

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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At Base Camp

No August meeting - The Mountaineering Section is taking a vacation in August--no meeting, no training, no UP ROPE. Monthly meetings will resume September 10, with training scheduled for the following Sunday. Deadline for the September UP ROPE is August 25.

Belay Ledge

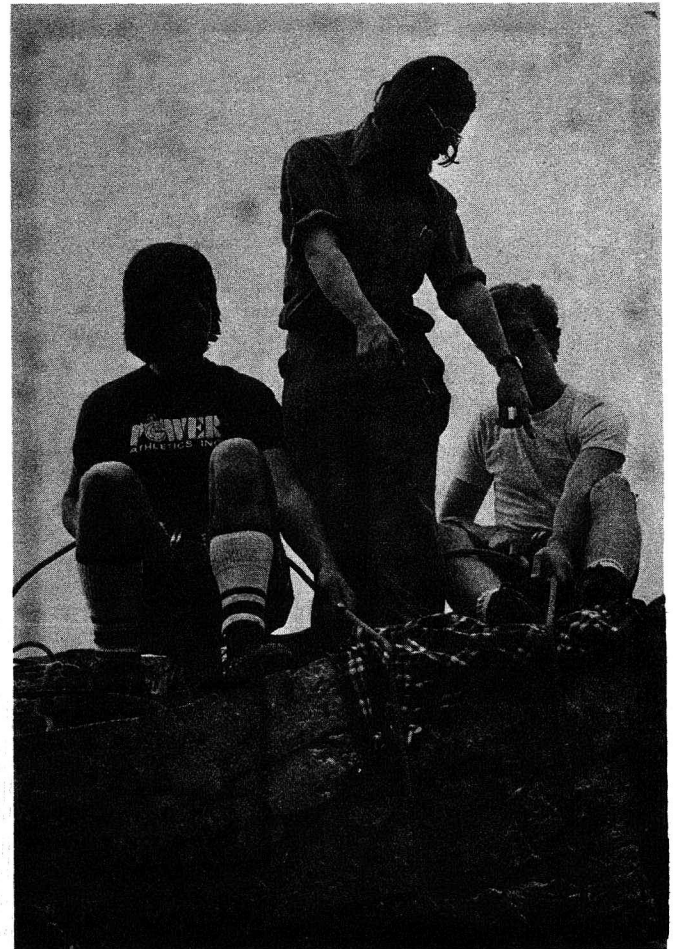
New Members - The following applicants were elected to membership during June:

James A. Eakin
Douglas B. Emery
Daniel H. and Sally B. Jackson
Timothy P. Moran
Robert A. and Ruth Y. Sanders
James M. Thresher

Climber's Picnic

The lush and spacious National Geographic grounds near Gaithersburg, Md. were the setting for the annual Mountaineering Section picnic. About 40 members, families, and friends gathered to swap tales, renew friendships, eat, drink, and make merry.

(Cont'd on page 2)



Joe Jensen teaching crevasse rescue techniques to Bob Green and James Eakin, Wolf Rock, Md.

(Photo by John Fetvedt)

PATC MOUNTAINEERING SECTION

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 Sallie Greenwood (965-4087)
 Vice Chairman
 Joe Ney (751-8891)
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 Laurie Anderson (244-5904)
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UP ROPE is the monthly newsletter of the Mountaineering Section (MS) of the Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) of Washington, D. C. Editorial contributions, letters and comments are welcome. Deadline is the 25th of each month. Subscriptions for MS members are included in dues. Annual subscriptions for non-members are \$3.50. New applicants and current members of PATC may join the MS by requesting sponsorship by a member of the MS. Current PATC members interested only in receiving UP ROPE may subscribe at no additional charge. Send subscriptions and address changes to Circulation Manager, UP ROPE.

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The baseball buffs couldn't round up enough people for two teams so they vied between themselves to hit balls into the parking lot, giving the outfielders considerable running practice. They were watched by a small cheering section which unwaveringly declined to join in the exercise. Over in another section, the tennis enthusiasts kept both courts occupied until the scent of food brought them over to the picnic tables. Set under a huge but low-spreading tree (complete with a sign to restrain eager climbers), the tables were covered with homemade specialties--bean, macaroni, cucumber, and tossed salads, chocolate and butterscotch brownies, and two mouth-watering rhubarb pies. The mountaineers showed they were a creative group too, preparing everything from hamburgers and steaks to shishkabob and tacos. A steady chilling breeze kept beer drinking to a minimum but the air temperature didn't seem to deter the Canada geese around the lake from taking an evening swim. As the day cooled off further and the wind continued, the remaining picnickers moved down to a somewhat sheltered parking lot and finished off the day sampling what hadn't been sampled and roasting marshmallows over a dying charcoal fire.

The Summit Register

Editor, UP ROPE

I am a new rock climber. A rank beginner. At MS training sessions I have seen others like me, some "naturals," some who have to try hard and some who decide that this idiocy of clinging to rock faces is not for them after all.

No matter who they are dealing with, members of MS are utterly superb, and this note is by way of thanks. In my three months of climbing I have been to two training sessions, and two climbs whose leaders were Chuck and Margaret Wettling and John Anderson. I was also lucky to be one of Bill Thomas' recruits as a second for Seneca Rocks. The infinite patience, kindness and skill of all MS members are awesome. Equally impressive is their willingness to subordinate their desires for hard climbs to the novices' needs for a ledge for each foot and a knob for each hand before each move. MS members represent sportsmanship at its best; bless them each and every one.

Gratefully,

Ruth Powell

From Other Peaks

YOSEMITE MASTER PLAN WORKSHOP

About 60 people showed up at the evening session of the Yosemite Workshop, held at the Department of Interior on June 12. This was the public's opportunity to comment on what should and should not be done with, and in, Yosemite National Park in the future.

Remember, the earlier master plan had been scrapped; the workshops were scheduled nationwide to hear the views of the people before a new master plan was drawn up.

The format of the meeting was not the usual stand up, say who you represent, read your statement, etc. but began with a brief introduction by the Park Service, a very short slide show, and a statement of the problem. The participants then broke into 6 groups of 10 each, with one person acting as discussion leader and one as recorder. The NPS representatives did not join the groups.

After an hour and a half or so of talk, and without much discussion of how some of the ideas would be implemented, each group selected a spokesman to present its views and concerns to the entire meeting. This portion was tape recorded. The following were considered important to the future of Yosemite:

- Cars: Private autos should be banned. Mass transit, preferably electric buses, would ferry people to and from Park entrances. No ORVs.
- Concessionaire and facilities: Remove concessionaires completely from within the Park; should be non-profit, a public service. Remove all support facilities except those absolutely necessary to outside the Park boundaries. Remove non-park-related activities--golf courses, tennis courts, etc.

- Wilderness: Animals and plants should have priority over people. Preserve the park rather than maintain a city state.
- Development: The Park should be de-developed, reclaim rather than repair or replace. No new roads; no increase in access roads in winter. Assurance of no more water impoundment. New development should be limited to beyond Park boundaries--coordinate effort, don't move blight. Provide a balanced variety of accommodations.
- Use and users: Determine carrying capacity and set limit. Limit stays. First-time users should have preference over repeaters though don't know how to distinguish. (Comment from the ranks, "Stamp 'em!") Eliminate pack animals which encourage long stays. Control environmental impact; disperse people. Inform visitors.
- Overall: The Park needs no enhancement by man. Don't compromise its natural integrity.

Consensus was that the meeting was highly productive and a unique opportunity to participate in planning Yosemite's future. The Park Service will next prepare an assessment of environmental alternatives, to be offered for public review toward the end of the year.

Sallie Greenwood
Stevie Smith

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The American Alpine Club will hold a Board of Directors meeting in Washington on September 20. It will be an open session and interested non-members are welcome to attend.

From the Editor's Chimney

An afterthought on the Yosemite Workshop --

Sixty or so people spent a long evening in a hot stuffy room. They were trying to resolve the future of Yosemite. Each was there for his own reason but the resulting summary statements didn't show any fragmentation into special interest considerations. The problem was the PARK-- not just conservation, not just usage, and certainly not just climbing (although climbers made up about a third of the participants). Small groups of concerned citizens have met across the country in the hopes that the Park Service really is listening. At stake is much more than the future of Yosemite. Whatever is contained in the final master plan may well become the basic policy for the use and management of all national parks.

Hanging Around

Shawangunks, N.Y. - May 24-26

Mark Gunther	Tom McKenna
Maren Stewart	Sallie Greenwood
Stevie Smith	John and Beth
Joe Ney	Stannard
Greg Christopulos	John Berkaw
Steve Williams	Sandy K
Tom McCrumm	Eve
Jim Eakin	Herb Leger
Bob Green	Howard Doyle
Harold Goldstein	Lotus Steele

We know the "where," the "when," and most of the "who," but since the trip was leaderless, we're missing the "what."

Bull Run, Va. - June 1

The morning of June 1 began rainy and miserable and the temptation to roll over and forget it all was strong. However, having had the honor of being named Trip Leader more or less dumped on me by Joe Wagner, I responded to the call of duty. Harvey Davis, a beginner of Bob Norris vintage, and I car-pooled it; together we made complete hash of the various directions we had to Bull Run Mountain, since it seems to be one of those you-have-to-know-what-your're-looking-for types of climb areas. Two and a half hours after leaving Northwest D.C., we finally found the jeep road (which isn't all that obvious), where we ran into Brian Wilder, who assured us that he knew the way from there. Under his tutelage we spent the next hour exploring every single blazed trail in the area before finally finding the right one. At 1:00 we found the rocks AT LAST.

We rigged one climb with a nice crack in it (I don't know what, if any, names these climbs have), and each of the three of us climbed it without much difficulty. Chuck and Margaret Wettling arrived around 1:45, followed closely by a torrential downpour which interrupted us in the middle of an interesting lay-back.

After the storm ended, Chuck rigged a fairly long climb to use as a setting for an impromptu lesson on belaying from above (complete with bomb-proof anchors and a hidden climber). The climb itself was arduous enough (at least the trip leader thought so) and free instruction is always a welcome bonus.

After that some people attacked the Bull Run Overhang, while others worked on various goodies near-by.

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Other would-have-beens that I know about for Bull Run Mountain were Jean Amberg, Skip White, and Don Kocher, who were not able to find the climb and went to Carderock instead.

Laurie Anderson

Little Stony Man, Va. - June 8

Originally this was planned as a two-day trip but the Saturday portion was later preempted by the annual MS picnic and besides that we didn't have a trip leader until Friday night. But this climbing Sunday was unusual for several other reasons: First, it was sunny in Washington but on the northeast face of LSM you could feel a continuous, strong wind which had been whipping the Blue Ridge for days. It never rained but it was a heavily overcast day. One climber, for sure, learned how agonizing it is to belay your second, third and fourth, wearing shorts at high altitude.

Next, when we started at 10 am there were only four leaders but eight climbers who had never been on a continuous climb. After a brief orientation about routes and the perils of loose rock (some), the parties formed and former top-belay seconds were turned into climbers who knew how to belay at any stance and who could clean a route. The other unusual feature of this trip was that nobody wanted to place a top belay for a la Carderock cliff practicing. It should also be added that the majority of our climbing partners were either new to climbing or to the section (not older than a season, that is).

Because of the wind, the number of spectators and potential stonethrowers was small and hikers on the AT were

few. We climbed probably most of the major routes and perhaps developed a few inventions although pins in place reminded us that were squeezing and jamming through old chimneys and cracks. Most of the leads were probably in the 5.1-5.5 range although one wall required the leader to stand on the shoulder of his second in order to overcome a tricky obstacle.

Participating were Charles Tuten, John Fetvedt, Ruth Powell, Vivian Goldberg, Robert Goldberg, Mike Norman, Ray Kremer, Jon Larson, Brian Rheinsmith, Steve Winter, Ann Kruse, Rich Tinney, John Christian, Martha Christian and Joe Wagner, leading.

Joe Wagner

Training at Carderock - June 15

The following students completed the introductory climbing class, instructed by Sallie Greenwood who was assisted by James Eakin and Bill Thomas.

Paul Greene
Bettina Dudley
Robert Dudley
Bob Dern
Alice Dern
Rory Carolan
Nancy Whitehead
Meg Harding

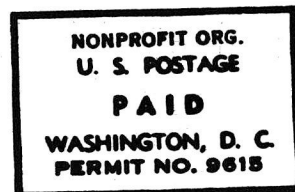
FOR SALE: Full set (10) of Chouinard hexentrics (old shape), completely strung and ready to use. \$15. Call John Fetvedt, 869-5617.

Climber's Calendar

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|-------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| July 9 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | "The Enduring Wilderness" - 28 mins. |
| ** July 13 | Training | Joe Ney (H: 751-8891; W: 354-2600 ext. 341) |
| July 20 | Bull Run, Va. | Mark Gunther (356-7163) |
| July 27 | Harpers Ferry, W.Va. | Maren Stewart (Meet at 10 am at Park Service Headquarters, Harpers Ferry) |
| Aug. 2-3 | Seneca Rocks Work Trip | Report to Gendarme for details |
| Aug. 10 | Annapolis Rocks, Md. | |
| Aug. 17 | Juliet's Balcony, Va. | |
| Aug. 24 | Sugarloaf, Md. | |
| * Aug. 31-Sept. 1 | Seneca Rocks, W.Va. | |
| Sept. 1 | Buzzard Rocks, Va. | |
| Sept. 7 | Cupid's Bower, Md. | Barbara Llewellyn (871-6197) |
| Sept. 10 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | Program to be announced |
| ** Sept. 14 | Training | Joe Ney (H: 751-8891; W: 354-2600 ext. 341) |
| Sept. 21 | Wolf/Chimney Rocks, Md. | |
| * Sept. 27-28 | Little Stony Man, Va. | |
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- * Lead climbers and experienced seconds only. You should arrange for climbing partners before arriving at destination.
- ** By appointment only. Contact trip leader no later than the preceding Wednesday.
- If climb has no trip leader, call Barbara Llewellyn, 871-6197.

Up Rope

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DATED MATTER