



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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

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At Base Camp

Your Mountaineering Section at Work

The results of the mail ballot on the proposal to require MS members to belong to PATC were tallied April 9th at club headquarters. Thirty-seven percent of the section members eligible to vote returned their ballots. The vote was better than three to one in favor of the proposal.

Accordingly, as current memberships lapse (January 1, 1975) MS members must become members of the PATC. The PATC has reduced the first year's dues for new PATC members who are already MS members to \$5.00, a reduction of \$5.00. There is still a \$5.00 application fee. There will no longer be dues to be paid to the MS. Accordingly, next January, your annual dues notice will include a PATC application, and will ask for \$10.00. It should be noted that PATC does have a junior membership classification. For those twenty and under, dues will be \$4.00, with no application fee. Also, there is a special husband and wife membership classification. The spouse's dues are reduced by \$5.00, and there is no application fee for the spouse.

John Birch and Greg Christopulos are preparing a report on the effects these changes in the membership rules will have on the financial structure of the section. They will also make recommendations for easing the transition in January. They will appreciate your suggestions.

A very fruitful meeting was held at Joan Templeton's on Friday, April 5. Joan's committee is preparing a new, up-to-date directory of MS members. The new directory is almost ready, but we need a few more names and addresses before Joan can type the final copy for the printer. Judy Frank, Tony Gray, Joe Ney, Joe Nolte, where are you? If anyone has a current address for any of these people, please call or write Joan Templeton, 3903 Wendy Lane, Silver Spring, Md. 20906, (H) 933-2174. (W) 443-3390.

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

Chairman: Joe Jensen (301-947-3322)
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, letters and comments are welcome. Subscriptions for MS members is included in annual dues. Annual subscription for non-members is \$3.00. Send subscriptions and address changes to Circulation Manager, UP ROPE, PATC, 1717 N St. NW, Washington DC 20036.
Editor: Maren Stewart (301-547-0619)
Assistant Editor: vacant
Circulation Manager: John Birch (533-3668)
Assistant Circulation Manager: Greg Christopoulos

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John Bonine is preparing a new edition of the MS constitution and by-laws for distribution to MS members. The new edition will incorporate all the additions and changes made during this last year.

Thanks to Jim Shipley, the section possesses a beautiful oil painting of the David Templeton Memorial Cabin. The painting will hang at the PATC headquarters meeting room for the duration of the cabin construction and fund raising programs.

The MS business meeting was held April 3rd at John Christian's with a very good turn out by section members. Chuck Sproull pointed out that he frequently gets calls from scouting and other similar groups regarding the MS training program in rock climbing. Chuck asked for a statement of MS policy from which he could quote in answer to such inquiries. After much discussion, the following points were adopted:

1. The MS does not offer training in rock climbing to other organizations.
2. Leaders from other organizations are welcome to join the MS and to participate in our training programs.
3. Participation in the MS's basic climbing course by an individual under sixteen years of age is permitted only if one of the individual's parents participate in the same program.

A training check list, on which an individual could record the progress of his training, was passed around. This check list was used by the MS several years ago. After some discussion, it was decided to pass the check list on to Bob Ryan, to be revised and up-dated. It is anticipated that this check list will become part of the section's training program.

Tink Peters announced that she had extensive vacation plans, and can no longer function as the program chairman for the MS's monthly meetings. Barbara Llewellyn has agreed to fill the position of program chairman.

From the Editor's Chimney

Joe Wagner has resigned as editor of UP ROPE. I want to thank him for his efforts during the last two years.

Now I, Maren Stewart, am editor. I have no experience at this sort of thing and really do not know what I am doing. Also, in the fall, I will once again be full time nursing student and part time nurses aide, with little free time. All of this means that I need help. If you really want to help, you can take over the job of editor. Less than that, you can write articles, stories, letters, monthly columns, turn in trip reports, help with the mailing, inform me of news worthy events, write abstracts of interesting articles from other climbing magazines, write reports on equipment, committee reports, ask questions, give advice, criticize, or encourage. UP ROPE will only be as good as the contributions the members make. This is your newsletter--it can only speak for you if you speak.

The basic purpose of UP ROPE is to provide the members with information on the activities of the club. UP ROPE should come out monthly, before the club meeting. Material must be received by the twentieth of the preceding month in order to be included in the next month's issue.

There is going to be a meeting of anyone interested in the future of UP ROPE. The date will be announced at the June 12 general meeting or call Joe Jensen or me for time and place.

Contributions can be sent to:

Up Rope Editor

PATC MS

1717 N St. N.W.

Washington, D.C.

Maren Stewart

672 Washington Blvd.

Baltimore, Md. 21230

301-547-0619

(careful, I move frequently)

Chairman's Corner

In mid-May, the Forest Service Superintendent at Elkins, W. Va. informed the PATC that the Forest Service intends to condemn and purchase the David Templeton Memorial Cabin site at Seneca. Luckily, this occurred before the cabin materials were ordered and delivered, though several MS members have given many week-ends of hard work to the cabin site. At present the PATC lawyer is attempting to negotiate an arrangement with the Forest Service that will allow us to have the cabin at the Seneca site. Hopefully we will know one way or the other soon.

Meanwhile, construction at the Seneca site has stopped. I hate to lose our momentum, and I do not want to see our efforts wasted. However, continued work at this time might be interpreted as defiance or antagonism by the Forest Service.

The cabin has become a focus for renewed strength for our section. We will not lose this. We have strong, active committees who have designed, planned, and sought funds and workers for the cabin. We have the PATC council's backing and a large appropriation for construction materials. Our fund drive remains active. We may have to find another site. We will have to wait longer than we had hoped. But we will have our cabin.

Andy Kauffman of the American Alpine Club has asked that the MS help compile data for a register or atlas of American rock-climbing. The MS would supply data on climbing areas in this region. Much has been said at section meetings regarding the advantages and curses of guide books. John Stannard's letter in a recent American Alpine Club Newsletter listed several good reasons for not having a nation wide climbing atlas or register. As chairman, I would appreciate your written comments on this issue. I will pass them on either directly or in summary to the A.A.C. Please address letters to Editor, Up Rope.

Joe Jensen
Chairman

The Summit Register

Editor, UP ROPE

Though I consider myself a member of the MS, my active participation has been very limited for some time, and I would defer on this matter of membership arrangements to those who are more active. For what it is worth however, I do think that the MS should be cautious lest they become an organization whose major function is to perpetuate the organization itself. When I first became associated with the MS, the organization was so loose that membership was primarily a matter of indulging in mutual climbing activities -- formal organizational activities consisted of issuing the monthly UP ROPE and an annual get-together at somebody's house to elect new officers. While it may no longer be practical -- to me, this was the most desirable organizational structure.

Merval W. Oleson

Incidentally, I am, and have been a PATC member for several years.

John Fetvedt received the following letter from the National Park Service:

Visitors are not required to register for rock climbing trips in Shenandoah National Park. Climbers are cautioned as to the need for appropriate rock climbing gear.

Following is a list of nearby rescue squads and hospitals:

Luray Rescue Squad, Luray, Virginia	703-743-3650
Page Memorial Hospital, Luray, Virginia	703-743-4561
Sperryville Rescue Squad, Sperryville, Virginia	703-987-8124
Culpeper Memorial Hospital, Culpeper, Virginia	703-825-2811

Should you have any further questions, please contact us again.

Robert R. Jacobsen
Superintendent, Shenandoah National Park

Expeditions

Tom McCrumm is formulating an expedition to the Cordillera Blanca of Peru for next summer. Dates will be approximately June 20 to July 25, with some people staying later. The main objective is the unclimbed SW ridge of Nevado Santa Cruz, 20,535. This peak has been climbed only once, by another route. The climbing will involve high angle snow and ice climbing with the possibility of a rock band to negotiate at about 18,500 feet. The secondary objective will be the unclimbed west face of Alpamayo, 20,000 feet. So far the probable expedition members are Tom McCrumm and Bob Norris of Washington, D.C.; Brent Miller, Bill Hooker, and Glen Converse of Palo Alto, California; Ken Jern of Vail, Colorado; and perhaps Roger Wiegand of Lincoln, Nebraska and Larry Swanson of Salt Lake City.

The Alpine Club of Canada has published its 1974 program. The General Mountaineering Camp will be held at Berg Lake-Mt. Robson this year, with training camp to be held July 27 to August 3. Week one and week two will be held August 3 to 10 and August 10 to 17 respectively. Those interested should contact the Club Manager, Box 1026, Banff, Alberta T0L 0C0

The Iowa Mountaineers (address P.O. Box 163, Iowa City, Iowa 52240) is organizing the following expeditions:
East Africa July 12 - August 2
Beartooth, Montana July 23 - August 2
French Military Range, British Columbia August 5 - August 16

The Colorado Mountain Club (address 1723 E. 16th avenue, Denver Colorado 80218) is organizing the following expeditions:
Lake City Outing (N. Fork of the Gunnison) July 20 - Aug 4
Grenadiers-Needles Outing July 27 - August 10
Canadian Rockies Outing August 10 - 25
Minnesota Canoe Outing August 12 - 24
Alice Lake Provincial Park-Canada August 14 - 21

Any information or questions concerning expeditions should be directed to Sallie Greenwood 4114 Davis Place N.W. #205 Washington, D.C. 20007 965-4087.

Equipment Notes

The February 1974 issue of Off Belay published a letter from Royal Robbins stating he was in the process of gathering information about the performance of safety helmets, to be used in setting standards for American climbing helmets. Information required was: 1. Type of accident (falling climber or falling rock). 2. Type, extent, and exact location of head injury sustained (if any) or cause of death if accident was fatal. 3. Brand of helmet. 4. Name and address of individual wearing helmet (or witness if death occurred). Climbers who have received head injuries are urged to send the above information to Royal Robbins, Safety Helmets 906 Durant Street, Modesto, California 95350.

From Other Peaks

ARE CABLES REALLY NECESSARY?

The highest point in Colorado's Rocky Mountain National Park is Longs Peak, an impressive 14,255 feet. Its distinctive square top is recognizable from many angles of view. There are many ascent routes, among them some of the highest elevation wall climbs in the United States are concentrated on the East Face, known as the Longs Peak "Diamond."

But Longs Peak is also an easy mountain to climb. The first ascent was made way back in 1868 when Major John Wesley Powell climbed a second class gulley now known as Keplingers Couloir. Another second class route, The Keyhole, was discovered in 1870. Both these lines pose little in the way of technical problems, so there was little reason for the artificial development of a third, non technical route up the mountain. But "improvements" were the vogue in the mid-twenties and a third line, The Cables was worked out. Two stretches of steel cable, one 160 feet long, the other about 50, protect sections of low fifth class difficulty. There is some danger of falling rock, triggered by climbers above. The armstrain of laybacking up the cable, plus the often icy rock underfoot, trouble the inexperienced hikers who compose the majority of the traffic on this route. But it was the shortest route to the summit, and so grew in popularity.

During the summer of 1973, the cables were removed by the National Park Service. The decision to do so was based on three considerations. First the cables created extensive traffic jams in a hazardous area. There has been one fatality on the cables themselves and another involving a climber who slipped while descending towards the cables. There have also been numerous lightning incidents. The second consideration was the rockfall problem. The increasing number of people on the mountain started numerous rock slides, which in addition to bombarding the cables, inevitably found their way down the East Face, posing a problem to climbers there. The final and most important consideration was esthetics. It was time to return the mountain to its natural state.

The cables were removed on July 20th and so far have not been replaced. Since then, more than 6,000 people have ascended Longs Peak, over 5,000 of them via the easy Keyhole route. The elimination of the Cables route obviously has not prevented any one from reaching the summit. But recently, the Estes Park Chamber of Commerce requested replacement of the Longs Peak cables. This request was spurred by the Peak to Peak Association, predominantly a youth organization, who charge that the Park Service is denying hundreds of young people the opportunity to climb the mountain. They also stated that removing the cables is a hazard to hikers who will attempt to climb the slabs anyway.

In my opinion, neither of these considerations is valid. First, there are still two other naturally non-technical routes up the mountain. Admittedly both are longer, but this requires little more than an earlier start. Second, no accidents occurred in the cables area after their removal, even though they were gone during the peak traffic month of August. Also significant--there were no accidents on the Keyhole despite the additional load that route was called to handle and the occasional traffic problems at bottleneck areas.

A final decision on the Cables will be made shortly. Although many individuals have expressed opinions, more direct input is required to insure that the Park Service will fully consider the growing mandate to keep Longs Peak in its natural, cable-free state. Individuals, mountaineering clubs, and other interested organizations are urged to file statements of opinion by writing to Superintendent Roger Condor, Rocky Mountain National Park, Estes Park, Colorado 80517 and to Ronald Walker, Director, National Park Service, Department of the Interior Building, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This appeal was not prompted by the National Park Service or my own personal business interests as mountaineering and rock climbing concessionaire in the Park. Since the cables have been removed, our activity on the mountain has decreased substantially. But now, mountain hikers, like climbers, will be forced to meet the mountain on its own terms. The essence of mountaineering is to raise oneself to the standard of the climb, not to bring it down to our individual ability or interest.

Michael Covington
Estes Park, Colorado

Hanging Around

Purple Horse, January 27, 1974

The day started off on a sour note since it was chilly and raining early in the morning; however, by 10:00 when a few of us met in the parking lot across from the Old Anglers Inn on MacArthur Boulevard, it was warm and sunny. Myself, Joe Wagner, and Steve Williams sat around reading the Sunday New York Times while waiting for more people to show up. Finally when others arrived we hiked over to the rocks and arrived around 11:00. Although the weather had cleared, the rocks were still wet and slippery. Since no one felt like going back to the car to get the newspaper, the only thing to do was to sit around, eat lunch and watch the rocks dry in the sun. By noon we started to climb since the rocks had dried and we had run out of excuses for sitting around and doing nothing. Unfortunately I have lost my copy of the list of participants so that I am unable to report on who enjoyed this quiet leisurely Sunday morning.

Greg Christopoulos

Boucher Rocks, February 3, 1974

It was cold and it rained. Jim Shipley did some hard climbs. The rest of us climbed because we started freezing when we stood still for long. I think the place should be named Boucher Rock instead of Rocks, although it might be a nice place on a nicer day. Participating were Joe Jensen, Jim Shipley, June Lehman, Bob Ryan, Maren Stewart, John Birch and others.

Maren Stewart (Steve Williams never showed up)

Big Devil Stairs Va., April 21, 1974

After we had recovered from the long uphill walk into the rocks, Jon Larson and Barbara Llewellyn went in one direction where Jon lead a couple of pitches with Barbara seconding and cleaning. Alan Groh, John Garrahan, and John Fetvedt went in the other direction where Alan lead a crack, John F seconded, and John G cleaned the pitch. John F then lead up a likely looking

face in an attempt to find a reasonable route. About an hour later he was still looking for the route but by now there was fifty feet of rope and about a dozen nuts below him looking like a giant pretzel. After he came down for lunch and reviewed his handy work he discovered where the route really went. Armed with this information he went back up the correct route but shortly had to come back down and clean some of the bends out of the pretzel. Alan then went back up and finished the pitch with a minimum amount of obscene comments when the "only ten feet left" estimate turned out to be closer to thirty with lousy protection. We all took a crack at following this pitch and John G cleaned it by down climbing with a top belay. On the way out we located several other routes to explore at a later date. Participating were: John Fetvedt (trip leader), Alan Groh, Jon Larson, Barbara Llewellyn, and John Garrahan.
John Fetvedt

Annapolis Rocks Maryland, April 28 1974

After meeting at the Hot Shoppes in Bethesda, Jon Larson, John Birch, Tim Moran and Myself headed for Annapolis rocks where we met Barbara Llewellyn. JB set up a climb which went under a large ceiling or overhang. No one was able to do this difficult climb until Hombros and Associates showed up. One of the Associates succeeded in doing the climb on his first attempt, the other Associate, Tim Irvine, made several valiant attempts as did John Birch.
Greg Christopoulos

Old Rag, March 30-31, 1974

Buddy Guthrie, Jim Birch, Adam Anderson, John Anderson

The weather was bad throughout, and the trip was a triumph of sorts in that no one was drowned or blown away. We slogged up the mountain in heavy rain and mist on Saturday, past clumps of people around the fires at Old Rag and Byrd's Nest shelters. (They were violating Park regulations, incidentally. The new rules are in effect and require camping out of sight of trails and shelters.) We pitched the tents near the top, a few yards from a cave that we turned into our kitchen. It was a good thing that the rest of you didn't come on the trip after all. It was only a four-man cave. Around midnight a tremendous north wind arrived. By sheer luck we were under the south edge of the ridge and only got gusts and eddies of it. But all night long it boomed through the tops of the trees. During breakfast the temperature fell below freezing. We did a little scrambling and exploring along the rocks on the north side of the mountain, but the prevalence of ice and the high wind ruled out serious climbing there. Beyond the summit, we stopped at the long slabs on the south face. While Jim and Adam bouldered, Buddy led a two-pitch route up over the slabs. Not a severe grade of climbing, but interesting problems of nut placement. And, as Buddy said, it would have been a pity to spend the weekend on the mountain without doing any climbing at all. But it was very chilly as we came up to the crest, back into the wind. By the time we were back at the parking lot, of course, the weather had turned sunny and warm.

John Anderson

Shawangunks, May 25-27, 1974

Nan Moran, John Bonine, June Lehman, Bob Ryan, Betsy Schaefer, Jean Beeman, Joe Jensen, Maren Stewart

The weather was beautiful--cool and partly cloudy. Only one shower just as I reached the hardest move on easy V. It wasn't too crowded; we were able to do the climbs we wanted. June and Bob climbed Te Dum and did a display for tourists at Emory Crack at Sky Top. Maren did her first complete lead on Minty. We celebrated June's fifty-ninth birthday by retiring at 8:00p.m.

Maren Stewart

Seneca Rocks, W. Va. April 6,7; 13,14; 20,21; 27,28.

April 6 greeted me with snow squalls and whitewater crowds. I made my initial survey of PATC, MS land and spent the rest of the day dog-sitting while Brian and Gary and others climbed. The whitewater action drew crowds, but so did Maya, a 130 pound Irish wolfhound, and Cyndi, a petite Airedale, as they pranced around Mouth of Seneca. Sunday the 7th dawned balmy for the groundbreaking ceremonies initiated by Chuck, Joe, June, and myself. Later, Herb joined the fray and helped dig the privy. Earlier that morning upon visiting the Hedrick's, it was learned he was hospitalized for a hiatal hernia. MS sent a card wishing a speedy recovery.

The 13th found Pat and myself discussing locations before John gave his views. Due to the late start, we agreed to cut short our efforts and join John, Martha, Arnold and John for beer. Sunday our main efforts were directed at clearing brush from the site. We were assisted by John Markwell and Bob Livingston and a chain saw in removing four large trees from the vicinity. The trees will make nice benches, stools, and steps for the cabin.

The 20th Chuck, JB, and myself got sunburned excavating the privy. That night, after a community sing and a long futile wait for a movie at the Gendarme, we pooped out, but not before welcoming Joe, who spent the day building steps at Carderock. Sunday the five foot level was broken in privy construction. We also set final boundary lines and dug our first pier holds, before calling it a day. This day we had again been graced with magnificent weather.

The 27th, Buddy, DiDi and myself reached the eight foot level at the privy site, and later was joined by Sally. We then dug foundation holes while Buddy and DiDi climbed. Bob and Mike climbed. Sunday brought Chuck, Joe, June and Scott after attending Betsy's party. The privy nears completion, and the foundation was dug except for a couple of spots that require blasting.

Steve Williams

Climber's Calendar

June 12	General meeting PATC Hq 8p.m.	
June 16	Training & Practice (rock climbing)	Bob Ryan 560-7512
June 23	Bear Church Rock, Va.	Steve Williams 593-1299
June 30	Camp Lewis	Joe Jensen 301-947-3322
July 3	Business Meeting - Please come, Home meeting place needed	
** July 4-7	Seneca Rocks W. Va.	Steve Williams
July 7	Cupids Bower, Md.	*
July 10	General meeting, PATC Hq 8 p.m.	

* Trip leader needed (call Sally Greenwood at 965-4087 for confirmation)

**Experienced seconds and lead climbers only, find climbing partner before arriving.

For Sale

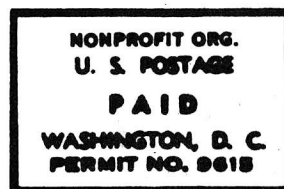
Size 10½ Kronhoffer klettershoes, used once at Carderock - \$10
150 foot 3/8" Goldline - rarely used \$10 Call Tom McCrumm 525-6272.

A Note to Remember

Every climb at Seneca and at the Shawangunks can be, and has been safely led, using nuts, slings and fixed protection. This is be kind to the rock year - use nuts. Tom McCrumm

Up Rope

1718 N St N W
Washington, D. C. 20036



DATED MATTER