



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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

Vol. 28 No. 1

Jan. 1973

Page 1

### At Base Camp

#### REPORT OF MOUNTAINEERING SECTION ACTIVITIES FOR 1972

The following report was submitted to the American Alpine Club (AAC) for the Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC):

This year was a very serious one. There was a great increase in climbing (much of it outside the Section) both at local areas and at Seneca Rocks which raised questions of crowdedness (especially at Carderock), and safety and training. Within a twelve month period there was the first fatality within our group, the first two fatalities and two serious accidents at Seneca Rocks, and other accidents and near accidents which occurred all too frequently. The Section responded by greatly expanding its training program, adding courses in Mountaineering Medicine and rescue; by encouraging new members; and establishing a formal system of overseers for the major climbing areas to identify climbing problems and to maintain contact with the land owners. The U.S. Forest Service's proposed visitor developments at Seneca Rocks are causing great concern least the quality of climbing be degraded. The Section is forcefully presenting its views to the USFS. A newsletter was recently started to provide a forum for the USFS and the climbers and clubs from ten states to present their concerns and ideas about climbing at Seneca Rocks.

Weekly outings have continued, primarily for new members and training, with more serious climbing being done by members on private trips (total est. 1300 man-days). Probably an equal amount of climbing was done at local areas by others not affiliated with the Section. Individual members climbed at Mt. Washington, Shawangunks and Yosemite, in New Mexico, Colorado Rockies, the Battle Range, Canadian Rockies, England, Scotland, Wales, Swiss Alps, High Tatras, Carpathians, Himalayas and the Cordillera Blanca. John F. Christian, Chairman, Mount. Section

#### ROCK CLIMBING TRAINING

The Training Committee has started with instructions in rock climbing for beginners. They need your help to carry out the Section's program for safe climbing which can do much to help reduce damage to rock and nature.

Even a morning on a weekend will go a long way toward this training goal. Senior climbers as well as beginners with some basic practice are urged to contact the Training Committee: Joe Jensen, H: (301) 768-3431 or Pat Lane H: 522-1241 (especially for Washington area callers).

### Hanging Around

#### Buzzard Rocks VA, June 25

Rich Parrish - Trip Leader  
John Anderson  
Adam Anderson  
Jerry Bohlander  
Sue Cotta  
Norm Ensslin

Janet Gladfelter  
Jon Larson  
John Patterson  
Pete Scheps  
Walt Taylor  
Joe Wagner

When the biblical floods ended and Noah's ark came to rest there was a beautiful rainbow to greet the animals disembarking two-by-two (Yes, plus myriads of famished no-seums. Ed.) from the ark. And so it came to pass that when the Great Flood of 1972 receded, the hardy rock climbers of the PATC MS were there (Yes, and so were the no-seums. Ed.) to greet the sunshine and green hills surrounding Buzzard Rocks. It was an excellent day for climbing (Yes, and for feasting on juicy climbers. Ed.) with patchy cloudiness and a gentle breeze to cool the sweating climber.

The first climb we rigged was on a nice, nearly vertical face that seemed smoothened to a glacial polish with a layback at the top to make it interesting. As tough as the climb sounds, most of the intrepid climbers finished it pausing only long enough to say "Thank you gods" before shouting "off belay." Both Janet and Norm successfully showed the group how one climb on glassy smooth footholds if one doesn't stay on them too long but just keeps moving.

Joe, Jerry and the Andersons practiced lead climbing on the slopes. Adam gave his father a hard time because every extra piece of protection John put in meant that much longer before the group made it to the lunch packs.

The buzzards had their lunch too (Yes, and we also fed every last no-seum. Ed.), taking their traditional sacrificial climber. The poor guy was new to the climb, so we didn't have time to get his name. However, when he slipped off the climb with the overhead layback move with undercling footholds..two buzzards zoomed in wrapping their talons around each arm with a third bird snipping the rope with his beak and the climber was hauled off to a nest up on the peak. Being true rock climbers we equally divided up his biners, webbing and rope with only a little bit of fighting.

Another climb we rigged was in lichen heaven. Every hand and foothold had to be cleaned off before use. However, this minor inconvenience was overlooked due to the magnificent views of the valley yet unspoiled by home sapiens. (Cont'd. on p. 3)

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

## OFFICERS

## CHAIRMAN

John Christian  
(229-2792)

## VICE CHAIRMAN

June Lehman  
(522-0105)

## SECRETARY

Maren Stewart  
(202) H02-2698

## TREASURER

Chuck Sproull  
(894-4463)

## UP ROPE STAFF

## EDITOR

Joe Wagner  
(966-6379)

## BUSINESS MANAGER

Chuck Sproull  
(894-4463)

## Chairman's Corner

ELSEWHERE in UP ROPE is the annual report of the MS activities submitted to the American Alpine Club. A few individuals started many things; these projects can grow into something good as everyone makes constructive and unique contributions.

Joe Jensen has outlined a meaningful training and rescue program to which each climber can, in his own way, help others to climb safely. Novices can help the newest of climbers. But the major responsibility rests with the senior climbers to impart that sense of values that we deem so highly in climbing. It hardly makes sense for us to lament the deterioration of climbing ethics or destruction of the rocks without a clear idea of what can be done to preserve the sport. I quote from a recent letter:

"The American Alpine Club is deeply concerned about the past, present and future of all mountain-related activities. Unlike most other forms of recreation, the very essence of rock climbing and mountaineering depends on the natural scene, a non-renewable resource. The current popularity of climbing is causing tremendous human impact upon the mountain environment.

"The future of climbing is dependent upon a minimum-impact approach. It has become apparent that man can do anything given enough equipment, time and luck. This approach is not mountaineering. Just as foreign to the climber is a rigid codification of ethical behavior. The solution to mountain problems must begin at an individual level.

"We therefore urge the individual to consider the cumulative effects of his mountain activities and tailor his own code of ethics in such a way that traditional mountaineering values are preserved for future generations. This means respecting the varying traditions of climbing in different geographical areas. It also means avoiding the use of off-road vehicles, mechanized climbing aids and, at times, such traditional items as fires, horses, pitons and aircraft.

"We believe that self-restraint and discretion must be employed by each individual in order to preserve the dignity of both our mountains and our sport."

The senior climbers set an example for others to emulate. For by no other means can the newer climbers learn what "good climbing" is. John Stannard and others have done so at the Shawangunks through "words and deeds." We need some of that constructive action here.

A start has been made at preserving the slopes leading up to Seneca Rocks. We should have a master plan and work trips; one that has been developed in cooperation with other climbing groups using Seneca Rocks and the U.S. Forest Service. But let's not wait for a master plan or work trips. John Markwell at the "Gendarme" will advise volunteer workers what they can do. Next time at Seneca Rocks plan on spending a half day on stabilizing the soil and talus slopes or the paths.

The interest of new members in participating in the MS affairs is most encouraging. It's been great to see someone with an idea take it and follow through. We need more of this attitude.

The PATC has just purchased a 16mm sound movie projector and screen at our request. They are offering to materially assist us in construction of the "David Templeton Memorial" at Seneca Rocks. And of course we have the use of PATC headquarters and their support in preserving Seneca Rocks and other areas. May I encourage more MS members, both senior and new members, to join PATC -- it's a small cost for a lot of benefit.

This year as Chairman has been very satisfying because of the directions and projects we have undertaken. Thanks to all who helped it be so, especially our Vice Chairwoman, Sallie Greenwood, and June Lehman who filled in for Sallie in the last half of the year. Next year could be even better with the membership we have.

## Publications and Maps

MAKALU pilier ouest, by Robert Paragot and Yannick Seigneur, 1972. Published by B. Arthaud, Fr.36.00. Available from B. Arthaud, 23 Grande Rue, 38 Grenoble(Isere), France.

CLIMBER'S GUIDE TO THE OLYMPIC MOUNTAINS, by the Olympic Mountain Rescue of Bremerton WA, 1972. Available from The Mountaineers, POB 122, Seattle WA 98111 (\$4.95).

THE CLIMBERS GUIDE TO OREGON is presently being revised. Any revisions, additions, corrections or new ideas are being solicited by the author Nicholas A. Dodge, 4609 SW 29th Place, Portland OR 97201.

CLIMBING PICTURES of Seneca Rocks wanted by OFF BELAY magazine, c/o Ray Smutek, 12416 169th Street SE, Renton WA 98055.

Stories, especially about expeditions and outstanding climbs, are welcomed by the POTOMAC APPALACHIAN. The PATC Publications Committee is planning to make the 13th issue, scheduled for about March 1973, into an expanded magazine issue that reflects all of PATC's interests and activities.

This annual can use longer expedition stories than UP ROPE publishes and will be an excellent medium for such extras as maps and photographs. The Publication Committee is also interested in the Mountaineering Section's views and problems. Since most PATC members do not see UP ROPE this annual issue of the POTOMAC APPALACHIAN can be a valuable aid to develop better understanding between parent organization and MS and will help to acquaint other PATCers with our group.

Lightweight Equipment for Hiking, Camping and Mountaineering, the 13th edition of the PATC Equipment Bulletin, is still available. This publication contains much useful information on the selection of equipment as well as specific items currently available. Copies may be obtained from PATC for \$1.00.

UP ROPE will review this handy reference and buying guide at some later date but would like to compliment MS member Don Schaefer and his assistants for preparing this invaluable publication.

*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: Buzzard Rocks** (cont'd. from page 1)

We walked down from the rocks in the early evening to our cars by the fish hatchery. A lot of the road leading into the hatchery had been under water recently. Plenty of potholes. A number of the group retired to Christy's Restaurant in Front Royal for pizza and beer before coming back to brave Washington traffic.

**Sugarloaf MD, June 4:**

Hal Meyer - Trip Leader  
 Jeff Burman  
 Fred Coperman  
 Charles Swire  
 Phil Eddy  
 Joan Templeton  
 Paula Jacobs  
 Ed (sorry!)  
 Don Schaefer  
 Chris Steele  
 Tom McCrumm

Ursula Poetzschke  
 Lois Skipway  
 Chuck Sproull  
 Jon Larson  
 Maitland Sharp  
 Steve Singer  
 Fred Kitchell  
 Anne Huguenard  
 Johanna Guiccone  
 Maren Stewart

Actually this trip was to be led by Dave Templeton but Hal substituted; Joan came out to supervise and with such effective supervision everyone climbed excellently!

They day was full of beautiful sunshine, blue sky and a cooling shower in the afternoon. Everyone was ready to go home, anyway, except the few who straggled in around 2:30 pm -- right, Jon!

Otherwise the climbs varied from easy to somewhat difficult and everyone tried at least two or three. Phil showed us one on which the elite could show off its superiority -- because the move needed a bit of delicate timing in toes and fingers.

## Equipment Notes

**Winter Sports Exhibitions**

Feb. 16-19 International winter sports equipment and fashion show (16th Salon International de Grenoble), Grenoble, France

Feb. 22-25 Winter Sports Trade Fair, Munich, Germany.

## Belay Ledge

**ELECTIONS**

Elections for Section Chairman and Vice Chairman will be held at the annual meeting, January 10, 1973 at 8 pm at PATC headquarters. Eligible to vote are all Section members who belong to the PATC.

The nominating committee is presenting the following tentative slate:

For chairman	John Christian
For vice chairman	Jack Rucker

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS**

The nominees should be present at the next meeting:

Nominee	Sponsors
Gregory F. Christopoulos	Joe H. Wagner Joan M. Templeton
Martha Crawford	Arnold Wexler John F. Christian
Norbert Ensslin	Jon Larson John Christian

**TENT FOR SALE**

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

**REGISTERED:**

James Werner on Dec. 18 at the permanent campsite of Joe and Janet Wagner.

## Expeditions

**GRANTS FOR PAMIR CAMP**

During the past five years the American Alpine Club has awarded grants to mountaineers, generally under the age of 26, for expeditionary mountaineering projects of exceptional merit.

This past summer the President of the American Alpine Club arrived at a tentative agreement with the Secretary General of the Russian Mountaineering Federation allowing an American mountaineering party to attend a climbing camp in the Pamirs in the summer of 1973.

In view of this unusual opportunity, the Climbing Fellowship Fund Committee is offering partial or full fellowship support (depending upon need) to one or two climbers who wish to participate in this camp. Application forms may be obtained from the American Alpine Club, 113 East 90th Street, New York NY 10028. Cutoff date for applications is April 1, 1973.

**Ski Mountaineering/Touring Camp**

The Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) will hold its annual ski mountaineering and touring (x-c skiing) camp, March 24-April 1, at the ACC Wates-Gibson Memorial Hut at Outpost Lake in the Tonquin Valley, Alberta. The hut is located some 15 miles southwest of Jasper AB at 6,200 feet elevation. Fees are \$115 for non-members, excl. transportation to and from Jasper. Contact Pat Boswell, Club Manager, AAC, POB 1026, Banff TOL OCO, Canada. (UP ROPE Editor has some information about this camp.)

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.

**Canadian Air Fares**

Air Canada has announced a new fare structure for domestic flights which could benefit mountaineers and skiers from the Eastern Atlantic region planning to go west. Travel within Canada, over long distances, is now less costly. Air Canada has lowered its basic long distance fare structure and is also offering discount excursion fares. Travellers within Canada going more than 700 miles on an excursion lasting from eight to 30 days are eligible for a 30 percent discount on the already reduced rate. Excursion fares are applicable from Oct. 1 to May 31, except during peak weekend periods and certain national holidays.

## From Other Peaks

The unclimbed southeast ridge of Dhaulagiri (26,822 ft.) in Nepal will be the target of the American Dhaulagiri Expedition 1973. It is sponsored by the American Alpine Club and the National Geographic Society and will also attempt the northeast ridge of the mountain first climbed by a Swiss party in 1960. The team, led by James Morrissey, MD, will include all the survivors of the 1969 attempt. Anyone contributing \$10 or more will receive a color photograph of the mountain signed by all climbers and Sherpas, and mailed from base camp. Tax deductible contributions may be made to the Dhaulagiri Fund, American Alpine Club, 113 East 90th St., New York NY 10028.

## Training Briefs

**MOUNTAINEERING MEDICINE**

Dr. Phil Cardon has again agreed to teach a six-week course in Mountaineering Medicine, beginning about Feb. 1. Because of the limited class size, preference will be given to PATC-MS members and to those who plan to go on expedition climbing this summer and who have had basic first aid. For registration contact Joe Jensen or Pat Lane H:522-1241.

*Up Rope*

## Climber's Calendar

Date	Place	Leader
January 7	#Carderock (rock climbing)	John Christian (B:382-7825)
January 10	Annual meeting: elections. "Hypothermia" movie with talk, PATC Hq 8 pm	
January 13-14	Doyle River Cabin (back packing)	Tom McCrumm (H:525-6272)
January 13-14	**Beginners Cross-Country Skiing	Neil Arsenault (B:638-6434) (H:681-6187) John Christian
January 14	Great Falls, MD (rock climbing)	Bill Thomas (H:536-7948)
January 21	Sugar Loaf Mountain (rock climbing)	Joe Jensen (H:(301) 768-3431)
January 28	Old Rag (snow climbing)	Joe Wagner (H:966-6379)
February 4	***Big or Little Devils Stairs (ice climbing)	Jim Nagy (H:262-0515)
February 11	Annapolis Rocks (rock climbing)	Bob Connor (B:496-3231) (H:424-1928)
February 10-12	*Mt. Washington (ice climbing)	Jon Larson (H:273-8317)
February 14	Meeting PATC Hq, 8 pm	
February 17-19	White Oak Canyon (ice climbing)	Maitland Sharp (H:528-9047)
February 18	Crescent Rock (rock climbing)	Marjorie Prohaska (H:534-8135)

### ATTENTION MEMBERS AND GUESTS!

Unless an outdoor activity is marked # you must sign up with the trip leader at least three days before the scheduled climb or trip. You will then receive information about directions, necessary equipment, meeting time and place and allow advance time for transportation arrangements if necessary. Also you can be quickly notified if there is a change in location or if the scheduled activity is postponed or canceled.

\* Experienced ice climbers only. Limited party.

\*\*This is a joint trip with the Sierra Club. (Other x-c ski trips will be scheduled later if interest exists. See also UP ROPE, Sep. 1972.) Make reservations with Neil. Phone for confirmation of location the Thursday before the outing because of the possibility of changing weather conditions. Under light and moderate snow conditions, trips will be to western Maryland, Pennsylvania or West Virginia. Under conditions of heavy snow trips are more likely to be scheduled to nearby areas. X-c skis may be bought or rented from commercial outlets, incl. Appalachian Outfitters and the Ski Center. Army surplus skis are not recommended. If renting equipment make adjustments before the weekend, particularly make sure the binding properly holds the boot. Read a book about x-c skiing before the weekend; it will make it all go easier. AO and SC have good books.

\*\*\*Ice climbing for beginners and advanced climbers depends on the weather. Trip leader will have latest information on meeting time and location.

### VACANCIES

For one or two writers and reporters who will cover some monthly MS meetings and programs and keep UP ROPE informed on membership activities. Contact Joe Wagner for details (966-6379).

### ATTENTION TRIP LEADERS

Your main responsibility is to see that participating climbers use safe techniques and equipment to avoid serious accidents. You are expected to be familiar with the area where climbing activities are planned, to make appropriate contact if practical with Park/Forest Service Rangers or private owners responsible for the climbing area and to prepare a mental plan should an emergency make rescue and evacuation necessary. (Obtain information on the location of the closest telephone; name, location, telephone of local ambulance service/rescue squad, hospital, physician and police department; name, location and phone number of the official or private owner responsible for the climbing area.)

Share this information with your group. If a leader is unable to accompany the assigned trip he must appoint a substitute leader. Pick up the section first aid kit from club headquarters before the scheduled trip and make sure it will be handy if needed. Find out if any of your fellow participants have special mountain rescue and medical skills.

Trip leaders should encourage other members (by contacts during previous weeks) to attend and participate in the scheduled activities. You can help making the trip enjoyable and rewarding by greeting and introducing new members and guests to other members and answer questions.

Prepare a list of all participants and an account of the trip activities, either personally or from a volunteer, and forward the trip report promptly to the UP ROPE Editor.

*Up Rope*

1718 N St N W

Washington, D. C. 20036

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
PERMIT NO. 9615

DATED MATTER

JOE WAGNER  
4528 WINDOM PLACE ,N.W.  
WASH., DC 20016