



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

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Hanging Around

Buzzards Rock VA, April 22, 1973

Four of us met and pooled transportation at 8:30. I had called the fish hatchery man at (703) 635-5350 as had been requested. Because of vandalism at the hatchery, the gate will always be closed at 4:pm. However, if the Mountaineering Section will him in advance, there is always the possibility that he might be willing to open the gate for the climbers when they come down together after closing time. In this instance, he was going to be away and recommended that we park in the old quarry about 100 yds further on the right. He very generously said he would call the owner and obtain permission.

With four speedsters pushing me on, we climbed the steep ridge to the rocks in a short time. A number of wild flowers and trees were in bloom, making the woods beautiful and the buzzards were on hand. Late in the day, we saw about 10 buzzards enjoying the up-drafts together. I am not completely positive but I think the buzzards were much more prominent kibitzers when one certain person was either belaying or climbing. Each of us made four or five climbs, some of them as long as 100 feet, which seriously drained the energy of at least one Carderock habitué.

Participating were Jon Larson (Trip Leader), Phil Eddy, John Fettvedt, Mark Gunther and John Hartman. Jon Larson

Great Falls/Carderock MD, January 14, 1973

This trip was originally scheduled for Great Falls, however, the river was high enough to flood the base of most of the climbs, so a retreat was made to Carderock. I learned the night before that if you call 299-3613 a sweet girl will answer in the C&O Canal office who can give you the height of the river. If it is above 3.7 feet, the climbing area is flooded. Saturday afternoon it was 4.3 feet with a forecast that it would not go down by Sunday. I typed up notices which I put on the trails with a self-destruct note at the bottom requesting anyone to remove them after Sunday.

A most pleasant day was spent at Carderock. The weather was good and the temperature refreshing. One climber was heard saying that he was sure glad that the Redskin game

was televised...that it kept the masses away from Carderock.

A test/demonstration was made showing how easily a climbing rope can cut/melt nylon webbing. A one-inch sling (5,000 lb. strength) of webbing was hung from a tree limb. A climbing rope was passed through it with a climber on each side grabbing the rope. By pulling the rope back and forth through the sling, it was cut by melting in times as low as four seconds. (Try it yourself sometime!)

Moral: (1) By sacrificing a sling for a rappel anchor without sacrificing a biner or ring avoid any movement of the rope through the sling while under load.

(2) Avoid any condition where a climbing rope under load makes a sharp bend over sling material such as: (a) Cutting a body harness during a poorly rigged rappel; (b) cutting a belayer's anchor during the dynamics of a leader fall; or (c) cutting a belayer's anchor while lowering a climber after a fall.

Our group was later joined by Mark Sollinger and Cliff McGwinn who had just completed their first MS climbing instruction session, courtesy of the Joe Jensen-Pat Lane Training Committee and volunteer instructors.

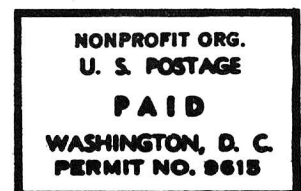
Participating were Bill Thomas (Trip Leader), Martha Crawford, John Christian, Pat Lane, Jim Shipley, Ben Mealey, Peter Birkholz, Grey B. Thompson and son Jeff, John Anderson, Alan Fischler, Mark Sollinger, Cliff McGwinn, John Bonine, Ralph Erickson, Chuck Wertime (back from two years in Greece) and Joe Wagner. Bill Thomas

Seneca Rocks WV, May 26-28, 1973

Ninety percent of the group spent most of two damp days hacking out a trail on the eroded slope up to Lunch Ledge. We built drystone retaining walls, lugged logs to build dams and completed probably about half of a primitive trail. Tom Lamb from Cleveland, Mike Sink of Columbus and a couple of others from Pittsburgh, I believe, joined in the work. We were feeling quite satisfied by the end of the second day. Just an idea: A little work by all climbers as they descend for the day would help a lot toward completing the trail. John Markwell now has a partner, Bob Livingston. Markwell will have tools and suggestions about needs to be done on stopping the erosion if any climbers are interested in working on their own. Participating were John Christian (Trip Leader), Martha Crawford, Arnold Wexler, John Markwell, Bob Livingston, John, Larry and Bill Rucker, Bill and David Pepper, Barbara Llewellyn, John Birch, Charles Cornish, Bob Barron, Neil Arsenault, Dennis Grabnegger and Greg Christopulos. John Christian

Up Rope

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DATED MATTER

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