



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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

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At Base Camp

SECTION LAUNCHES WORK TRIP TO SENECA

Climbers are asked to donate half a day to work on restoring talus slopes at Seneca Rocks, during the weekend May 26-28, in this first area-wide conservation effort undertaken by mountaineers. John Christian who is spearheading this project in cooperation with climbers from other clubs urges every MS climber to volunteer in this first work trip and restore through common action similar to the Shawangunks undertaking led by John Stannard what we have destroyed. See climbing calendar, page 4, for details.

ISHI IN TWO WORLDS - Program, Wednesday, May 9

An ecological, anthropological film about the last aboriginal Indian to live in North America who emerged from the hills of Northern California in 1908.

He had been alone for 15 years, having outlived the other remaining members of his tribe with whom he had been isolated in a stone age culture near Mount Lassen since 1870.

The program will be preceded by a brief discussion of current section and mountaineering matters.

Tink Peters, Program Chairperson

Hanging Around

Bull Run Mountain, March 25

Art Wilder - Trip Leader
and Sallie, Elizabeth and Moses
Perry Price
Harold Kramer
Barbara Lewellan
Mark Gunther
Lee Ozmont
Janet Gladfelter
Chuck Sproull
Lois Shipway
Jim and Larry Nagy

John Anderson
Ralph Erickson
Jim Shada
Joe Nye
Tony Madden
Frank Straingfellow
Bill Molden
Jim Shipley
Ed Goodman and 14 members
of Explorers Post 98

The paths show a lot more use than they did one or two years ago and there were a lot more beer cans below the cliffs. But the rock hadn't changed and neither had Harold Kramer's mastery of Charley's Crack.

A PATC member stopped by with a wanderbird hiking group and

mentioned that the climbing area is part of 3000 acres recently donated to a conservation group, and that the blue-blazed trail passing by is PATC maintained.

Ed Goodman's coed explorer post seemed well trained and did a lot of climbing. They had camped there Saturday night.

Carderock MD, February 4

Jim Nagy - Trip Leader

Tom Trump
Bill Bookhout
Carol O'Neill
Mark Sollinger
Cliff McGinn
Marjorie Coffey
Daniel Weinstein
Kevin McCarthy
Bill Thomas
Marjorie Prochaska
Tink Peters
Kevin Miller

Jay Ozmont
June Lehman
Janet Gladfelter
Bob Croft
Jack Seaber
The Milligans
Chips Janger
Julie Golden
Bob Connor
John Birch
John Bonine
Merv & Fran Oleson
Chris Scoredos

Due to the unseasonable, warm weather and a lack of interest, the trip to Big Devils Stairs for ice climbing was cancelled. It was a beautiful day at Carderock for the crowd of old friends not recently seen, new faces, cavers and Boy Scouts. The scouts camped on Beginner's Crack, the cavers rappelled on Nubbles and the high water wiped out the climbs at Easy Layback except to rappel down. Chris was instructing as usual, Tink and a Milligan left some blood on Buckets of Blood and Barnacle Face and Tink and Marjorie were happy on Swayback Layback. Kevin McCarthy, a newcomer from California and never on the rock before, was ecstatic doing Barnacle Face. John Bonine noticed some poorly rigged ropes and I observed too many bad rappelling practices. A near accident occurred when a wrongly run brake bar/rope system failed. It never really was working and the rope finally slipped out of the biner and the beginner found himself with only a rope under his leg. This after I had cautioned that a belay should be used.

Crescent Rocks VA, February 18

Marjorie Prochaska - Trip Leader
John Birch
Bob Ryan

Jim Nagy
Ralph Erickson

The trip leader brought her usual good weather. The rock was warm, the wind down and we had surprisingly pleasant climbing for sub-freezing temperatures. We actually should have climbed much better than we did, but there were lots of excuses, to wit: "I haven't climbed for 25 years; I haven't climbed for ten months; I haven't climbed in two weeks." (Continued on p. 3)

P.A.T.C. MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN

Neil Arsenault
(681-6187)

VICE CHAIRMAN

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(530-7454)

SECRETARY

Marjorie Prochaska
(534-8135)

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Bob Connor
(424-1928)

UP ROPE STAFF

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Joe Wagner
(966-6379)

CIRCULATION MANAGER

John Birch
(533-3668)

Editorial

SINCE January we have been looking for help to write and produce UP ROPE. So far the response has been zero. We do receive a good number of trip reports although not every trip leader let's us know who went with him or her and how the climbing was.

But UP ROPE does not live on trip reports alone. Of course, our first obligation is program information. We do not plan the climbing schedule and we don't pick the leaders -- you do and so you can help yourself by proposing trips to the chairman and volunteering as trip leader if you are a member and you feel qualified.

(The March issue of UP ROPE, a one-page edition, barely made it at all because our new chairman got little help from you!)

One bright spot in the help wanted situation is John Birch's offer to take over from Chuck Sproull and Art Wilder who have volunteered many hours and evenings to mail out this paper.

There is more to the help needed, however. For the past 12 months the editor has done all the typing and pasting and taking negatives to the printer by himself. This is neither a healthy nor a practical situation for a publication put out by an active club! Since we also sell UP ROPE to private subscribers there is a publishing responsibility which we have tried to make more realistic by reducing the required frequency to nine issues a year.

More needs to be done and most of all through volunteering time and effort. Our current format probably should be changed although it is attractive it is highly inflexible and impractical for any editor working under the given conditions. But these are still minor changes which will not help much to produce UP ROPE on time, regularly and in such high quality it has achieved during the past year. Help is needed or we will drastically reduce size and frequency of UP ROPE.

From the Editor's Chimney

SEVERAL events and developments of the past few months may well have a bearing on the future course of our section. There were some good and some unfortunate happenings which should concern us and spur us into action. We propose no definite solution to some of these section problems but an agenda for consideration and action.

First, most of us did not overlook the strange developments leading to the elections in February: a special voting on new officers was necessary because of serious difficulties earlier to find candidates who were willing to serve or who were eligible. (Our problems with membership qualifications were the subject of an editorial in UP ROPE of December 1972.)

Later, in March, we experienced a serious delay in preparing the next climbing schedule when the new chairman was faced with a lack of trip suggestions and volunteer leaders.

The scheduling problem in turn was responsible for a slim and belated issue of UP ROPE.

Then at the last general meeting our section experienced the best attendance in recent years, a fitting tribute to Matt Hale's fine program and Tink Peters' preparations.

The section training chairman reported about the success of our rock climbing course for beginners and the apparent failure to interest many of the trainees in our section.

It should also be added that we have seen little effort so far to organize another section expedition for this summer.

At a monthly meeting it became clear that there is nobody in the section who knows for sure what our financial situation is or how many members we have in the Washington area.

On the credit side we can post the fact that the mountaineering medicine course with Drs. Phil Cardon and Bob Engler is being conducted for the second time and enjoying widespread interest among members and fellow climbers.

Our agenda will not address all situations mentioned and is a composite of views and proposals by former officers, members and the editor:

- 1 -- Plan and prepare a varied mountaineering and outdoors program, incl. longer trips and support of expeditions and camps.
- 2 -- Reconnoiter our immediate and wider area for new training and practice cliffs and climbing areas.
- 3 -- Plan and prepare for an interesting, attractive quality program for the general membership and people interested in mountaineering (not limited to climbing) to be presented at monthly meetings and on special occasions. A program committee will make all preparations.
- 4 -- Develop an attitude of closer cooperation and relations with other local organizations, such as the Sierra Club and the Maryland Climbing Club. Make use of local members of the American and Canadian Alpine Clubs.
- 5 -- Establish a mountaineering/climbing committee, including experienced club members and trip leaders, to plan and prepare the climbing schedule and to take steps to insure that mountaineering activities are rewarding and safe.
- 6 -- Continue our training program and prepare a seminar for trip leaders and mountain rescue techniques.
- 7 -- Make our activities and programs known on a timely basis to members and such persons actively interested in mountaineering. A publicity group could study means to disseminate program information quickly, e.g. through a bulletin, and assume responsibility for it.
- 8 -- Review the process for obtaining membership and simplify procedures along the suggestions made earlier this year by Bill Pepper and John Bonine.
- 9 -- Actively plan and prepare for summer activities, such as a longer club trip or expedition, and for winter activities, incl. snow and ice climbing. Such plans should include advance familiarization and training in necessary techniques and skills. (Continued on p. 3)

Up Rope

UP ROPE is the monthly newsletter of the Mountaineering Section of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) of Washington DC. Editorial contributions, trip reports, letters and comments are welcome and should be directed to Editor, UP ROPE, 4528 Windom Pl. NW, Washington DC 20016. Subscription for MS members is included in annual dues. Annual subscription (min. 9 issues) for others is \$3.00. Send subscriptions and address changes to Circulation Manager, UP ROPE, PATC, 1718 N St. NW, Washington DC 20036.

FROM THE EDITOR'S CHIMNEY (Cont'd. from p. 2)

- 10 - Study and adopt practical measures to help reduce damage to our natural environment and to man's health as they affect mountaineering. This may include such conservation activities as stabilizing scree slopes, reducing littering, reducing car use by pooling, safe use of nuts, placement of permanent pitons or bolts and the like.
- 11 - Take continuous steps to involve as many members as practical in section work, such as monthly program presentation, membership procedures, program information and publicity, climb planning and training.
- 12 - Find more experienced mountaineers to become members.
- 13 - Take a good look at our constitution and by-laws and at the requirements of the PATC rules. Revise if necessary and operate the section business accordingly.
- 14 - Look several years ahead and study the effects of change in membership, legal liabilities, crowding of climbing areas and other factors on our future activities.

PLANNING FOR SECTION CLIMBS

Because of a turnover in membership and the arrival of new section members in our midst our planning for weekend climbs is often lacking variety. Following is a fairly comprehensive list of practice cliffs and climbing areas accessible to us from Washington DC within 15 minutes to eight hours. A complete summary of directions for trip leaders is being prepared but we hope release of the list of places at this time will immediately benefit the next activity schedule.

Maryland

Annapolis Rocks
Black Rocks
Chimney Rocks
Harpers Ferry
Point of Rocks
Pot Holes
Rocks State Park
Sugar Loaf Mountain
Wolf Rock

Potomac Gorge:

Camp Lewis
Carderock
Cupid's Bower
Great Falls
Herzog Island
Purple Horse
Spitsbergen

New Hampshire

Cannon Mountain
Cathedral Ledges

Mt. Washington
Whitehorse Ledges

New York

Chapel Pond
Mts. Marcy-Whiteface range

Shawangunks (Trapps, Near
Trapps, Skytop, Millbrook)

North Carolina

Blowing Rock

Linville Gorge

Pennsylvania

Hermitage/Schaffer Rocks
Ohio Bluffs

Stover Cliffs

Virginia

Big Devils Staircase
Bird's Nest
Bull Run Mountain
Buzzard Rocks
Cove, The
Cow's Hoof
Crescent Rocks
Flatirons
Hawksbill Mountain
Little Devils Stairs
Little Stony Man
Merkin Rocks
Old Rag Mountain
Prospect Rock

Potomac Gorge:

Boucher Rocks
Chain Bridge Rocks
Corkscrew Rock
Echo Cliffs
Great Falls
Juliet's Balcony
Ringbolt
Sperryville Quarry
Tunstall's Tooth
White Oak Canyon
Wild Cat Rocks

West Virginia

Baker Rocks
Bear Rocks
Blue Rock
Caudy's Castle
Champe Rocks
Cosner Gap
Devils Garden
Eagle Rocks/Smoke Hole Cliffs
Ede's Fort
Grace Rock

Greenland Gap
Hanging Rock
Ice Mountain
Judy Rocks
Kline Gap
Nelson Rock
North Fork Mountain
Pinnacle Rock
Seneca Rocks
Wolf Gap/Big Schloss

HANGING AROUND - Trip Reports (Cont'd. from p. 1):

Everything we set up seemed to be overhung, which may explain some of our difficulty. JB proceeded to do everything with panache, however, while Marjorie removed at least one crucial handhold.

After so many weekends at Carderock, it was pleasant to climb on rock that was unfamiliar, where holds had to be tested and where every move is not catalogued. Ice climbers and cross country skiers missed a good trip.

Carderock MD, January 7, 1973

John Christian, trip leader

John Anderson
Adam Anderson
John Birch
Roger Birch
Jack Connor
Sandy Crickenberger
David Engel
Joe Jensen
Pat Lane
Jon Larson
John McGowan
Bob Norris

Jay Ozmont
Ray Snead
Jim Shipley
Maren Stewart
Joan Templeton
Tom Trump
Bill Thomas
Jeff Thomas
Robert Turner
Joe Wagner
David Wones
Edward Wones

The day was cold, a strip of ice to the left of the Beginner's Climb reminded us whenever we forgot how cold the rock was. After the first two hours the rock really didn't seem so cold. Sterling's Crack and other more difficult climbs were made. Some newcomers, Jaz Ozmont and Tom Trump, joined us. Joan showed up late in the day, having visited June Lehman who is in the hospital recovering from a blood clot in her leg. (By now June is up and around with us. Ed.)

Belay Ledge

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

The nominee should be present at the next meeting:

Nominee
Charles H. Pringle

Sponsors
Chuck Sproull
June Lehman

NEW MEMBERS

Tim Mervine
Greg Christopoulos
Richard Stokes
Robert Ryan
Ann Huegenard

Feb. 14, 1973
Feb. 14, 1973
Mar. 14, 1973
Apr. 11, 1973
Apr. 11, 1973

ACCIDENTS

A female hiker fell to her death on March 31 when she lost her balance and slid off the Luncheon Ledge, Seneca Rocks. On March 24 an unknown hiker broke an ankle near North Peak and the following day three hikers had to be rescued when they were stranded on North Peak after following a shortcut.

Training Briefs

ROCK CLIMBING TRAINING

Instructors for various phases of training needed. Call Joe Jensen, training committee chairman, H: (301) 768-3431. Residents in the Washington area may call Pat Lane, H: 522-1241.

Publications and Maps

BACKPACKER magazine is being offered to serious hikers and mountaineers at \$6.00 a year. Publisher William Kemsley says that the magazine in order "to avoid attracting newcomers to the backcountry will limit its circulation." The publication will be available, however, at select equipment stores, and by subscription from Backpacker Magazine, POB 2946, Boulder CO 80302.

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).

Climber's Calendar

Date	Place	Leader
April 28-29	*Seneca Rocks (rock climbing)	John Christian (B: 382-7825)
April 29	open (rock climbing) !	
May 6	Sugarloaf Mountain (rock climbing)	Bill Thomas (536-7948)
May 9	Meeting, PATC Hq, 8 pm Program: <u>Ishi in Two Worlds</u> (see description, page 1)	
May 13	#4th Annual Carderock MS Picnic 4 pm, Carderock Pavilion	Tink Peters (462-0463)
May 20	Bull Run Mountain (rock climbing)	Marjorie Prochaska (534-8135)
May 26-28	**Seneca Rocks (1st MS work trip & rock climbing)	John Christian (B: 382-7825)
May 27	Sugarloaf Mountain (rock climbing)	Bill Thomas (536-7948)
June 2-3	open (rock climbing) !	
June 3	Little Stony Man	Joe Wagner (966-6379)
June 9-10	*Shawangunks (rock climbing)	Bob Connor (B: 496-3231)
June 10	open (rock climbing) !	
June 13	Meeting, PATC Hq, 8 pm Program: to be announced	
June 16-17	Caudy's Castle (rock climbing)	Bill Pepper (530-7454)
June 17	open (rock climbing) !	
June 24	open (rock climbing) !	
July 1	open (rock climbing) !	

(All phone numbers are home phones unless marked B.)

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

** Climbers are asked to donate half of one day to work on restoring talus slopes at Seneca Rocks in this first area-wide conservation effort undertaken by mountaineers. John Christian who is spearheading this project in cooperation with climbers from other clubs urges every climber to volunteer in this first work trip and restore through common action similar to the Shawangunks undertaking what we have destroyed. Shovel, pick axe and axe desirable. Contact John in advance for location of work sites at B: 383-7825; H: 229-2792. If you plan to climb, see note marked *.

! Destination and leader open. If you want to propose a section climb, please call MS Chairman Neil Arsenault. If you are a section member and feel qualified to act as trip leader, volunteer a day or two to plan and guide a worthwhile activity. Neil Arsenault H: 681-6187.

ATTENTION MEMBERS AND NEWCOMERS!

Unless an outdoor activity is marked # you must sign up with the trip leader at least by Wednesday evening before the scheduled climb or trip. You will then receive information about directions, necessary equipment, meeting time and place.

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 make 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

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