



Up the Nose

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

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PATC ACQUIRES LAND FOR DAVID TEMPLETON MEMORIAL CABIN



Mountaineering Section Chairman Joe Jensen, on behalf of the PATC, received the deed for two acres of land near Seneca Rocks WV on March 2 from Earl Hedrick (cont'd. p. 5)

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

Chairman: Joe Jensen (301--233-0253)

Vice Chairman: Chuck Sproull (894-4463)

Secretary: Joan Gardner (931-3147)

Treasurer: John Birch (633-3668)

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 Place NW, Washington DC 20016. Subscription for MS members is included in annual dues. Annual subscription for non-members, \$3.00. Send subscriptions and address changes to Circulation Manager, UP ROPE, PATC, 1717 N St NW, Washington DC 20036. Editor: Joe Wagner (966-6379) Assistant Editor: vacant
Circulation Manager: John Birch (533-3668) Asst. Circ. Mgr.: Greg Christopoulos

At Base Camp

YOUR MOUNTAINEERING SECTION AT WORK: A meeting of the MS Executive Committee was held on March 6 at Joan Templeton's. Those present voted to accept proposals 7, 9, 11 and 12 of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee. Proposal 8 was voted down. John Bonine is going to prepare a new edition of the MS Constitution and By-Laws in accordance with these changes and members will receive copies.

There was a question about current Section dues and the cost of UP ROPE subscriptions. At present, Section dues are: (a) For non-PATC members, \$3.00 annually. (b) For PATC members, \$1.50 annually. Dues are collected at the beginning of each calendar year. New members joining between January and September pay dues for the current year. Members joining after October 1 pay dues only for the coming year.

Section members receive UP ROPE as a benefit of membership. Non-Section members may subscribe to UP ROPE by paying \$3.00 annually (see masthead above).

There was discussion about accounting for dues and UP ROPE. At the same time, Chuck Sproull and Betsy Schaefer were asked to look at ways of making the Section's finances work more efficiently. They will report back to the Executive Committee.

The successful purchase of 2.02 acres of land at the Mouth of Seneca, West Virginia, was announced. John Christian and Betsy Schaefer reported on the current activities of the Cabin Maintenance and the Cabin Design Committees. June Lehman was designated chairman of a Fund Raising Committee for the cabin, with a goal of \$2,000 during the next two years. The \$2,000 is to go toward the construction, furnishing and maintaining of the David Templeton Memorial Cabin on the land at Seneca.

*

Joan Templeton is chairing a committee which will prepare a new updated list of Section members. The directory will be issued to all members.

Steve Williams has agreed to serve as chairman of the Cabin Construction Committee. At the committee's first meeting on March 25, a work timetable was drawn up. The work begins immediately, so give Steve a call at 593-1299, if he doesn't get to you first.

*

Two climbers, one a Section member, were stranded on Hertzog island, opposite Carde-rock, on March 10, when canoeists took the rubber raft the climbers had used to reach the island. The raft was taken while the climbers were climbing on the far side of

the island. The raft was in view of climbers from Carderock and there were witnesses to the theft. The climbers were later rescued by canoeists from Virginia.

The Chairman is preparing a letter to the local canoeing association and to a canoe rental on McArthur Blvd., informing them of the theft. Copies will be sent to the U.S. Park Service.

Chuck Sproull has contacted the Park Service on behalf of the Section, expressing concern over the growing number of incidents and vandalism at Carderock.

The Summit Register

Editor, UP ROPE

As good weather approaches, the Mountaineering Section will be confronted with an increasing number of problems. One of the major problems has been and still is the growing use and overuse of Carderock. (As new developments occur in the energy situation, these problems may or may not be aggravated). These problems can be categorized as environmental problems and aesthetical problems.

On the environmental front, the club is trying to coordinate efforts with the Park Service to improve and restore the area around the climbs. As of yet, the Park Service's hands have more or less been tied, due to funds for improvement not being allocated. Some voluntary action has taken place, such as the placing of stepping-stones in boggy areas, partial lining of trails with blow-downs etc. Also, voluntary action in policing and removal of trash by concerned persons has kept Carderock reasonably clean, though some have tried to put an end to that. There may be some possibility that a conservation-education program could be started, utilizing the bulletin board to illustrate the plan, provided the board remains at its present location. A very recent and very serious problem has evolved at Carderock, this being vandalism. As was discussed at the March meeting, it cannot and will not be tolerated, and action to prevent or stop it should be taken as seen fit!

Toward the aesthetical problems, there has been one excellent but ill subscribed solution. This is the patronization of club trips. Recent editorials in Up Rope have criticized lack of interest in suggesting, leading and attending club trips.

Yet each weekend the same faces voice the same complaints about the crowded conditions at Carderock. This cannot change unless some initiative is shown. Volunteer to lead a trip to a different area, or show up on a club trip. Lists of the numerous climbing areas in and around the metropolitan area were published as recently as the April 1973 issue of Up Rope. Lists are also available at some local outfitters, in the form of a small booklet published by the Terrapin Trail Club. These "new" areas offer new challenges to climbers, as well as lack of crowds. As for training facilities, there is no reason that an alternative area cannot be found or set up at some area other than Carderock. All it will take is a little imagination. The use of these areas might even upgrade climbing standards, for the moves wouldn't be programmed as most are at Carderock. With the number of areas within an hour or so of the city, there is really no excuse to have to climb at the same area on consecutive weekends. So what if the cliffs are not as extensive or as convenient as Carderock; with a little ingenuity and work new routes could be engineered at the various areas. The limits are only bounded by the imaginations of those that climb there.

These problems are not new to the area climbing scene. But if the damage occurring is not stemmed soon, it will be irreversible. Some active support is all that is needed to reverse the trend.

Steve Williams

Editor, UP ROPE

Just noticed an error which should be cleared up soon. UP ROPE, November 1971, was Vol. 36, No. 10. When they did December 1971 they mistakenly changed it to Vol. 26 instead of 36. It's been running that way ever since.

The March 1974 UP ROPE is Vol. 29 No. 2 which is also the 1964 issues according to my collection of old UP ROPES. Thanx - Tom McCrumm

[UP ROPE volumes are numbered annually. Thanks to former Editor Sallie Greenwood it was discovered that during a change of editors in the summer of 1968, volume numbers were changed too because inflation had hit the Roman language, or better numbering system: Issue 6 in June 1968 was volume XXIII (which means 23 to you less romanized readers). We think that issue 7 was ransacked by vandals -- or was it the Visigoths? -- but when issue 8 was published the new editor had thrown in one too many Xs (or 10s) in the transition, to wit volume XXXIII (=33). Sallie saved us all from continuing with a gross historic blunder by returning to Volume 26 (=XXVI) in December 1971. ED.)

Publications and Maps

THE VERTICAL WORLD OF YOSEMITE: A collection of photographs and writings on rock climbing in Yosemite, edited by Galen A. Rowell, 1974; 205 p., illustrated. Wilderness Press, Berkeley CA. \$16.95.

Although the first known ascent in Yosemite occurred as early as 1869 (John Muir, solo, free climb, Cathedral Peak) and Sierra Club members began bouldering in the valley in the 1930s, it has only been in the last 30 years that climbing in Yosemite has drawn worldwide attention. Beginning with John Salathe's and "Ax" Nelson's five-day assault on the Lost Arrow in 1948, a unique style of climbing, the big-wall assault, developed and has become America's unique contribution to the sport.

The Vertical World of Yosemite (published March 16, 1974) tells how the style evolved, in a collection of stories about individual climbs written by the climbers themselves. While the book opens with a hair-raising ascent of Half Dome in 1884, with the climbers using a picket rope as climbing rope and bare toes to grip the bolts, and with an account of one of the first technical rock climbs made in 1934, the other fifteen accounts report climbs from 1948 through 1970. The book ends with Warren Harding's essay on his 27-day climb of the Wall of the Morning Light, followed by an interview with Royal Robbins that explores his controversial erasure of the lower portions of Harding's route a few months later.

All the well-known names of Yosemite climbers appear -- Salathe, Allen Steck, Mark Powell, "Dolt" Feuerer, Tom Frost, Yvon Chouinard, Chuck Pratt, TM Herbert, Warren Harding, Royal Robbins. Some report the climbs; others appear in the accounts as participants. The editor, Galen Rowell, who has made over a 100 first ascents in Yosemite, tells how he and Warren Harding were rescued from a pothole on the south face of Half Dome after a two-day November ice storm that struck on the sixth day of a climb.

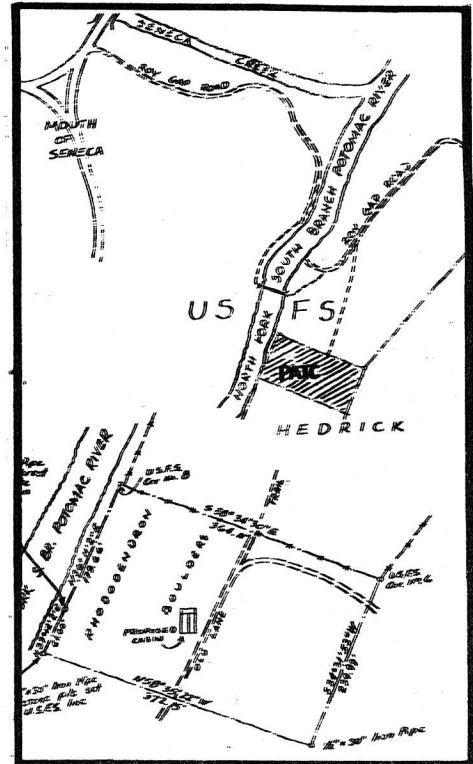
If the stories don't give the armchair mountaineer an understanding of what big-wall climbing is like, the photographs will. Both the black-and-white and the color shots are excellent. Many of them are taken on the climb itself.

Only the price may restrain the aspiring climber from adding this book to his collection. Paula M. Strain

MEN AND THE MATTERHORN, by Gaston Rebuffat, 1973; 215 p., illustrated. Oxford University Press, Fair Lawn NJ-London. \$15.00.

of Mouth of Seneca WV. This purchase, previously authorized by the PATC Council, climaxes one and a half years (see UP ROPE, Sep. 1972) of effort by John Christian and Arnold Wexler after Don Schaefer made the original proposal on September 13, 1972. When the former owner of the land indicated his willingness to sell, John Oliphant, Chairman of the PATC Land Acquisition Committee, handled the negotiations. (The Council in reviewing the proposed parcel felt its narrowness did not offer sufficient visual protection and authorized an additional \$1,000 to acquire scenic easements along the narrow side (see map) to which the seller agreed.

The land is about a half mile southeast of Mouth of Seneca off Roy Gap road. The North Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River is crossed by a suspension foot bridge (We understand that there is now some concern among the population of Mouth of Seneca about a rumor that the U.S. Forest Service may not repair or rebuild this foot bridge. UP ROPE was unable at this time to obtain confirmation of this report. ED.) and foot traffic turns left to the rocks and the hidden valleys to the east. Two hundred feet in the opposite direction is the PATC land. Despite its closeness it is well secluded by rhododendron and elevation.. There is 240 feet of frontage on the river from which the land rises very steeply to a terrace 50 feet higher and then continues up the hill. The forest cover is open with a heavy growth of rhododendron along the edge of the terrace. It is bounded on the north and west by U.S. Forest Service land and on the other sides by Mr. Hedrick's land. The best building site is among some boulders in the middle of the terrace. Here the cabin would be hidden from view and have a glimpse -- during the winter -- of Seneca Rocks.



Templeton land and vicinity.

Besides providing shelter for climbers, the cabin will be in a central location for hiking in the Spruce Knob, Seneca Creek and Dolly Sods areas. The mid-point of the 22-mile trail atop North Fork Mountain is accessible via a short spur ridge. One route of the proposed Potomac Heritage Trail would follow the Roy Gap road.

Because the cabin will be occupied by many small groups it will need to be operated differently than the other PATC cabins where one party could reserve an entire cabin. Reservation possibilities are being considered by the MS Cabin Maintenance Committee, headed by Betsy Schaefer. A volunteer live-in custodian during the "high-season" is also a possibility.

Betsy's committee also analyzed what needs the cabin would have to satisfy in terms of capacity, cooking, sleeping, sitting, safety, security and ease of maintenance. These "performance criteria" were given to a Design Committee headed by John Christian and advised by Bob Humphrey, PATC Chairman for Cabin Construction. Designs of other clubs' cabins were studied and a design developed reflecting these criteria (see illustrations on front page and above). The approved design is a compact cabin with a full sleeping loft under a steeply pitched roof. It will be 18 x 24 feet with an 8 x 18 foot deck on the front end. Above this will be a 4 x 18 foot balcony. A door to the balcony would provide a quicker means of escaping from the loft than climbing through a window in case of fire. The roof is extended to shelter the balcony.

Of the various construction methods, logs were decided on for reasons of tradition and security. And precut logs seemed the only feasible route considering the skills and manpower available. About a dozen companies manufacturing precut log cabins were surveyed. The round notched logs offered by the majority of companies are generally of pine (which is not too rot resistant) and significantly more difficult to construct than the alternative rectangular logs. Delivery time on the round logs is long -- 9 to 12 months. The rectangular logs -- as used in the PATC Sexton cabin -- are highly rot resistant cedar, easy to assemble and available within three months. Costs did not vary significantly. Materials for the complete precut cabin (excluding foundation piers and furnishings) will cost in the order of \$9,000. (This price seemed high until a comparison with the cost of the Sexton cabin was made. Taking into account the increase in cost of softwood lumber [A 77 percent increase in wholesale price index from 1968 to December 1973, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce] and that the projected cabin would have twice the usable volume and 2.7 times the usable floor area of the Sexton cabin, the Templeton cabin is proportionally considerably cheaper -- approximately \$11/square foot against \$19/square foot if the Sexton cabin were to be built today.)

Requests for bids on the cabin were sent to several companies and MS recommendations on the selection of a bidder were submitted to the PATC Council as UP ROPE went to press.

A Cabin Construction Committee has been formed with Steve Williams as chairman. His committee has reviewed in detail the construction methods of the various bidders. PATC Council has been asked to provide \$10,750 for the cabin construction of which the major part will pay for construction material. The Mountaineering Section proposes to raise about \$2,000 over a 2-year period for unanticipated expenses and for the interior finishing and furnishings. Excess funds will go into the PATC treasury.

The construction schedule has been adopted tentatively and volunteers will be needed between May and September to help Steve and his committee:

April 13 Beginning of work on foundation and privy; June 16 completion of work on foundation and privy; June 20 delivery of material; June 22 start of erection; July 22 roofed in, and September 29 completion of interior.

CLIMBERS ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE FOR CABIN SECTION STARTS FUND DRIVE

Climbers in the Potomac Valley will soon be contacted for contributions to the David Templeton Memorial Climbers Cabin at Seneca Rocks WV. PATC has been exceedingly generous with funds to purchase the land and precut logs.

We, members and friends will contribute muscle and time and hopefully \$2,000, in cash or in pledges to be paid over a two-year period. You will be contacted by phone or in person fairly soon. We hope to get pledges of \$25, \$50 and \$100 which spread over two years will mean \$1, \$2 and \$4, payable monthly at meetings or on Training Sunday (following second Wednesday).

The prospect of a hut of our own is exciting. Each of us can help in his own way to make it a reality. A brochure will be ready soon with more detail. In the meantime, if you call us we won't have to call you for a pledge.

June Lehman, Chairman, Fund Raising Comm.
(H: 892-6374, B: 281-2720)

Hanging Around

ATTENTION TRIP LEADERS -- REPORTS PAST DUE: Some 16 reports for 1973 MS climbing trips are still needed. If you have slips of papers with names of participants or a good memory of the number of people who attended you will help the Section to maintain its records. We are lacking all but three reports for the October-December 1973 period! If the trip was cancelled because of bad weather or lack of interest report that.

The report record for 1974 is even worse at this moment. Following is a list of trip leaders whose reports we have not yet received: John Birch (Wolf Rock, Jan. 20); Greg Christopulos (Purple Horse, Jan. 27); Steve Williams (Boucher Rocks, Feb. 3); Mark Gunther (Schaffer Rocks, Feb. 10); Sallie Greenwood (Sugar Loaf, Feb. 24); Neil Arsenault (Harper's Ferry, Mar. 3); Joe Jensen (Black Rocks/Annapolis Rocks, Mar. 24).

Annapolis Rocks MD, October 21, 1973

On the walk in to the rocks, the Appalachian Trail was crowded with hikers. Arriving at the rocks, the first climbers found a large church group camping out. The amount of trash and broken glass seemed much greater than last year. Barbara Llewellyn and Bill Pepper at first thought they were the only climbers to show up, but three more straggled in during the course of the afternoon. It was a sunny and beautiful autumn day. A couple of climbs of modest difficulty were rigged where the trail comes to the cliff, and then the climbers went over to a nearby pillar and conquered that. A party of young enthusiasts of our fastest-growing sport -- rappelling -- came along and did their thing. When they had left, Bill discovered that all his carabiners and nuts and a coil of goldline had also left. Participating were Bill Pepper (Trip Leader), Barbara Llewellyn, Bob Pantel, Tony Madden and Phil Eddy. Bill Pepper

Carderock MD, December 16, 1973

Training notes: In spite of the weather (light snow), Pete Gardiner's party the previous night (morning?) and Joe Jensen's moving day (to Baltimore), training was held at Carderock. In addition to me and Michael Joseph Ryan, three people showed up for training. (Steve Williams came out later and rescued Mike from the cold with the loan of down and parka). After training and a tour of Carderock, I faithfully wrote down names to be published here. Unfortunately the names were written on the back of a receipt for film processing. I have the pictures but Kodak has the receipt and names. Apologies to all. Bob Ryan

Great Falls MD, March 10, 1974

A beautiful spring-like day drew great crowds to Great Falls. To escape them, our group waded and rock hopped over to the first of the Rocky Islands. There, we spent most of the day practice climbing on two rocks which the leader arbitrarily named "The Kirk" and "Pentangle." The Kirk offered warmups on short flake and crack climbs. Later, much vibram was worn down as all struggled to outdo a thin balance climb on the face of the Pentangle. An ancient piton was found at the crux of an overhanging climb we called "Basement Stairs." Those whose arms were up to it worked on another overhang which might have been called "Attic Stairs" had someone made it. Mike Hill put in a boulder problem, aptly called "The Comode." Late afternoon found us working on a hanging-hand traverse to nowhere. The possible done, the feasible tried, we retreated to Trav's for chili and beer. Participating were Joe Jensen (Trip Leader), Mike Hill, Martha Crawford, Rich Raymond, Carol Van Alstine, John Christian, Jon Larson, Phil Eddy, Anna Maria Woo, George Christian, Joan Gardner, Nancy Van Alstine, Chuck Sproull. Joe Jensen

PARTY DIRECTIONS (see p. 8): From DC, MD or VA get on I-95 (Shirley Hiwy). Take exit for Shirlington, stay on ramp to Quaker Lane. Go up the hill on Quaker Lane and take the first left (Preston Rd.). Go one block and turn right on Martha Custis Drive. Go to third parking area on the right. Park! Follow walkway through the court to the back apartment facing Quaker Lane. (Yes, it looks like you are heading for the woods.)

Climber's Calendar

April 21	Big Devils Staircase VA (route finding)	John FETVEDT (869-5617)
April 27	SPRING PARTY (see below and page 7)	Betsy SCHAEFER (683-4619)
**April 27-28	Linville Gorge NC (rock climbing)	Neil ARSENAULT (681-6187)
April 28	Annapolis/Black Rocks MD (rock climbing)	Greg CHRISTOPULOS (293-3272)
May 1	Executive Committee - Please come! 8 pm	SPROULL'S home (894-4463)
May 4-5	Seneca Rocks WV (cabin construction)	Steve WILLIAMS (593-1299)
May 4-5 & 5	Bull Run Mountain VA (rock climbing)	*
May 8	General meeting, PATC Hq, 8 pm	Program chairman needed
May 11-12	Training & Practice (rock climbing):	John CHRISTIAN (229-2792)
	Beginners' introduction to Seneca Rocks WV	
May 11-12	Seneca Rocks WV (cabin construction)	Steve WILLIAMS (593-1299)
May 18	4TH ANNUAL CLIMBERS' PICNIC:	June LEHMAN (892-6374)
	Carderock Pavilion MD, 4 pm	
May 19	Rocky Gap MD (rock climbing)	*
May 25	ANNUAL SENECA CLIMBERS' POT LUCK	June LEHMAN (892-6374)
May 25-27	Seneca Rocks WV (cabin construction)	Steve WILLIAMS (593-1299)
***May 25-27	Seneca Rocks WV (rock climbing)	*
May 26	Purple Horse MD (rock climbing)	*
June 2	Echo Cliffs VA (classic rock route)	John CHRISTIAN (229-2792)
June 5	Executive Committee - Please come! 8 pm	Home meeting place needed!
June 8-9	Seneca Rocks WV (cabin construction)	Steve WILLIAMS (593-1299)
***June 8-9	Shawangunks NY (rock climbing)	*
June 9	Boucher Rocks VA (rock climbing)	Jon LARSON (273-8517)
June 12	General meeting, PATC Hq, 8 pm	Program to be announced
June 16	Training & Practice (rock climbing)	Joe JENSEN (301--233-0253)
June 22-23	Seneca Rocks WV (cabin construction)	Steve WILLIAMS (593-1299)
June 22-23 & 23	Bear Church Rock VA	*
June 29-30	Seneca Rocks WV (cabin construction)	Steve WILLIAMS (593-1299)
***June 29-30	Tunstall's Tooth VA (rock climbing)	*
June 30	Camp Lewis/Cupid's Bower MD (rock clbg.)*	
* Trip leader needed (call Joe Wagner, 966-6379, for confirmation); ** limited party;		
*** experienced seconds and lead climbers only, find climbing partner before arriving.		
SPRING PARTY: Everyone invited - old and new members and friends. Time: 7:30 pm - at		
Betsy Schaefer's. 1909 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria VA. BYOB - munchies appreciated.		
For directions see bottom part of preceding page.		

Up Rope

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