PATC, MS AND UP ROPE

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From the Editor's Chimney

MEMBERS are the lifeblood of any organization, no matter how effectively organized it is or how well it is endowed with facilities and equipment. The Mountaineering Section is even more dependent on people since they are our climbing partners, instructors, friends and sometimes rescuers.

The basic membership policies for MS are outlined in our constitution and bylaws but what is needed now is the practical interpretation and application of these rules to cope with two seemingly contradictory and opposing problems: we lack active mountaineering members and our climbing areas, especially in the East, are becoming more crowded, unsafe and spoiled.

Without convening an expert study group to examine and analyze the situation over the next twelve months we can immediately identify these elements of the problem:

1-The active membership of the Mountaineering Section is small and is being reduced in numbers because of the transient nature of our area and for natural reasons.

2-The sport of mountaineering is growing for two reasons: (a) interest in mountaineering, especially among young people, is increasing (similarly to the skiing situation in the States in the 1950s and early 60s); (b) as a statistical result of the population growth in the 1955-1985 period.

3-Especially in the Eastern United States, mountaineering and rock climbing areas are now crowded and are expected to attract even more people. More accidents and incidents will result in adverse actions and reactions from the authorities and the public. Necessary protection and restoration of our natural environment will further limit the use of such areas.

4-More so than participants in other sports, mountaineers are strongly individualistic and only groups with active, efficient programs carried out with a minimum of organization and regimentation are successful.

To make our Section more attractive, effective and stronger while coping with the problems of a "growth" sport, we believe the Mountaineering Section should help its elected officers and committee members carry out an effective program by approving the following policy on membership:

1. *The Mountaineering Section (MS) will actively seek new members from among the active climbers in the area to join its organization and participate in its activities and programs.*

2. *The Mountaineering Section encourages its members to enroll also as members of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) and participate in its programs.*

3. *The Mountaineering Section welcomes especially young people who are interested in mountaineering and will help them enjoy our activities through*

such training and climbing programs as are necessary and practical.

4. *Guests may participate in occasional section activities, including climbing, and will receive the MS program free for two consecutive months if desired.*

Such policy, if adopted by the membership, would not throw the Section into a feverish drive for new members but would announce that we are a growing club which is interested in having active mountaineers as fellow members and which does something constructive about the flood of new climbers, mostly in their late teens and early twenties.

Without recommending specific ways to implement such a policy we can think of a number of methods of making active membership in MS more attractive: Selecting trip leaders from among qualified members only (being implemented); giving preference to members when the size of an activity requires limitation; free subscription of UP ROPE for all members; issuing or selling specialized maps, guides and other aids to members only; limiting information on climbing areas to members; providing a copy of the current membership roster (incl. home and business phone numbers, climbing experience, 1st aid etc. and other information) to members.

Some MS activities may require more money and we see nothing wrong with a substantial increase in dues (perhaps a reduction for persons under 17 or 18 years of age). If the Section feels very strongly about encouraging membership in PATC a dues structure could be worked out with PATC in which the combined PATC-MS dues would be at least equal or slightly smaller than the single MS membership dues. We could also allow former active members who have moved away from this area to retain non-resident membership through an UP ROPE subscription thus preserving their membership once they return to this area.

These and other actions would allow the Mountaineering Section to better serve its members and attract active mountaineers to become members through providing a meeting ground for mountaineers in the Washington area and a public voice for their concerns.

Editorial

DIRECTIONS to climbing areas may, just may, attract some new people to a hitherto rarely visited place. We certainly see little evidence to support the often heard allegation that such aids as mountaineering and climbing guidebooks are responsible for the overcrowding of the hills and cliffs. But we hope to comment on this subject in a future issue. At issue here is a problem much closer to the Mountaineering Section and UP ROPE: the publishing of directions to climbing areas in these pages.

At the last meeting, the membership approved a motion to discontinue the publishing of such directions in UP ROPE on a trial basis. We like to point out that the Editor of UP ROPE has always edited and published under conditions of "wide latitude for independent editorial policy" and will continue to do so. If directions will prevent section activities from becoming disorganized then our "direction" is clear.

But we do favor a different approach to the planning and management of trip and expedition climbing which includes the removal of most directions from these pages. (Cont'd. on p. 3)

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.

EDITORIAL (cont'd. from page 2)

The planning of trips and expeditions by acclamation, flip of the coin and the frequently coerced volunteering to lead trips just would not do under alpine climbing conditions. Nevertheless this practice breeds bad planning and leading habits and some of our recent mishaps may have been influenced by our makeshift planning attitudes. There is no commitment expected from the wouldbe participant, maybe he will go out on Sunday, maybe not. The leader will show up and then he may not because not many will show up. (Imagine, planning to climb a peak out West without knowing who will participate, how many ropes there will be and who will lead and do what.)

There is another point. Our meetings are taken up with necessary business but much effort could be made to reduce this and obtain more time for a well planned and announced program of interest, i.e. a report about an expedition to the Andes or a demonstration of new equipment etc.

In most serious mountaineering clubs the planning of trips and expeditions (which require long periods of dedicated preparations) is left to qualified, interested members who form the climbing committee. The same committee members who in our case could include all qualified trip leaders and section officers plan, organize and lead the trips. Before the program goes into UP ROPE the membership will have a chance to make suggestions to the proposed trip schedule.

Once posted, members and guests will have to sign up for the climbs (unless this is waived by the trip leader) before a certain deadline. If no one signs up or there is not enough interest then the climb can be cancelled if the trip leader so feels.

This practice will reduce time spent at meetings on what can be better done by a smaller group, it will give recognition to trip leaders and allow better planning of climbs (ropes, novices, alternates, early breakfast meetings etc.). It will also set a model for planning of alpine ascents and future MS expeditions.

Under such an arrangement, members and guests interested in going on a certain climb would receive directions from the trip leader and there would be little need for UP ROPE to publish them.

Belay Ledge

ELECTIONS

Elections for Section Chairman and Vice Chairman will be held at the annual meeting, January 10, 1973 at 8pm at PATC headquarters. Eligible to serve in these two elective positions and to vote are all Section members who are members of the PATC. A nominating committee has been formed, including Joe Wagner, chairman; Neil Arsenault and Chuck Sproull.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The nominee should be present at the next meeting:

<u>Nominee</u>	<u>Sponsors</u>
Thomas "Tim" I. Mervine	June W. Lehman Robin Craft

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Joe Jensen, now residing at	815 Scott Circle Glen Burnie, MD 21061 (301) 768-3431
Betty Boeker, now at	University of Washington Dept. of Biochemistry Seattle WA 98195
Richard Sideman, now with the	U.S. Attorney in San Francisco (He was sorry he wasn't able to get around and say goodbye to all but hopes any MS folk will look him up if they are in SF.)

TENT FOR SALE

Sierra Design 4-man tent, 13 3/4 lb. \$150. Call Hal Meyer, 248-5297.

HANGING AROUND: Linville Gorge (Cont'd. from page 1)

gathering of clouds on the west rim of the canyon and an occasional brisk breeze. After hastily putting the fly up on our tent, we headed down to the river for a bath. After a stimulating one and a half-mile walk in the rain the six of us went for a refreshing swim in a pool below a roaring waterfall. Al and Sarah backpacked down the Spence Ridge Trail with us to spend the night there in quiet seclusion. Back at camp we were met by Jack Rucker's gang; Jack had come down to pick up his sons who had been hiking nearby on the AT. Next day (Monday) Lois and I returned to the Camel with Dave and John. Dave led us up the south hump, and at the top I was delightfully surprised to find two nuts, slings and carbiners I had left there two days earlier. After rappelling off Dave and John headed for home (in spite of the way this sentence sounds, we actually rappelled off a tree...) while Lois and I bushwhacked down and over to the bottom of the North Carolina Wall. Then we climbed a steep, broken up section of the Wall. This little escapade was climaxed by a pitch of overhanging loose rocks -- ah, fond memories of Greenland Gap. On our way back to camp we climbed up a chimney and called it a day. Later we found out that Jack and his troops had spent the day climbing there. Meanwhile, John P. and John B. had driven back into the next county for liquid victuals and had brought us much to our great surprise, two beautiful, one-pound T-bone steaks for our dinner!

On Tuesday we set out to do one last easy (?) climb -- a shallow inside corner capped by a larger chimney on the left side of the south face of Table Rock. Just getting off the ground was tantalizingly difficult -- so was levitating to the ledge 30 feet above! Most of the rock faces in the Gorge tend to be long friction slabs which are great for climbing; however, points of protection on these relatively featureless faces are few and far between. I placed my first protection at 50 feet and my second at 100 feet after a series of thin, off-balance moves. The remainder of the first pitch was easy and full of good nut placements. We ended the pitch 140 feet from the ground at a fine blueberry bush under a leaning block. The large chimney at the top of the climb is entered by passing a horizontal laurel tree and climbing a strenuous 30-foot squeeze chimney. By the time we were ready to start again, however, threatening weather prompted us to traverse 60 feet left and walk off from a large ledge. We all thanked Mother Nature for giving us such fine weather that weekend.

Seneca Rocks, WV, November 18-19

Bill Thomas - Trip Leader	Bob Connor
John Birch	Tim Mervine
Marjorie Prohaska	and others
Rich Parrish	

This trip resulted in an incident which I feel should be reported and considered in light of the section's renewed interest in training and safety.

When we all started climbing, we experienced the age old problem of getting someone to take us on a high exposure continuous lead climb. Why? Because of the lack of experienced climbers who were willing to devote the time after making a usually long trip to a good climbing area, and who would assume the responsibility of taking someone new into a relatively hazardous area.

In this case, one section member had experienced the first day of high exposure climbing and had demonstrated excellent physical climbing ability and no fear of exposure, having made the Old Ladies route to the South Peak with no difficulty. However, when making the long unroped traverse on Broadway to the Gunsight, this climber completely disregarded the direction of the instructor-rope leader and intentionally continued on the wrong ledge saying (in a frivolous manner) "I'm going to give you a scare." The section member continued to climb unroped across a face as the ledge thinned out, instead of returning about 10 feet to the correct route as directed. At this point the member fell about 5 feet and tumbled out of control diagonally across the Broadway Ledge stopping near the edge (Broadway sloped at this point).

The instructor was not worried about the climber's first fall, but the second bounce after a fall of a few hundred feet would have resulted in strawberry jam on the rocks below, similar to the fatal accident two weeks earlier not too far away. (The instructor would have been the one who would have had to report the sad happening to the climber's family. Law suits also could result from relatives not too sympathetic to the sport of rock climbing.)

(Cont'd. on page 4, col. 2)

Up Rope

Climber's Calendar

Date	Place	Leader
December 2-3	*Seneca Rocks (Instructor Training)	Joe Jensen (H:(301) 768-3431)
December 3	Purple Horse	Joan Templeton (H:933-2174)
December 9	Christmas Party Open House BYO	June Lehman (H:522-0105)
December 10	Rock State Park	Hal Meyer (H:248-5297)
December 13	Meeting PATC Hq, 8 pm	
December 17	Buzzard Rocks	Jon Larson (H:273-8517)
December 24-31	Mt. No L	St. C'Laus
January 7	Carderock	John Christian (B:383-7825)
January 10	Annual meeting and elections PATC Hq, 8 pm	

*Members volunteering to serve as instructors for the MS Rock Climbing Training program during 1973(see UP ROPE, Oct. 1972) should attend this workshop. Contact Joe Jensen for details.

For more information about Section climbing and directions, call the Trip Leader. People interested in training and practice climbing should contact Joe Jensen, Training Committee Chairman (H:(301) 768-3431) or Pat Lane (H:522-1241).

DIRECTIONS

Mt. No L, Northpole
With some good cheer you can't miss it.

Purple Horse, MD
From the Washington Beltway (US-495) take exit 15, go past Carderock exit on George Washington Parkway (MD side) to the end of Parkway. Turn left into MacArthur Boulevard and go 1 mile. Park in a dirt lot across from Old Angler's Inn. Hike up the C&O Canal towpath to where the canal widens into a lake. Turn left before crossing a cement footbridge. After 100 ft.

turn right and cross a stream over an old cement slab. Follow the trail downstream, meeting the blue-blazed Billy Goat trail 75 feet past a sizeable pond on the left. Follow the Billy Goat trail right 300 yards to the rocks.

June Lehman's home: 117 South Aberdeen St., Arlington VA
Open invitation, especially to new members and climbers!
Go west on US-50 toward Falls Church, pass under Glebe Road (VA-120) and go 0.9 miles or to fourth traffic light. Turn left to Park Drive where road is divided by traffic islands. Go downhill about 2 blocks to dead end. Turn left to South Aberdeen, continue to 10th house on your right: 117.
Alternate: From the Washington Beltway (US-495) take exit 8 East and enter US-50. Go 3.5 miles through Seven Corners, continue on US-50 for another 2 miles to traffic islands. Turn right at light to Park Drive (opposite a small shopping center). Then proceed as above "Go downhill about 2 blocks etc."

Publications and Maps

SHAWANGUNK Guide, by Dick Williams, 1972, published by the American Alpine Club, \$7.00. Available from Dick Williams, POB 909, Tillson NY 12486.

HANGING AROUND: Seneca Rocks(Cont'd. from page 3)
Recommendations: (1) Although most first climbs are made on an informal instruction basis, there should be a clear understanding and agreement as to team discipline, covering such points as agreeing to rope up when requested, and, when unroped, to climb only where directed. (2) That student climbers stop and think about the results of accidents on exposed routes, and use proper judgment. (3) That the student climbers show consideration for the position in which they place their instructor if they foolishly cause a fatal accident. Experienced climbers, especially those who have been involved in rescues appreciate the situation. That is one reason that some are reluctant to instruct new climbers, and we need instructors.

Great Falls, MD, November 19
John Christian - Trip Leader
Joe Wagner

Joan Templeton
Dan Weinstein

It rained. We huddled under some pines at the parking lot and brewed sassafrass tea and talked of things more weighty than the rain and the illusive handhold. We hiked a ways on the Billy Goat Trail, too.

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