



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

1718 N Street, N.W. Washington DC 20036

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At Base Camp

There are no formal minutes for the 14 August 1974 MS business meeting. We spent about 20 minutes discussing various topics such as who wanted training the following Sunday at Carderock, and who would lead the trip and what trips should be planned for October. Then we had two interesting silent movies. Anne Huguenard showed her 1972 movies of the late Dave Templeton and other DC climbers doing routes on Carderock, Wolf Gap, and Buzzard Rock. Finally, just as we were getting ready to leave, Jimmy Shipley came in and showed his 1960-61 movies of climbing at Annapolis Rock, the Gunks, Harpers Ferry and Seneca.

On Friday 16 August 1974, Scott Johnson, PATC lawyer, met here with Al Troutt, U.S. Forest Service administrator to discuss our land at Seneca. The Forest Service's position on this issue is that they want no developments of any kind of the east side of North Fork River.

Chuck Sproull

Chairman's Corner

Welcome back everyone, from Colorado, or California, or Oregon, or Wyoming, or Peru, or where ever. I look forward to reading your harrowing accounts of deeds and misdeeds in trip reports in future issues of UP ROPE. I've heard a rumor that the plans for our traditional fall get together are in the works.

Also, if you've been away, please note that thanks to Maren and her elves, UP ROPE is very much alive and well, and even somewhat regular.

There is a nominating committee headed by Gregory Christopoulos at work finding candidates for next year's officers. The election will be held at the November meeting. This year, for the first time, we will be electing the treasurer and the secretary. Also, the section must now submit a budget to the PATC for expenses,

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 D.C. Editorial contributions, letters and comments are welcome. Subscriptions for MS members is included in annual dues. Annual subscriptions for non-members is \$3.00. Send subscriptions and address changes to Circulation Manager, UP ROPE, PATC, 1718 N St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

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including UP ROPE, for the coming year. Having the election in November will allow the new officers time to work with the outgoing officers, and the editor of UP ROPE time to prepare the budget.

Assuming we will know something definite regarding our land at Seneca by the time of our September meeting, we need to immediately resume the construction of our cabin, or begin a search for a new cabin site. Either way, it is time we organized and moved. As we found last spring, we are capable of working together as a club, we can accomplish a great deal, and we can enjoy ourselves doing it. We will all benefit from our cabin. Hopefully it will be the result of all our efforts.

Joe Jensen

NEWS FROM CARDEROCK

On 15 August 1974, John Stannard and I, along with other willing local climbers, completed construction of a set of durable steps up the mud slope near Elsie's Other Edge Face. Then on 22 August, assisted by Wallace Walther and Bob Patterson, John and I placed a wood log water bar and improved the run-off drainage in the small gulley below Nubbly Face. Other small projects we plan on doing are placing water bars across the drainage gullies forming on the flat area below AAA and in the trail up from the south to Beginners Face; placing more large logs for better trail definition near the new steps at the north end of Carderock; relocating our bulletin board; and, possibly next spring, planting some hardy vines or shrubs to revegetate old cut-off trails which are no longer in use.

A little bit of individual care and respect given to our climbing areas will not only prevent them from looking worn and over used, but also, and far more important, will retard the process of natural erosion. In other words, I feel that a man-made semi-wilderness, though it may appear somewhat artificial or unnatural, is many times more beautiful and valuable to us than a natural or man-made waste land is.

Climbers and friends who agree with this concept and are willing to help make trails fewer and narrower are encouraged to keep in touch with us and the Park Service, and to spread the word.

Chuck Sproull

From the Editor's Chimney

As the regular readers must be noticing, each UP ROPE I publish is shorter than the one before. It is not that there is less to write about. Being editor of UP ROPE is a lot of work. I am personally unable to attend all club trips and report on all of the club member's activities. I have no reporters to gather pertinent information for UP ROPE. I must rely on voluntary contributions. As I warned you in my first UP ROPE I am now entering my last year of nursing school. I am awful busy and I need help publishing UP ROPE. Contributions to UP ROPE are always welcome. Just send whatever you want published to either Maren Stewart, 817 Hollins St., Baltimore, Md. 21201, or Editor UP ROPE, PATC MS, 1718 N St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036. UP ROPE would like to publish photographs. They should be black and white with good contrast. If the contrast is particularly good they can be color photos. Many of you have been on expeditions this summer. Write to UP ROPE and tell the rest of us about your exciting adventures. The deadline for each month's issue is the 20th of the preceeding month. An attempt is made to have each issue in the hands of the members before the monthly meeting. This is extremely difficult as delays can occur at any one of the steps in the creation of UP ROPE. The usual delay is not our fault; we blame it on the U.S. postal service.

Maren Stewart

Hanging Around

Training Trip Carderock 18 August 1974

Trainers

Joe Wagner
John Anderson
Jon Larson
Bill Bookout
Chuck Sproull
John Pierre-Benoist
John Birch

Trainees:

Phil Trimble
Mike
David Gilden
David Garvin
Rachael Wasserman
Barbara Llewellyn

Stevie Smith
Nick Kelly
Jim Nigro
John
Wallace Walter
Bob Patterson

The day started off with Joe instructing Barbara, Stevie, Phil, and Mike on lead climbing techniques up the Laundry Shute and placing of artificial choc stones for protection. I set up Trudie's Terror for teaching about top rope anchors and jam crack climbing technique for Jim, Dave Gilden, Phil, Wallace and Bob Patterson. JB showed up with the new ropes which were especially purchased for training, rigged AAA with it and rappelled on it a few times to work out the kinks. John Anderson then led the Laundry Shute for David Garvin and Rachael. Later Jon came in straight from the Canadian Rockies and showed some viewers how good it feels to climb on good solid rock. During mid-afternoon someone fell off of the Vulgarian Wedge and managed (no details available) to get a large deep gash in his leg. John Pierre-Benoist put a pressure bandage to stop the bleeding. John expressed strong, genuine amazement that of all the people standing around or climbing there at the time, he was the only one prepared to administer any type of first aid! All together it was a pretty good day for the old MS and students. My apologies for unintentional omissions and incorrect or incomplete names.

Chuck Sproull

Wolf Gap, W. Va. July 14, 1974

John Fetvedt, Phil Eddy, Tom McKenna, and Harold Goldstein met at Appalachian Outfitters and proceeded to Wolf Gap. We arrived at the rocks about noon and set up two climbs on the west face over some interesting overhangs. We all climbed these at least once and then retired to the top for lunch.

After lunch we explored the east side where we located two lost climbers, Robert Partel and Ray Cramer, and a likely looking route. Robert and Ray went over and climbed our morning routes before they departed and we set up the climb on the east face. We suspected that we might have a tough one when the rope hung eight feet from the bottom of the face. Phil and Tom climbed to a wide ledge just below the top before taking the elevator back down. Harold made two valiant tries and almost succeeded in reaching the ledge and John was persuaded to save his arms to write this report. We had dinner at a Front Royal diner on the way back.

John Fetvedt

Shawangunks, N.Y. July 20-21, 1974

Steve Williams, Sallie Greenwood, Greg Christopoulos, José Prata, Stevie Smith, Chuck Sproull, Bob Ryan, Bobbi Antonazzi, Joe Jensen

Beautiful warm days without humidity made for pleasant climbing. The group went in various directions. Stevie did her first continuous climb, following me up Northern Pillar and Easy V. Bob came to supper with tales of desperate clutching to 5.8's with wasps swarming around his fingers. From this, and the looks of people around the Uberfall, it appeared that the wasps were also enjoying the weather. From other stories I heard, it was evident that many a climber was unable to keep Bob's presence of mind in the midst of the wasps. Evidently, the wasps like Sallie. I understand she sang to them, while leading across the traverse on Rusty Trifle. José also tried singing as he followed Sallie's lead. Unfortunately the wasps were not as lulled by José's voice.

Joe Jensen

Buzzard Rocks, Va. August 4, 1974

The original trip scheduled to Bear Church Rocks was cancelled when discovered from a first hand report the area had very limited climbing potential. By 8:30 in the morning Alan Groh's V/W bus was loaded with five climbers, Stevie Smith, John Garrahan, Dave Gilden, and Harold Goldstein and headed for a full day's climbing under a beautiful sunny sky. Before reaching the parking area at the Fish Hatchery we had been through several light sprinkles; not to be discouraged, we strapped on our gear and headed in. At the rocks we met Mike Stallard and Larry McDermitt; by 11:30 our first climbs were rigged. Mike and Larry completed several climbs before they departed early (those of us who remained were grateful to Mike for leaving his rope behind).

John Garrahan, perched three quarters the way up a climb, at 3:30, spotted a storm moving down the valley. Ignoring his warning, we continued to climb and within fifteen minutes the storm was upon us. Harold Goldstein was nearing the finish of a climb when the storm hit, however he persevered and reached the top slightly soaked. The storm was short but rendered the rocks useless, so at 4:00 we packed out and settled back for a wet, rainy trip home.

Alan Groh

Baker Rocks, W. Va. August 10-11

There were only three of us there to enjoy the perfect weather and the beautiful row of 200 foot high rock pinnacles. John Garrahan and I drove out to Seneca Saturday afternoon to borrow the PATC tools. Bob Livingston, who was minding the Gendarme, informed us that the Forest Service has agreed to buy rope, slings, carabiners, and other appropriate hardware to replace what had been stolen from the first aid box several weeks earlier. In one corner of the store were two D.C. climbers who, when asked what they had climbed today, made some obscure comments about "Dirty Old Mans"! (Who knows what they might have been up to?).

After a pleasant, un-crowded night at the Seneca Pavillion, and the customary early awakening by Buck Harper, John and I drove over to Baker Rocks to check in with Sam Harper. While driving up through the second pasture we were confronted by a herd of about 50 fly-faced, loudly mooing cows. They were probably as much a curiosity to us city folk as we were to them. One half hour later, as we began climbing, those otherwise contented beasts were still belling.

Our route began 50 feet below ground level, in a chimney under the uphill side of the third pinnacle. Bob Williams found us just as we were ending the first 60 foot pitch. He joined us by heaving one end of his rope over to John, lowering the other end to the bottom of the chimney, scrambling down, tying in and climbing up to our rather exposed belay perch. Here we were about 150 feet above the front (downhill side) of the rock. Bob led us to the top of the third pinnacle. He said that he felt quite at home there having spent many a day on the Needles of South Dakota.

We spent the next three hours overcoming various engineering problems in descending the third, ascending the fourth, up and down, as we worked our way along the north sky line. At one point on the fourth, John used a beautiful, cup-shaped handhold that turned out to be the home of a bunch of wasps. After he discovered that a rapid succession of 4-letter scoldings didn't chase them back into their dwelling he settled down to the task of getting out of there quickly. Later he mentioned that he wasn't stung and that the wasps only landed on his helmet for a while. Maybe they thought his shiny orange Choinard hard hat was some sort of giant tomato. Finally, on top of the last and tallest pinnacle we were surprised by finding what at first appeared to be a large piece of black tubular webbing--until it slithered away behind a small tree and down into the interior of the rock. It was a verrrry large black snake who, we guessed, was the guardian of the rappel slings. We couldn't even imagine how he had gotten up there. It seems to me a good example of a principle in ecology; "Everything is everywhere, the substratum selects." (Allee) Perhaps that is why we were also there.

We reinforced the hemp rope anchor with a long runner and fixed a rappel rope which could also be used for top rope climbing, then descended to the ground. The overhanging east (uphill side) face of that pinnacle gave the appearance of a great vertical wedge of Swiss cheese with one foot diameter solution holes spaced one to five feet apart from the bottom to half way up. From there to the top there were some corners and grooves. After we had completed several strenuous routes, and felt like we had shot every ounce of energy in our arms, we packed up, thanked eachother and headed home.

Chuck Sproull

Climber's Calendar

Sept 8 Cupid's Bower John Bonine 338-6210

Sept 11 Meeting 8:00 p.m. PATC Headquarters Program:
Slide Show by Tom Marshall

Sept 15 Great Falls, Md. training Bob Ryan 560-6044

Sept 21-22 Seneca Rocks Steve Williams 593-1299

Sept 29 Bull Run Mt. John Birch 533-3668

Oct 5-6 Old Rag Joe Wagner 966-6379

Oct 12-14 Shawangunks, N.Y. Barbara Llewellyn 871-6197

Unable to contact trip leader? Call Sallie Greenwood at 965-4087 for information.

From Other Peaks

Joe Jensen:

Thank you very much for the pleasant trips we made together, and with Sallie, Greg, Steve and Chuck and everybody. In case any of you go to East South America, make a point that you meet us at our club: and/or at our home:

Centro Excursionista Rio de Janeiro Rva Morais e Silva 126/203
Avenida Rio Branco 277/805 20000 Rio de Janeiro
telefone (021)252-9908 Guanabara
20000 Rio de Janeiro Brasil
Guanabara (tel: (021)254-1161)

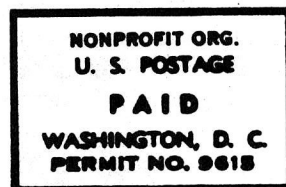
Hope you all go on having a great time rock climbing, travelling and taking chili and draught beer at Trav's. Hoping to see you all soon, up here or down over there.

José Antonio dos Santos Prata

Up Rope

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DATED MATTER