

FOUNDED BY
JAN AND HERB CONN

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

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At Base Camp

January will see a partial change-over of officers in the Mountaineering Section--partial because Sallie Greenwood was re-elected Chairman. The other election results find Joe Wagner as Vice Chairman, Jean Amberg as Treasurer, and in a tight race, Ryan Pierson as Secretary. Congratulations to all, and thanks to the outgoing officers, Joe Ney, Greg Christopoulos, and Chuck Sproull, for their work the past year.

Reminder - MS Workshop on "Expedition Planning" to be conducted by Tom McCrumm on Thursday, January 22 at 7:30 pm, PATC Headquarters.

Ruth Powell, Rich Raymond, and Jean Amberg have offered to help with the monthly UP ROPE mailing.

The Gendarme at Seneca was broken into Thanksgiving weekend and a large quantity of climbing equipment stolen. Because of the nature of the items taken (numerous ropes, carabiners, chocks, and guide books), it is possible that those responsible may try to resell part or all of it. Local climbers should be cautious about buying equipment from individuals they don't know.

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Knot tying practice sessions will be held on a trial basis for students who would like help with their beginning and secondary knots. Each month at 7:30 before the regular MS meeting.

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Expedition Members Wanted!

If you are interested in becoming involved in a Section mountaineering expedition this summer or fall, contact the climbing committee before Jan. 31. Call Joe Wagner, 966-6379.

* * * * *

On Sunday, December 14, David Jones of McLean, Va. fell from the top of Triple A at Carderock while solo climbing. He sustained a broken left arm at the elbow and probable other injuries.

Belay Ledge

The December Potomac Appalachian contains a review by Greg Christopoulos of Bergsteign: Basic Rock Climbing.

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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, and should be sent to Editor, UP ROPE, 802 New Mark Esplanade, Rockville, Md. 20850. Deadline is the 20th 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, 1718 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

From Other Peaks

Another First for MS/PATC

Back in the 1600's and 1700's the Spaniards had trouble with pirates, Englishmen, and other characters creeping up on St. Augustine, so they built a big old fort to protect the main inlet to the south. Now called Ft. Matanzas, from the massacre of some captured French troops a couple of hundred years ago, it is in excellent shape. About 60' high and say 50' x 50' in plan, it has a gun platform halfway up, suitable for 7 old muzzle-loaders. It was built of the local Florida coquina rock, soft to quarry but as hard and scratchy as the component shells when left exposed to air.

AND, it has never been taken by storm. Well, it had never been taken until October 1975 when June Lehman and Jim Kerr were passing by and noticed the National Park sign. They checked in, rode the Park Service launch over to the key on which the fort is located, walked around it inside and out and up the inner ladder, were lectured as to the sinfulness of climbing, went back to the far side while the ranger talked to a fisher-

man, and went up the face below the gun deck. June was in flip flops, Jim in sneakers; both were in shorts and short sleeves; both lost blood from knees and elbows on the retable into the gunport; neither got arrested; both want to try the north face. End of story, unless the Park Service reads UP ROPE?

* * * * *

The American Alpine Club (AAC) is now accepting applications for 1976 fellowship and research grants. Grants are awarded to assist young climbers, generally below age 26, in participating in expeditionary mountaineering ventures. Criteria are need, excellence of the proposed project and evidence of mountaineering competence.

Research awards are made to those engaged in research into the alpine environment. The funds may also be used to assist in publication or other dissemination of the results of such research.

For forms and details contact the AAC at 113 East 90th Street, New York, NY 10028. Application deadline is March 1, 1976; awards will be announced by May 1.

NELSON HOUSE MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

At the December 16 meeting of the Management Committee for Nelson House, a code was drafted for the approval of the MS Executive Committee and general membership. Present at the meeting were Greg Christopoulos (Chairman), Tim Moran, Tom McCrumm, and Stan Halpin. The Chairman of the Maintenance Committee, Chuck Sproull, also attended and helped draft the following proposals:

Code for Nelson House

1. Usage. Restricted to members of the Mountaineering Section and guests. Each member may invite one accompanied guest at a time. No tenting will be permitted.
2. Reservations. Required for each occupant before using the House. [Details for reservation procedure will be inserted later.]
3. Fees and Registration. Occupants pay their fee (\$1.00/weekend or holiday evening and \$0.50/weekday evening) and sign the House register upon arriving. [Details for collecting fees and registration will be inserted later.]
4. Caretaker. First MS member reserving the House for an evening will be designated as Caretaker and will have the responsibility for overseeing the conduct of other occupants as well as the condition of the House.
5. Cooking. Limited to kitchen and designated work areas only. Cooking utensils should be cleaned promptly to minimize pest and vermin problems. Fuel may not be stored in House between trips to W.Va. No cooking or eating on the second

floor which is reserved for sleeping only.

6. Responsibilities. Occupants must pack out their own trash and assist in House clean-up. They must also help replenish expendibles--firewood, condiments, etc.
7. Restrictions. Any member or guest whose conduct violates the provisions of the letter of agreement between the landlord and the MS or this Code may be restricted from using the House by a decision of the Executive Committee of the MS. The letter and this Code will be posted in the House.

Note: Fees will be used by the Executive Committee and Chairman of the Maintenance Committee to operate a Maintenance Fund to cover the cost of insurance and renovations. Any excess will be given to the PATC/MS Cabin Fund.

The group also discussed several other items, some of which could be implemented without waiting for a decision by the Executive Committee and general membership. For instance, although Tom McCrumm did not want to insult the intelligence of the occupants, he believed it would be necessary to post signs at the cattle gates which cross the road to the House telling people to close the gates. Everyone reluctantly agreed that the Maintenance Committee should do this. Otherwise the Club might have some very unhappy neighbors.

Tom also recommended that we refer to this property as the Nelson House and avoid use of the word "cabin". Hopefully this will help keep the long-term goal of building a cabin in the area alive and impress upon people that renovating Nelson House is a separate project. (continued on p. 4)

Security procedures were also agreed on. The front door will have a changeable combination lock which only the Chairman of the Maintenance Committee will be authorized to change. Members using the House and Mr. Nelson will be given the number. If the Section agrees to have a reservation system, then a combination lock will serve as an enforcement mechanism since the number will be changed occasionally and will be given out only to those making reservations. As a back up for emergencies, there will also be key padlock on the back door. Mr. Nelson and some other local person could be given a key.

Working on the assumption that the Section will approve our proposals on reservations, fees, and registration in some form or another, the group will attempt to develop detailed procedures for handling these items during the coming months.

The group believes that if fees are imposed, the Chairman of the Maintenance Committee should have the authority to waive collecting them from occupants who assist in major renovations during their stay.

A follow-up meeting is planned in February or March in order to: carry out further instructions from the Section; modify the Code based on Section recommendations; and to write detailed instructions on reservations, fees, and registration.

Next fall another meeting should be held to see what further modifications have to be made in the Code. At that time, after almost a year's usage, the group should be in a good position to look into the possibility of liberalizing usage and specifying the maximum number of people who may use the House at one time. After that, changes in management procedures would be minor and could be handled by the Executive Committee. If

this group fails to self-destruct and remains in operation for more than a year, then it will have been a failure.

Greg Christopoulos

CLIMBER'S CALENDAR

Trip Details from page 8

Old Rag, Va. (Jan. 23-24)

Rock climbing, possibly snow climbing. We are planning to stay at the PATC Corbin Cabin, 4 miles from Nethers parking lot, from Friday night through Sunday morning. Limit of 8. Trip open to those who want to backpack and sleep out as well as for those who want to join us for one day only. Own food. If you'd like to go on this trip and stay at Corbin, contact trip leader before January 18: Joe Wagner, 966-6379.

Mt. Washington, N.H. (Feb. 9-14)

Participants must have had ice and snow climbing training, some experience preferred. We will do easy to moderate ice gullies and snow slopes, short walls. Winter outdoor experience necessary. Personal equipment to include ice axe, crampons (12 point pref.). We are planning to stay in the Harvard Mountaineering Cabin in Huntington Ravine, \$1.50 a night charge payable at the cabin. However, participants must arrange for tents, etc. and be prepared to camp in snow if the cabin is full. (We will know before we start up the mountain if it is full or not.) Temperature in the cabin will probably range from 15° to 40°; there will be a fire in the stove in the evening to help dry clothes and climbers. Outside temperatures will get down to -10° or colder. Wind chill temperature near the summit will probably go off the standard wind chill charts.

Deadline on reservations: February 1.
Trip leaders: John Fetvedt (869-5617) and Joe Wagner (966-6379).

Climbing Committee

The climbing committee met on September 23 at the home of Barbara Llewellyn. Present were John Fetvedt, new member of the committee, Ray Kremer, Barbara Llewellyn, and Joe Wagner.

The suggestion to meet at a central meeting place for climbing trips was discussed. It was decided to encourage trip leaders to meet at such places (e.g. AO) although there may be times when such an arrangement would not be practical for a particular trip or participants.

Recent membership comments on trip leader selection were discussed. It was agreed that ideally trip leaders should meet certain high standards but that we were faced with a situation where it was hard sometimes to find somebody who could meet even one qualification. The committee agreed that MS Chairman Sallie Greenwood's help to find volunteer trip leaders was important and appreciated that help.

The committee briefly discussed the search for new climbing areas but found the membership's response discouraging.

Ice climbing will again be scheduled separately on a wait-and-see basis and Jon Larson will be asked to act as contact and coordinator.

The committee agreed that it was time for the Section to organize a summer climbing trip or expedition but that a leader would first have to be found before further plans could be made. The possibility of a joint expedition with the Buffalo Mountaineers was acknowledged. The committee also noted that certain members were interested in going to New Zealand in 1977 and that Ed Guleke had offered his help for this project.

John Fetvedt reported on certain access or registration problems at Wolf and Chimney Rocks and voiced his displeasure with the situation. Ray Kremer will check into this matter and report back.

The climbing schedule for the period October 1975 through January 1976 was prepared. The committee gratefully acknowledged several trip suggestions and offers to lead trips from Vivian Goldberg, Phil Eddy, Neil Arsenault, Tim Moran, Steve Punko, Margaret Wettling, Stevie Smith, and Sallie Greenwood.

Joe Wagner, chairing

Hanging Around

Tahquitz Rock, California - July

In mid-July of this year I had a business trip to San Diego coming up and started to wonder whether any rock-climbing could be done in conjunction with it. I called the Sierra Club in San Diego, was referred to their rock climbing section, and soon had a full schedule of activities laid out.

For evening activity, within a half-hour of downtown San Diego, I discovered Mission Gorge, the local equivalent of Carderock. Richard Morris of the Sierra Club put me through the paces on a couple of their top-roped, granite, face climbs. Richard also knew the location of the local beer halls, which convinced me that he was a qualified mountain guide.

The Sierra Club rock climbers had also scheduled a weekend trip to Tahquitz Rock in the San Jacinto Wilderness, near Palm Springs. The magnificent outcropping consists of 1000 feet of granite, soaring above the valley. This is where the "Yosemite decimal system," which we use to grade climbs, actually originated.

(Cont'd on page 6)

My climbing partner, Carl Van Herrweghe, and I selected Angel's Fright, a 6-pitch, 5.4, crack and face climb, perhaps 500 feet long. After lunch at the top, we met up with another team, switched partners, and climbed a 5.4 variation of the Red Rock Route--a single pitch, involving a traverse into a narrow chimney, a wiggle up the chimney to an overhang, a somewhat gymnastic step right and then left to pass the overhang, and balance climbing up a final crack to the top.

Since climbing is a sport of mutuality, conviviality, and good times, one of the "finds" of my trip to San Diego was Hugh Kimball, another member of their local club. When Hugh found out I was headed back to San Diego to spend the night before flying home, he immediately insisted that I stay in his apartment rather than going to a motel. He and his wife cook a fine waffle on a Sunday morning and generally know how to make an out-of-towner feel part of the family.

Hugh used to climb with our Mountaineering Section in the late 1960's, when he was in this area with the Navy. He asked me to pass along his greetings to the people who were climbing then, and to say that anyone from MS who gets to San Diego should feel welcome to "crash" at his place and get an introduction to Southern California climbing. Hugh's phone number is 714-232-5281, and his address is 2727 First Avenue, San Diego, CA, 92103.

Thanks, San Diego Sierra Club!

John E. Bonine

Harper's Ferry, Md. - Nov. 9

John Fetvedt, Bob and Vivian Goldberg, Steve Potkins, Charles Tuten, Tom McKenna, David Dantzler, Jonathan Scott, John Bremer, and Mike Norman.

We met at Gaithersburg Square and carpooled to Harper's Ferry. David

and I stopped by the rangers office to register and by the time we arrived at the base of the rocks everybody else had disappeared into the woods. I instantly decided that if I was going to be the leader I had better find out where the trip went. We located the lost souls doing some top rope climbs near the top of the ridge. We climbed these until after lunch and then went back down to do some leading on the main cliffs. We split up into three ropes and climbed three different routes. David and I ran up a second climb just before dark and I watched a fantastic sunset while belaying David as he lead the last pitch.

There is a large (1x2x2 foot) rock balanced on a very small ledge about half way up the chimney leading up from the upper left corner of the sign. It can be avoided by staying inside the chimney.

John Fetvedt

Training at Carderock - Nov. 16

The following students completed training, instructed by Sallie Greenwood, Greg Christopoulos, James Eakin, Al Goldberg, Ryan Pierson, and Bob Green.

Beginning

Chet MacPherson
Paul Sailer
Ellen Broadman
Stan Reeves
Earl Walter
Ralph Schenkel
Tom Perry
Sean Breman
Karen Helsel
Charles Miller
Cathy Costantino
Jean Coogan
Noreen Hooper

Intermediate

Josephine Scofield
Kathleen Ennis
Mike Ball
Richard O'Connor
Ed Cooper
Roger Griffith

Nelson House Work Trip - Nov. 27-30

Thanksgiving weekend provided the opportunity for the first work trip to the house at Nelson Rocks, and work to be done there was. Friday was devoted to sweeping out a 20 year accumulation of mouse droppings, flies and other unidentifiable biological remains. Saturday and Sunday were spent in more sweeping, cleaning the cow-pies from the yard, digging out the spring, scraping off wallpaper, and replacing broken windows. The house is now fit to sleep in, but don't leave anything on the floor that you don't want the mice to chew on.

In spite of the warm, dry weather, no one found time for climbing at the nearby rocks. However, a brief scouting trip brought back an enthusiastic report on the climbing possibilities. Suffice it to say that Nelson Rocks is comparable in extent to Seneca, although from the ground most of the routes look fairly difficult. Time will tell.

Those making an appearance for at least part of the weekend were John Bremer, Chris Trivur, Chuck and Margaret Wettling, Sallie Greenwood, Stevie Smith, and

Curt Mobley

Camp Lewis, Md. - Dec. 7

Edward Cooper	John Bremer
Benjamin Sands	Joe Wagner & Bamble
Joanne Smith	Rich Raymond
Ian Cruickshank	Greg Christopulos
Don Kocher and son Mike	Stevie Smith
Tom Perry	Hal Kramer
Bob Goldberg	Bill Thomas
Vivian Goldberg	Noreen Hooper
Jonathan Scott	Phil Eddy
Alan Goldberg	Neil Arsenault
Curt Mobley	Janet Ainsworth
Doug Emery	Gail Howell
Jim Griffiths	Skip White

Despite predictions of possible snow later in the day, we set off up the towpath under a bright sunny sky. Few of the climbers had been to Camp Lewis

before which, despite its small area, has a surprising number of climbs. We rigged six ropes initially. By shifting them slightly left or right, we could come up with perhaps 12 or so routes of varying difficulty. Everyone seemed to find something to warm up on and all of us found challenging routes. Around mid-day Hal Kramer appeared and showed us an interesting bouldering problem upstream from the main set of rocks. Lack of a spare rope however prevented us from setting it up. Vivian Goldberg did her first leads with Joe Wagner acting as second, coach, and equipment supplier. They even managed to break one lead (about 20 feet) into two pitches so that Vivian could set up a belay stance on a ledge. Hal and Phil Eddy left early and were later seen across the river checking out Boucher Rocks. A sudden drop in temperature and a dwindling supply of ropes finally convinced us that we'd put in a full day.

Stevie Smith

Training at Carderock - Dec. 14

The following students completed training, instructed by Joe Ney, Greg Christopulos, Stan Halpin, Tom McKenna, James Eakin, Stevie Smith, Jim Griffiths, Alan Goldberg, Lois Shipway, and Tim Moran.

Beginning

Glenn Spann
Steve Halse
Mark Nilsson
Jon Jewett
Gil Griffis
Dave Spann
Scott Frailey
Kim Fegley
Sarah Spann
Marlys Norby
David Spann
Carolyn Sweat
Tom Popovich
Ken Mead

Secondary

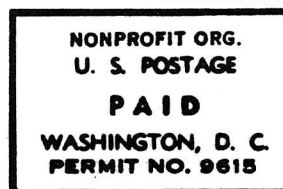
Jody Ansell
Tom Perry
Rich Fuller
Steve Potkin

Climber's Calendar

- | | | |
|------------------|---|---|
| Jan. 14 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | Program to be announced |
| *** Jan. 18 | Training - By appt. only
Multi-pitch Climbing | Joe Ney (Work: 354-2600 ext. 341)
Greg Christopulos (Home: 293-3272) |
| Jan. 22 | MS Workshop 7:30 pm
PATC Headquarters | "Expedition Planning" - Tom McCrumm |
| + Jan. 24-25 | Old Rag, Va.
See page 4 for details | Joe Wagner (966-6379) |
| Jan. 31-Feb. 1 | Nelson Rocks, W.Va.
House work trip | Stan Halpin (340-2593) |
| * Jan. 31-Feb. 1 | Chapel Pond, N.Y.
Ice climbing | Neil Arsenault
Call Barbara Llewellyn (871-6197) |
| Feb. 8 | Sugarloaf, Md. | # |
| Feb. 9-14 | Mt. Washington, N.H.
Snow and ice climbing
See page 4 for details | John Fetvedt (869-5617)
Joe Wagner (966-6379) |
| Feb. 11 | MS Meeting 8 pm
PATC Headquarters | Program to be announced |
| ** Feb. 15 | Training
By appointment only | Joe Ney (Work: 354-2600 ext. 341) |
-
- + Combined one day and weekend trip.
- ** All training is by appointment only. Contact trip leader no later than the preceding Wednesday.
- *** Contact trip leader no later than Jan. 9. Limited to members who have completed intermediate/secondary training.
- # Your help to lead this trip will be appreciated. Call Joe Wagner, 966-6379.
- * Beginner and intermediate ice climbing. No previous ice experience necessary but must be experienced at leading or seconding on rock.



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DATED MATTER