



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

1718 N Street, N W. Washington DC 20036

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Belay Ledge

SPRING PARTY

Bill and Doris Thomas invite all climbers to a party at their house Saturday May 17 at 8 p.m. Everyone welcome, especially newcomers. The Thomases live at 5906 N. 19th St., Arlington, Virginia. Call them at KE 6 7948 for directions. BYOL. If the spirit moves you, other goodies will be welcome.

At Base Camp

The Mountaineering Medicine Class begins April 17 and meets Thursday evenings at 8:00 until May 22. It is held at PATC headquarters.

Treasurer's Report - We have \$1600 allotted to us--\$1200 for UP ROPE, \$400 for other expenses such as \$45 for Annapurna film, etc., plus \$35 (closing out checking account).

AAC Gazetteer - Felix Knauth reported 15 responses out of 75 of his letters to USA climbing clubs. 14 clubs agree that we need access to our favorite areas and that a Gazetteer would jeopardize our access, 1 club in California was in favor of the Gazetteer. April 12, Felix will make a formal report to the AAC meeting.

Annual MS Picnic - There are no openings at the Carderock pavilion until autumn. An alternative site is needed--must have room for sports, allow beer, and have late closing time. Any suggestions contact Sallie Greenwood.

Buck Harper still expects to be paid \$.50 to stay at the Pavillion at Seneca. People have not been paying, and he is considering closing the pavillion.

Ed Guleka is doing research on high altitude mountain goggles and would welcome suggestions and information. His address is 916 N. Edgewood St., Arlington, Va. 22201.

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

Chairman: Sallie Greenwood (965-4087)
 Vice Chairman: Joe Ney (751-8891)
 Secretary: Chuck Sproull (894-4463)
 Treasurer: Greg Christopoulos (293-3272)

 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 are 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 Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

Editor: Maren Stewart (301-385-0636)
 Assistant Editor: Stevie Smith (762-7311)
 Circulation Manager: Joe Jensen (301-467-4611)

Eldorado Canyon--State park or gravel quarry? That is the choice that will face the Colorado Legislature when they consider the ultimate disposition of Eldorado Canyon. The amount of interest shown by out-of-state users will influence their decision. Letters supporting preservation of Eldorado Canyon should be sent to: Libby Goodwin, Boulder County Parks Department, P.O. Box 471, Boulder, Colorado 80302.

TRAINING COMMITTEE

The Training Committee met at Joe Ney's March 24. Dana Densmore, Sallie Greenwood, Joe Jensen, Tom McCrumm, Chuck Sproull, and Joe Wagner kept Chairman Joe company.

John Bonine's draft program for introductory rock climbing was discussed, debated, and adapted. The premise is that in a day we can introduce safe-climbing techniques to beginners. What we can teach will at least make them aware of safety; the techniques of climbing can be picked up incidentally. The list that follows is what a trainer can expect to discuss and teach to a trainee; and what a trainee can expect to learn.

Rappelling was debated at length - to teach or not to teach. It was finally concluded that we can show the components of a safe BELAYED rappel. At least someone, having taken the course, will be able to recognize whether the techniques he is using are safe.

The course is designed to be taught in one day. Pros and cons to be discussed, hazards stressed:

1. Equipment: carabiners, rope, webbing.
 2. Knots (each to be backed up with an overhand): bowline, ringbend, figure eight.
 3. Anchors: knot around object; opposing carabiners; direction of fall; rope vs. webbing.
 4. Belaying: belaying hand never leaves the rope; stance; check rigging after completion of each climb; no slack.
 5. Rappelling only with belay: body rappel; carabiner brake; seat slings; horror stories. Stress inherent danger.
 6. Calls - climber initiated dialog; Rock! Rope! Falling!
- ETHICS. Carry out trash that is carried in; minimum damage to an area.

TRIP LEADER GUIDELINES

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 (or bring your own) 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.

Help to keep the climbing area clean and encourage others to clean up and carry out trash.

MS TRAINING POLICY (Adopted at business meeting April 3, 1974)

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 participates in the same program.

Chairman's Corner

Those "few souls" whom I mentioned in the January-February UP ROPE are moving the Section right along. We could even use some more.

-Joe Wagner and committee have drawn up an excellent trip schedule for the next two months. Your turn. Now we need leaders for the trips. Call Joe (966-6379)

-Chuck Sproull has drafted a detailed brochure on safe top-roped climbing. More on that as soon as the Chairman gets her bustle in gear. Ron Wilson at Great Falls, Va. is interested in the brochure as either an alternative, substitute, or compliment to one that he is planning.

-John Bonine drafted an introduction to rock climbing which the Training Committee, chaired by Joe Ney, has adapted for our training program. The committee's next effort is to design the second phase of training: seconding/continuous climbing. It is also considering alternatives to Carderock as a training area.

-Barbara Llewellyn continues to keep us entertained with films and slide shows. She welcomes your suggestions.

-Yea, Maren Stewart. Where would we be without UP ROPE? In the dark.

You would think that Joe Jensen would have had enough meetings last year - he's back at it again this year, and appreciated.

-And Greg Christopoulos. We'd never keep track of how much, who, or what we have on hand.

At the last meeting the Section voted to cooperate with the Park Service. This we agreed to after Judy Burson, of the Park Service brought us up to date on Park Service ruminations on policy and planning. The main drift is that the Service is receptive and soliciting our expertise as applied to the Potomac Gorge. This ranges from training seasonal rangers to safety displays, to Carderock preservation, to reporting accidents that we know of from the past few years. Exactly how and to what degree the Section would cooperate was left open.

I would like for us to delineate that at the Executive Meetings in the near future - April.

The Section is in an excellent position, possibly even an unique position to have a direct impact on the future of climbing in the Washington Area. We should be able to identify and express our responsibilities.

Hanging Around

Sugarloaf, Md. - January 5, 1975

(Although this was not a scheduled trip, it was decided that having six people in the same place at the same time qualified it as a club trip.) As it was rather cool and breezy, but sunny, when Mark Gunther, Jim Nigro and Barbara Llewellyn arrived at the top of the mountain, it was decided that the south side was the place to start. A favorite pillar (dubbed by Jim "The Heel Stone") was rigged and several different climbs done. We were joined around noon by Tim Moran and John Layman, and a bit later by Alan Groh, feeling rotten, but not one to let a mere bug keep him from the rocks on a beautiful day - or a bad day, for that matter. While the three latecomers played around on the pillar, Jim and Mark took off for the regular climbing area, where they set up Rhythmic Roof and proceeded to try to do themselves in by going straight over the top. A variation of this was achieved by Jim. The other four then joined them and three more climbs - all involving overhangs (does Sugarloaf have any other kind?) - were set up and climbed by most of the group. All in all, a most enjoyable day.

Barbara Llewellyn

Wolf Rock - February 9, 1975

Craig Barlett, Phil Eddy, Harold Goldstein, Sallie Greenwood, Barbara Llewellyn and Tim Moran. Four days before the scheduled trip, the trip leader finally decided she didn't feel like playing Intrepid Explorer In Search Of New Rocks in the winter, so she set-

tled on good old Sugarloaf. Arriving late, Tim Moran, Harold Goldstein and Barbara Llewellyn found Sallie Greenwood, Craig Bartlett and Phil Eddy shivering in the parking lot at the bottom of the hill. Seems the road up was closed because of icy conditions. A tally quickly showed that none of us felt like walking up to the Sugarloaf Rocks, or even taking the two mile hike to Annapolis Rocks, so Wolf Rock won by default. A decidedly cool wind was blowing as we set off up the trail, which was covered with enough snow to make the rocks in the path invisible. As the climbing area was also covered with several inches of snow and the spaces in between the rocks filled in with drifted snow, an otherwise dull scramble to the top was injected with a bit of excitement, as we dusted off snow to find the footholds. A few of the sunbathing rocks at the top and the rocks to be climbed--being essentially vertical--were clean and dry. One slightly overhanging wall, Windy Corner and the Wolf were rigged. Sallie, Harold, and Craig, oblivious to the danger of their fingers--or the toes of their belayers who had to stand in deep drifts--being lost to frostbite, did Windy Corner. Everyone did the overhanging wall, which was in the sun when it was out. The decidedly cool wind had picked up and become fairly continuous, but the hardier souls did the Wolf before it was unanimously decided to call it a day. A cold one. By this time the now-you-see-it, now-you-don't sun had melted just enough of the snow for the low temperatures to freeze (A towel used over a sharp edge and anchor slings of webbing that got wet, froze stiff enough to walk down the trail by themselves) so unrigging the climbs was twice as exciting as rigging them had been. Despite the fact we had forgotten to pack in skis all arrived safely down at the parking lot. Phil, claiming too much work, and Sallie, with a dinner date ahead and not enough willpower to resist ordering a sandwich, begged off, but the rest of us warmed our chill bones at Roy's Place.

Barbara Llewellyn

Rocks State Park, Maryland - February 23, 1975

This was a non-trip because the weather lived up to predictions and there was rain until noon. I drove up anyway, partly to refresh my memory on the route up and on the layout of the Rocks (it has been at least six years since I last climbed there) and partly to be on hand just in case someone else should be foolish enough to make the trip. No one was--at least until after 1 p.m. There had been a gratifying expression of interest and the following people presumably would have been there if the weather had been decent: from the Baltimore area: Pat Kingman, Maren Stewart, and Steve Punko; from the Washington D.C. area: John Bonine, Mitch Burken, Tom McKenna, and Leslie Houghton.

The Rocks has several climbs of varying degrees of difficulty, including at least one short lead; I feel that the place deserves more attention than we have given it in recent years.

Phil Eddy

Climber's Calendar

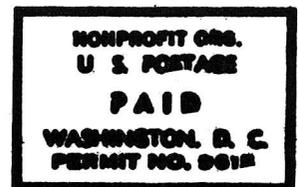
- April 9 MS Meeting PATC Headquarters 8:00 p.m.
John Bonine's slides of Baja
- April 13 Training meet at 9:30 a.m. at Carderock John Bonine
(338-6210)
- +April 19-20 Big Devils Staircase, Va. Maren Stewart (301-385-0636)
- *April 26-27 Seneca Rocks W. Va. Tom McKenna & Harold Goldstein
(762-8421)
- April 27 Annapolis Rocks Md. Alan Groh (770-3249)
- May 4 Purple Horse/Spitsbergen Md.
- *May 10-11 Greenland Gap W. Va. Neil Arsenault (681-6187)
- May 11 Wolf Rock Md.
- May 14 MS Meeting PATC Headquarters 8:00 p.m.
Philip Trimble's slides: Climbing in New Guinea
- May 18 Training: crevass rescue Joe Jensen (301-467-4611)
- *May 24-26 Shawangunks N.Y.
- May 25 Buzzard Rocks Va.

If climb has no trip leader, call Joe Wagner at 966-6379

+Combined one day and weekend trip.

*Lead climbers and experienced seconds only. You should arrange for climbing partners before arriving at destination.

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



DATED MATTER